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Editorial: A Decade of Editors' Suggestions

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Editorial: A Decade of Editors' Suggestions

Ten years ago this month, PRL started an “experiment” [1]: highlighting papers. Named *Editors' Suggestions*, these papers feature prominently on our webpages, and in print are designated by a printer's mark derived from the design of *Physical Review's* cover until the 1990s.

The initial goal of Editors' Suggestions was to direct readers to interesting papers outside of their subfield of research in order to, in the words of the 2007 announcement, “restore the ability of PRL to give readers a broad view of current research.” That editorial ended with: “If it proves useful, we will continue.” Ten years on, the experiment has indeed proved useful, and is a success.

How do we pick Suggestions? The process starts when a paper is accepted for publication. The handling Editor, based on all the information available, including referee reports, can nominate the paper for its particular interest, as well as clarity of writing. From each week's nominations the Editors select a few to receive the Suggestions stamp. Today, about one in six published papers, approximately 400 per year, become Editors' Suggestions—this is up from 176 papers in 2007 (5% of that year's publications). To date over 3000 published Letters have been Suggestions.

The goal of Editors' Suggestions is not to single out the most important papers in any given issue. However, among many measures of importance, and impact, and intrinsic interest Suggestions fare very well. Suggestions are cited more than the journal as a whole, with an effective Impact Factor of about 13. They are also downloaded and covered in the press more often—about a third of Suggestions receive media coverage.

To celebrate 10 years of Editors' Suggestions we will be highlighting some of these remarkable papers throughout 2017. Each week a different paper will feature on the homepage. We hope you enjoy this look back.

Hugues Chaté
Editor

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[1] Announcement: Editors' Suggestions: Another Experiment, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **98**, 010001 (2007).