Editorial: Renaming *Physical Review Special Topics—Physics Education Research*

I am happy to announce that, as of January 1, 2016, the name of *Physical Review Special Topics—Physics Education Research* (PRST-PER) was changed to *Physical Review Physics Education Research* (PRPER). The PRST-PER Editors and Editorial Board have expressed concerns for many years that having “Special Topics” in the journal title created confusion. This title created confusion by not clearly conveying the mission of the journal, which is to serve as the archival research journal for the growing body of knowledge produced by the physics education research community.

PRST-PER was one of two *Physical Review* journals designated as Special Topics. Originally, it was thought that there would be many more Special Topics journals. However, since the launch of these two journals, the *Physical Review* collection has continued to grow and now includes two additional subject specific journals: *Physical Review Applied* and *Physical Review Fluids*. Thus, it has become apparent that the Special Topics name is no longer needed for the journals published by APS. Removing Special Topics also integrates these journals into the *Physical Review* family and better emphasizes their content.

While this name change is clearly favorable in the long term, there will be some short-term difficulties. The journal ISSN has changed. This will result in a transition period of two years before the journal receives a meaningful impact factor. There will also likely be some confusion as readers, authors, librarians, and others make connections between the old and new names and ISSNs.

The APS leadership and Editorial Board of PRPER strongly believe that removing Special Topics will not only strengthen the reputation of the journal, but also the *Physical Review* family.

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