

## AJB and PSB Editor-in-Chief Search Recommendations – May 31, 2024

I am delighted to tell you that the search committee (copied here) charged with recommending new Editors-in-Chief for AJB and PSB has completed its work as of this morning, and we have the following recommendations to share with you:

- For AJB, the committee recommends **Dr. Sean Graham** for the position of Editor-in-Chief
  - Dr. Graham is a Professor in the Department of Botany at the University of British Columbia. He has served BSA Publications extensively over many years and is very familiar with AJB in particular. The committee was impressed with his record of service to the Society and the journal, his vision and specific ideas he described for the journal in the coming years, his commitment to DEI principles (especially highlighting indigenous contributions in botany), and his past demonstrated commitment to making data-based decisions that have benefitted the journal (specifically, helping to develop the Reviews section and the Synthesis Prize, and participating in the original transition to Wiley).
- For PSB, the committee recommends **Dr. Carolina Siniscalchi** for the position of Editor-in-Chief
  - Dr. Siniscalchi is an Assistant Professor and Data Science Coordinator in the University Libraries at Mississippi State University. Her strong background in systematics research and current position in library science are a unique combination that we feel will bring new ideas and directions to PSB. The committee was impressed by the many specific ideas she has for PSB (including for special issues and improving discoverability) the diversity of her personal networks, and her commitment to DEI principles and increasing participation in PSB.

The committee unanimously recommends both of these candidates for the Editor-in-Chief positions of AJB and PSB, respectively.

The search process used to arrive at these recommendations was as follows:

1. The committee met on February 20, 2024 to discuss the search and the draft calls for both positions that were provided by Amy and Heather.
2. The finalized calls were issued the last week of February and shared via BSA's email and social media, with an application deadline of April 5.
3. Applications were accepted electronically, and we received three applications for each position.
4. The committee met on April 17 and voted to interview two candidates for each position; we concluded that the third applicant (who was the same person applying for both positions) was not acceptable for either position.
5. Interviews took place via Zoom between May 16-22, with all committee members in attendance.
6. The committee met on May 31 to discuss the pros and cons of each candidate, and for both publications we agreed unanimously on a first-choice candidate, and that the second choice candidate would also be acceptable.

As noted in point 6 above, the committee felt that both of the secondary candidates we interviewed would be acceptable for the positions if either of the first choice candidates were to decline. Our second choice candidates are: for AJB, Dr. Jim Leebens-Mack; for PSB, Imeña Valdes. We can provide additional information about these candidates if you would like.

Please let me know if you need any additional information. I believe that the AJB editor is appointed by the BSA board, while the PSB editor is appointed by the Executive Committee; the committee very much hopes that the necessary discussion and approvals can take place in time for the new editors to be announced at Botany 2024. Once decisions have been made and offers accepted, I can work with Amy to communicate with the unsuccessful candidates and thank them for their interest in the positions.

**I want to thank all of the members of this committee, who gave their time and mental energy to this task over the course of the last few months: Rich Hund, Eugenio Larios, Amy McPherson, Nora Mitchell, Andy Schnabel, and Mackenzie Taylor. Thank you all!**

Thank you,  
Emily

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