

Editorial: Physical Review X at Fifteen

Fifteen years ago, *Physical Review X* was launched with a clear ambition: to create a selective open access journal dedicated to publishing landmark physics research. At a time when scientific publishing was rapidly expanding through the large-scale growth of online journals, PRX was founded on a different idea—rather than emphasizing volume, it chose to emphasize substance.

To achieve this goal, PRX built its editorial philosophy around engagement with physicists. From the beginning, we have worked closely with authors and reviewers through direct conversations, targeted questions, and thoughtful editorial guidance. Our role has never been limited to evaluating manuscripts. The entire editorial team strives to help authors present their work with greater clarity and rigor, while providing transparent and constructive explanations for our decisions. We equally believe that careful interactions with reviewers are essential to ensuring rigorous and fair reviews, and ultimately to publishing papers that stand the test of time.

This editorial philosophy naturally leads to a highly curated model. By publishing a limited number of particularly significant advances, we aim to help authors maintain visibility for their work across physics and at its interfaces, while helping readers navigate an ever-growing scientific literature. In 2025, PRX published roughly 300 papers, only a small fraction of the manuscripts it received. This level of selectivity remains unusual among open access journals.

As we celebrate our 15th anniversary, the principles that shaped PRX have only become more relevant. Artificial intelligence is lowering barriers to producing and disseminating research at unprecedented speed and scale. This revolution in scientific communication accelerates the production of information to the point where it may become overwhelming. The need for trusted editorial judgment becomes even more essential. We believe that journals must do more than simply disseminate results. They must help identify the advances most likely to shape future research, provide authors with meaningful editorial engagement, and maintain the high standards that give readers confidence in the work that journals publish.

Over the past fifteen years, authors, reviewers, and readers have collectively shaped PRX's identity by entrusting us with their best work and devoting valuable research time to improving manuscripts. The Editorial Board members and previous Lead Editors continuously guided the evolution of PRX with their insight, judgment, and dedication in service of the physics community. We are especially indebted to the founding Managing and Chief Editor, Ling Miao, whose vision, leadership, and deep passion for physics guided PRX through its first twelve years.

Building on the achievements of the past 15 years, we remain committed to providing a personalized venue for inspiring and substantial research articles, and we warmly invite you to continue sending us your best work.

Denis Bartolo
Lead Editor

Brent Grocholski
Chief Editor

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