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Author Academy — getting your research published

The Institute of Information Technology of ANAS, Baku, Azerbaijan

Chris Bendall, PhD

Senior Editor

Springer

22nd April 2013



Today's presentation

- Academic publishing
- Before you start ...
 - **Edanz Journal Selector**
 - **Your target journal in minutes not days**
- Avoiding rejection
- Manuscript structure
- Hints and tips

Adopt a winning strategy

Footballer



Physical fitness

Team members

Rules of the game

Opposition

Win games



Researcher

Results

Manuscript

Submission process

Published literature

Publication record

Preparation

Communication

Understanding

Knowledge

Tactics

Optically tunable plasmonic color filters

Y.J. Liu · G.Y. Si · E.S.P. Leong · B. Wang ·
A.J. Danner · X.C. Yuan · J.H. Teng

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Abstract We fabricated sub-wavelength patterned gold plasmonic nanostructures on a quartz substrate through the focused ion beam (FIB) technique. The perforated gold film demonstrated optical transmission peaks in the visible range, which therefore can be used as a plasmonic color filter. Furthermore, by integrating a layer of photoresponsive liquid crystals (LCs) with the gold nanostructure to form a hybrid system, we observed a red-shift of transmission peak wavelength. More importantly, the peak intensity can be further enhanced more than 10% in transmittance due to the refractive index match of the media on both sides

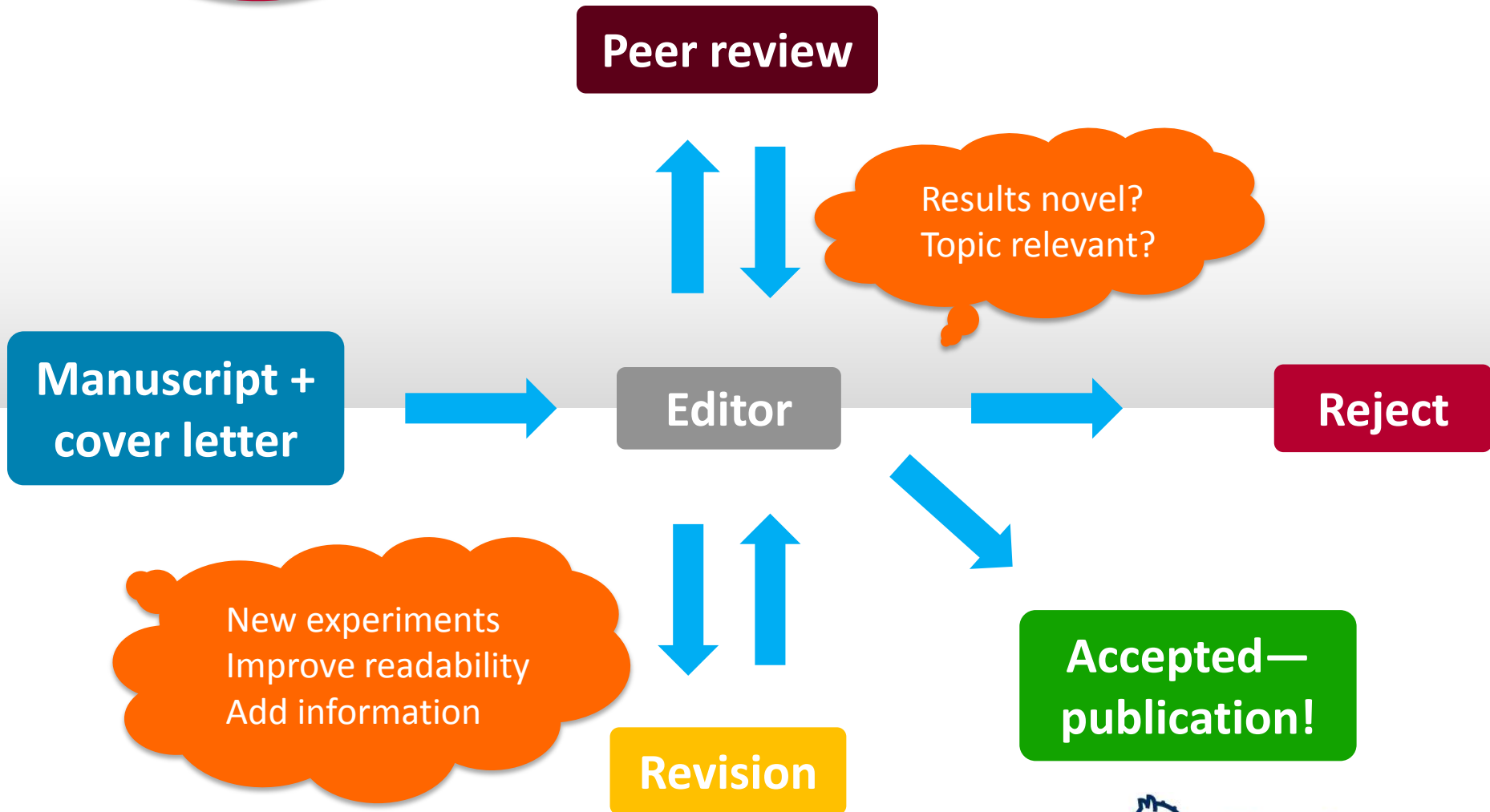
1 Introduction

Nowadays, color filters are a crucial component for various applications, such as digital cameras, complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor (CMOS) image sensors, liquid crystal displays, and light emitting diodes. Current research on color filtering is focused on developing smaller, faster, smarter, and lower-power designs. Plasmonic color filters are promising to meet these challenges due to the nature of surface plasmons (SPs). SPs are essentially charge density waves generated by the coupling of light to the collective

You *must* publish in English

- The international language of academics
- Other researchers *want* to hear from Azerbaijan researchers!
- Become an effective communicator
- Funding
- International reputation
- Career advancement

