



Special Issue Call for Papers: Effective Mentoring of Biophysicists

Deadline for submissions: January 31, 2024

Mentoring is a major responsibility of biophysicists and biophysics educators in which nearly all members of the biophysics community engage. Although we have a robust research community that focuses on best practices for mentoring, relatively few biophysicists present their work in this area to our community in publications. We therefore wish to make this work more visible within the Biophysical Society and international biophysics community, to disseminate the lessons learned, and thus enhance the mentoring of biophysicists, particularly those at early stages of their careers.

Toward that end, the Editorial Board of *The Biophysicist* invites articles documenting effective practices for the mentoring of early career scientists and trainees at all levels, for this special issue. Submissions can be structured as Articles or Reports and may, respectively, be part of formal curricular elements in a program or center or may be about informal practices used by individuals who advise early career scientists or trainees. Articles should provide more than anecdotal evidence of the impact of these practices by including appropriate formative and/or summative assessments documenting developmental growth that is the result of their mentoring activities.

In addition, we invite students and trainees to describe unique aspects of their mentoring experiences (as both mentees and as near-peer mentors of more junior students), in short contributions to our Student Forum. Areas of interest might include but are not limited to:

- Transition into laboratory research
- Running an effective journal club
- Developing mentoring and lab management skills
- Career training and guidance of graduate students and post-doctoral scientists
- Maintaining work-life balance
- Pedagogical training of teaching assistants, graduate students, and/or post-doctoral trainees through formal or informal programs
- Efforts toward diversity, equity, inclusion, and respect in departments or research centers
- Evidence-based efforts (e.g., as included in grants awarded to middle- and senior-level biophysicists) that support mentoring

This is an excellent opportunity for team leaders who run training programs or centers to document and publish on the impactful mentoring work they are doing within their units. Such publications may be highly beneficial as evidence of your work in this area at the time of your grant renewal and will help disseminate effective practices across our community, making your work visible to your colleagues.

In conjunction with this call, the Editorial Board of *The Biophysicist* and the BPS Education Committee will be co-hosting a webinar and discussion, *Mentoring the Next Generation of Biophysicists*, later in 2023. These conversations will be a valuable opportunity to hear about some of the work being done in this space and to discuss with editors and colleagues potential manuscripts. Information about the webinar will be announced soon.

Prospective authors should read the [Information for Authors](#) on the journal Web page and submit via the [journal submission site](#). Pre-submission inquiries can be addressed to thebiophysicist@biophysics.org.

To submit, visit <https://thebiophysicist.msubmit.net/cgi-bin/main.plex>