Inaugural Editorial

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It is my pleasure and honor to be named Editor-in-Chief of *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*. The first article I ever published was in this journal, and over the ensuing 20 years, it has played an important role in driving my own thinking about a range of issues in cognitive science. The general nature of the journal's coverage, the high-quality theoretical reviews, and the high-impact brief reports come together to create a journal that speaks to, and impacts, many different literatures and groups of researchers. As a result, *PB&R* is truly a flagship journal that bridges themes, constructs, and methods to report ground-breaking ideas. I am therefore very excited to work to ensure its vitality over the next several years.

Outgoing Editor Greg Hickok and his team have done a tremendous job promoting the quality and visibility of *PB&R*. The journal now consistently receives over 500 submissions per year and readers have been increasingly accessing and citing its articles. Since 2015, we have seen a 180% growth in downloads and a 40% increase in citations. The journal's impact factor is now over 3.7. Additionally, Prof. Hickok's shift toward publishing more review articles was insightful as was his use of special issues to promote content areas he wanted the journal to embrace. My team and I will continue to uphold and foster many of his policies and strategies to build on these recent successes. This does not mean, however, that we will be complacent, and I have established some initial priorities that I think will benefit the journal in key ways.

I want *PB&R* to be a leader in developing, evaluating, and espousing best-practices to improve diversity and to reduce potential biases in the assessment of submitted work. My first priority as editor-elect was to establish a leadership team that mirrors the journal's readership and contributors. I am very pleased that the incoming editorial board members represent a range of personal demographics, intellectual interests, and career paths: 50% are women, 33% are assistant professors, 42%

are associate professors, 25% are full professors, 28% are based in ten countries outside of the USA, and US institutions are members of four different Carnegie Classifications. In addition to our editorial balance, our processes, from submission to final decision, will emote an authentic air of fairness and trust. Balanced slates of reviewers, clear action letters, and efficient peer review are important elements. We will aim to have a consulting editor review every submission in order to promote diversity in the review process and evenness in the quality of the reviews authors receive. Editors and reviewers alike will be asked to monitor and comment upon the sources and breadth of the supporting literature cited in each submission. We will also insist upon a constructive review process. Even when criticizing or rejecting a manuscript, a positive tone is possible and is expected.

Turning to journal content, today's research in the cognitive sciences is more methodologically complex and interdisciplinary than ever. In order for Brief Reports to continue to present "must cite" work, I am revising the word count restrictions imposed on these submissions in two ways. First, I am retiring the journal's long-standing policy of including references in the word limits imposed on Brief Reports. The best interests of the journal's readership are not served by policies that expect or impose a tradeoff between knowing the literature and discussing it – or worse – those that encourage authors to cite narrowly. Second, in order to allow Brief Reports to become more accommodating of papers that demand a high degree of methodological detail or explanation, I have also decided to exclude Methods sections from word count limits. While freeing both Methods and References from the word limits provide goods in their own right, I hope these changes will encourage researchers to submit Brief Reports that include planned and exploratory analyses, consider various additional statistical or experimental controls, present an additional experiment or conceptual replication, and/or break away from larger effect sizes, simpler methods, or less evidence of replicability. I ask that all authors consult the new manuscript preparation and submission guidelines available on the journal's website prior to submitting new manuscripts.

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Theoretical review articles are under few restrictions and little needs to be done in terms of policy shifting to promote this publication mechanism. That said, I would like to publish more short topic reviews. In addition to long review articles that synthesize or recast mature literatures and long-standing problems, I encourage submissions that highlight new or emerging topics and methodologies for which robust literatures do not yet exist. While such topics might not enable a long review, there are many such topics that are nevertheless important for the journal's readership as a whole to understand. In addition to stand-alone articles, I also encourage proposals for full-fledged special issues as well as more

concise special sections that cover particularly timely topics from a range of perspectives.

Finally, I want to remind the journal's readership that this journal belongs to you. Working as a community of scholars to generate, evaluate, and disseminate important new insights into the theoretical and mechanistic accounts of cognition, as well as their application, I am confident that *PB&R* will continue to be one of the premier publication outlets in psychological science. If you have ideas or constructive criticism that would help my team improve any aspect of the journal, I sincerely invite you to reach out to me via email to begin a discussion: james.brockmole@nd.edu.