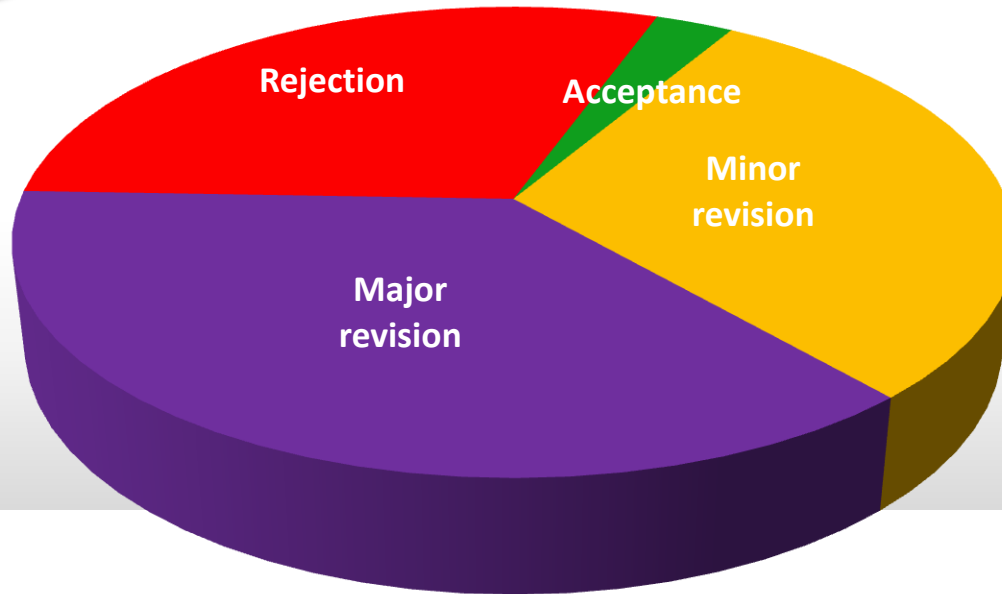
The submission process



Publishing timeline

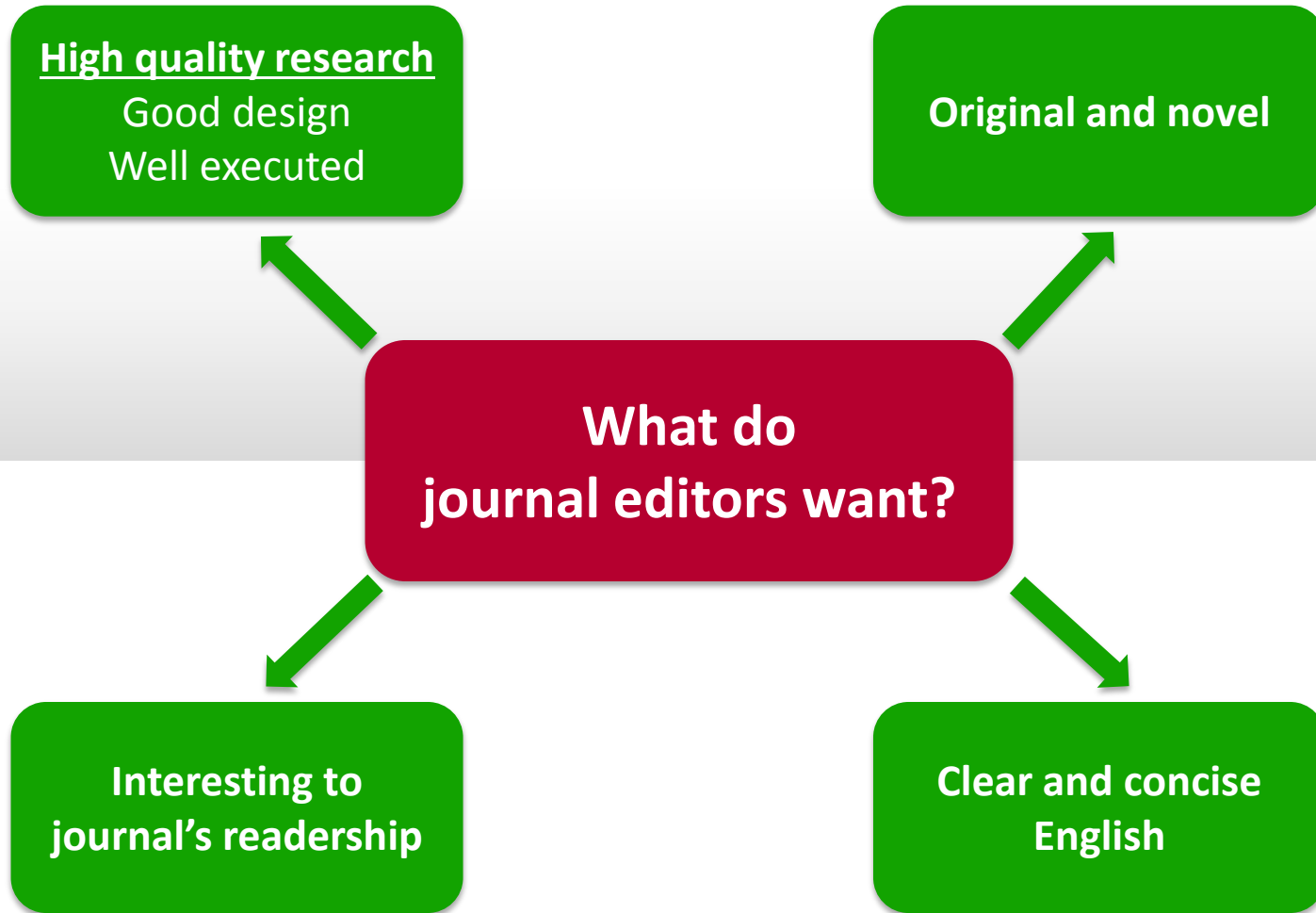
- 3–12 months ...
- Depends on
 - Manuscript type
 - Availability of peer reviewers
 - Fast tracking
 - Number of revisions
 - How well you address reviewer comments

Peer review improves your manuscript



- Few papers are accepted without revision
- Rejection and revision are integral
- Peer review should be a positive experience

Ask yourself



Ethical considerations

- Animal use
- Human subjects
 - Consent forms
 - Anonymity
- Clinical trial registration
- Materials transfer agreements
- GMOs

conduct as accepted
cal·ly adv. — eth/i
eth·ics (eth/iks) n. pl
The study and philos
on the determination
of right conduct with
of life, etc. 3. A tra
E·thi·o·pi

Publication ethics

- Multiple submissions
- Plagiarism
- Author list
 - Who?
 - First author
 - Corresponding author
- Data fabrication and falsification
- Conflicts of interest
 - Financial
 - Personal
 - Intellectual

Before you start ...

Things you *need* to consider

- Reading
- Journal selection
- Evaluate significance

Before you start ...

Reading improves your writing

How?

What to do

Structure & style

Journal quality

Argument
structure

Get new ideas

What *not* to do

Before you start ...

Make time to read

Read often

- At least ...
 - 20–30 min each day
 - 60 min, once a week
- Discuss with colleagues
 - Journal club

Before you start ...

How to read an article

- Start to finish?
- Section by section?
- Efficiency
- Where is the relevant information?

Before you start ...

Strategies for reading

Before you start ...

Strategies for reading

Title and Abstract first

Before you start ...

Strategies for reading

Title and Abstract first

Self-assess knowledge of topic

Before you start ...

Strategies for reading

Title and Abstract first

Self-assess knowledge of topic

Have you read similar papers?

Familiar with the terminology?

**Do you understand the relevance
of the hypothesis?**

Before you start ...

Strategies for reading

Title and Abstract first

Self-assess knowledge of topic

Last paragraph of Introduction for aims

Before you start ...

Strategies for reading

Title and Abstract first

Self-assess knowledge of topic

Last paragraph of Introduction for aims

Figures & Tables, then Results

Before you start ...

Strategies for reading

Title and Abstract first

Self-assess knowledge of topic

Last paragraph of Introduction for aims

Figures & Tables, then Results

Discussion for interpretation

Before you start ...

Strategies for reading

Title and Abstract first

Self-assess knowledge of topic

Last paragraph of Introduction for aims

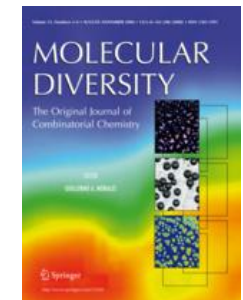
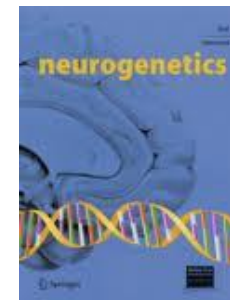
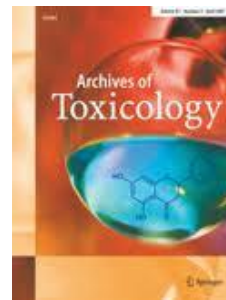
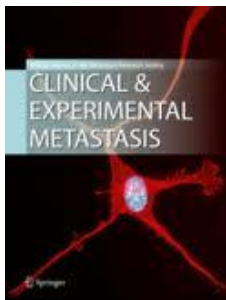
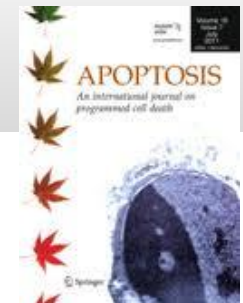
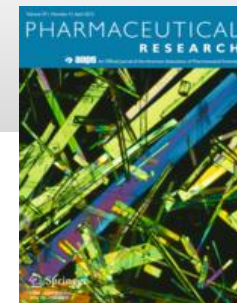
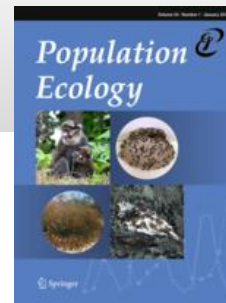
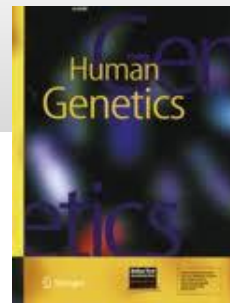
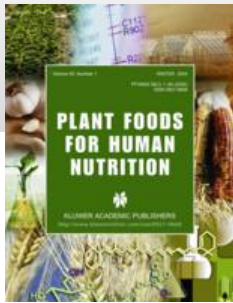
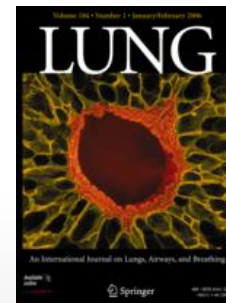
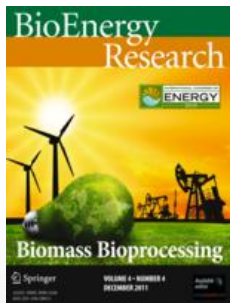
Figures & Tables, then Results

Discussion for interpretation

**Refer to Introduction and
Methods if necessary**

Before you start ...

Journal selection



Before you start ...

Factors to consider

What is your publication goal?

- Aims & scope
- Prestige
- Impact factor
- Target audience
- Open access
- Publishing frequency
- Indexing status
- Publication type

Which factor is most important to you?

Before you start ...

