

The European Physical Journal (EPJ) is a rapidly growing series of peer-reviewed journals indexed in all major citation databases, and covering the whole spectrum of pure and applied physics, including related interdisciplinary subjects. EPJ carries on the tradition begun by European physics publications in the 20th century and aims to offer the international scientific community a unified platform for the global dissemination of physics and related sciences. The editorial boards of the EPJ journals consist of distinguished scholars from around the globe who are committed to the highest standards of scientific quality. The boards oversee the peer-review process and are responsible for the journals' editorial policies.

EPJ is a merger and continuation of *Acta Physica Hungarica*, *Anales de Fisica*, *Czechoslovak Journal of Physics*, *Fizika A*, *Il Nuovo Cimento*, *Journal de Physique*, *Portugaliae Physica* and *Zeitschrift für Physik*. 21 European Physical Societies are represented in EPJ through the Scientific Advisory Committee, a board that advises the publishers and Editors on editorial and policy matters. The publishers of EPJ are EDP Sciences (the publishing branch of the Société Française de Physique), the Società Italiana di Fisica and Springer.

EPJ H: Introducing a rising star / Cooperation with EPS

EPJ H - Historical Perspectives on Contemporary Physics is the only journal to address the history of physics primarily from a physics and physicist's perspective. It promotes and spreads awareness and understanding of the historical development of ideas in contemporary physics, and more generally, ideas about "how nature works." As an integral part of a core physics publishing platform, it supports physicists in their efforts to reflect, understand, and improve on the culture of their own discipline. Launched in 2010 as the successor to *Annales de Physique*, it was already ISI-listed (with an impressive IF of 1.18) by 2011 and fills an essential gap in the scientific journal literature.

Alongside *EPL* and *European Journal of Physics*, it is now one of the journals that are freely available to all EPS members as part of the recent Alliance for Physics Publishing initiative (link).



Fig 1. The new portal, www.epj.org.

anniversary of the launch of *The European Physical Journal*. It is gratifying to see how the teenager has in the meantime left behind its growing pains and now feels ready to tackle the world! Such confidence is indeed required in an environment that has quickly become less than transparent for scientists and publishers alike.

How will quality in science be assessed in the future, what role will peer-reviewed journals play, and how will they be financed? Social media is entering the realms of research evaluation metrics and the measure of the 'success' or 'impact' of scientific papers is a rapidly evolving concept. The simultaneous arrival of social media and the Open Access movement has shaken up the status quo and will greatly affect scientists and the way they will think about publications in the future.

Coincidentally, the drive toward Open Access comes at the same time as the imminent breakdown of classic disciplinary boundaries. This combination has triggered a great deal of experimentation in new types of journals using different business models. As the models proposed are likely to vary widely in terms of measure and speed of uptake across the various scientific communities, diversification seems to be a good strategy.

One possible route, namely that of converting existing journals to Open Access journals, is the preferred solution for high-energy physics. EPJ is pleased to see *EPJ C - Particles and Fields* lined up for conversion into a fully open access journal under SCOAP3 [<http://scoap3.org/>]

EPJ has also taken the opportunity to launch new Open Access titles, either in response to the emergence of new research fields at the interface between more established subjects, or to fill obvious gaps in the EPJ catalogue. After the early launches of *EPJ Web of Conferences* (the open access proceedings repository) in 2009 and *EPJ Photovoltaics* in 2010, 2012 witnessed the launch of *EPJ Data Science*. This year, three new journals are about to join them: *EPJ Nonlinear Biomedical Physics*, *EPJ Techniques and Instrumentation* and *EPJ Quantum Technology*.

In addition to these journals and in keeping with its commitment to raising the profile and impact of research in new emerging fields, EPJ has accurately identified and addressed other specific needs in the scientific community. The first example is *EPJ Special Topics*, launched in 2007 as the successor to *Journal de Physique IV*. The journal publishes only complete special issues and has rapidly reached an Impact Factor of 1.56. It is designed to address highly interdisciplinary topics, technical summary reports from research networks, and selected review-style theses of outstanding quality. A further example of a successful renewal is *EPJ Plus*, which serves as EPJ's general physics journal and moreover seeks to provide further insights into previously published work through the detailed documentation, verification and critical assessment of data and results.

The full breadth of EPJ can easily be glimpsed by browsing its newly designed web portal (see Fig.1). Serving as the central EPJ resource, epj.org also carries the *EPJ Highlights*, promoting selected papers which will be of interest to the wider scientific community.

In summary, the overall strategy of EPJ is to use its solid basis in the physics publishing landscape, i.e., its established sections *EPJ A-E*, to further develop the EPJ brand as a framework for the participating partners to launch new (Open Access) journals.

EPJ Steering Committee

Jean Daillant, Agnès Henri (SFP/EDP Sciences), Enzo De Sanctis, Angela Oleandri (SIF), Maria Bellantone, Christian Caron (Springer)



Attendees of the Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee & Steering Committee of EPJ, Amsterdam, 12 April 2013:

Jose Adolfo de Azcarraga, Ian Bearden, Maria Bellantone, Giorgio Benedek, Alessandro Bettini, Christian Caron, Joakim Cederkall, Jean Daillant, Solange Guéhot, Agnès Henri, Robert Klanner, Colin Latimer, Sabine Lehr, Piet Mulders, Angela Oleandri, Jozef Ongena, Per Osland, José A. Paixão, Andras Patkós, Karel Rohlena, Enzo De Sanctis, Tom Spicer, Bart van Tiggelen, Silvia Tomic, Jerzy Warczewski

Happy birthday EPJ! Celebrations

are in order this year for the European Physical Journal as this European publishing partnership for physics turns 15. It was only five years ago that *Europhysics News* published a short piece for the 10th