

Pollution and Diseases: Mission, Rationale, and Editorial Framework for a New Scientific Journal

Editorial Article

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Introduction

Environmental pollution has become one of the defining forces shaping biological systems, ecological stability, and the health of human and non-human organisms. The global intensification of industrial, agricultural, and climatic pressures has accelerated processes that were once slow, local, and isolated. Today, pollution-related changes can emerge within days, spread across regions, and produce cascading effects on populations, ecosystems, and disease patterns. Modern science has the analytical capacity to study these developments, yet it often lacks the practical mechanisms for rapid and accessible communication. Many important observations remain unpublished, delayed, or inaccessible due to the structural limitations of conventional scientific publishing.

The journal *Pollution and Diseases* has been established to help address these challenges. Its central aim is to provide a platform for timely, rigorous, and interdisciplinary research that illuminates how pollution influences disease dynamics and environmental health. This editorial outlines the rationale for the journal, the principles guiding its operations, and the broader scientific context in which it seeks to contribute.

The Rationale for a New Publication Model

Scientific journals traditionally operate on long publication cycles. Manuscripts may undergo months of review and editorial processing before becoming accessible to the community. While these procedures help ensure quality, they can unintentionally hinder the circulation of findings that may be time-sensitive. In environmental and infectious fields, such delays can prevent researchers, policymakers, and local communities from recognizing emerging patterns in time to respond effectively.

Another pressing concern is the uneven distribution of scientific monitoring across the world. Many regions that experience significant pollution-related challenges lack robust scientific infrastructure. Observations from these areas may be recorded by small teams, field researchers, or individual scientists who face difficulties in publishing their work quickly. Without accessible venues, valuable data may remain unpublished or be lost entirely.

In addition, scientific publishing has become increasingly concentrated within a limited number of institutions and countries. This reinforces disparities in scientific representation and can complicate the integration of local or field-based knowledge into global discourse. The study of pollution and disease requires precisely the opposite approach: wide geographic inclusion, interdisciplinary collaboration, and a flexible editorial model capable of incorporating locally specific, context-dependent information.

Pollution and Diseases seeks to address these structural issues by implementing a publication framework designed for timeliness, inclusivity, and methodological openness.

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Scope: Pollution, Disease, and Environmental Change

The journal focuses on the interplay between pollution and disease processes. This includes:

- the biological consequences of contaminants across organisms and ecosystems;
- emerging diseases associated with environmental degradation;
- changes in infectious patterns driven by climate change or ecological disruption;
- field observations from pollution-affected regions;
- localized pollution events with broader scientific implications.

A central premise of the journal is that local phenomena often provide critical early indicators of global trends. Local pollution incidents, small-scale outbreaks, and isolated ecological disruptions may reveal processes that later manifest at larger scales. Therefore, the journal actively encourages submissions documenting such events, particularly when they originate from areas with limited scientific visibility.

Interdisciplinarity as a Scientific Requirement

Research on pollution and disease lies at the intersection of ecology, environmental chemistry, infectious ecology, geography, toxicology, public health, and other disciplines. These fields frequently address overlapping questions and examine interconnected processes, yet scientific communication among them does not always occur systematically.

The journal promotes interdisciplinary work not as an ideal but as a necessity. Pollution affects organisms through chemical, biological, and ecological pathways. Disease patterns respond to environmental pressures, climate variability, species interactions, and human activity. Fully understanding these interactions demands methods and perspectives that cross disciplinary boundaries.

The journal therefore welcomes contributions from a wide range of fields and encourages authors to integrate diverse approaches when analyzing complex environmental phenomena.

Timeliness and Editorial Efficiency

A distinctive feature of *Pollution and Diseases* is its accelerated publication model. Submitted manuscripts undergo double-blind peer review by independent specialists, and editorial decisions are issued within a time frame that enables prompt publication when the scientific content is significant and well-supported. The aim is to preserve the rigor of peer review while reducing unnecessary delays.

This model is particularly valuable for:

- rapidly evolving environmental events;
- disease outbreaks or emergent ecological disruptions;
- time-sensitive field observations;
- perishable environmental data.

Timeliness does not replace quality; rather, it complements it. A well-structured editorial workflow and clear reviewer guidelines ensure that the journal maintains professional standards while enabling faster dissemination.

