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## **JRSMTTE is a Diamond Open Access Journal for the Global SMTE Education Community**

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It is our great pleasure to announce our 6th volume of the Journal of Research in Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education, celebrating the end of our 5th year of publishing articles in science, math, and technology education research.

We would like to start this edition with sincere thanks to all the members of our editorial board for their volunteer work on our behalf. Through their efforts, our 5th volume included a record-breaking number of articles and our first Special Edition.

Articles in the 5th volume included topics in math, statistics, biology, chemistry, and integrated STEM education research, took place in both formal and informal education settings, and investigated primary, secondary, undergraduate, and graduate level education. Authors included residents of six countries on three continents.

As always, these articles are free to all readers, with no subscription fees or paywall, carrying no charge to institutions or libraries, with no article processing charge to authors. Thus, JRSMTTE is a Diamond open access journal. Diamond, or Platinum, open access journals are not-for-profit/non-commercial organizations, which make all their materials immediately available online at no charge to readers or authors (Fuchs and Sandoval, 2013.)

The Diamond open access model contrasts with the “pay-to-publish” Gold model of open access, in which the journal provides non-subscription free reading online but requires that authors pay article processing charges (APCs) (Meagher, 2021.) The most prestigious open access academic journals are generally Gold open access journals, or offer a hybrid approach, in which authors may elect to publish their work open access if they pay an APC.

There are two major problems that arise from the Gold open access model. First, APCs can be quite expensive, up to several thousand US dollars for a single article. Thus, while the Gold model provides greater access to publications for all, it creates financial hurdles to publication. This disadvantages researchers working in the Global South, those working in lower-funded disciplines, and those at institutions with lower research budgets (Meagher, 2021; Knöchelmann, 2021). Knöchelmann notes that Gold open access imposes “epistemic injustice” in academic scholarship: dominant European and North American research voices allow free consumption of their scholarly discourse by outside scholars, but disallow the active participation of outside voices in the construction of scholarly discourse through the imposition of APCs (Knöchelmann, 2021). JRSMTTE is proud to publish the work of authors from both the Global South and North, and from authors with less access to research funding from across the globe, with no APC.

The second problem that has arisen along with the Gold open access model is predatory journals (Fuchs and Sandoval, 2013.) Predatory journals operate on the same basis as non-predatory Gold open access journals – pay-to-publish, open access for readers – but do so while undermining quality control mechanisms such as the peer-review process, with the primary goal of gaining APC financial rewards from authors. Because both charge APCs and operate as for-profit businesses, it can be difficult to distinguish predatory and non-predatory Gold open access journals. JRSMTE is proud to offer publishing free of charge to authors, with a rigorous double-blind peer review process.

You may be asking, if readers don't pay, and neither do the authors, then who pays for publishing at JRSMTE? Our editorial tasks are all managed by our willing all-volunteer editorial board, whom we cannot thank enough, keeping our costs very low relative to most journals. The minimal cost per article, for expenses such as website maintenance and DOI subscription, is paid by anonymous philanthropists who support our mission.

In summary, JRSMTE follows the Diamond open access model in providing a high-quality peer-reviewed publishing resource for the global academic community without cost to readers or authors. Together with Fuchs and Sandoval (2021), we believe that the Diamond model should shape the future of academic publishing, avoiding both pay-to-read and pay-to-publish requirements, to thereby reduce both inequities and the incentive structure for predatory journal practices.

Furthermore, in JRSMTE's short five-year life, there has been a steady increase in the quality and quantity of the articles we receive and publish, and we hope for continued growth. For example, our May edition included a very noteworthy article by Rosida Rakhmawati Muhammad and colleagues from Coventry University in the United Kingdom. Their study used a theoretical approach to investigate the Indonesian science curriculum resulting in a set of recommendations to improve teacher training in Indonesia (Muhammad et al., 2022.) The article has already been cited in two other peer-reviewed articles.

Other JRSMTE articles of note this year include eight that were submitted by graduate student authors, for our first Special Edition. The top three articles of this group received awards for excellence, including:

Gold metal to Kelly Overby Byrd and colleagues, from the University of South Alabama

Silver metal to Miranda Chen Musgrove and her research advisor, of the University of Colorado

Bronze metal to Denish Akuom and his research advisor, of Montclair State University

JRSMTE is indexed through Sherpa Romeo and Index Copernicus. We will apply for listing in DOAJ, ERIC, Scopus, and other leading indexing organizations, and for Clarivate Analytics' Journal Citation Index when we are eligible, based on our number of published articles and citations. It will take some time to further grow our Journal's stature to reach these goals to better achieve our goals.

There are several ways in which you can help us meet these goals.

- Send us your manuscripts! We have a quick turnaround time, and our annual author surveys note high regard for the publishing process and useful reviewer feedback
- Read our articles and cite them, as appropriate, in your writing, wherever you publish
- Authors of JRSMTE's published articles can help improve our stature (and your own article's visibility) by linking them through such venues as ResearchGate, Academia, Orchid, and your own pages in Google Scholar, LinkIn, and elsewhere
- Spread the word

Much thanks for your support of our work,

*Stephen Cessna, Editor-in-Chief*

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