

EDITORIAL

The establishment of the journal *Pollution and Diseases* arises from a growing need to address rapidly changing environmental conditions and their influence on the health of living organisms. Pollution is no longer a distant concern, nor a matter confined to specialized scientific communities. It is an increasingly visible force shaping ecosystems, disease dynamics, and global public health. Modern science possesses the tools to study these processes, yet it often lacks the capacity to respond swiftly, openly, and comprehensively. This journal has been created to help fill that gap.

Our world faces environmental transformations of remarkable speed. Pollutants accumulate, ecosystems become destabilized, and disease patterns shift in ways that are sometimes subtle and sometimes dramatic. In many regions, field observations are scarce, fragmented, or difficult to publish in a timely manner. Crucial information can be lost simply because the conventional processes of scientific publishing are slow, rigid, or inaccessible to researchers working under constrained conditions. The result is an urgent need for platforms capable of supporting rapid scientific communication while maintaining high standards of quality.

The mission of *Pollution and Diseases* is to meet this need by combining rigorous peer review with an accelerated publication model. Manuscripts are evaluated by independent experts, yet the editorial process is structured in a way that avoids unnecessary delays. Our goal is not speed for its own sake, but speed in service of scientific clarity and relevance. When pollution-related events unfold swiftly and disease outbreaks evolve within days, timely access to scientific evidence becomes essential.

The journal places special emphasis on work that documents local environmental changes and their biological consequences. Many important ecological and infectious processes occur at a fine spatial scale, shaped by geography, climate, and the unique conditions of specific regions. Such local observations can provide early signals of broader environmental trends. For this reason, the journal welcomes field reports, case studies, and analyses from areas where scientific monitoring is limited or underdeveloped. Contributions from researchers working in difficult or unstable environments are particularly valued. When necessary, publication fees may be waived to ensure that important scientific results reach the global community.

Another foundational aspect of the journal is its commitment to interdisciplinarity. Pollution and disease rarely fall neatly within the borders of a single discipline. Their study involves ecology, geography, *Infectious ecology*, toxicology, environmental chemistry, public health, and philosophy of science. By encouraging collaboration across these fields, the journal seeks to promote a more complete understanding of the complex interactions that shape environmental and infectious systems. This approach is complemented by an appreciation of the historical dimension of scientific knowledge. Through the journal's repository, valuable older works and archival materials are preserved and integrated into contemporary scientific dialogue, allowing past insights to inform present challenges.

Philosophically, the journal is guided by a tradition of scientific fallibilism. Every theory, method, and interpretation carries limitations, and scientific progress depends on recognizing and examining them. This perspective does not undermine scientific authority; rather, it strengthens it by supporting careful criticism, open discussion, and continual refinement of ideas. In areas as intricate as pollution and disease, maintaining a clear awareness of uncertainty is not optional—it is a necessary component of responsible scientific inquiry.

The journal also aims to foster international cooperation. Environmental and infectious issues do not respect national borders, and the distribution of scientific expertise across the world is diverse. The editorial board reflects this diversity, bringing together researchers from multiple regions and backgrounds. We encourage exchanges that lead to new collaborations and the formation of dynamic research networks. Through this collaborative spirit, the journal hopes to contribute to the emergence of what might be called invisible colleges: flexible, transnational communities of scientists connected by shared questions and shared commitment to knowledge.



Pollution and Diseases is therefore more than a scientific publication. It is an attempt to create a responsive and inclusive framework for studying some of the most challenging issues of our time. By supporting rapid communication, preserving valuable data, welcoming diverse perspectives, and upholding rigorous but accessible editorial standards, the journal aims to advance scientific understanding in a way that is both practical and principled.

As we begin this first volume, I would like to thank the researchers, reviewers, and colleagues who have contributed to shaping the journal. The challenges posed by pollution and disease are complex, urgent, and deeply interconnected. Addressing them requires collaboration, openness, and the willingness to question established assumptions. It is my hope that this journal will serve as a constructive space for such work and that the contributions published here will support meaningful progress in understanding our rapidly changing environment.

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Editor-in-Chief
Pollution and Diseases (2025)

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