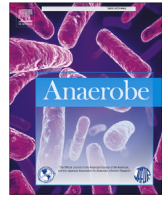




Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Anaerobe

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/anaerobe

Editorial

Anaerobe and anaerobes: New developments (the viewpoints of the new Editors-in-Chief)

We are pleased to introduce ourselves as Drs. Maja Rupnik and Emma Allen-Vercoe, your new Editors-in-Chief for the *Anaerobe* journal. The very first thing we would like to do is to express our gratitude to Prof. Elizabeth Nagy, the former Editor-in-Chief, who has been in this important role since 2015 and has left it in extraordinary condition. It is telling that we have decided to spread the workload and responsibility of this role between two people going forward! On behalf of the entire group of Associate Editors and the Editorial board, we would like to thank Elizabeth for all her enthusiasm, great ideas, and her patience. We are especially grateful for the substantial transition period which we were granted, where we have now become quite familiar with the responsibilities of the job.

This transition period also gave us some very useful time to think about role of *Anaerobe* and what we would like the journal to stand for. *Anaerobe* was established in year 1995 as an official journal of two Societies; The Anaerobe Society of Americas and The Japanese Association for Anaerobic Infection Research. However, over time, the anaerobe research landscape has significantly evolved, and we think that there will be merit in reaffirming these links, and perhaps developing others, for the benefit of all.

Academic journals are all about publishing great science to advance a given field, and such science can take many forms. Academic publication also helps to forge scientific communities. It is our aim to establish *Anaerobe* as a meeting point for everyone working on anaerobic microorganisms. Anaerobes are found in many different environments and with different functions, but also have a lot in common. Human and veterinary clinical anaerobic microbiology was the main driving force for the founding of the journal and has persisted as an important research area. However, anaerobic microbiology has also diversified and can be now found in many fields, including environmental science, industrial

processes, waste management systems, biofuels development, and microbiome research. The taxonomy of anaerobes is also in flux, and anaerobic microbes other than bacteria, including fungi, yeasts and archaea, as well as bacteriophages that are associated with anaerobes are garnering new interest. Although anaerobes can be challenging to handle, the appreciation of the need to study their physiology is also driving the development of novel anaerobic culture techniques.

While clinical microbiology, as well as the study of key anaerobic pathogens such as *Clostridioides difficile*, *Clostridium perfringens*, *Fusobacterium* spp., *Cutibacterium* spp., *Bacteroides fragilis* and many others will remain one of the main branches in the *Anaerobe* tree, going forward we hope that the journal will mirror the recent divergent developments in the field to include study of a broad range of anaerobic microorganisms and their structural, functional and physiological specificities. We invite researchers to join us in this important endeavor to build further on the solid foundations of the *Anaerobe* journal to establish a hub where the entire community can exchange knowledge, results, ideas and enthusiasm about strict anaerobes, among the most ancient and interesting microorganisms on Earth.

Maja Rupnik

National Laboratory for Health, Environment and Food, NLZOH,
Maribor, Slovenia

Faculty of Medicine, University of Maribor, Maribor, Slovenia

Emma Allen-Vercoe

Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, University of Guelph,
Guelph, Ontario, Canada