Inclusivity and Support for Researchers

Environmental challenges do not correlate with economic or institutional capacity. Many critical observations are made in regions affected by conflict, political instability, limited scientific funding, or environmental degradation. Researchers working in such conditions may lack the resources required for publication in traditional venues.

The journal recognizes the importance of these contributions and may waive publication fees for authors operating under difficult circumstances. This policy is not charity but a practical measure to ensure that important scientific information, especially field-based evidence, is not lost due to financial barriers.

Fieldwork and Data Preservation

A substantial portion of valuable environmental and infectious information arises from fieldwork. Such data are often time-sensitive, context-dependent, and vulnerable to loss. Pollution events and disease outbreaks may evolve quickly, leaving a limited window for scientific documentation. The journal therefore places high priority on publishing field reports, case studies, and observational data that capture information at risk of disappearing.

Preserving field data serves not only immediate scientific needs but also long-term analysis. Historical datasets have proven essential for understanding the evolution of diseases, the effects of climate fluctuations, and the dynamics of pollution accumulation. By supporting prompt documentation of field observations, the journal contributes to the continuity of scientific knowledge.

The Role of Historical and Archival Materials

Scientific understanding of pollution and disease is deeply connected to historical experience. Accounts from past frequently reveal patterns of environmental change, disease outbreaks, and ecological responses that remain relevant today. However, many such materials are rare, fragmented, or difficult to access.

The journal's repository integrates selected previous works into contemporary discourse. These materials serve not as curiosities but as meaningful scientific resources. Their inclusion helps build a longitudinal perspective on pollution–disease interactions and strengthens the analytical foundation for understanding present-day trends.

Philosophical Foundations: Critical Inquiry and Fallibilism

The journal is informed by a methodological outlook grounded in scientific fallibilism. Every scientific theory and dataset contains limitations, and recognizing these limitations is essential for advancing knowledge. Fallibilism does not imply skepticism toward science; rather, it reflects the understanding that progress occurs when assumptions are questioned, interpretations are revised, and results are evaluated with openness and intellectual humility.

This perspective is especially relevant in the study of pollution and disease, where complex interactions and incomplete datasets frequently require careful interpretation. Acknowledging uncertainty encourages more precise analyses, supports interdisciplinary collaboration, and allows new hypotheses to emerge without the constraints of rigid paradigmatic expectations.

The journal does not endorse any single theoretical framework. Instead, it supports constructive dialogue among diverse approaches, recognizing that no single paradigm can fully explain the complexity of pollution-related processes.

Global Collaboration and Scientific Representation

Understanding pollution and disease requires participation from researchers across many regions. Environmental conditions vary widely, and so do the challenges faced by scientists. The journal's editorial board reflects this diversity, bringing together specialists from multiple countries and disciplines.

This diversity is not symbolic; it is functional. Broad representation enhances the journal's ability to recognize emerging trends, evaluate region-specific research, and support collaborative work across borders. The journal aims to contribute to the formation of flexible, transnational research networks—shared communities of scholars connected by common scientific questions rather than institutional or geographic boundaries.

Publication of Large-Scale and Specialized Studies

Some scientific materials exceed the conventional limits of standard journal formats. Field studies, long-term datasets, and comprehensive reports may require extended presentation. The journal welcomes such materials when they hold scientific significance and relevance to pollution and disease. This flexibility ensures that valuable data are not compressed, fragmented, or excluded due to length constraints.

At the same time, the journal avoids practices that emphasize symbolic authorship over scientific contribution. The focus remains on clear, substantial, and meaningful scientific work.

Conclusion

Pollution and Diseases is founded on a set of principles that reflect both the urgency of environmental challenges and the opportunities for advancements in science. By supporting timely publication, interdisciplinary integration, international collaboration, methodological openness, and the preservation of valuable data, the journal aims to contribute to a more responsive and inclusive scientific landscape.

As Editor-in-Chief, I invite researchers from all backgrounds to engage with the journal—whether through publishing original research, contributing field observations, participating in discussions of innovative concepts, or collaborating across disciplines. The study of pollution and disease is a shared global task, and I hope that this journal will serve as a constructive space for advancing our collective understanding.

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