



## Section Editor Role

**[PLOS Aging and Health](#)**

**[PLOS Climate](#)**

**[PLOS Complex Systems](#)**

**[PLOS Computational Biology](#)**

**[PLOS Digital Health](#)**

**[PLOS Ecosystems](#)**

**[PLOS Genetics](#)**

**[PLOS Global Public Health](#)**

**[PLOS Mental Health](#)**

**[PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases](#)**

**[PLOS One](#)**

**[PLOS Pathogens](#)**

**[PLOS Sustainability and Transformation](#)**

**[PLOS Water](#)**

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Reg. # 202304559Z



## Section Editor Role

Applies to: *PLOS Climate* | *PLOS Global Public Health* | *PLOS Mental Health* | *PLOS One* | *PLOS Water*

PLOS Section Editors form an international Editorial Board of active researchers who ensure that all rigorously conducted research submitted to the journal is made available as soon as possible and without restriction.

As experts in the fields of research they serve, our editors voice the needs of their community and are active participants in scholarly communication discussions around open access, open data, open science, and peer review.

## Section Editor Responsibilities

Section Editors lead the subject sections within the journal scope and advise a group of Academic Editors with expertise in their discipline.

To foster a partnership between the journal and the research community, Section Editors strive to:

### Lead

- Act as a leader or co-leader of a section within the journal
- Support and advise Academic Editors in their section in editorial decision making and more broadly by providing editorial guidance
- Assist in the editorial development of their section and the journal as a whole, including content curation, solicitation of submissions and selection of content for promotion within their disciplines
- Recommend potential candidates with expertise in their discipline to serve as Academic Editors

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## Represent

- Actively promote and maintain the integrity, reputation and high editorial standards of the journal
- Liaise with journal staff, Editorial Board members, and in the community as the voice of their section

## Advise

- Provide counsel on journal policies, including scope, research ethics, community standards, and reporting guidelines within their discipline
- Advise on the suitability of a manuscript for publication at any stage of the peer review process and in relation to any aspects covered by the publication criteria (scope, study design, ethics, etc.) within their discipline
- Adjudicate on difficult editorial decisions and advise in appeals as needed

## Ambassadorship

Our editors are ambassadors for their journal and for PLOS, empowered to use their expertise to spread awareness of the journal, our [mission](#), and [values](#) in the global research community; forge inclusive relationships; guide and encourage a diverse group of prospective and current contributors; reflect community needs; and increase goodwill.

## Code of Conduct

In addition to these role expectations, all editors adhere to [PLOS' Code of Conduct for Editorial Board Members](#).

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Section Editors (SEs) are an integral part of the journal and its operation. They are experts in the fields of research they serve, experienced in the peer review process, ambassadors for Open Science, and active participants in their communities. Section Editors lead the subject sections within the journal scope and advise a group of Academic Editors with expertise in their discipline.

SEs oversee a greater number of manuscripts than Academic Editors (AEs) but are not required to take a hands-on role in the review process. The invitation process works differently as well: Section Editors are not “invited” but are assigned incoming manuscripts in their area of expertise by the staff.

The SE position requires less hands-on time with manuscripts, but it is a role with a greater degree of responsibility and authority. The final decision on manuscript acceptance lies with the Section Editor, and we rely heavily on our Section Editors to resolve difficult issues, provide advice to their fellow Section Editors, and to assist us in preventing delays caused by unresponsive Academic Editors or reviewers.

To foster a partnership between the journal and the research community, Section Editors strive to:

### Edit

- Assess the quality and scope of new submissions within three days
- Secure an Academic Editor or Guest Editor on manuscripts as needed

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- Submit a decision within three days of receiving a recommendation
- Adhere to editorial best practices

## Advise

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- Advise on the suitability of a manuscript for publication at any stage of the peer review process and in relation to any aspects covered by the publication criteria (scope, study design, ethics, etc.) within their discipline
- Adjudicate on difficult editorial decisions and advise in appeals as needed

## Lead

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