

Staying in Science Without Staying In The Lab:

A view (and a career) from the other side of publishing

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WILEY

Where We Work

John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken NJ



- Founded in 1807, headquartered in Hoboken, NJ and employs ~5,000 employees worldwide
- Leader in society publishing with >800 collaborations with prestigious scientific societies representing 2 million members
- Wiley Online Library provides content to over 4 million articles from ~1,600 journals and 9,000+ books
- Publishes *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* and the *For Dummies* book series





Our pathways from research to publishing...

Virginia Chanda, Publishing Director, IEO (In-house Editorial Offices)



Scientific research path:

PhD, Dept of Biochemistry, Rutgers University and RWJ Medical School. Collagen research.

Post-doc, Dept of Molecular Biology. Atherosclerosis research.

Senior Scientist, Schering Plough Corporation, Dept of Pharmacology. Atherosclerosis drug design.

But then...Wiley

Current Protocols

Scientific Copyeditor → Developmental Editor →
Editorial Manager → Executive Editor

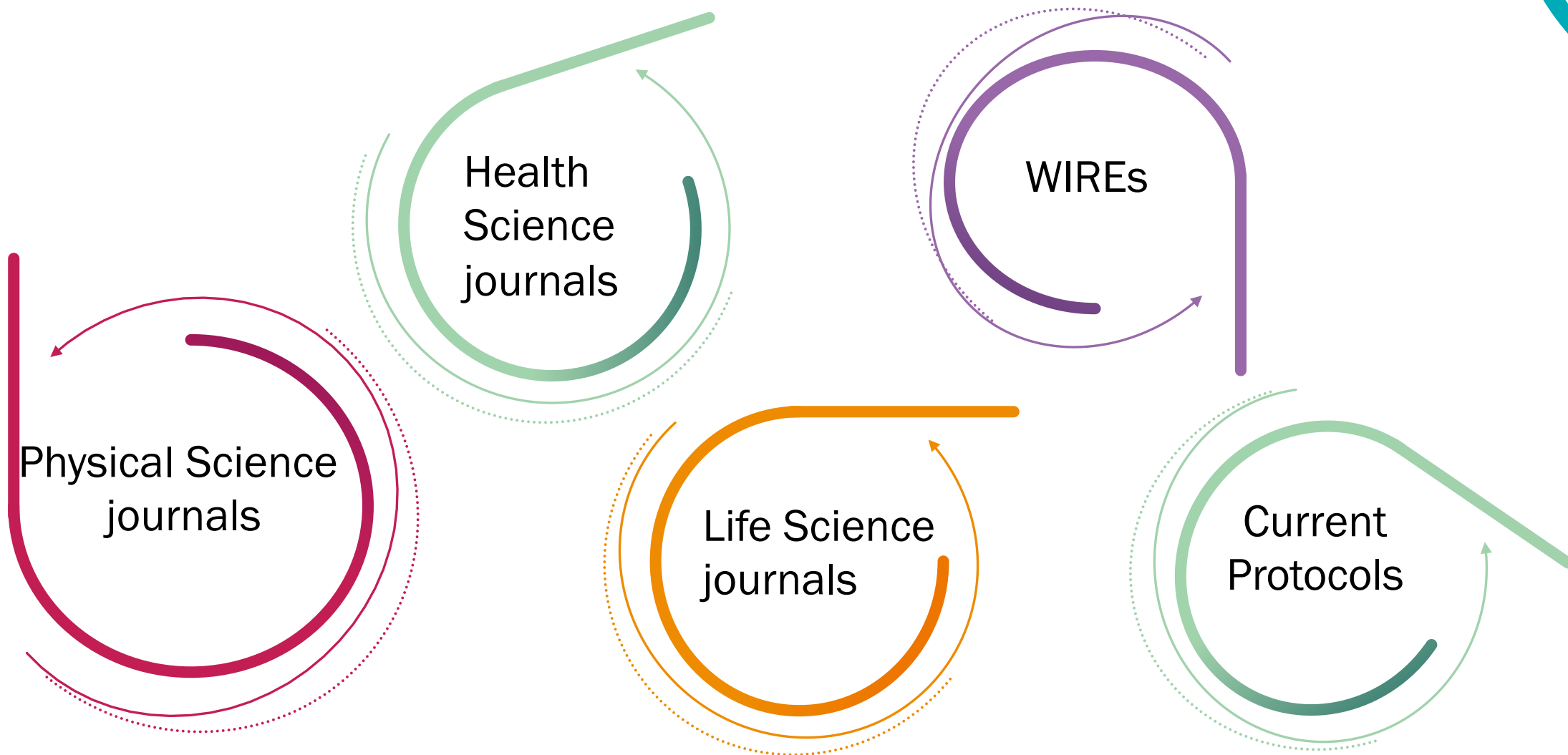
In-house Editorial Offices

Publisher → Publishing Director



IEO-US/UK Offices

| In-House Editorial Program—US/UK



The Tasks of a Publisher

- ✓ Responsible for the strategic management and development of a portfolio
 - Oversees planning, budgeting and reporting
 - Maintains regular communication with senior management
 - Supports new publishing initiatives and processes

