

# Science

*Science* is a weekly peer-reviewed journal that publishes significant original scientific research, plus reviews and analyses of current research and science policy. Our main offices are in Washington, DC, and Cambridge, UK. We welcome submissions from all fields of science and from any source. Competition for space in *Science* is keen, and many papers are returned without in-depth review. Priority is given to papers that reveal novel concepts of broad interest.

## CATEGORIES OF SIGNED PAPERS

**Brevia** (one page; about 800 words and one figure or table) are short peer-reviewed papers presenting novel results of broad general interest.

**Research Articles** (up to ~4500 words or ~5 journal pages) are expected to present a major advance. Research Articles include an abstract, an introduction, up to six figures or tables, sections with brief subheadings, and a

maximum of about 40 references. Materials and methods should usually be included in supporting online material, which should also include other information needed to support the conclusions.

**Reports** (up to ~2500 words or ~3 journal pages) present important new research results of broad significance. Reports should include an abstract, an introductory paragraph, up to four figures or tables, and a maximum of about 30 references. Materials and methods should usually be included in supporting online material, which should also include other information needed to support the conclusions.

**Technical Comments** (up to 1000 words, with a maximum of 15 references) discuss papers published in *Science* within the previous 6 months. The authors of the original paper are given an opportunity to reply. Comments and replies are reviewed and edited as needed. Abstracts of the discussions appear in print; the full text appears online.

This abbreviated version of *Science's* Information for Authors is printed in the first issue of each year. The current, complete Information for Authors is available at [www.sciencemag.org/about/authors](http://www.sciencemag.org/about/authors).

## Science Contact Information

**Phone:** (1)-202-326-6550 (USA)  
(44)-1223-326500 (UK)

**Fax:** (1)-202-289-7562 (USA)  
(44)-1223-326501 (UK)

**E-mail:** [science\\_editors@aaas.org](mailto:science_editors@aaas.org)  
[science@science-int.co.uk](mailto:science@science-int.co.uk) (Europe)

**Reviews** (4 journal pages, on average) describe new developments of interdisciplinary significance and highlight unresolved questions and future directions. All Reviews undergo peer review. They include an abstract, an introduction that outlines the main point, and brief subheadings. A maximum of 40 references is suggested. Most Reviews are solicited by the editors, but unsolicited submissions may also be considered.

**Letters** (~300 words) discuss material published in *Science* in the past 3 months or issues of general interest. They should be

## Manuscript Preparation

See Information for Authors at [www.sciencemag.org/about/authors](http://www.sciencemag.org/about/authors) for more detailed information.

One page in the journal contains approximately 1000 words and one small figure. Use double spacing throughout the text, tables, figure legends, and references and notes. Electronic files should be formatted for U.S. letter paper.

**Titles** should be no more than 96 characters (including spaces) for Reports, Research Articles, and Reviews, and 64 characters plus spaces for Brevia.

**One-sentence summaries** capturing the most important point should be submitted for all papers.

**Abstracts** explain to the general reader why the research was done and why the results are important. The abstract should convey the paper's main point and outline the results and conclusions.

**Text** starts with a brief introduction describing the paper's significance, which should be intelligible to readers in various disciplines. Technical terms should be defined. Symbols, abbreviations, and acronyms should be defined the first time they are used. All tables and figures should be cited in numerical order.

**References and notes** are numbered in the order in which they are cited, first through the text, then through the text of the references, and then through the figure and table legends. Each reference should have a unique number; do not combine references or embed references in notes. Do not use *op. cit.* or *ibid.*

**Acknowledgments**, including complete funding information, accession numbers, and any information related to authorship conflict of interest, should be gathered into the last numbered reference.

**Tables** should be included at the end of the references and should supplement, not duplicate, the text. The first sentence of the table legend should be a brief descriptive title. Every vertical column should have a heading, consisting of a title with the unit of measure in parentheses. Units should not change within a column.