Choosing a target journal

- Journal selection *must* be based on an honest evaluation of *your* manuscript



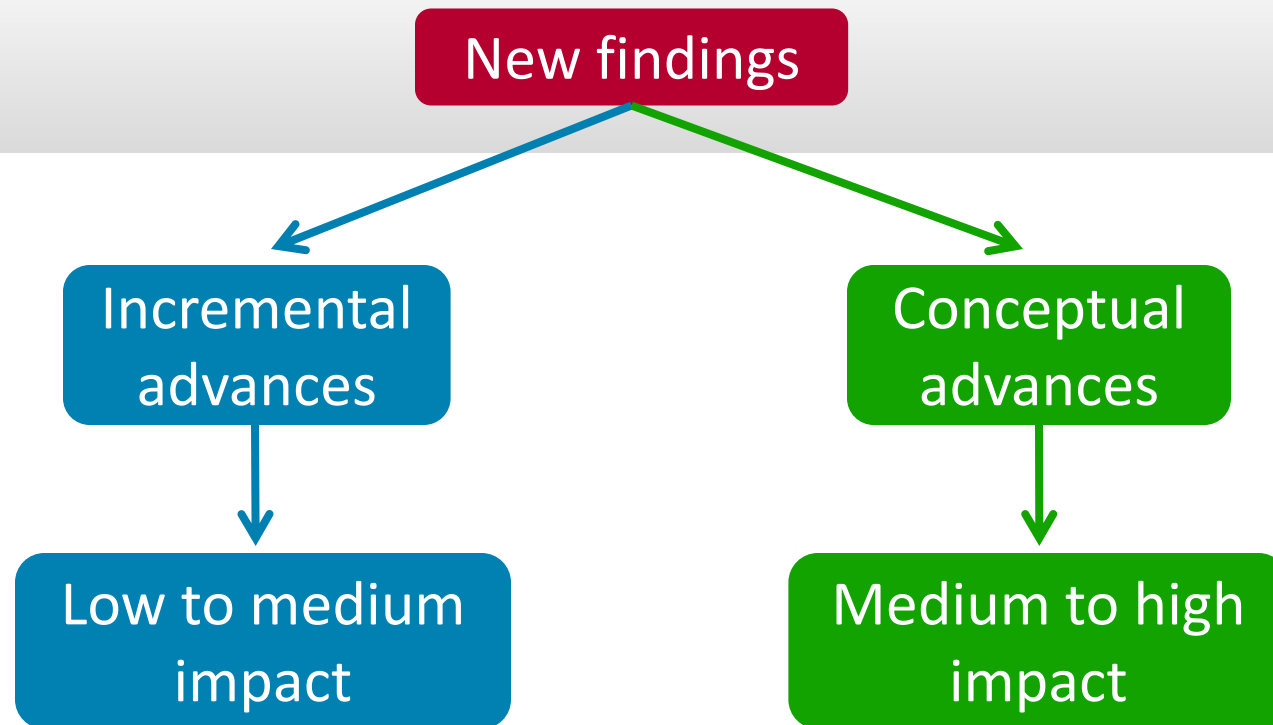
Timing

- Choose your target journal:
 - *After* you have decided you have enough results for a publication
 - *After* a decision has been made on how high to aim—high, medium or low impact
 - *Before* writing the Title, Abstract, Introduction or Discussion sections

Before you start ...

Evaluating significance: novelty

- How new are my results compared with those already published?



Before you start ...

Evaluating significance: relevance

- How relevant is my work?

Applications for a
specific field?

Applications across
many fields?

Before you start ...

Evaluating significance: relevance

- Are your findings specific to a **geographical region** or **ethnic population**?



Regional?



Global?

Evaluating significance: appeal

- Is my work in an area of ‘popular appeal’?
- Examples:
 - OLEDs
 - Cloud computing
 - Food irradiation
 - Medical devices
 - Higgs boson
 - Green aviation
 - Stem cells
 - Global warming

Before you start ...

Edanz Journal Selector

The screenshot shows the Edanz Journal Selector website. At the top left is the Edanz logo with the tagline "english editing for scientists". To the right are flags for Japan and China, with text in Japanese and Chinese: "エダズ・エディティング Edanz Group Japan" and "理文編輯 Edanz Group China". A navigation bar includes links for Home, Services, Experts, Security & Privacy, About us, and Contact Us. A "Journal Advisor" box highlights "Featuring the Journal Selector Simplifying Publication Success". The main content area features a green banner for "Edanz Journal Selector ^{Beta} Your target journal in minutes not days" with a "FREE" badge. Below this is a search form with a text input field containing a sample abstract snippet, a "Find matching journals" button, and checkboxes for "Match only to journals with: an Impact Factor" and "Open Access options". A "Give it a try!" button is also present. At the bottom, a text block states "We significantly increase your chances of acceptance for publication" next to three circular icons: "Explore our services", "Experts in your field", and "Quote Order".

Springer Journal Selector - [link](#)

Before you start ...

How to use

Insert your
proposed
abstract

Journal Advisor guides you through

Before you begin

Journal
Selection

Writing

Submission

Edanz Journal Selector ^{beta}

Your target journal in minutes not days

FAQ

We report on a Japanese girl with HDR (hypoparathyroidism, sensorineural deafness, and renal dysplasia) syndrome who developed diabetes mellitus (DM) at three years of age (blood glucose 713 mg/dL, HbA(1c) 8.0%) in the absence of anti-glutamic acid decarboxylase autoantibodies. Mutation analysis revealed a de novo heterozygous two base pair deletion at exon 6 of the GATA3 gene (c.1200_1201delCA; p.H400fsX506). GATA3 expression was

Match only to journals with:

- an Impact Factor
- Open Access options

Find matching journals

a free tool from edanz - english editing for scientists

Journal Selection: Find the journal that's right for you

The journal selector uses cutting-edge semantic technology to help you achieve publication success. Enter in your abstract or a sample text and the Journal Selector will give you a list of journals that publish in related areas. You can then refine your results based on the factors that matter to you, like publication frequency, Impact Factor or publishing model, including open access.

Before you start ...

Refine your results

Edanz Journal Selector *beta*
Your target journal in minutes not days FAQ

Journals	Recommended: 15	Match	Impact Factor	Publishing Frequency	Publishing Model
+ J. Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism			6.49	Monthly	
+ J. Immunology			5.74	Bimonthly	
+ J. Clinical Investigation			14.15	Monthly	
+ J. Pediatric Endocrinology and Metabolism			0.88	Monthly	
+ Blood			10.55	Bimonthly	
+ J. Medical Genetics			7.03	Monthly	
+ Diabetes			8.88	Monthly	
+ European J. Immunology			4.94	Monthly	
+ Human Molecular Genetics			8.05	Bimonthly	
+ Diabetologia			6.97	Monthly	Hybrid
+ Proceedings of the N...l Academy of Sciences			9.77	Weekly	
+ Endocrine Journal			1.95	Bimonthly	Full
+ Cancer Research			8.23	Bimonthly	
+ J. Molecular Medicine			5.19	Monthly	Hybrid
+ Human Genetics			5.04	Monthly	Hybrid

Your abstract:
You can update this text at any time, then use the Refine List button to refresh results: " Japanese girl HDR (hypoparathyroidism, sensorineural deafness, renal dysplasia) syndrome diabetes (DM) age (blood glucose 713 mg/dL, HbA(1c) 8.0%) absence anti-glutamic acid

Advanced Matching:
Impact Factor 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 3 5 7 10+
Frequency
Publishing model Open Access Hybrid Any Publishing Model

[← Home](#) [Refresh Refine List](#)

Recommended journals

Advanced Matching

Before you start ...

Make a decision

Edanz Journal Selector *beta*
Your target journal in minutes not days FAQ


Match Analysis

Endocrine Journal

- Dm
- Beta
- Cells
- Function
- Exon
- Hba

Endocrine Journal
<http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp...>
Impact Factor : 1.952 (© Thomson Reuters)
Frequency : Bimonthly
Aims & Scope :

Our online submission system have upgraded on April 23, 2011 from the current J-STAGE 2 to J-STAGE 3 (ScholarOne Manuscripts) Initial submission from here. <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/encocrj> Manuscripts received by the Office earlier than April 23 will be processed in J-STAGE 2 until it is released for advance publication (or the

 Language editing by Edanz can help increase your chances of acceptance by this journal. Edanz provides expert scientific editing for scientists, by scientists.
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Similar articles from this journal

Diabetes mellitus in a Japanese girl with HDR syndrome and GATA3 m...	2009 - 11
Molecular analysis of the GATA3 gene in five Japanese patients with H...	2010 - 11
Transcription factor GATA-6 in the human adrenocortex: association wi...	2007 - 11
GATA3 abnormalities in six patients with HDR syndrome.	2010 - 11
A case of acquired deficiency of pituitary GH, PRL and TSH, associated ...	2004 - 05
A case of polyglandular autoimmune syndrome type III complicated wi...	2006 - 09
Increase in serum ceruloplasmin with aging is not observed in type 2 d...	2000 - 05
Lack of association of LRP5 and LRP6 polymorphisms with type 2 diabe...	2008 - 07
Phenotypical variety of insulin resistance in a family with a novel muta...	2009 - 11

Semantic
matching terms

IF, Aims & Scope,
Frequency

Similar
published
articles

Before you start ...

Visit journal websites

Journal Selector *Beta*
Simplifying publication success

FAQ

Match Analysis

Surveys in Geophysics

- Ionosphere
- Troposphere
- Solar
- Geomagnetic
- Temperature
- Latitude

Surveys in Geophysics
<http://www.springer.com...>
Impact Factor : 3.59 (Thomson Reuters)
Frequency : Bimonthly
Aims & Scope :

Surveys in Geophysics publishes refereed overview articles on the physical, chemical and biological processes occurring within the Earth, on its surface, in its atmosphere and in the near-Earth space environment, including relations with other bodies in the solar system. Observations, their interpretation,

Language editing by Edanz can help increase your chances of publication in this journal. Edanz provides expert scientific editing services for Edanz scientists.

