

Editorial: The Launch of a New Online Journal of Review

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SPIE Reviews, SPIE's new journal of review, is an extraordinary venture. Among the many online journals launched or announced, it is, to the best of my knowledge, the first and only such journal to be free to both authors and to readers. Authors of *SPIE Reviews* articles do not incur page charges or other open-access publishing fees, and all articles and supplemental materials are freely available to all readers. *SPIE Reviews* achieves this condition through the support of SPIE, which has committed significant resources to the success of this new journal. And it is not simply a "for-the-time-being" condition later to be revoked. As founding editor-in-chief, I have been assured that the journal will never levy charges against either authors or readers.

At the same time, the journal will see the same high standards of publication quality that characterize *Optical Engineering*, the *Journal of Biomedical Optics*, and other SPIE peer-reviewed journals. All papers accepted for publication in *SPIE Reviews* will be copyedited and typeset before their appearance online, assuring a high degree of readability and understandability. Quite importantly, the online nature of the journal eliminates the cost of paper publication and distribution and allows the incorporation of electronic links within the article, as well as multimedia enhancements not possible in print publications.

SPIE Reviews is served by a large and highly qualified [editorial board](#), its members representing to the extent possible the extremely broad range of interests characterizing SPIE itself. It is thus to be expected that *SPIE Reviews* will publish review articles on a wide range of topics. The first group of papers appearing with the journal's launch demonstrates that range: one is on extended depth-of-focus optical systems, another reviews Bragg grating refractive index sensors, and another covers negatively refracting chiral metamaterials. The scope is broad indeed. There are also links to review articles that have been published in other SPIE journals. They, too, are made available to readers free of charge.

As noted in the [general information](#) web page for the journal, papers published in *SPIE Reviews* are all invited papers and undergo peer review. Responsibility for extending invitations resides with the members of the editorial board and with the editor-in-chief. However, the journal will also consider unsolicited proposals from prospective authors. Proposals may be sent either to the [editor-in-chief](#), to the journal's [managing editor](#), or to a member of the [editorial board](#). Prospective authors are invited to go to the journal web site and read the material on [what constitutes a good review paper](#). Subsequent editorials will address related questions such as: "What is the best timing for a review paper?" "How long should a good review paper be?" and "How can review articles be kept up-to-date?" Letters to the editor may be submitted to the journal; if deemed appropriate for publication, they will be linked to papers on which they comment.

The advent of online journals has created new opportunities and new challenges for publishers, authors, and readers. SPIE hopes and expects that the "free-for-authors and free-for-readers" model it has adopted for *SPIE Reviews* will be enthusiastically received by the technical community it is intended to serve. The editorial board and I will do all we can to assure that the journal's publications are timely in their content and of the highest quality. We look forward to serving our colleagues by providing them with papers that will allow them to gain a fresh perspective on evolving fields in optics and photonics.