**Figure legends** should be double-spaced in numerical order. The figure title should be given as the first line of the legend. No single legend should be longer than ~200 words. Nomenclature, abbreviations, symbols, and units used in a figure should match those used in the text.

**Supporting online material (SOM)** is posted permanently on *Science* Online, is linked to the manuscript, and is freely available. SOM includes materials and methods plus extra text, figures, tables, references, and video or audio clips that are important for the integrity of the paper.

**Figures** should be submitted as part of the online submission or, if necessary for large files only, on a CD. Allowable formats for submissions are PDF, PS, and EPS for illustrations or diagrams; and TIFF, JPG, PSD, EPS, or PDF for photography or microscopy. See our online Information for Authors for information on preparing art. Authors of accepted manuscripts will receive more specific information about electronic submission of art for publication. Do not send irreplaceable artwork. Most figures will not be relabeled by *Science* and will be printed at a width of 5.5 cm (2.25 inches or 1 column) or 12.0 cm (4.75 inches or 2 columns). Some illustrations (for example, bar graphs, simple line graphs, and gels) may be reduced to a smaller width. Symbols and lettering should be large enough to be legible after reduction. Avoid wide variation in type size within a single figure. In the printed version of the figure, letters should be about 7 points (2 mm) high. We can easily include high-resolution images as SOM.

Graphs should be labeled on the ordinate and abscissa with the parameter or variable being measured, the units of measure, and the scale. Scales with large or small numbers should be presented as powers of 10. Simple solid or open symbols reduce well. Avoid the use of light lines and screen shading. Instead, use black-and-white, hatched, and cross-hatched designs for emphasis. Use scale bars in place of, or in addition to, magnifications. When figures are assembled from multiple gels or micrographs, a line or space should indicate the border between two original images. No part of a figure may be selectively manipulated.

**Units** should be metric and follow SI conventions.

## Submitting a Manuscript or Letter

*Science* now accepts submissions of manuscripts and letters only through our Web site: [www.submit2science.org](http://www.submit2science.org). We are not able to accept submissions by e-mail. Your Web submission should include a cover letter containing a statement of the paper's main point, any information needed to ensure a fair review process, and names of colleagues who have reviewed the paper for you.

Our online submission site cannot accept copies of related papers. They should be sent as a PDF by e-mail to [science\\_editors@aaas.org](mailto:science_editors@aaas.org) along with your Web submission number. Very big figure files or movies may be too large for the Web submission site. These should be sent on a CD to *Science*, 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005, USA, or to *Science* International, Bateman House, 82-88 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 1LQ, UK.

submitted through our Web submission site ([www.submit2science.org](http://www.submit2science.org)). Letters are not acknowledged upon receipt, nor are authors generally consulted before publication. Letters are subject to editing for clarity and space. E-letters are online-only, 400-word contributions for promoting rapid, timely discussions.

**Policy Forums** (1000 or up to 2000 words) present issues in science policy. **Education Forum** (2000 words) presents essays and original research on science education and its practice. **Books et al.** (up to 1000 words) present reviews of current books, multimedia, exhibitions, and films of interest to *Science* readers. **Perspectives** (up to 1000 words) analyze recent research developments but do not primarily discuss the author's own work. Most Book Reviews, Education and Policy Forums, and Perspectives are solicited by the editors, but unsolicited contributions will be considered.

### MANUSCRIPT SELECTION

We are committed to the prompt evaluation and publication of submitted papers. Our submission and review process is fully electronic. Papers are assigned to a staff editor who has knowledge of the field discussed in the manuscript. Most submitted papers are rated for suitability by members of the Board of Reviewing Editors (see the masthead). The editors at *Science* consider this advice in selecting papers for in-depth review. Authors of papers that are not highly rated are notified promptly, by e-mail only, within about 1 to 2 weeks. Membership in AAAS is not a factor in selection.

