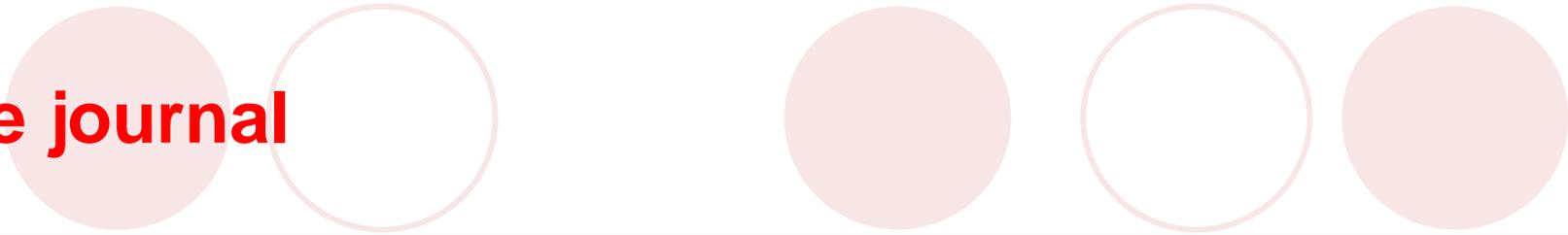


The journal



- Launched in 1869
- Peer review implemented in 1967
- “News” moved to front half of the journal and “News and Views” launched in 1969
- Today, editorial teams for “front half” and “back half” are separate.

Front Half:

Editorials

News

News and Views

Comment

Correspondence

Back Half:

Articles

Letters

Communications Arising

Reviews

Perspectives

Nature's editorial structure

Editor-in-chief
(Philip Campbell)

Chief Biology Editor
(Francesca Cesari)

**Chief Physical Sciences
Editor** (Karl Ziemelis)

**16 Associate &
Senior Biology Editors**
*London,
Boston, NY, San Francisco*

**9 Associate &
Senior Physics Editors**
*London, Boston,
Washington D.C.*

The editorial team

- Manuscript editors are full-time professional editors with PhDs and postdoctoral experience
- No editorial board
- No affiliations with scientific societies, funding bodies or institutions
- Independent and unbiased decisions
- Our only agenda is publishing the best research.

Day to day tasks

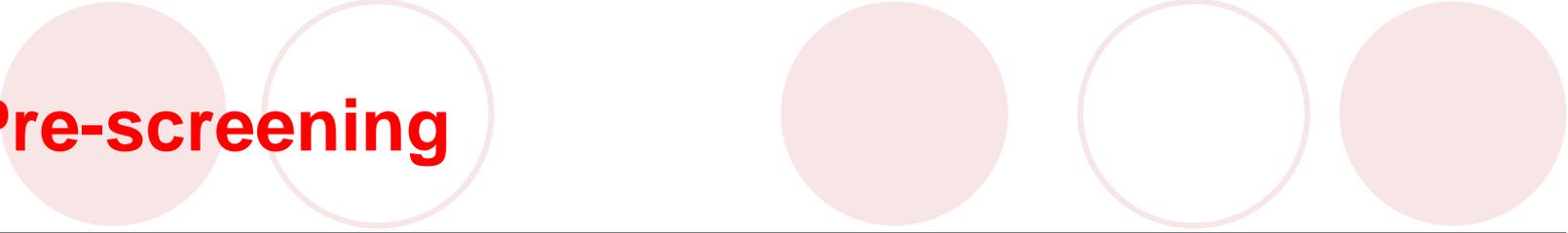
- Select primary research manuscripts (80-90% of our time).
- Commission Review articles/Perspectives
- Attend scientific meetings and visit labs (5-7 per year)
- Act as consultants in their special subject areas to other sections in Nature.
- Suggest “unlinked” News and Views.
- Assist in writing editorials on community issues, suggest/write news stories, highlights etc.

Manuscript pre-screening: what are we looking for?

- Conceptual advance:
 - Do the findings open up a new field?
 - Do the findings shed important insight in an existing field?
 - Is a long-standing debate settled?
- Reach a conclusion of outstanding significance/ of interest to a broad readership
- Technically convincing
- Depth of findings (mechanism)
- Physiological relevance (in vitro/in vivo?)