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» **Geophysics & Geodesy**

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Surveys in Geophysics

An International Review Journal Covering the Entire Field of Geosciences and Related Areas
Managing Editor: M.J. Rycroft
ISSN: 0169-3298 (print version)
ISSN: 1573-0956 (electronic version)
Journal no. 10712

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- Covers physical, chemical and biological processes occurring within the Earth, on its surface, in its atmosphere and in the near-Earth space environment.
- Topics include aspects of the solid Earth, geodesy, oceans and atmosphere, meteorology and climate, hydrology and more

Managing Editor: Michael J. Rycroft, CAESAR Consultancy, Cambridge, UK

Surveys in Geophysics publishes refereed overview articles on physical, chemical and biological processes occurring within the Earth, on its surface, in its atmosphere and in the near-Earth space environment, including relations with other bodies in the solar system. Observations, their interpretation, theory and modeling are presented in relation to relevant disciplines in the Geosciences and related areas. Published articles present balanced and well constructed reviews of recent advances in areas of topical interest, written for the broad community of earth scientists in academia, government and industry. The subjects covered in Surveys in Geophysics comprise all aspects of the solid Earth, geodesy, oceans and atmosphere, meteorology and climate, hydrology, environmental issues, solar-terrestrial and space physics, plus the physics of the Moon and the terrestrial-type planets.

The Managing Editor of Surveys in Geophysics is Michael J. Rycroft, CAESAR Consultancy, Cambridge, UK.

Related subjects » Astronomy, Observations and Techniques - Earth Sciences & Geography - Geophysics & Geodesy

ABSTRACTED/INDEXED IN:

Science Citation Index, Science Citation Index Expanded (SciSearch), SCOPUS, Google Scholar, EBSCO, CSA, Academic OneFile, and Earth Sciences, EI Page

FOR AUTHORS AND EDITORS

- 2010 Impact Factor: 3.59
- Aims and Scope
- Submit Online
- Open Choice - Your Way to Open Access
- Instructions for Authors
- Statement of Editorial and Publication P...

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ALERTS FOR THIS JOURNAL

Get the table of contents of every new issue published in Surveys in Geophysics.

Your E-Mail Address

Avoiding rejection

Reasons for rejection: the content

**Incomplete
data**

**Inappropriate
methodology**

**Weak research
motive**

Poor analysis

**Inaccurate
conclusions**

Avoiding rejection

Reasons for rejection: the manuscript

**Journal requirements
not met**

Lack of detail

**Publication ethics
ignored**

**Poor grammar and
style**

**Inappropriate data
presentation**

Reasons for rejection: other

**Inappropriate journal
selected**

Unlucky timing

You *need* to tell a story



Beginning → Middle → End

- *Must* be easy to read *and* easy to understand

- Introduction *Assertion*
- **M**ethods
- **R**esults *Evidence*
- **a**nd
- **D**iscussion *Affirmation*

The 'write' order

- For maximum clarity and consistency:

**Methods
Results**

During your research

**Introduction
Discussion**

After selecting target journal

**Title
Abstract**

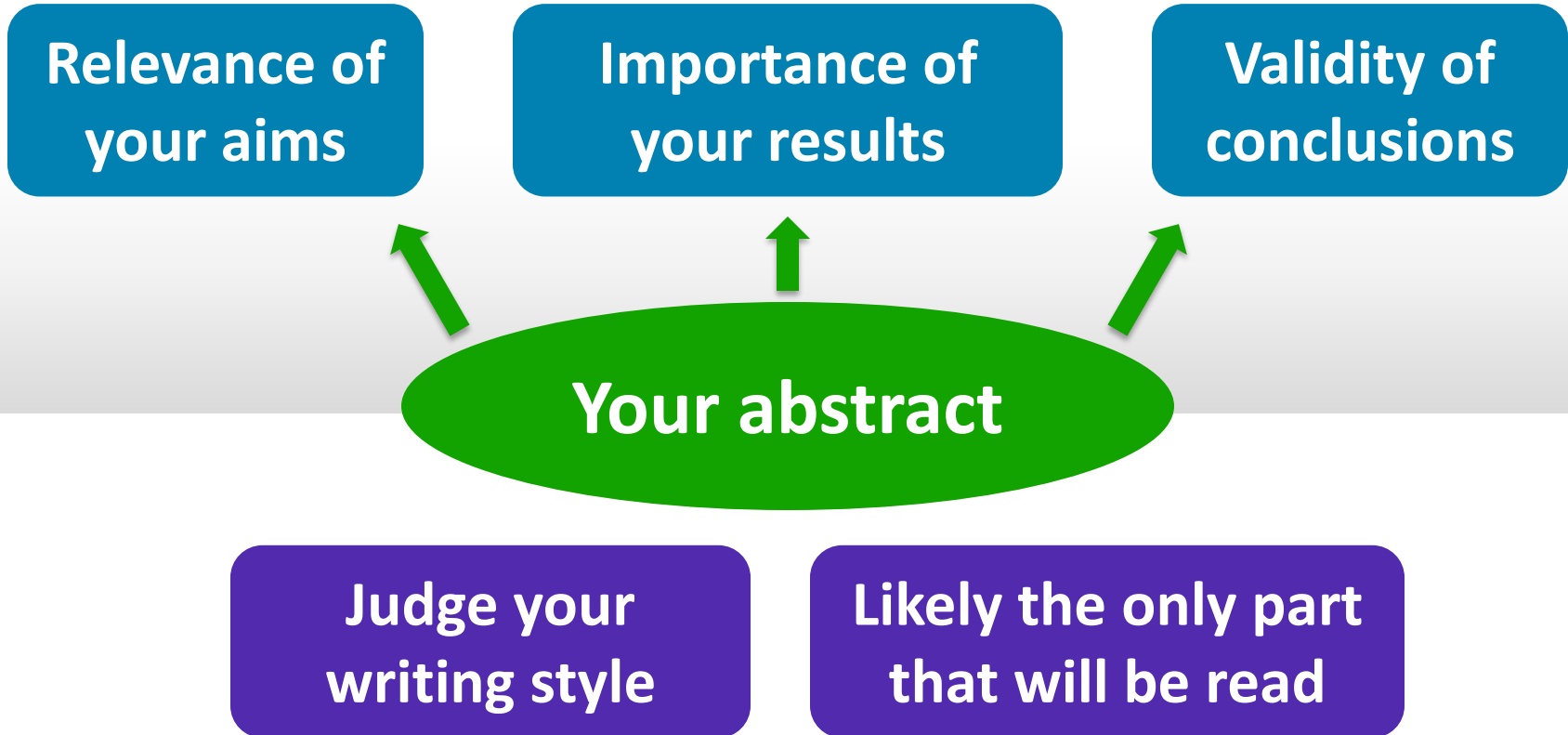
Write last

Who's hungry?



First impressions can make a difference

First impressions count



Abstract

- Concise
 - Aim for less than 250 words
- Problem(s) addressed (10%)
- Objectives/hypotheses (20%)
- Techniques (10%)
- Most *important* results (40%)
- Concluding statement (20%)

General rules for Abstracts

References

Abbreviations

Do not
include ...

Jargon/slang

Non-essential
numbers & statistics

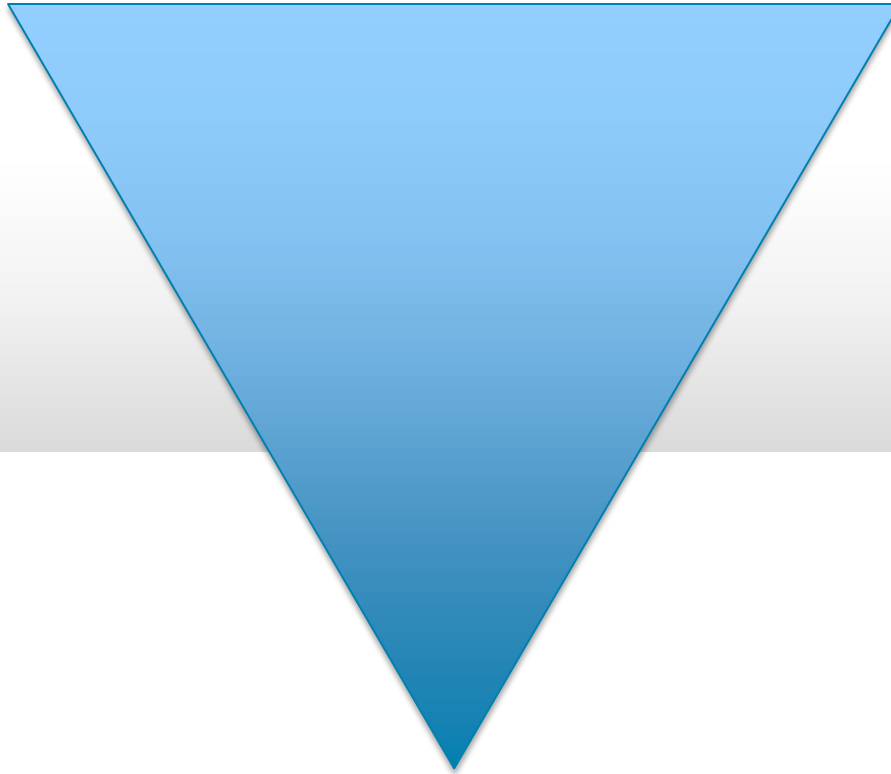
What problem was studied?