- ✓ Performs outreach activities
 - Participates in workshops and editor/institutional visits
 - Attends conferences
 - Liaises with marketing and promotion

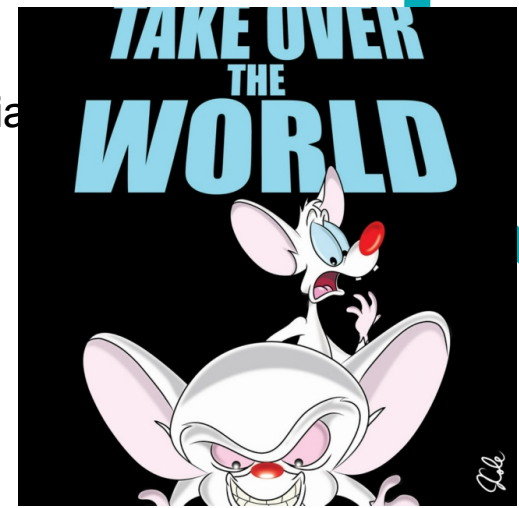
- ✓ Manages Staff
 - Organizes and holds team meetings
 - Handles personnel issues; geographic rules and regulations
 - Sets team objectives



Eric Prager, Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Neuroscience Research, IEO (In-house Editor)

Various editorials,
2 papers on publishing transparent
and rigorous scientific research
Preprint: <https://osf.io/5cvqh/>

WILEY



18+ papers,
a PhD on
nerve agents,
TBI & Stress



Eric Prager

- Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Neuroscience Research* since January, 2016
 - Expand scope, new look and redevelop journal, solicit content, rapid peer review, work with associate editors
- Developmental Editor, *Current Protocols in Neuroscience | Toxicology*
 - Solicit content, peer review
- Transparent and Reproducible Science Advocate and member of the Research Integrity Team



The Tasks of an Editor

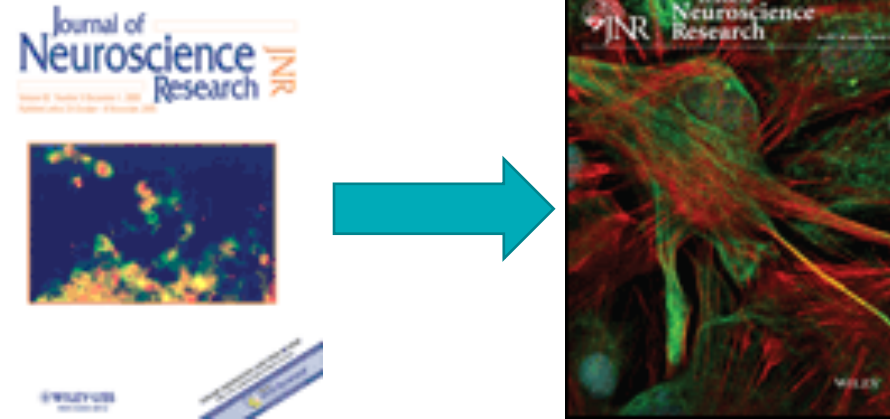
- ✓ Responsible for the day to day management of a journal
 - Reads manuscripts submitted to the journal
 - Assigns manuscripts to sub-Editor (if relevant)
 - Identifies and invites reviewers
 - Makes editorial decisions and provides own suggestions
 - Solicits manuscripts and Special Issues
 - Stays aware of the Publisher's latest publishing initiatives and processes
 - Collaborates with the publisher on the marketing of the journal
 - Regular communication with editorial team, journal manager, publisher & authors

- ✓ Performs outreach activities
 - Workshops and Editor/institutional visits
 - Attends conferences

- ✓ Stays aware of the recent literature



Redeveloping a Journal



- Rethink scope, standards and strategy
- LOTS of commissioning of content
- Peer-review primarily handled by associate editors
- “Getting the word out”: Conferences, newsletters, social media, news...
- Engaging with the editorial board, developing new editorial board
- Working with production, marketing, sales

In-House vs External Editors

In-House Editors

- Former researchers (all have PhD/MD or postdoc experience)
- Work in small editorial teams supported by editorial board
- Have different titles (EiC, Deputy Editor, Senior Editor, Associate Editor, etc.) depending on experience and responsibility
- Responsible for peer-review process and editorial decisions
- Model adopted by JNR, Science, Nature, Cell Press, PLoS, the Lancet
- Vacancies posted on Publisher's website

