

Cell Chemical Biology: Home of Exciting Chemical Biology

For a long time, researchers doing biology in a chemistry lab, or those doing chemistry in a biology lab, or doing both simultaneously, did not have a journal dedicated to supporting their kind of science, the one done at the interface of chemistry and biology. All of this changed when *Chemistry & Biology* was launched in 1994 as the first journal to focus on publishing work done in all areas at the interface of chemistry and biology and on promoting the new way of thinking about biology that started to emerge from these efforts. The next two decades saw an incredible increase in interest and prominence of these efforts and led to the emergence of a new discipline known as chemical biology, a unique discipline that harnesses the power of chemistry to deliver profound insights into biological function and to develop solutions for life sciences, biotechnology, and human health. Providing a definition of a scientific discipline is frequently a challenge, but giving a solid definition for chemical biology is close to impossible given that it is as diverse as the chemistry that inspires it and the biology that it examines. Despite these difficulties, one thing is certain—chemical biology is a recognized, and rapidly growing, field of study.

We, and all the other Editors of *Chemistry & Biology* before us, have always felt that chemical biology is in the core of our interests and of the community to which we are dedicated. But over the last few years, we began to realize that the journal's name, *Chemistry & Biology*, might not be effective in communicating our mission to publish, support, and promote chemical biology and to drive biology and our ability to study it using chemical ingenuity forward. After a great deal of internal discussions and many conversations with members of the chemical biology community, we decided to make a dramatic and bold move and transform *Chemistry & Biology* into *Cell Chemical Biology*.

There are three main reasons for this change. Under the name of *Cell Chemical Biology*, we will be better aligned with the field we are serving, chemical biology; we will be more clearly affiliated with the Cell Press brand and our sister journals such as *Cell*, *Cell Reports*, *Cancer Cell*, *Cell Metabolism*, *Molecular Cell*, *Cell Systems*, *Cell Host & Microbe*, and others; and the new title will remove ambiguity and confusion that some of our authors felt had been caused by *Chemistry & Biology*. With the new name comes a new outlook, and we will use this change as an opportunity to guide the journal towards reporting findings of broader interest to a wider community. We will work with our Editorial Board members, reviewers, authors, and all the members of chemical biology community to implement more rigorous selection and evaluation criteria and to place emphasis on the significance of biological insights and on chemical creativity and innovation. We want our authors to submit their best work to *Cell Chemical Biology* and the reviewers to evaluate not only technical merit, but also the significance of the findings and the extent of conceptual advance.

In its core, the scope of *Cell Chemical Biology* will remain focused on studies done at the interface of chemistry and biology, which, because of the unique interplay and synergy between the two fields, will make advancements to our understanding of basic biological processes that would otherwise be impossible. We expect that the details of our scope will continue to evolve and expand as the field transforms and changes, but what we hope to achieve through the review and research articles we publish is to spark discussions and inspire new research opportunities.

At the end, as in the beginning, it is all about the community, and for us that starts with our Editorial Board. Over the years, *Chemistry & Biology* was always supported by an exceptional Editorial Board, and *Cell Chemical Biology* will continue this tradition. Therefore, we are excited to introduce a significantly expanded Editorial Board that we feel is an excellent representation of the diversity of ideas and research interests found in the chemical biology today. Our editorial board members serve as ambassadors for the journal as well as the ambassadors of their community within the journal. They provide the Editors with policy advice, help us with difficult editorial decisions, and keep us informed about the most exciting research developments in their field of inquiry as well as the broader disciplines of chemical biology and related areas.

The first issue of *Cell Chemical Biology* is a Special Issue with review content highlighting some of the interesting research themes from across the spectrum of chemical biology, folded under an umbrella concept of “Blue Sky Thinking in Chemical Biology.” We wanted to use this special issue to set the stage for all of the exciting science we will be publishing for years and decades to come. Building on this, we challenged ourselves and our Editorial Board members to reach for the blue skies and answer the following question: “what paper would you like to read in the January 2026 issue of *Cell Chemical Biology*?”

We share the responses we received below, with the titles of 2026 papers and the people who wished to read them, and hope that you will not only be amused and amazed, but that you will also be inspired to make some of these wishes come true. We look forward to seeing the results of these efforts in the pages of *Cell Chemical Biology*, and we hope that you are as excited as we are to be a part of chemical biology and its chemistry-powered mission to explore the vast universe of biology.

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chembiol.2016.01.001>