

# GUIDE TO NATURE REVIEWS

## *Nature Reviews* journals

The *Nature Reviews* editors commission leaders in the field to write articles of the highest quality, authority and accessibility. With dedicated journals in the life sciences, clinical sciences and physical sciences, *Nature Reviews* provides a range of content for readers of every level, from broad introductory Primers on diseases to agenda-setting Comments and Consensus Statements, detailed Reviews and more-personal Perspectives. All our content undergoes rigorous review by our in-house editors and/or external peer reviewers.

### **Mission statement**

- To be the premier source of reviews and commentaries for each of the scientific communities we serve
- To publish articles that are authoritative, accessible and enhanced with clearly understandable figures, tables and other display items
- To provide an unparalleled service to authors, referees and readers
- To maximize the usefulness and impact of each article

### **Editorial content**

*Nature Reviews* journals publish a range of articles, including Editorials, Research Highlights, News & Views, Comments, Reviews, Consensus Statements, Primers, Perspectives and Correspondence pieces. Not all *Nature Reviews* journals publish all article types, and some journals have unique article types.

### **Editorials**

Editorials are opinion articles written by the in-house editorial team.

### **Research Highlights**

Research Highlights provide short summaries of relevant research articles published in other journals, written primarily by the in-house editorial team. Coverage is decided by the journal editors.

### **News & Views**

News & Views articles are based on recent publications and provide a forum in which advances can be communicated and put into context. These are timely, topical, succinct commentaries that discuss key issues arising from the papers under discussion in a journalistic style.

### **Comment**

Comment articles are agenda-setting, authoritative, informed and often provocative expert pieces calling for action on topical issues pertaining to scientific research and/or its political, ethical and social ramifications.

### **News & Analysis**

News & Analysis articles are published by *Nature Reviews Drug Discovery* and provide news coverage that explores the science and business behind the top stories, expert analysis of key therapeutic markets and strategic issues, patent updates, interviews with high-profile figures in the drug discovery arena and information on the latest drugs.

### **Progress**

Progress articles are short pieces that focus on a small number of recent papers of outstanding interest rather than providing a comprehensive literature survey.

### **Reviews**

Review articles provide accessible, authoritative and balanced overviews of a field or topic. Reviews are thoroughly and carefully edited, and figures are drawn by our in-house art editors.

### **Analysis**

Analysis articles include a new analysis (using standard and well-defined methods) of previously published data (typically large biological datasets, such as genomes, microarrays and proteomes) that leads to a novel conclusion or provides a new resource for further investigation.

### **Consensus Statements**

Consensus Statements provide evidence-based or eminence-based recommendations put together by a task force of experts. Consensus Statement is an

umbrella term for different article types that are published under an open access license: Evidence-Based Guidelines, Expert Consensus Document, Position Paper, Recommendations, Standards and White Paper.

## Perspectives

Perspectives is an umbrella term for different article types that provide a forum for opinionated discussion of a field or topic, and include: Innovation, Timeline, Opinion, Essay, Outlook, Viewpoint and Science & Society. Points of view should be clearly expressed and put into the wider context of the given topic.

## Primers

Primer articles are published in *Nature Reviews Disease Primers* and provide authoritative overviews of a disease or disorder. These articles are meant to be introductory and cover all aspects from epidemiology to disease mechanisms, diagnosis and treatment with a global perspective.

## Correspondence

Items of correspondence will be considered for online publication at the editors' discretion. Correspondence articles must relate to articles previously published in the same journal and should be no more than 500 words long and can contain up to 15 references. Correspondence items are edited by the journal team and the editors reserve the right to request peer review.

## Corrections

Should an error be identified in a published article, the journal team will decide whether a correction is necessary (for example, an error relating to factual correctness, data or searchability might warrant a correction; disagreement about wording might not) to maintain maximum clarity for readers, fairness and integrity of the published record.

## Editorial process

### Commissioning articles

All articles written by external authors are commissioned. We welcome suggestions and ideas for articles, but do not prioritize the submission of non-commissioned content. Proposals should be submitted through the journal's manuscript tracking system in the form of a synopsis (consisting of a 100-word abstract, a brief description of the main article sections, a list of 10 key references and the list of authors and their affiliations).

### Submission

Before submission, please ensure that your article has not been submitted to and is not being considered for publication by another journal. Synopses or manuscripts should be submitted online through the journal's manuscript tracking system using a link provided by the handling editor.

### Initial editorial assessment

The editor will assess the organization, structure and accessibility of the article and may recommend changes to the manuscript and display items before formal peer review.

## Peer review

To ensure balance and accuracy, our review-type and perspective-type articles undergo rigorous peer review. The editors reserve the right to send other article types for peer review. Authors are encouraged to express their opinions but should distinguish clearly between generally accepted views and personal perspectives. Articles are peer reviewed by several experts in the field. The handling editor will return referee reports to the corresponding author and provide guidance on how to proceed. A formal rebuttal is required for articles for which revisions are requested. If the handling editor considers the article to have been adequately revised, it will be accepted in principle. Anonymized referee reports will be circulated to the referees.

## Detailed editing

All articles and display items undergo editing by our in-house editors, taking into account structure, flow, clarity, language and scientific correctness, to ensure that the article meets our high publication standards. The degree of editing varies from article to article. All suggested changes are subject to approval by the authors before formal acceptance.

## Artwork

All figures are developed and redrawn by our in-house art editors after peer review. Readers may use our graphics for presentations or teaching materials, in which case we request that the original article be mentioned as the source of the material.

## Copy editing

All articles are copy edited before publication. Copy editing takes into account spelling, grammar, house style, official nomenclature use and final checks for consistency throughout the manuscript.