We also consider...

- **large dataset/resource papers:** should aim to either report a fully comprehensive data set, defined by complete and extensive validation, or provide significant technical advance or scientific insight.
- **technical papers:** papers that make solely technical advances will be considered in cases where the technique reported will have significant impacts on communities of fellow researchers.
- **therapeutic papers:** providing significant impact on an important disease. (Includes proof-of-concept clinical trials.)



Pre-screening

We read every paper carefully (not just the cover letter and abstract!) and often read background literature before making the initial decision whether to review.

We reject 70-80% of papers without peer review.

If we feel a paper has promise, but is too preliminary to send for peer review we may spell out what further insight would be required and invite future reconsideration.

Types of contribution

Articles: longer format. 5-6 pages with 50 references.

Letters: shorter reports. Typically 4 pages with 30 references.

Communications Arising: important clarifications on original research papers or other peer-reviewed material published in Nature, which are published online only.

Reviews, Perspectives and Insights: tend to be commissioned.

We also encourage presubmission enquiries:

Cover letter + abstract

Response from an editor usually within 24-48 hours.

Format

- Manuscripts don't have to be in Nature format at first submission (although we prefer Nature style reference lists).
- If the paper is favourably reviewed, it is an editorial consideration whether to publish a manuscript as an Article or a Letter
- We upgrade/downgrade based on impact and referee enthusiasm.
- We publish 10-12 papers per week in Nature. Only 1 or 2 are Articles.

Vol 449 | 10 October 2007 | doi:10.1038/nature06288

nature

ARTICLES

A second generation human haplotype map of over 3.1 million SNPs

The International HapMap Consortium¹

We describe the Phase II HapMap, which characterizes over 3.1 million human single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) genotyped in 270 individuals from four geographically diverse populations and includes 25–35% of common SNP variation in the populations surveyed. The map is estimated to capture untyped common variation with an average maximum r^2 of between 0.9 and 0.96 depending on population. We demonstrate that the current generation of commercial genome-wide genotyping products captures common Phase II SNPs with an average maximum r^2 of up to 0.8 in African and up to 0.95 in non-African populations, and that potential gains in power in association studies can be obtained through imputation. These data also reveal novel aspects of the structure of linkage disequilibrium. We show that 10–30% of pairs of individuals within a population share at least one region of extended genetic identity arising from recent ancestry and that up to 1% of all common variants are untaggable, primarily because they lie within recombination hotspots. We show that recombination rates vary systematically around genes and between genes of different function. Finally, we demonstrate increased differentiation at non-synonymous, compared to synonymous, SNPs, resulting from systematic differences in the strength or efficacy of natural selection between populations.

Vol 440 | 20 April 2006 | doi:10.1038/nature04689

nature

LETTERS

DNA sequence of human chromosome 17 and analysis of rearrangement in the human lineage

Michael C. Zody¹, Manuel Garber¹, David J. Adams², Ted Sharpe¹, Jennifer Harrow², James R. Lupski³, Christine Nicholson², Steven M. Searle², Laurens Wilming², Sarah K. Young¹, Amr Abouelleil¹, Nicole R. Allen¹, Weimin Bi³, Toby Bloom¹, Mark L. Borowsky¹, Boris E. Bugalter¹, Jonathan Butler¹, Jean L. Chang¹, Chao-Kung Chen², April Cook¹, Benjamin Corum¹, Christina A. Cuomo¹, Pieter J. de Jong⁴, David DeCaprio¹, Ken Dewar^{1†}, Michael FitzGerald¹, James Gilbert², Richard Gibson², Sante Gnerre¹, Steven Goldstein⁵, Darren V. Grafham², Russell Grocock², Nabil Hafez¹, Daniel S. Hagopian¹, Elizabeth Hart², Catherine Hosage Norman¹, Sean Humphray², David B. Jaffe¹, Matt Jones², Michael Kamal¹, Varsha K. Khodiyar⁶, Kurt LaButti¹, Gavin Laird², Jessica Lehoczyk¹, Xiaohong Liu¹, Tashi Lokyitsang¹, Jane Loveland², Annie Lui¹, Pendexter Macdonald¹, John E. Major^{1†}, Lucy Matthews², Evan Mauceli¹, Steven A. McCarroll¹, Atanas H. Mihalev¹, Jonathan Mudge², Cindy Nguyen¹, Robert Nicol¹, Sinéad B. O'Leary¹, Kazutoyo Osoegawa⁴, David C. Schwartz², Charles Shaw-Smith², Pawel Stankiewicz³, Charles Steward², David Swarbreck², Vijay Venkataraman¹, Charles A. Whittaker^{1†}, Xiaoping Yang¹, Andrew R. Zimmer¹, Allan Bradley², Tim Hubbard², Bruce W. Birren¹, Jane Rogers², Eric S. Lander¹ & Chad Nusbaum¹

