

## Editorial: Commentaries

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Editor-in-Chief

After acquiring their doctorates, technoscientists often find out that they have been branded as *teachers* for life. Whether a technoscientist actually joins the faculty of some institution of learning or works for a public or private research organization, he or she has to educate a multitude of people, not all of whom are or shall become technoscientists.

Most technoscientists begin their post-doctorate life as researchers. They quickly become spokespersons for research—their own as well as of collaborators and juniors. They have to persuade fellow-citizens, whether government functionaries or managers and shareholders of public and private corporations, to fund their research activities.

In functioning democracies, technoscientists also have to participate in community affairs as citizens. Some may join the municipal council, the local school board, the state legislature, or even the national legislature. They may depose before select committees and be appointed to oversight boards. Or, they may do something as simple but beautiful as imparting their visions of an exciting future to schoolchildren by offering presentations at nearby schools.

For the three abovementioned and other reasons, it behooves technoscientists to communicate adequately with researchers in other disciplines, public leaders and policy-planners, and future researchers. Yet, scientific and technical literature is generally as clear as mud. Filled with jargon and acronyms, a research paper usually reads like a religious chant in an obscure language at a remote monastery—to even those technoscientists who are not working in that discipline. And, woe betide someone who has barely a nodding acquaintance with science and technology but has to read a technoscientific research paper!

Nanotechnologies being socially transformative, it is all the more necessary for nanotechnoscientists to communicate effectively their findings to the general public in order to help us all prepare for a nanotechnological future. With this objective in view, the *Journal of Nanophotonics* will soon begin to publish carefully written and selected commentaries on exciting new developments in nanophotonics. Online access to all commentaries will be free to everyone.

Nanophotonics researchers are invited to contribute commentaries, which will be reviewed by peers as well as by the members of the editorial board. A commentary must be based primarily on research reported in the previous two to three years. It should be written at a level accessible to readers who are not researchers themselves but who are interested in research. The total number

of words should be between 900 and 1500. There may be one or two small illustrations, and not more than 10 references.