## Proofing

Authors have a chance to review the final text and display items in a typeset proof. Only essential changes (factual incorrectness, typing errors, serious layout problems) can be made at this stage.

## Typography and house style

Overuse of abbreviations, acronyms or jargon-laden language can hamper readability. Authors should, therefore, use plain language to explain concepts, and restrict the use of abbreviations while adhering to the agreed word limit.

Our typographic and house styles are used to ensure clarity and consistency within and between articles and journals. Some basic guidelines to help you prepare an article for publication in a *Nature Reviews* journal are listed below:

- Use standard gene and protein nomenclature — for example, human genes (uppercase and italic), human proteins (uppercase), mouse genes (first letter only uppercase and italic) and mouse proteins (uppercase). If it's not clear which species is being referred to, we default to human nomenclature; thus,

please specify when referring to mouse genes. This will help to avoid delays at the proof stage. Please consult the appropriate nomenclature databases for standard gene names and symbols. A useful resource is <http://www.uniprot.org/>

- Use SI units in all instances
- For drugs use International Nonproprietary Names as a default whenever possible.

### Supplementary information

Supplementary display items can be included at the editor's discretion if they add substantial value to the article. Please note that videos or images featuring sensitive content cannot be published as Supplementary information. Supplementary items are not edited and supplementary figures are not redrawn by the journal, so authors are asked to ensure that they are accurately, clearly and succinctly presented. Supplementary items must be referred to in the main text, in the format (Supplementary information S1 (box/figure/table)) or (Supplementary video 1). They should be submitted in a single document (with a single reference list) where possible, and appear in the order of citation in the main text. Large spreadsheets and videos can be supplied separately.

## Policies

### Competing interests

In the interests of transparency, any competing interests must be declared both within the text of the article and via our web-based manuscript tracking system (MTS) upon submission. A detailed explanation can be found in the *Nature* journals' policy on competing interests: <http://www.nature.com/authors/policies/competing.html>

Authors can decline to disclose their competing interests if they are bound by confidentiality agreements, but we will publish the fact that they have declined to provide information. At the *Nature Reviews* journals, competing interests may be disclosed to referees and will be published online and/or in print.

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### Authorship

All authors are expected to have been involved at least in the research, writing and/or substantial reviewing of the draft manuscript. If the author list changes after initial submission, all co-authors must sign a change of authorship form; please discuss with the handling editor.

### ORCID for corresponding authors

As part of our efforts to improve transparency in authorship, we request that all corresponding authors on published papers provide their Open Researcher and Contributor Identifier (ORCID), before resubmitting the final version of the manuscript. ORCID helps the scientific community achieve unambiguous attribution of all scholarly contributions.

Corresponding authors should link their ORCID to their account on the MTS. From the MTS home page, click on 'Modify my Springer Nature account' and then on 'ORCID Create/link an Open Researcher Contributor ID (ORCID)'. This will re-direct you to the ORCID website. If you already have an ORCID account, enter your ORCID email and password and click on 'Authorize'. If you do not have an account, you can create one at this stage. Linking ORCID and MTS accounts can be done at any time prior to acceptance. For more information please visit <http://www.springernature.com/orcid>. If you experience technical issues please contact the Platform Support Helpdesk at <https://digitalsubmissions.freshdesk.com/support/tickets/new>.

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### Data sharing

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### Self-archiving

Authors can self-archive the accepted-in-principle version of their *Nature Reviews* article with a release date of

six months post-publication. They cannot self-archive the published PDF or HTML versions of their articles, the *Nature Reviews* versions of boxes, figures and tables, or any boxes, figures and tables that were originally published elsewhere for which they do not possess copyright. *Nature Reviews* does not provide a manuscript deposition service for articles.

## Plagiarism

The *Nature Reviews* journals aim to publish articles that provide originality and fresh insight and will not knowingly publish an article containing text copied from previously published work, including the author's own. The *Nature Reviews* journals are part of CrossCheck, an initiative to help editors verify the originality of submitted manuscripts. As part of this process, submitted manuscripts are scanned and compared with the CrossCheck database. For further details on the *Nature* journals' policy on plagiarism, see: <http://www.nature.com/authors/policies/plagiarism.html>

## Patient consent & confidentiality

For all articles including information or clinical photographs that could in any way lead to a patient or patients being identified by the readers, written and signed consent to publish must be obtained from each patient concerned before submission. Informed consent comprises: the patient or guardian granting consent via a *Nature* consent form (or any alternative form, provided it meets our requirements). The image must be removed if authors have not obtained informed consent and/or a human research participant cannot be traced.

## Biosecurity issues

*Nature Reviews* editors might seek advice on any aspect of a submitted paper that raises concerns. These might occasionally include security issues such as the threat posed by bioweapons. Advice might be sought on such issues as part of the refereeing process. As is the case for all publishing decisions, the ultimate decision of whether to publish an article is the responsibility of the Chief Editor of the journal concerned. Further details can be found in the *Nature* journals' policy on biosecurity: <http://www.nature.com/authors/policies/biosecurity.html>.

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## Other services

### Metrics

Our journal homepages include journal metrics, such as the 2-year impact factor, and feature a list of the most accessed articles every week. Each of our articles has associated metrics on citations, page views, social media mentions and an updated Altmetric score; this information can be found on our website under 'Article metrics' on each article's page.

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### Indexing

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### HINARI

Nature Research is proud to be involved in initiatives that support the communication of scientific research in the developing world. All the *Nature Reviews* journals are part of the World Health Organization's HINARI, the Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative, which provides free access to public institutions in developing countries.

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