The answer to this question should be in
your Introduction

Beginning → Middle → End

Manuscript structure

Provide context





Objectives

General



Specific

- Sufficient background information
- Comprehensive literature review 
- Cite previous publications 
 - Review articles
 - Original articles
- What is the *problem*?

- **Rationale**
 - The reason(s) for doing this work?
 - Why is it important the **problem** is addressed?
- Explain how you addressed the problem
- **Do not** state results from your work **X**
- General statement regarding methods

- **Clearly** and **explicitly** state specific aims of your study



Methods

- Subheadings
- Order should be logical
- New methods **must** be described in sufficient detail that they can be reproduced
- Established methods can be referenced
 - Save yourself time *and* effort

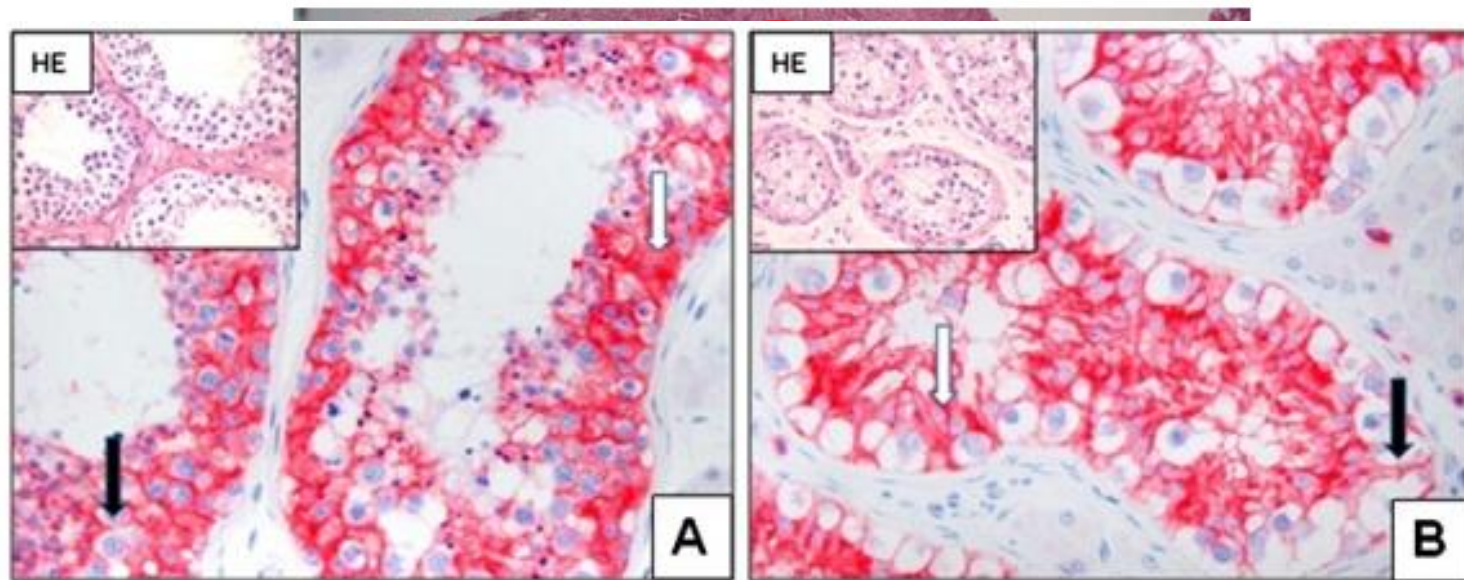
Results

- **Past tense** to describe your results
- **Do not** explain the results **X**
- **Avoid** duplicating data among figures, tables and text **X**

Display items

- Present data *quickly* and *efficiently*
- Keep it simple — use separate panels
 - Related data in panels
- Label *all* parts of figures
- Legends must be able to ‘stand alone’

➤ In imaging, clear figures are crucial!



“...In representative tissues of IGCNU, a more pronounced membranous expression (**black arrow**) and a cytoplasmic (**white arrow**) is seen (B; x200)...”

“AHLE demonstrating distorted brachial artery and classical small vessel proliferation”

Bremmer et al. (2012). BMC Clinical Pathology

Kukreja et al. (2010). BMJ Case Reports.

- In imaging, clear figures are crucial!
- Compressed vs. Uncompressed
- 8-bit vs. 16-bit
- 72 ppi vs. 300 ppi
- RGB vs. CMYK

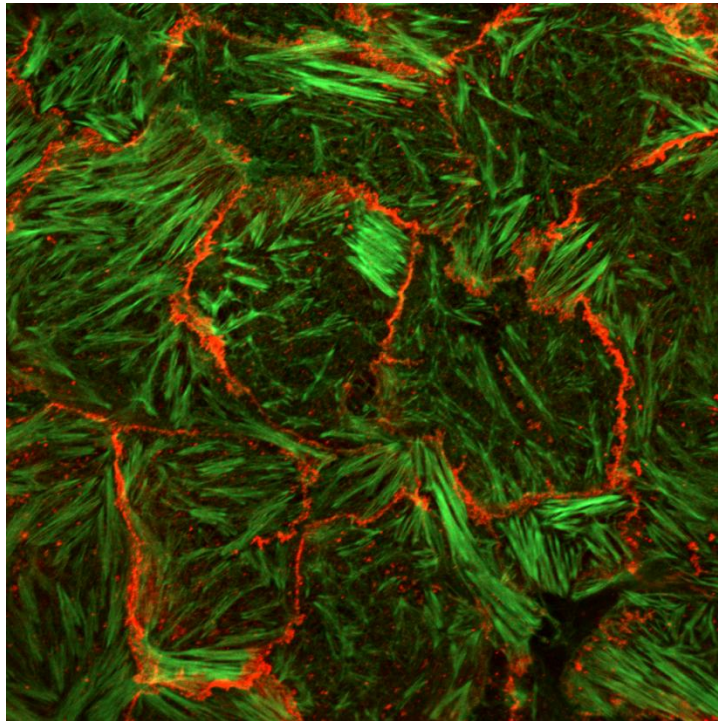
Figures

Uncompressed *vs.* Compressed

- ***Uncompressed*** images are your raw images
- ***Compressed*** images
 - ***Lossless***: all image information is preserved – larger files
 - ***Lossy***: selectively discards information – smaller files
- Cannot distinguish differences by eye
- But you will ***lose information*** if you compress
- Can always keep a compressed copy available

