

Microbiology Society job description for: *Access Microbiology* co-Editors-in-Chief

1.1 About us

The Microbiology Society is a membership charity for scientists interested in microbes, their effects and their practical uses. It is one of the largest microbiology societies in Europe with a worldwide membership based in universities, industry, hospitals, research institutes and schools.

Our members have a unique depth and breadth of knowledge about the discipline. The Society's role is to help unlock and harness the potential of that knowledge.

Read more about our mission and values at microbiologysociety.org.

1.2 About *Access Microbiology*

Access Microbiology is an open access journal that encourages the publication of replication studies, negative or null results, research proposals, data management plans, additions to established methods, and interdisciplinary work. It covers the full spectrum of microscopic life forms, from bacteria and viruses to fungi, protists, archaea, and algae. It welcomes all approaches, from computational, biotechnology, and laboratory work, to environmental, clinical, and veterinary studies. It also publishes pedagogy papers on microbiology education.

In October 2021, a new open research platform will be launched. The platform will incorporate many of the elements of a preprint server with *Access Microbiology*, in an effort to improve the rigor, reproducibility and transparency of the academic record. The platform will feature manuscript review tools to help authors improve their work, and include posting all article versions, manuscript review tool reports, reviewer reports, Editor comments and author responses, to ensure a fully transparent peer review process.

1.3 About you

The co-Editors-in-Chief of *Access Microbiology* will play a key role in the open research platform, ensuring we maintain our editorial standards, and are engaged with the microbiological community. Your main tasks will be to work closely with your co-Editor-in-Chief and the office staff, on editorial strategy for the platform. You will have prior experience with *Access Microbiology* in an editorial capacity, or with another sound-science publication or open research platform.

Access Microbiology is unique among journals and open research platforms, and the successful candidate(s) will be expected to understand these differences and effectively communicate them to the Editors, and the wider community.

This position is a public-facing role and the co-Editor-in-Chief acts as a representative of the Society. The position is newly created as of 2021 and will be appointed by the Journal Development team in the initial round. In future recruitment cycles, they will be open to all Members initially, and then to the wider community.

It is not a paid position, but as a member of the Editorial Board you will receive two nights of accommodation and two days of registration at the Society's Annual Conference, with an allowance for travel and meal expenses. The co-Editor-in-Chief is also provided with two fee-free Open Access articles in any of the Society's publications in each calendar year; access to a ring-fenced conference travel fund for Editors for promoting the open research platform; and other benefits made available to members of Society Committees, as agreed by the Council of the Society. Editor benefits will continue to be reviewed considering continued travel restrictions and Society events.

Term in office

- At least three years.
- Recruitment for successors will take place in the second year of your term, to allow co-Editors-in-Chief-Elect time to have a full transition

1.4 Duties

- Working closely with your co-Editor-in-Chief and Microbiology Society staff on the strategy of the open research platform.
- Where necessary, advising Editors on assessment of contributions submitted to the open research platform in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Society and the open research platform's policies.
 - This will require special focus on the implementation of the sound science threshold of the platform, and the stated aim to improve the work of submitting authors.
- Alongside the Editorial Office, you will provide guidance and decisions on ethical cases that may arise from the platform, and the implementation of future publishing policies.
- Chairing an annual meeting of the Editorial Board, and regularly meeting, either virtually or in-person, with the Microbiology Society editorial staff.
- Advocating to your peers and networks the benefits of the platform, and highlighting the unique article types available – at meetings and conferences, as well as your institution and research groups.
- Where appropriate, providing original contributions to the open research platform.
- Advise on the continued development of the open research platform, joining the Project Steering Group when appropriate.
- Advising on the recruitment and succession of Editor Mentees, Editors and Editor Mentors – and the continued development of the mentoring programme.
- Act as a representative for the journal on Microbiology Society committees.

1.5 Person specification

- Demonstrated excellence in an area of microbiology, preferably with a wide breadth of expertise.
- Have an excellent network of international contacts in a range of specialties in your discipline(s).

- Previous editorial experience with sound-science publications.
- Supports and advocates for open science, and the policies and technologies that will facilitate it. Including, but not limited to, open access publishing and open data.
- Maintain an active research profile. Preferably have some presence on social media e.g. Twitter.
- Have an understanding of the role of the Microbiology Society in promoting microbiology, and the central role that publishing in society titles has in continuing these efforts.

1.6 Equal opportunities

The Microbiology Society is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all suitably qualified persons regardless of their race, sex, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age. We value, promote and seek diversity.

1.7 Application

Please apply to Dr Hilary Logan at [**h.logan@microbiologysociety.org**](mailto:h.logan@microbiologysociety.org) with your CV and a cover letter which includes your vision for the future direction of the open research platform.