Cover letter – does it matter?

November 26, 2002

Editor
Nature Genetics
345 Park Avenue South, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10010-1707
USA

Dear Editor,

It is not clear why a cover letter is required except to fulfill the silly British preoccupation with letterhead and other emblems of status.

Please accept my correspondence.

Sincerely,

Cover letter – it can help.

- Provide background information/context (e.g. controversial area?) or point out a particular point that may not be obvious from reading the paper (e.g. first application of a new technique to a particular area?).
- Suggest referees, *but not all your best friends*.
- Suggest people you think should be excluded (*2-3 individuals, not entire fields or institutions*).
- Alert us to potential competition – we may be able to expedite the review.
- Identify related *in press* or submitted manuscripts

Out to review: What do we expect from our refs?

- Technical assessment
 - Judge quality of data
 - Is study correctly controlled?
 - Is the hypothesis supported beyond doubt by the presented experimental data?
- Editorial assessment
 - Indication of extent of conceptual advance
 - Indication of impact on field.

How do we make decisions?

- Editors are not bound by referees' editorial opinions about whether the work belongs in Nature, but any technical failings noted by the reviewers must be addressed.
- Reviewers (esp. if representing different expertise) will often disagree with each other.
- Editors discuss and make a decision based on the arguments; peer review process is not a democracy - we don't count votes.
- Editors, not the reviewers, ultimately decide what is published in *Nature*.

Decision letters after review

- Rejection (perhaps suggesting publication in another NPG journal (PS))
- “Rejection” with an open door. Significant problems that may take some time to resolve with additional experimentation. We would be willing to reconsider a revision “unless something similar has been accepted at Nature or published elsewhere in the interim”.
- Defer decision until the authors have had a chance to respond to the reviewers’ comments – 4 week time frame to respond. This is “protected time” (i.e. we would not hold scooping against the paper).
- Accept in principle

The odds of being published at *Nature*

Year	No. Submissions	No. papers published	% published
1997	7,680	825	10.74
1998	7,820	945	12.08
1999	8,058	854	10.60
2000	8,643	951	11.00
2001	8,837	937	10.60
2002	9,356	889	9.50
2003	9,581	859	8.97
2004	9,943	869	8.73
2005	8,943	915	9.77
2006	9,847	842	8.55
2007	10,332	808	7.82
2008	10,339	822	7.95
2009	11,769	803	6.8
2010	10,287	809	7.9
2011	10,047	813	8.09
2012	10,576	858	8.1
2013	10,952	856	7.8

Appeals

- Editors and reviewers can make mistakes.
- We take appeals very seriously and we look carefully at each one.
- All appeals are seen by the handling editor and at least one other senior editor.
- Unfortunately we cannot give appeals the highest priority, so it may take longer (although usually less than 2 weeks).



Appeals – What doesn't help?



Unsupported hype

“We report a milestone ground-breaking discovery for the advancement of science”

Celebrity endorsement

“We have discussed the paper with [Dr Big Shot], who was highly impressed by its contents, and strongly advocated that I contact you again regarding the suitability of the manuscript for review.”

Cosmetic rewriting

“We have decided to change the title and abstract of our manuscript to better reflect its contents.”

This appeal wasn't successful either:

“Dear Dr Marte,

We do not accept your decision....