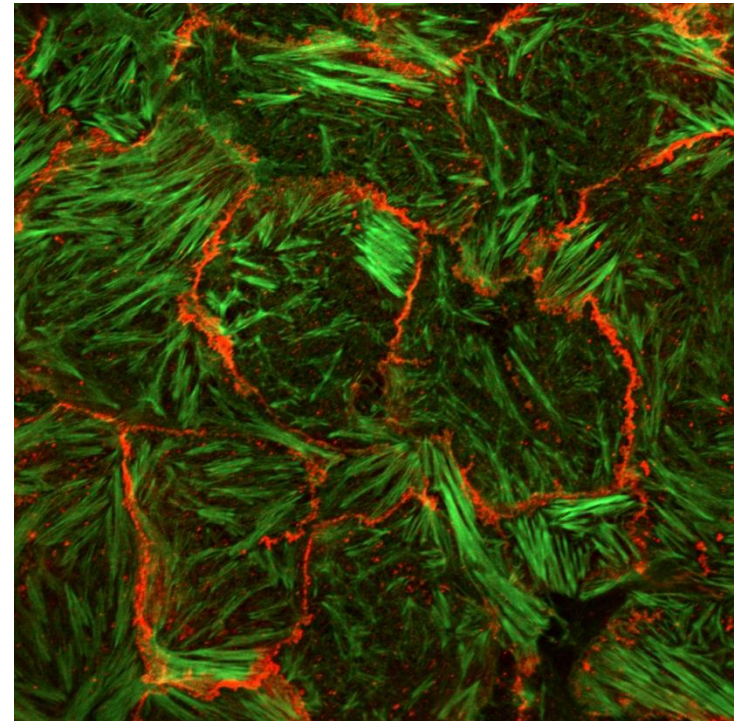
Figures TIFF *vs.* JPG

TIFF



3.3 MB

JPG



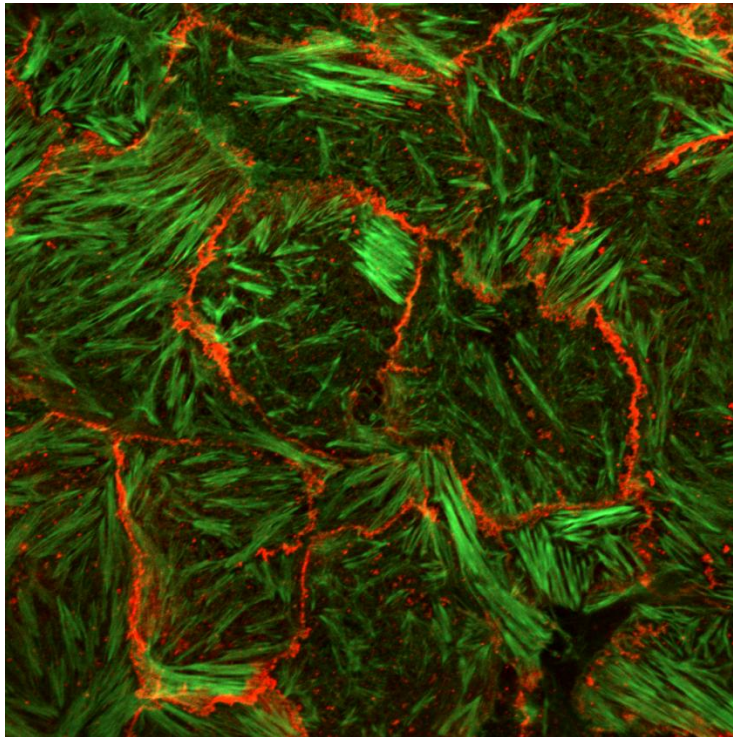
1.8 MB

Figures 16-bit vs. 8-bit

- Human *eye* can see about 10 million colors
- “*Bit*” is about how many colors there are
- What is 8-bit? 2^8 shades of grey/color (256)
- **8-bit RGB**
 - 256 red x 256 green x 256 blue = 16.7 million colors
- 16-bit? $2^{16} = 65,536$ shades/color
- **16-bit RGB**
 - 281 trillion colors!

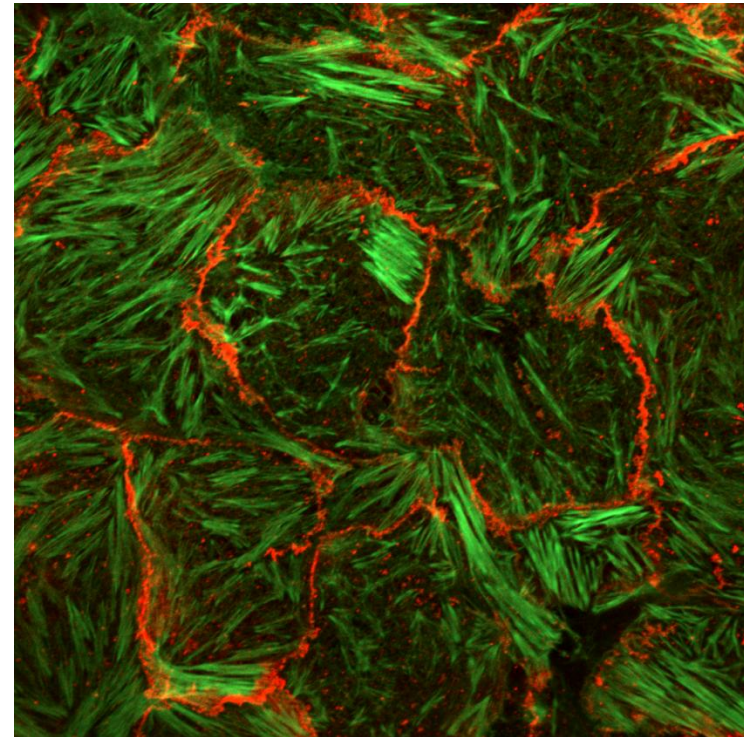
Figures 16-bit vs. 8-bit

16-bit



6.5 MB

8-bit



3.3 MB

Figures 16-bit *vs.* 8-bit

- So *why* use 16-bit?
- Just because you cannot see it, does not mean it is not there
- Important in quantitative image analysis
- Flexibility in image adjustments
- Only uncompressed images can be saved in 16-bit

Figures - Tips

- **ppi:** pixels per inch
- For online/monitor use, 72 ppi is fine
- For **printing**, need at least 300 ppi
- Most journals require that final figures are at least 300 ppi for printing purposes

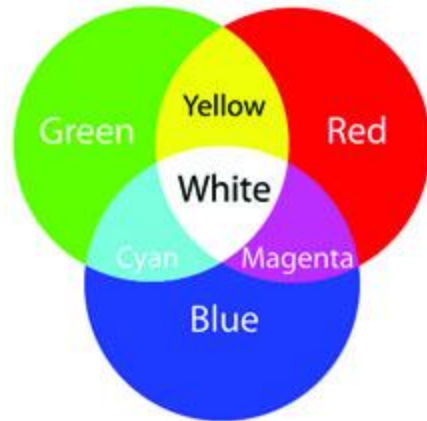


72 dpi

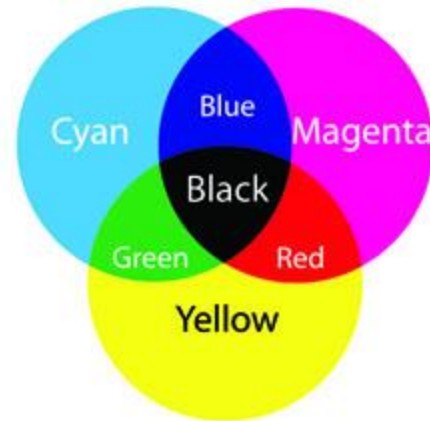


300 dpi

Figures - Tips



RGB



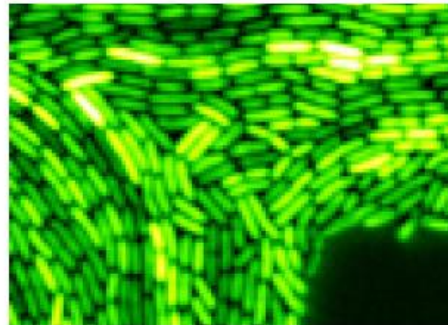
CMYK

- Primary colors of light
- Used in TVs and monitors
- Most microscopes take

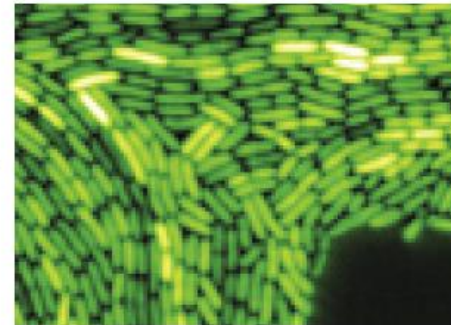
- Colors used in printing
- Most journals require CMYK images
- RGB → CMYK can be unclear
- Check to make sure your image looks good in CMYK (Photoshop Ctrl+Y for CMYK preview mode)

Colours

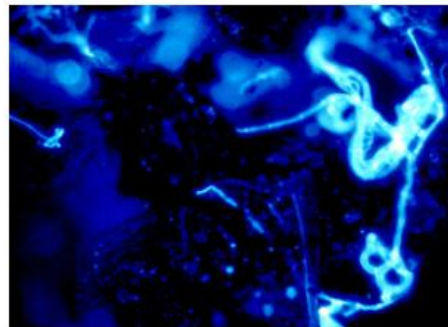
- Full colour artwork should be provided in CMYK format; please ensure that you are happy with the conversion before submission of final artwork
- The examples below show the shift in colour between RGB and the equivalent colour shown in CMYK — subtle details are often lost during the conversion



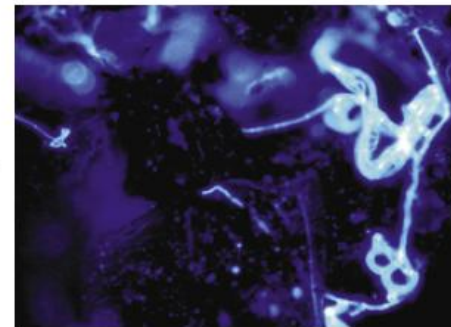
RGB



CMYK



RGB



CMYK

What do your findings mean?

The answer to this question should be in
your Discussion

Beginning → Middle → End

- ***Avoid*** just restating results **X**
- Answer the research question(s) posed
- ***Emphasize*** the major finding(s) first
- ***State*** your major conclusion
 - Based on results presented

- Interpret your results
 - Compare with other studies
 - Same or different?
- Explain unexpected results
- Describe limitations
 - How could the study be improved?

- Restate major conclusion(s)
 - *In summary ...* **or** *In conclusion ...*
- Possible applications and implications
- Suggest future work

“Clinical and research priorities include furthering our understanding of the pathogenesis of *M. pneumoniae*-associated CNS disease, development of more reliable serologic assays, and defining the role of quantitative PCR in distinguishing acute infection from asymptomatic carriage and prolonged post-infection shedding”

Bitun & Richardson *Curr Infect Dis Rep* 2010, **12**:282–290

Consider your reader

- Clear communication
- Language
- Cover letters
- Responding to reviewers

*Hints
& Tips*

Reader expectations

- Information is easier to understand when placed where most readers expect to find it
- Good writers are aware of these expectations



Your reader should ...

