

## Welcome to *Life: The Excitement of Biology*!

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Life-long learning is a trait of many scientists, faculty members, as well as editors and I am no exception. As a biologist and an experienced college faculty member, who has also spent over 12 years serving as editor of scientific journals and books, I have seen the rising cost of often hyperspecialized, scientific venues. Taking the path of being part of the solution, I am weaving my passion for the sciences and education into a novel, professional, and adventuresome professional journey. This new journey is a scientific, peer-reviewed journal entitled, *Life: The Excitement of Biology*, herein abbreviated **LEB** (<http://essential.metapress.com/content/122778>).

I conceived the name, *Life: The Excitement of Biology*, in the early 1990s, when I used to live in Berkeley, California. Although back then I was not ready to use this name, it remained in my heart. Nearly 20 years later, in late 2009, as I was looking for new editorial options, *Life: The Excitement of Biology*, resurfaced effortlessly, like a message on a fortune-telling toy. This name represents the enthusiasm I have often been attributed and the passion I have for my scientific research, teaching, and editorial vocations.

From our beautiful garden in York, Pennsylvania, USA, filled with joy, music, laughter, and sunshine, I began developing the idea of a new scientific journal early in 2010. Today, December 20, 2012, I am welcoming the world to *Life: The Excitement of Biology*, published by my own little company, Blay Publishers LLC ([www.blaypublishers.com](http://www.blaypublishers.com)). **LEB**'s mission is to provide the global scientific community with diverse, high quality, interesting, and intelligible articles on a wide variety of biological and related scientific and educational topics. *Life: The Excitement of Biology* aims to promote broad understanding of all forms of life, such as bacteria, plants, fungi, animals, and others at all levels of the biological hierarchical organization, from the atomic to the biospheric. Also, **LEB** promotes understanding of life through deep time, from the early records of life to life's current manifestations on Earth – or elsewhere.

Inclusivity is the thrust of *Life: The Excitement of Biology*. **LEB** hopes to excite scientists, nature lovers, and anyone for whom learning about the living world is in his/her heart. The first issue of **LEB** contains several scientific papers, two of which I highlight now. The opening scientific contribution, penned by Cabrera et al., discusses a new host plant record for the Citrus Fruit Borer, *Gymnandrosoma aurantianum* Lima, 1927 (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae), a

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major insect pest. This paper not only provides practical, well-illustrated information supporting species identification. Also, Cabrera et al. place the new find in a broad evolutionary perspective and explain why the new find is important. Another paper, written by Lambert et al., describes plant exudates of asterids, the daisies and their allies, as evaluated by nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (NMR). A new major category of exudates, called “balsam”, is characterized. This paper adds to the - fortunately manageable - classification of plant exudates Lambert and his collaborators have gradually built since the late 1990’s, including gums, resins, gum resins, kinos, kino resins, and other, hitherto relatively minor exudate categories.

**Subscribers.** I invite professional scientists with interest in biology, libraries, as well as nature lovers and anyone interested in learning about the living world to consider subscribing to *LEB*. You may subscribe to the online and/or the print versions of *LEB* by clicking on the link labeled “Add to shopping cart”, <http://essential.metapress.com/content/122778/offerings/>. Likewise, you may sign up for new issue alerting by clicking on the “New Issue Alerting” and follow the steps given therein.

**Authors.** Through the years as editor, my colleagues have praised my responsiveness, friendly and constructive help, as well as fast publication time of high quality papers. I intend to extend those personal and professional qualities to *LEB*. If you would like to send a paper to *Life: The Excitement of Biology*, please click on the link to “Guide to Authors” located on the right side of the Metapress link. Alternatively, you may consider accessing the guidelines by going to the following link, <http://blaypublishers.com/archives/>, and clicking on the link, [Guidelines to authors of Life the Excitement of Biology](#).

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As I edit this introductory piece, I cannot but remember colleagues, friends, and loved ones, many of whom are no longer with us. They have contributed to who I am now. Phrases I use liberally, such as, “to be in the heart”, “to feel free”, “to seek life-giving things”, and so many others are gifts from kind people who have influenced me profoundly. A special thanks goes to Ms. Lisa Steffen (Lancaster, Pennsylvania, USA), for providing expertise, empathy, and encouragement, in sum, kind business mentorship, during the last two years. Also, I wish to acknowledge the unwavering support of Dr. Jeff Deneen and Ms. Meghan Frost (Metapress, Birmingham, Alabama, USA) and of the Courtright Family (Brian, Neil, and Frances of NeFra, York, Pennsylvania) for producing the electronic and printed version, respectively, of *Life: The Excitement of Biology*.

If it is in your heart and mind, please, feel free to accompany us in this voyage of scientific discovery and education through *Life: The Excitement of Biology*. I trust this will be a life-giving journey for you too.