

Funding APC Waivers for APPS in 2022

BACKGROUND:

Applications in Plant Sciences, now in its 11th year, is our Society's open access journal. As such, article publication charges (APCs) are paid to publish in the journal. For 2022, APC rates for APPS are \$1800 with a member discount of 50%. These rates are very much in line with other journals of similar nature.

For APPS, we are working to raise the journal's visibility, increase its Impact Factor, and increase the number of submissions. One of the strategies we are implementing is publishing special issues (7 are currently in the works). We are also fully committed to supporting the Society's goals of increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion and do not want to exclude anyone based solely on inability to pay.

Wiley continues to engage institutions around the world in transitional deals, which cover or provide discounts for the APCs for authors from their institutions. See the Wiley Publisher's Reports and the Transitional Deals document for more information on those. However, **these deals don't cover all institutions and potential authors**, which can present a challenge. Authors from Developing Nations and the Global South, whose institutions often do not/cannot provide funds for Open Access, especially for early-career researchers, are at a particular disadvantage. Wiley offers discounts and waivers to publish in certain countries, but there are still many instances when authors do not qualify for waivers.

APPS is at a critical juncture and is in need of strong submissions. We want to encourage the success of the upcoming special issues which we anticipate will encompass several submissions from authors from the Global South and others from smaller institutions that lack funds to cover Article Publication Charges for Open Access. BSA staff is already hearing concerns from potential authors in Latin American countries for the Bioinformatics special issue as well as from our recruiting editors who hear back from some authors that they cannot afford the APCs.

PROPOSAL:

BSA will be receiving expected royalties from Wiley of \$36,873. These were not part of our FY2022 budget. We propose that in 2022, the Board approve an expenditure of \$13,500 to support authors who lack funds to cover Article Publication Charges for Open Access in *Applications in Plant Sciences*.

\$13,500 would allow for **15** APC waivers (Based on an \$1800 APC applying the 50% BSA member discount). These would be prioritized for authors contributing to the Bioinformatics issue, and the remainder would be Recruiting Editor waivers to support terrific articles where authors lack funds for APCs.