Papers are reviewed in depth by at least two anonymous referees. Reviewers are contacted before being sent a paper and are asked to return comments within 1 to 2 weeks. We are able to expedite the review process for papers that require rapid assessment. Selected papers are edited to improve accuracy and clarity and to shorten, if necessary. Papers cannot be resubmitted over a disagreement on interest or relative merit. If a paper was rejected on the basis of serious reviewer error, resubmission may be considered. Some papers may need additional editorial oversight or present potential security concerns. Such papers will be brought to the attention of the Editor-in-Chief for further evaluation. If necessary, outside

reviewers with expertise in the area will be consulted. Most papers are published 4 to 8 weeks after acceptance; selected papers are published online within 2 weeks of acceptance in *Science* Express ([www.scienceexpress.org](http://www.scienceexpress.org)).\*

### SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

**Authorship** All authors must agree to be so listed and must have seen and approved the manuscript, its content, and its submission to *Science*. Any changes in authorship must be approved in writing by all the original authors. Submission of a paper that has not been approved by all authors will result in immediate rejection without appeal.

**Prior publication** *Science* will not consider any paper or component of a paper that has been published or is under consideration elsewhere. Distribution on the Internet may be considered prior publication and may compromise the originality of the paper. Please contact the editors with questions regarding this policy.

**Human studies** Informed consent must have been obtained for studies on humans after the nature and possible consequences of the studies were explained. All human research must have IRB approval.

**Animal care** Care of experimental animals must be in accordance with the authors' institutional guidelines.

**Related papers** Copies of papers submitted to other journals by any of the authors that relate to the paper submitted to *Science* must be included with the submission.

**Unpublished data and personal communications** Citations to unpublished data and personal communications cannot be used to support claims in the paper.

\* Press coverage and presentation at scientific conferences. Reporting the main findings of a paper in the mass media may compromise the novelty of the work and thus its appropriateness for *Science*. Authors are free to present their data at scientific meetings but should not overtly seek media attention or give copies of the figures or data from their manuscript to any reporter, unless the reporter agrees to abide by *Science's* press embargo. If a reporter attends an author's session at a meeting and writes a story based only on the presentation, such coverage will not affect *Science's* consideration of the author's paper. The paper should remain a privileged document and should not be released to the press or the public before publication. Questions should be referred to the AAAS Office of Public Programs (202-326-6440).

### CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

**Funding and conflict of interest** Authors must agree to disclose all affiliations, funding sources, and financial or management relationships, including those that could be perceived as potential sources of bias, as defined by *Science's* conflict-of-interest policy, detailed at [www.sciencemag.org/about/authors](http://www.sciencemag.org/about/authors).

**Data deposition** Before publication, large data sets, including microarray data, protein or DNA sequences, and atomic coordinates and structure factors for macromolecular or chemical structures, must be deposited in an approved database, an accession number must be included in the published paper, and the deposited information must be released at the time of publication. Electron micrograph maps must also be deposited. Approved databases include GenBank or other members of the International Sequence Database Collaboration, worldwide Protein Data Bank, BioMed Res Bank, Electron Microscopy Data Bank (MSD-EBI), and SWISS-PROT, and as noted at [www.sciencemag.org/about/authors](http://www.sciencemag.org/about/authors).

**License** Authors retain copyright but must agree to grant to *Science* an exclusive license to publish the paper in print and online.

**Data availability** After publication, all data necessary to understand and assess the conclusions of the manuscript must be available to any reader of *Science*.

**Access policies** After publication, authors may post the accepted version of the paper on the author's personal Web site and are provided one referrer link that can be posted on a personal or institutional Web page, through which users can freely access the published paper on *Science's* online site. *Science* allows deposition of accepted papers into PubMed Central 6 months after publication, in accord with the requirements of the funders NIH and Wellcome Trust, provided that a link to the final version published in *Science* is included. Original research papers are freely accessible with registration on *Science's* Web site 12 months after publication.

**Materials sharing** After publication, all reasonable requests for materials must be fulfilled. Before acceptance, *Science* must be informed of any restrictions on sharing of materials [Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs), for example]. Unreasonable restrictions may preclude publication.