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EDITORIAL

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Importance of Community-Based Research and Education

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Welcome to Volume 8

While the COVID-19 crisis has brought unprecedented challenges both for people and society, we've been humbled by the wave of inspiring new ideas developed in response. Many scientists with a wide spectrum of expertise and knowledge rushed to contribute in the effort to end the pandemic. Innovation has become more important than ever before. From neighborly acts of kindness to tracking and analyzing important data, the last few months have shone a light on the power of human creativity and collaboration.

The Intercollegiate Biomathematics Alliance (IBA) is no exception with its efforts to support the community of educators, researchers, and scholars who work in mathematical biology. Alongside directly supporting our community, the IBA has been tapping into the skills of our community members and harnessing their expertise to create a range of practical ways to make a positive impact during the pandemic. Offering community courses that can be taken by students who were disadvantaged due to COVID-19 restrictions they had to endure, holding international conferences focusing solely on COVID-19, share data to help fight the spread of COVID-19, and last but not least hosting COVID-19 research and education articles rapidly were only a few of the IBA's actions. *Letters in Biomathematics* is also part of these efforts. Sponsored by the IBA, its main emphasis is and has always been to provide an accessible platform to future researchers and educators to disseminate their work. As it is starting a new volume, we are proud of what we have accomplished since 2014.

I encourage you to explore this curated list of resources, future research ideas opportunities, and possible collaborative projects, but I especially invite you to make your own scientific contribution via *Letters in Biomathematics*.

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