

Charting New Frontiers: Launching the Annals of Multidisciplinary Research Insights

Ganesh Vanga^{1*} 

¹Department of Physics, King Khalid University, Abha, Saudi Arabia

1. A NEW FORUM FOR KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT BORDERS

I Ganesh Vanga, with great pleasure and equal responsibility, introduce the first issue of Annals of Multidisciplinary Research Insights. This journal is based on a simple but ever more current thesis: the most pressing questions facing science and society today do not often respect the limits of one discipline. Many problems that are physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, mathematics, and social science related require solutions that appear at the intersections of these disciplines. Solutions to problems in climate resilience, biomedical innovation, sustainable energy, computational intelligence, and advanced materials all sit at the intersections of physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, mathematics, and the social sciences. The Annals is dedicated to providing a permanent, rigorous and accessible place for that interdisciplinary work.

I'm a physicist by training, and have spent a lot of my career at a sweet spot where condensed matter and materials physics meet chemistry, engineering and more like data science. That experience has taught me that there are some of the most important lessons out there that are not lost because there were not any ideas there, but because there wasn't an outlet that would consider anything that wasn't strictly in one discipline or another. The Annals is the response to that need.

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2. WHY MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, AND WHY NOW

For a while the twentieth-century idea of discipline-specific narrow silos worked well for science, enabling each discipline to construct specific methods, language, and evidence-based practices. However, the problems of this century come packaged in a lot of categories not only quantum materials for next-generation computing, but also infrastructure that is resilient to climate change and these problems don't fit into neat departmental categories.¹ A new type of researcher has arisen: the person who can speak more than one discipline's language, who is at ease importing methods from one discipline to another, who is not bound by departmental divisions, who is energized by problems rather than by departmental divisions. For this researcher, the Annals is constructed.²

This is not an invitation to stop having depth in the disciplines. But the only thing that enables a field to

***Corresponding author:** Ganesh Vanga

Email: gvanga@kku.edu.sa

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make any sense in synthesis with other fields is rigor. Instead, it is a realization that depth and breadth go together and that the journals should be open to authors who can apply careful, field-specific methodology to a question that only such a combination of fields can answer.²

3. SCOPE AND EDITORIAL VISION

The Annals of Multidisciplinary Research Insights welcomes original research articles, critical reviews, short communications, case reports and perspective pieces spanning the full range of academic inquiry, with particular encouragement for work that bridges two or more disciplines. Submissions are invited across, though by no means limited to, the following broad areas:

1. Physical sciences, including physics, chemistry, and materials science, and their applications across engineering and technology;
2. Life sciences and biotechnology, including molecular biology, genetics, agriculture, and food science;
3. Medical and dental sciences, including clinical, translational, and oral health research, public health, and nursing;
4. Computer science, data science, and artificial intelligence, including their methods and applications across other fields of study;
5. Engineering disciplines, including civil, mechanical, electrical, chemical, and environmental engineering;
6. Environmental and earth sciences, including climate research, sustainability, and natural resource management;
7. Mathematics and statistics, including theoretical work and applied modeling across disciplines;
8. Intellectual property, technology law, and innovation policy, including patent strategy, regulatory frameworks for scientific innovation, and the legal dimensions of research commercialization;
9. Law, governance, and ethics, including the regulation of emerging technologies, data privacy, and environmental policy;
10. Economics, business, management, and entrepreneurship, including innovation, finance, and market analysis;
11. Education, social sciences, and the humanities, including psychology, sociology, communication, history, and the arts;
12. Any other field of inquiry, established or emerging, particularly work that engages substantively with more than one discipline in addressing a well-defined research question.

This breadth is intentional. A journal genuinely open to multidisciplinary work cannot privilege any single field as its organizing center; instead, it must judge each submission on the quality of its inquiry and the value of the connections it draws. We anticipate that the balance of subject matter across issues will shift naturally as the journal's community of authors and readers grows, and we welcome that evolution.³

4. EDITORIAL STANDARDS AND PROCESS

Quality and integrity are a must! All submissions to the "Annals of Multidisciplinary Research Insights" will go through a double-blind peer-review process by referees who have appropriate disciplinary expertise; for those submissions that are truly interdisciplinary, we will ask the reviewers from the related disciplines to go over all aspects of a manuscript's claims. We will strive for a transparent review process, reasonable turnaround times, and feedback to authors that is constructive and clear, whether published or rejected. The editorial board, which will be created, will represent the scope of subjects the journal will cover and will expand as the journal develops.

We also know that it's more difficult to assess a multi-disciplinary manuscript than a single discipline manuscript, because very few referees are known for expertise in all disciplines. We do not view this as a hurdle, but as the main editorial challenge of the journal, which we strive to overcome by pairing reviewers for each article, providing explicit guidelines for evaluating articles and revising their texts, and actively involving authors in the revision process.

5. AN INVITATION

This is the first of a series of publications, by design, meant to be a beginning, not a statement of arrival. The

"nature" of a journal is determined by the community of authors, reviewers and readers who make a commitment to it. I welcome all researchers, from established investigators to early career scholars, from any physical, life, computational, environmental and social science discipline to submit the most rigorous and boundary-crossing research to the Annals of Multidisciplinary Research Insights. We are also interested in receiving nominations of colleagues who are interested in serving as reviewers or editorial board members as the journal gains capacity.

I would like to express my gratitude to the founding editorial team, and Et al. Publication and its team, in giving this journal its substance and I would like to thank the authors and reviewers who will provide this first issue with its substance. I hope this journal will lead to discussions.

Ganesh Vanga

Founding Editor

Department of Physics, King Khalid University, Abha, Saudi Arabia

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The authors confirm that no artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology was used to assist in the writing or editing of the manuscript, and no images were manipulated using AI tools.

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