

Editorial

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Starting with this volume, I shall serve as the new *Editor-in-Chief* of *The European Physical Journal A - Hadrons and Nuclei* (EPJ A). First of all, I want to welcome all Editors and the whole community of authors and readers for having made EPJ A a leading journal in its fields.

I will do my best to foster and keep the present visibility of the journal in the already well-established fields and promote it in new fields. Suggestions for further improvement are always welcome.

On behalf of the whole Editorial Board, I would like to thank warmly Thomas Walcher, whose term as Editor-in-Chief has come to its end in 2006, although he agreed that we keep him as Editor a bit longer to ensure a smooth transition. He has devoted considerable efforts for the continued improvement of the journal. I am sure he will continue to help me with his advice, and support the journal by his scientific production.

In the following I recall the present publishing policy (and qualities) of EPJ A:

- * Peer review directed by personally known Editors of outstanding international scientific stature. This review process frequently improves the readability and reliability of published articles significantly. The Editors can also act as neutral mediators to resolve the occasional strong differences of opinion between authors and referees.
- * Fast processing of the papers with an average delay of 11 weeks for the refereeing and editorial work due to the loyal relation between the Editors and the referees of EPJ A. Speed of processing from submission through publication time is surveyed by the efficiency and long-term experience of the Production Office.
- * All articles can be accessed through the EPJ portal at the URL <http://www.eurphysj.org> soon after submission of the final proofread paper to the Publisher. From this moment on, all articles are citable using the Digital Object Identifier (DOI), an internationally agreed citation method uniquely identifying all published work worldwide and enabling cross-referencing between articles from all sources. This service is available via the “Online First” button of the EPJ A content home page.
- * All papers are published in the renowned compact style of EPJ, combining both a pleasant layout and economically dense printing. A style file with convenient macros available to prepare papers with LaTeX can be downloaded from the EPJ portal. However, papers in all formats are accepted and transposed into the EPJ style without extra page charges.
- * We are proud of the particularly thorough proofreading of our copy editors who check all aspects of the consistency of a manuscript (figure numbering, citations, equations, etc.) and take also care of language editing, still keeping fast processing times.

Let me now give you an update of the publishing policy of EPJ A.

The (expanded) subfields of the journal are:

- Nuclear Structure and Reactions
- Heavy Ion Physics
- Hadron Physics
- Weak Interactions
- Nuclear Astrophysics
- Tools for Theory and Experiment
- Interdisciplinary Topics

“Tools for Theory and Experiment”, at the same time is a new article category, introduced to provide room for the increasing complexity and consequently growing weight of methods in the field of hadrons and nuclei. Articles

submitted to the “Tools” section should, however, outline the concrete physical applications connected to them. We specifically welcome articles on instrumentation for up-coming experiments, detector developments, accelerators, computer simulations, but also on lengthy technical theoretical issues.

Other article categories EPJ A distinguishes are the following:

– Letters

“Letters” should comprise important topical results deserving fast publication. They should be first announcements normally followed up by a more detailed paper on the same subject. They will get special attention of the responsible Editor and priority in the production. Their length will be limited to four pages, normally including all figures and tables. It is part of our editorial policy that “Letters” published in EPJ A are freely accessible in the internet without extra costs to the authors.

– Regular Articles

“Regular Articles” will encompass all aspects of experimental and theoretical physics and are normally limited to a maximum 20 pages. Articles exceeding this limit are not excluded but will need a special justification.

– Scientific Notes

“Scientific Notes” are papers on intermediate results of simulations, detectors, analyses, etc. intended to help the communication of the progress of lengthy experiments and simulations needing long preparations or running time. This should help young physicists in particular to produce refereed and citable publications during the long phase of the realization of a major set-up or investigation. We should like to point out that excellent thesis (master, laurea, diploma, doctoral, etc.) may qualify for this section. But also appropriately prepared accounts of more technical nature may be published here.

– Reviews

“Reviews”, formerly called “Topical Reports”, are longer review articles on a topical subject. They can be submitted as normal papers on one’s own initiative, or are invited by the Editors.

– Topical Issues

Selected papers from topical conferences can be accepted and released together as “Topical Issue” provided these papers meet the overall quality standards of EPJ A. In any case the peer-reviewing standards of EPJ A will apply.

Note that all articles can be published together with Electronic Supplementary Material (ESM), *e.g.* large tables, video material etc. By default the ESM is considered part of the refereed article and cannot be appended *a posteriori* or submitted separately.

All manuscripts for EPJ A have to be submitted following the procedure accessible via the EPJ home page www.eurphysj.org. The publishing policy of EPJ A is well in line with the “Open Access” movement that aims to publish articles at no cost for the readers. EPJ A is ready to join the movement as soon as the sponsoring agencies will have formulated their “Open Access” policy. For information, please consult the “Open Access” page at http://www.eurphysj.org/open_access.html.

Enzo De Sanctis

*Editor-in-Chief
for the Editorial Board*

Frascati, January 2007