External Editors

- Professors at universities all over the world (all have PhD/MD or postdoc experience)
- Only work part time on journal and have other duties (research and teaching)
- Contracted and paid by the Publisher
- Have similar titles and responsibilities than the Professional Editors
- Model adopted by most journals published by Elsevier, Springer, Wiley, Taylor & Francis, Wolters Kluwer, Oxford University Press
- Vacancies are not posted and not available to recent PhD graduates/postdocs

Other Types of Editors

✓ **Managing Editor**

- Supports the Editor-in-Chief
- Can be involved in making desk rejections
- Can help with reviewers identification and invitation
- Can help with commissioning review articles and special issues
- Can be responsible for keeping the publication schedule on track
- Often has a PhD, but not always

✓ **Acquisition/Development Editor**

- Responsible for the acquisition/launch/improvement of scholarly products
- Often seen in books publishing
- Sometimes has a PhD, but rarely

✓ **Copy Editor**

- Responsible for proof-reading the manuscripts
- Only present at major branded journals
- Sometimes has a PhD, but rarely

- ✓ Scientific Writers/Journalists
- ✓ Content Innovation Specialist
- ✓ Academic Engagement Manager
- ✓ Expert in Publishing Ethics
- ✓ Marketing Manager
- ✓ Sales Manager
- ✓ Book Commissioning Editor
- ✓ Web Portal Editor



Is Publishing for you?

It may be the job for you if you...

- Are passionate for science communication
- Recognize the importance of publishing in the scientific process
- Are curious about a broad range of topics & disciplines
- Know the art of diplomacy and have people skills
- Have analytical and decision-making skills
- Are creative, with an eye for detail (and the “next big thing”)

...But you won't love it if you...

- Love being in the lab and do research
- Enjoy being the world expert in a specific subject
- Don't like changing topics several times a day
- Hated writing your thesis

English is the language of Science

- Publishing is not restricted to native speakers anymore
- BUT, you need to be fluent in communicating science with it

Editor's Career Pros & Cons: What's hot and what's not

What I love....

- It's a career at the "center of science"
- Entrusted the knowledge of entire disciplines
- Bird-eye view over science
- Contact with the scientific community
- Add & participate at the scientific debate and progress
- Plenty of (international) travel
- Real possibility of professional growth

What I could do without....











- Journal/process development can be slow and frustrating
- Angry authors and editors are difficult to deal with
- Fraud/ethical violations are not uncommon and very exasperating
- Sometimes I miss being at the bench
- Career progression after Editor-in-Chief is not easy



Important Lessons We Learned During Our Journey...and Continue to Learn

- ✓ Start early
- ✓ Establish a network and use it
- ✓ Take every opportunity (and learn to say “yes,” within reason)
- ✓ Learn to sell yourself (i.e., develop your own brand)
- ✓ Know what you are looking for (listen to your heart and mind)
- ✓ Have faith in yourself and keep your eyes on the prize

Where to Find the Vacancies?

- ✓ Elsevier (Amsterdam, London, Oxford, **New York**, Philadelphia, Cambridge (US)...) 
- ✓ Springer/BioMed Central (Berlin, Heidelberg, **New York**, Dordrecht, London...) 
- ✓ Nature Publishing Group (London, **New York**) 
- ✓ Wiley (West Sussex, **Hoboken**) 
- ✓ Taylor & Francis (Oxford, **New York**) 
- ✓ PLOS (San Francisco, Cambridge (UK)) 
- ✓ Wolters Kluwer (Alphen aan den Rijn, **New York**, London, ...)
- ✓ Mary Ann Liebert (**New Rochelle**) 
- ✓ Oxford University Press (Oxford, **New York**, etc.) 
- ✓ Rockefeller University Press (**New York**) 
- ✓ Academic Publishers (Universities) 
- ✓ Societies

- What is the main finding/purpose of the article
 - Why is it important/relevant
 - Why should a general audience care about this technique
-
- Start with a brief introduction to the issue
 - Describe the main finding (in plain English)
 - Explain how it fits into the larger context

- Peer review comments were provided in advance
- Break into editorial teams to render a decision (15-20 minutes)
- Questions to consider:
 - Discuss as a group, are there consensus opinions here?
 - Are there 'fatal flaws' of the work?
 - Are the reviewers offering constructive feedback?
 - Are the reviewers indicating that the scope of this work is appropriate? Do the authors need to expand or just better support their existing conclusions?
 - Would you invite or reject this manuscript based upon the reviews? If inviting back, what general direction might you give to authors?
 - These reviews are from a journal using **single-blind peer review** and an **open interaction model** where reviewers see each others reports but do not directly engage with each other. Would another model be more useful here? What would be best from the authors perspective? From the editors?

Thank you!

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