

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** @TomFudge**ROLE**

PhD researcher and entrepreneur

RESEARCH AREA

Water and sanitation

NAME**Peter Jarvis** @EnTechJournal**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.