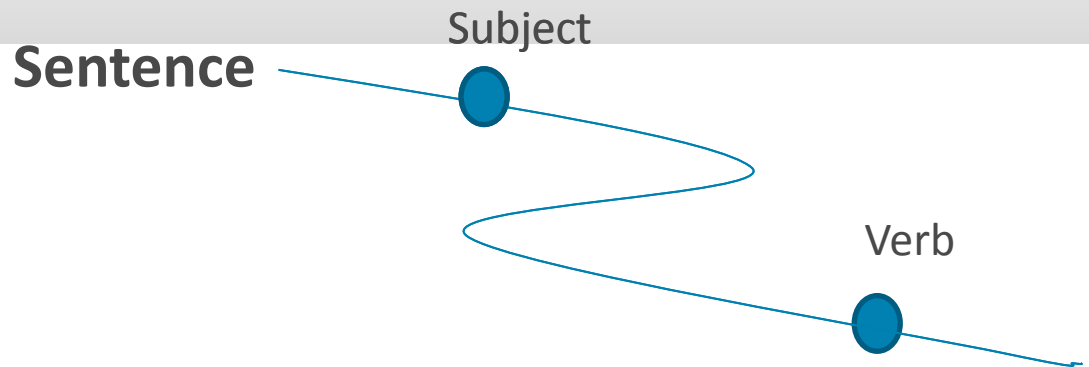
Only have to read once

Not have to read slowly

Understand your logic
immediately

1. Verb placement

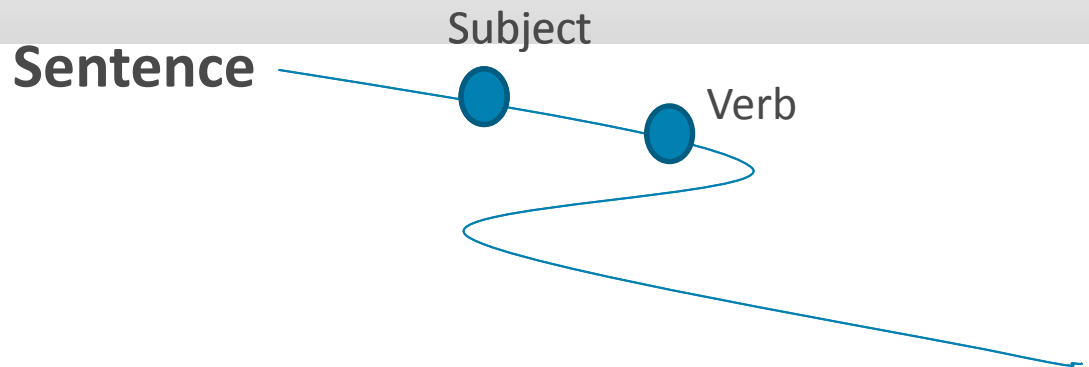
- Readers expect verbs to closely follow subjects



Subject and verb far apart = poor readability

Help your reader

- Readers *want* verbs to closely follow subjects



Avoid reader confusion

- Readers become confused if subject and verb are separated by too much content

The smallest of the URF's (URFA6L), a 207-nucleotide (nt) reading frame overlapping out of phase the [NH₂]-terminal portion of the adenosinetriphosphatase (ATPase) subunit 6 gene, **has been identified** as the animal equivalent of the recently discovered yeast H-ATPase subunit 8 gene.

Avoid reader confusion

The smallest of the URF's is URFA6L, a 207-nucleotide (nt) reading frame overlapping out of phase the [NH₂]-terminal portion of the adenosinetriphosphatase (ATPase) subunit 6 gene, **has been identified** as the animal equivalent of the recently discovered yeast H-ATPase subunit 8 gene.

The smallest of the URF's (URFA6L) **has been identified** as the animal equivalent of the recently discovered yeast H-ATPase subunit 8 gene; URFA6L is a 207-nucleotide (nt) reading frame overlapping out of phase the [NH₂]-terminal portion of the adenosinetriphosphatase (ATPase) subunit 6 gene.

We **identified the smallest** of the URF's (URFA6L) as the animal equivalent of the recently discovered yeast H-ATPase subunit 8 gene. URFA6L is a ...

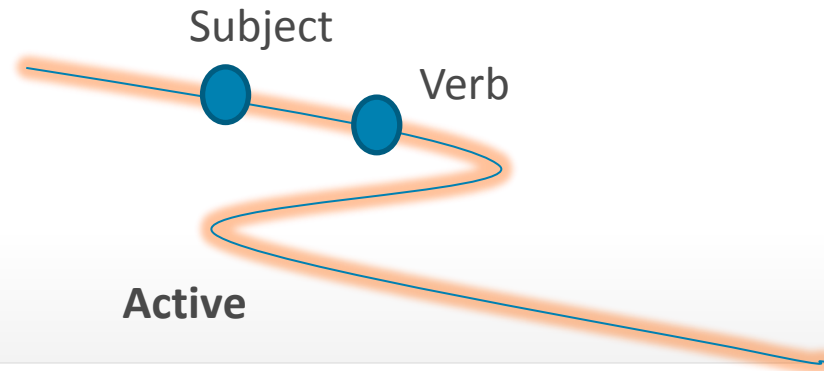
Which voice?

- Active or passive?



- Blood samples were collected from 256 patients.
- ***We collected blood from 256 patients.***

2. Active voice



- Sentences written in the active voice are:

simple

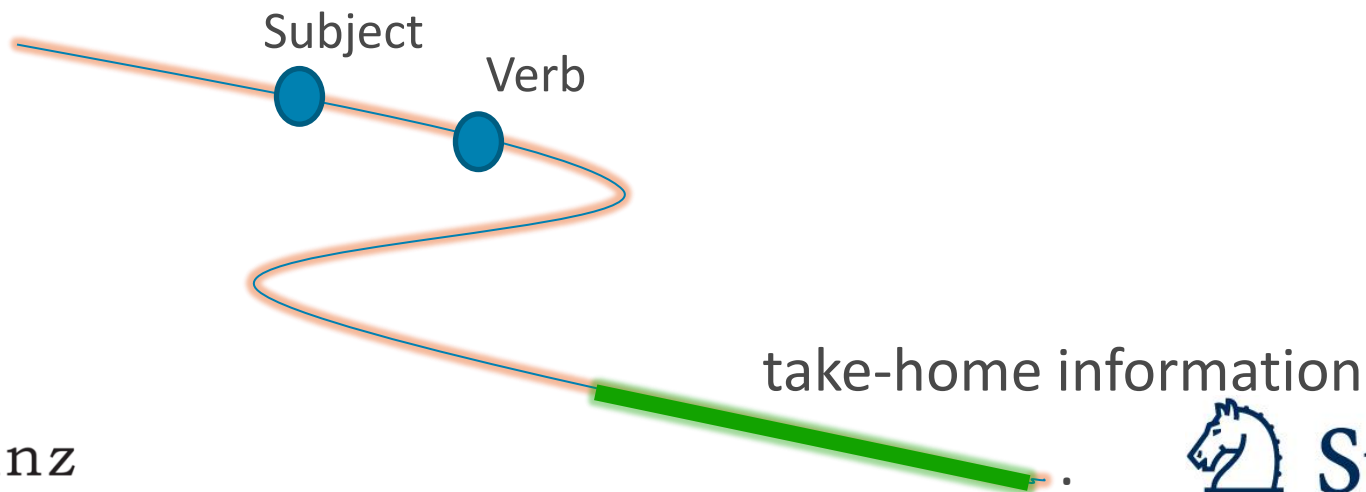
direct

clear

easy to read

3. Stress position

- Readers focus on information at **the end of a sentence.**



Stress position

The dog sat when her mistress **offered a treat**.

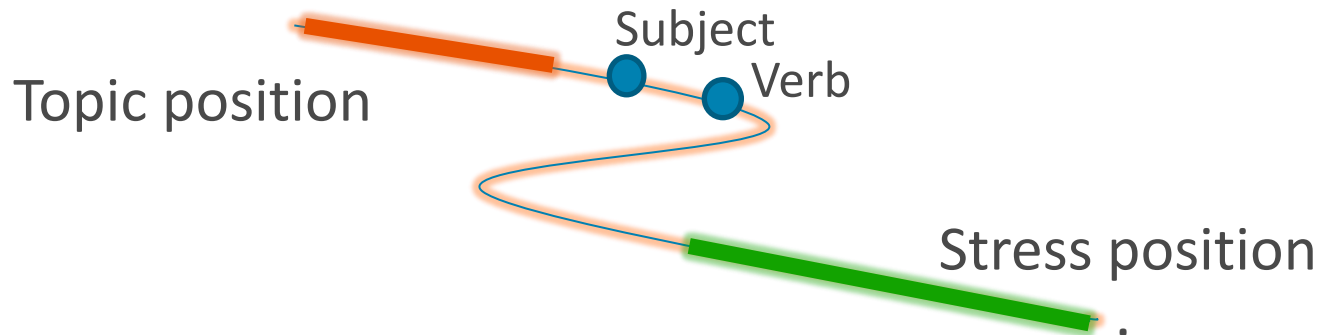
The dog sat when a treat was offered by **her mistress**.

