Lecture:

Career Perspectives:
Scientific Publishing – Views and Opportunities

Scientific research is an intellectual and highly competitive field of human endeavor. It drives scientific and technological progress and it has to be well documented in order to serve this purpose well. Scientific publishing has grown to be the most established form of keeping the record, but it is no easy task to tame its current explosive growth. Truly, it may no longer be imprecise or funny to say that there are already more writers than readers of research papers.

This brings to the fore the problem of how to stay on top of the incessant influx of papers to reputable research journals, given that each of the contributions is, essentially, staking its own scientific claim. With an eye on keeping the record straight and, indeed, on moving science forward, the selection of appropriate, viable, novel content is best managed via an anonymous peer review process. But who needs review and slowing-down? Why involve peers? Why should the process be anonymous? Who are the “processors”? These and any other relevant questions would be highlighted from the point of view of how things actually work at the powerhouse of physics research publication, the APS. The content of the lecture will give the participants a head start in competence and knowledge of a prospective career path with societal or commercial science publishers.