frontiers in Materials

TYPE Editorial
PUBLISHED 25 May 2026
DOI 10.3389/fmats.2026.1852491

Check for updates

OPEN ACCESS

EDITED AND REVIEWED BY
Dharmendra Pratap Singh,
Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale, France

*CORRESPONDENCE
Nicola Maria Pugno,
nicola.pugno@unitn.it

RECEIVED 10 April 2026
ACCEPTED 17 April 2026
PUBLISHED 25 May 2026

CITATION
Pugno NM (2026) Editorial: 10 years of Frontiers in materials: past discoveries, current challenges and future perspectives.
Front. Mater. 13:1852491.
doi: 10.3389/fmats.2026.1852491

COPYRIGHT
© 2026 Pugno. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY). The use, distribution or reproduction in other forums is permitted, provided the original author(s) and the copyright owner(s) are credited and that the original publication in this journal is cited, in accordance with accepted academic practice. No use, distribution or reproduction is permitted which does not comply with these terms.

Editorial: 10 years of Frontiers in materials: past discoveries, current challenges and future perspectives

Nicola Maria Pugno*

Mechano-X Labs, University of Trento, Trento, Italy

KEYWORDS

carbon, ceramics, colloidal materials and interfaces, environmental degradation of materials, quantum, smart materials, structural materials, this solid films

Editorial on the Research Topic
10 years of Frontiers in materials: past discoveries, current challenges and future perspectives

In 2024 we celebrated the 10th anniversary of *Frontiers in Materials*.

Frontiers in Materials was launched in 2014 with the goal to create an interdisciplinary open-access journal to promote and disseminate high-quality research in the field of materials science. As the Field Chief Editor, I am supported by an excellent Editorial Office, including the journal development team, and an excellent Editorial Board of international researchers. This facilitates thorough discussion between various research communities, and publication of high-quality research.

From its inception, the Journal has been firmly committed to the highest international standards of scholarly publishing. *Frontiers in Materials* is indexed in major bibliographic databases and is included in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), which applies stringent criteria regarding peer review, editorial transparency, and publishing ethics. Furthermore, the journal operates in full alignment with the principles of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), adhering to internationally recognized guidelines for ethical editorial conduct, conflict-of-interest management, and publication integrity. As part of the Frontiers publisher, the Journal also supports the principles of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), reinforcing a responsible and transparent approach to research evaluation that prioritizes scientific quality, methodological rigor, and societal impact over simplistic metrics. These affiliations and commitments reflect a structured and internationally recognized framework designed to safeguard rigor, accountability, and trust in the scientific record.

After 10 years of existence, the Journal reached an Impact Factor of 3.2 and a CiteScore of 4.7, rendering it more visible to the community. This visibility has helped the Journal increase in size and in quality, gaining constantly more impetus year by year, with an Impact Factor nearly constant, currently of 2.9.

Our Editorial Board also plays a vital role in the development of the Journal, largely by ensuring both a rigorous and efficient peer review of all submitted manuscripts. As

of 31 December 2023, in the first 10 years, this equated to 1 Field Chief Editor, 15 Specialty Chief Editors, 1019 Associate Editors, 4316 Community Reviewers (formerly known as Review Editors). As the Field Chief Editor, I commend our Editors for their continued commitment to quality and their excellent support. As a particular highlight, thanks to the efforts of our Editorial Board the Journal has successfully maintained its average time to first decision consistently below 50 days for the past 2 years, and across the past decade achieved an average time from submission to first decision of 67.23 days (2014–2023). Efficiency, however, has never come at the expense of rigor.

To date, the complete number of specialty sections along the journal is now 15, covering key research fields, namely,: Biomaterials and Bio-Inspired Materials, Carbon-Based Materials, Ceramics and Glass, Colloidal Materials and Interfaces, Computational Materials Science, Energy Materials, Environmental Degradation of Materials, Mechanics of Materials, Metamaterials, Polymeric and Composite Materials, Quantum Materials, Semiconducting Materials and Devices, Smart Materials, Structural Materials, Thin Solid Films.

This broad variety of sections has allowed the Journal to cover both established and emerging research areas, proving to be a valued source of knowledge for the community. We have seen a surge in our Research Topics (RT) launched in the last years–from 42 in 2019 to 135 in 2023 (as of 31 December 2023). We have also seen a strong rise in the number of published papers–from 337 in 2019 to 565 in 2023 (as of 31 December 2023). This growth reflects the increasing recognition within the materials science community of a broad, open-access, interdisciplinary journal capable of showcasing the latest scientific developments to a global audience. Many of our submissions fall within these RTs, though regular submissions of papers are also very significant, representing a range of percentage contributions differing by specialty section. For example, as Specialty Chief Editor of the Mechanics of Materials section, in 2023 we received almost a 50/50 split with 52 regular vs. 53 RT submissions.

Above all, *Frontiers in Materials* continues to place quality at the centre. Across the past and first decade (2014–2023) the Journal has seen an average rejection rate of 32%, reflecting a selective editorial process aimed at ensuring scientific robustness, originality, and relevance. The Specialty Chief Editors continue to lead their Editorial Boards with this central quality philosophy, collaborating closely with Associate Editors and Reviewers to safeguard the future quality standard and rigor of published papers, supported by the Editorial Office teams. All submissions undergo structured editorial assessment, independent peer review, and ethical checks in accordance with COPE best practices and established international publishing standards.

Overall, *Frontiers in Materials* has a goal to continue growing with a focus on the excellence of science, while ensuring that the community recognizes itself in the journal. Strong emphasis is placed on the interdisciplinary aspects of the journal: communities and societies are invited to play a key role in its strategic development. As a community-driven journal, *Frontiers in Materials* will continue to empower researchers in shaping the future of their fields of research. Particular effort is being made to support subjects and areas that are important to our authorship, and to disseminate their latest advances globally. The Journal also remains committed to efforts enhancing diversity and inclusivity, aiming to foster the appropriate geographical and gender balance through its highly qualified Editorial Board.

We thus welcome you to submit your high-quality papers and review reports to *Frontiers in Materials* during the next 10 years and beyond.

Author contributions

NP: Writing – original draft.

Funding

The author(s) declared that financial support was not received for this work and/or its publication.

Conflict of interest

The author(s) declared that this work was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

The author NP declared that they were an editorial board member of Frontiers at the time of submission. This had no impact on the peer review process and the final decision.

Generative AI statement

The author(s) declared that generative AI was used in the creation of this manuscript. ChatGPT was used as an English check and to refine the text.

Any alternative text (alt text) provided alongside figures in this article has been generated by Frontiers with the support of artificial intelligence and reasonable efforts have been made to ensure accuracy, including review by the authors wherever possible. If you identify any issues, please contact us.

Publisher's note

All claims expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their affiliated organizations, or those of the publisher, the editors and the reviewers. Any product that may be evaluated in this article, or claim that may be made by its manufacturer, is not guaranteed or endorsed by the publisher.