

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

## WHAT CAN A **JOURNAL EDITOR** AND AN **EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER** LEARN FROM EACH OTHER?

To help build networks across research communities, we arranged a meeting over lunch between a **JOURNAL EDITOR** and **EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER (ECR)** working on similar topics.

NAME  
**Tom Fudge**

ROLE  
PhD researcher and entrepreneur

RESEARCH AREA  
Water and sanitation



NAME  
**Peter Jarvis**

ROLE  
Managing Editor

JOURNAL  
Environmental  
Technology



### *What did you talk about?*

We discussed our **mutual research interests** in sanitation and water. We both work in decentralised wastewater treatment and drinking water quality, and we're interested in the emerging issue of microplastics in potable water. We also talked about **how researchers can start publishing their work**.

### *What do you think each other's biggest challenges are?*

The biggest challenge for editors is **keeping up with the constant development** of research in their field. Additionally, there are so many **new submissions** for the editor to review and whittle down, which then may have issues with **plagiarism**.

ECRs are faced with a number of challenges. The biggest of these is **proving themselves** in their research area, but there's also **pressure to publish, secure research income** and **show potential to teach**.

### *What surprised you about each other?*

**Peter juggles so many different projects** – from new leading research, teaching new researchers, editing a journal, and bringing up a family. It is very impressive!

**Tom has a very entrepreneurial focus**, which is not always the case for PhD students. I'm looking forward to seeing his research ideas becoming commercialised and implemented to tackle sanitation issues.

### *What's your top tip for journal editors looking to engage ECRs in their journal?*

Make your journal more appealing to ECRs by **providing mentoring support** and guidance for a researcher's first article. Guide them through the publication process to make it less daunting.

### *What's your top tip for ECRs looking to get published in the right journal to maximise their research impact?*

Always try to **publish your work in the best journal** that you can. **Don't give up** if your paper gets rejected – make the improvements suggested by the peer reviewers. Once accepted, **use social media** to increase the reach of your paper with new and different audiences.