Aims and Scope
Interface is a new international journal publishing papers from the interface between the physical sciences, including mathematics, and the life sciences. It provides a high-quality forum to publish rapidly and interact across this boundary in two main ways: interface publishes research applying chemistry, engineering, materials science, mathematics and physics to the biological and medical sciences; it also highlights discoveries in the life sciences that allow advances in the physical sciences. Both sides of the interface are considered equally.

Selection criteria
The review process will give equal weighting to sciences on both sides of the interface. The criteria for selection are scientific excellence, originality and potential interest to a wide spectrum of scientists. All papers are peer-reviewed to a high standard and published rapidly under the control of the Editor and his distinguished Editorial Board.

Guidance for Authors

### Articles
Articles are contributions up to 8000 words containing original scientific research.

### Reports
Reports are short, letter-style contributions (up to 2500 words), which are published rapidly. Preliminary and more speculative work of high quality is strongly encouraged.

Both articles and reports should be written for audiences in a wide range of disciplines.

### Reviews
Reviews are articles of the highest quality and aim to be of interest to communities working at the physical sciences-life sciences interface. Reviews cover the latest developments in an area of cross-disciplinary research. They put such research into a broader context and are written in a style that makes them accessible to readers in a wide range of disciplines. Reviews are normally published by invitation; however, we are also keen to receive proposals for prospective articles. Complete literature surveys are not encouraged.

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### Conditions of publication
Papers must not have been published previously, nor be under consideration for publication elsewhere. The Editor has final authority in all matters relating to publication.

### Electronic submission details
The Royal Society’s electronic-submission and peer-review service provides interface authors with the facility to submit their papers online. The service allows you to upload files in a reliable and user-friendly way using a Web-based system. When your paper is received, an immediate acknowledgement is sent that details how your paper will be handled. Please note that your paper should be fully anonymised."

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**Cover image:** Scanning electron microscope view of the nacreous surface of the shell of the turbinid gastropod *Bolma rugosa* (Linnaeus, 1767) showing layers of aragonite crystals, leaf-like in shape, which are about 50 μm across the base. For further details see Cartwright & Checa (2007, this issue).