The *JMBE* themed issues are an opportunity to explore a current topic in detail. Often, the topics are interdisciplinary in nature, thus expectations of format are slightly loosened from the traditional *JMBE* manuscripts. While we don’t expect to see “typical” Research, Perspectives, Tips and Tools, and Reviews articles, the rubrics for these sections should be considered in conjunction with the themed rubric questions below. The Editors are committed to publishing the same kinds of high quality content as is expected of a regular issue.

Reviewers of themed manuscripts should consider the following questions:

1. How well does the submission fit the open call for the themed issue?*

2. Would this manuscript be of interest to *JMBE* readers and the wider biology education community?*

3. Could the approach outlined in the manuscript be adopted by others?*

4. Is there sufficient review of the literature to have a solid basis for the claims made in the manuscript?*

5. Are there any safety concerns about the approach utilized in the manuscript? Have the authors obtained IRB approval and/or followed [ASM Biosafety Guidelines]?*

6. Is the manuscript formatted to the *JMBE Author Guidelines for Themed Manuscripts*?*

7. Other comments.

*Required question