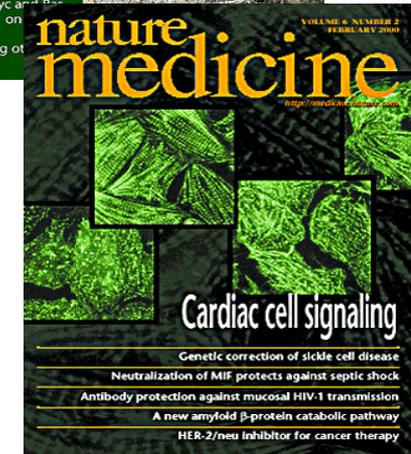
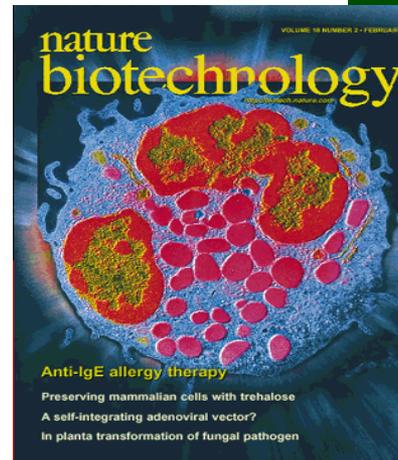
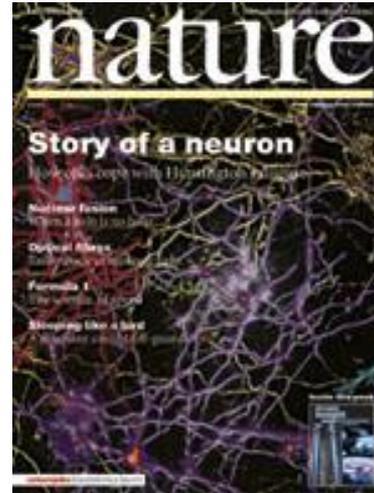
I request that you withdraw from handling our manuscript and transfer it to a male editor.”

Appeals – What helps?

- A detailed point-by-point rebuttal responding to all referee comments.
- Additional data (providing reject is not on editorial grounds, e.g. not sufficiently novel or too specialized).
- Alerting the editor to factual errors made by the referees. Persuasive arguments regarding advance.
- Specific evidence of referee bias

Rejection and transfer to other NPG journals

The “PS” system





What does this mean?

PS: Although we regret that we cannot offer to publish your paper in Nature for editorial reasons, it may be appropriate for Nature Medicine. More information about this journal and other Nature journals can be found at www.nature.com/nature/about/family/index.html. Should you wish to have your paper considered by Nature Medicine, please use the link to the NPG manuscript transfer service in the footnote below. Using this link you will be able to transfer your manuscript, including the referees' comments and identities, to the editors at Nature Medicine. Should you wish to have your manuscript considered at Nature Medicine without the referees' reports, you will need to submit the paper as a new submission.

Like all our journals, Nature Medicine is editorially independent, and the editors will make their own independent editorial decision about publication of your manuscript.

The research journals are editorially independent

- Each journal is run by its *own* group of editors from their own offices. Nature is run from the London office and most of the research journals from NY
- We share general policies but not submissions
- A Nature PS is only a recommendation – Nature editors are not aware whether research journal editor will agree
- If an author wishes, named ref reports can be transferred which may lead to a faster review process. This can be done automatically.

Launched in 2010: Nature Communications



- Online-only, multidisciplinary journal dedicated to publishing high-quality research in all areas of the biological, physical and chemical sciences. Papers published by the journal represent important advances of significance to specialists within each field.
- Open access (OA) option
- Around 40% OA uptake
- In-house editors
- Impact Factor 10.7

Launched in 2011: Scientific Reports

- Primary research publication covering all areas of the natural sciences — biology, chemistry, physics and earth sciences
- Peer-reviewed: all scientifically sound papers accepted
- Editorial decisions: Editorial Advisory Panel and Editorial Board
- Online only
- Open access
- Impact factor: 5.07
- 5th among all multidisciplinary science journals



What about open access?

- Nature endorses open archive policy. We encourage deposition of accepted papers in Pubmed Central 6 month after publication
- Open Archives Initiative: allows full text to be searchable by Google.
- Genome papers are published open access under the Creative Commons license.
- There are open access options available on 15 other NPG journals.



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NPT1

From protons to primates...turn to

Science



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