When the mistress offered her a treat, **the dog sat**.

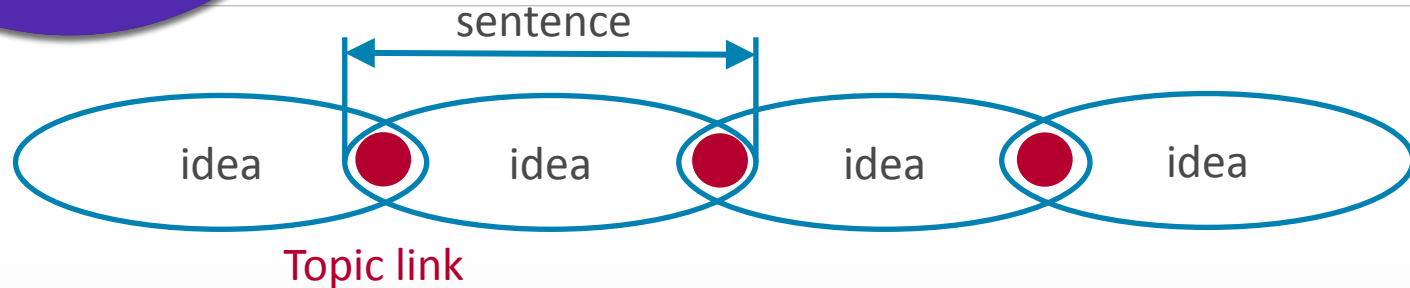
- Readers, without thinking, concentrate on **the end of a sentence**.

4. Topic position

- Readers expect a sentence/phrase to be a story about whoever shows up first



Topic position



- Linkage and context

The family went into the courtyard to see the new puppy. **The dog** sat when her owner offered a treat. **Everyone** was so excited they broke into applause. **However, as the courtyard** was situated right next to my bedroom, the sound woke me from my sleep.

5. Short sentences

Reading once...

4% of readers can understand a 27-word sentence
75% of readers can understand a 17-word sentence

Pinner and Pinner (1998) *Communication Skills*

Goals to aim for:

One idea per sentence

Maximum 25 words per sentence

Less than four 30-word sentences in the manuscript

Simple is best

- Simple language *is* best
- Makes *your* work more relevant
- Minimizes confusion—maximizes understanding
- More people will understand your work
 - More citations!

Before you submit ...

- Register online
- Cover letter
 - Potential referees
 - Potential editors
- Conflicts of interests
- Format and resolution of graphics files
- Copyright and payment forms

Cover letters

Significance
Relevance



Why your work
is important

First impression for journal
editors

Level of
English

Recommend
reviewers?

The purpose of cover letters

- Introduces manuscript to journal editor
- Acts as a guide for the editor
- ‘Sells’ your work
- Speeds up the publication process

Bad example

Not personal

Dear Editor-in-Chief,

No information about
the manuscript

I am sending you our manuscript entitled “Techniques to detect circoviruses in Australian bird species” by Raye *et al.* We would like to have the manuscript considered for publication in *Virology Methods Online*.

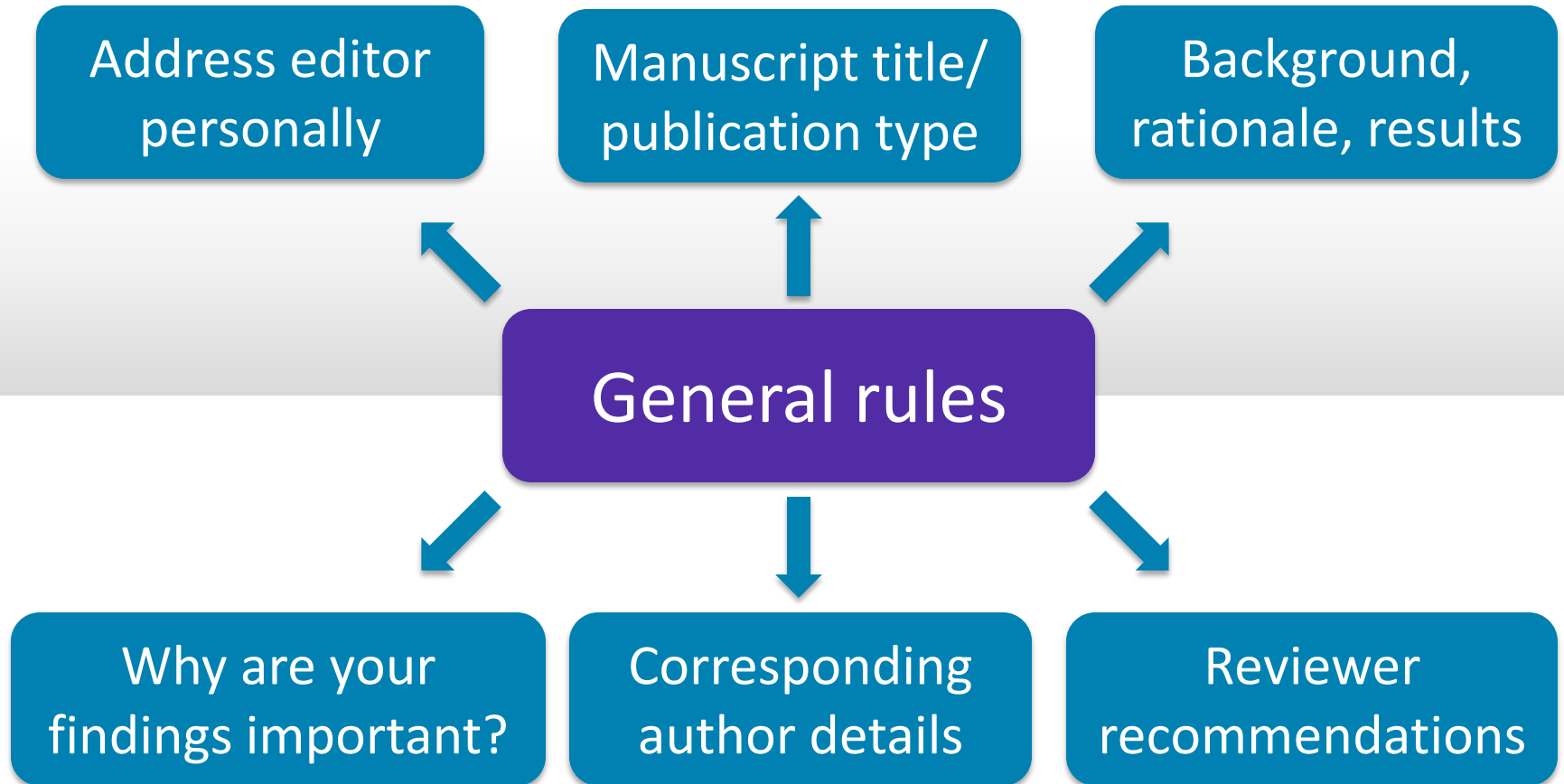
Please let me know of your decision at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Too short

Warren Raye, PhD

Cover letters



“Must-have” statements

Always include

Original and unpublished

Not submitted to other journals

Authors agree on manuscript/journal

“Must-have” statements

No conflicts of interest

Source of funding

Authorship contributions

A good cover letter

Dear Dr Graeber,

Please find enclosed our manuscript entitled “Amyloid-like inclusions in the brains of Huntington’s disease patients”, by McGowan et al., which we would like to submit for publication as a Research Paper in *Neurogenetics*.

Recent immunohistochemical studies have revealed the presence of neuronal inclusions containing an N-terminal portion of the mutant huntingtin protein and ubiquitin in the brain tissues of Huntington’s disease (HD) patients; however, the role of these inclusions in the disease process has remained unclear. One suspected disease-causing mechanism in Huntington’s disease and other polyglutamine disorders is the potential for the mutant protein to undergo a conformational change to a more stable anti-parallel β -sheet structure...

Give the background to the research

To confirm if the immunohistochemically observed huntingtin- and ubiquitin-containing inclusions display amyloid features, we performed Congo red staining and both polarizing and confocal microscopy on post-mortem human brain tissues obtained from five HD patients, two AD patients, and two normal controls. Congo red staining revealed a small number of amyloid-like inclusions showing green birefringence by polarized microscopy, in a variety of cortical regions..... ..detected inclusions observed in parallel sections, suggesting that only a relatively small proportion of inclusions in HD adopt an amyloid-like structure.

What was done and what was found

We believe our findings will be of particular interest to the readership of *Neurogenetics*, which includes researchers and clinicians studying the genetic and molecular mechanisms underlying neurodegenerative diseases. Therefore, we feel that your journal provides the most suitable platform for the dissemination of our work to the research community.

Interest to journal’s readers

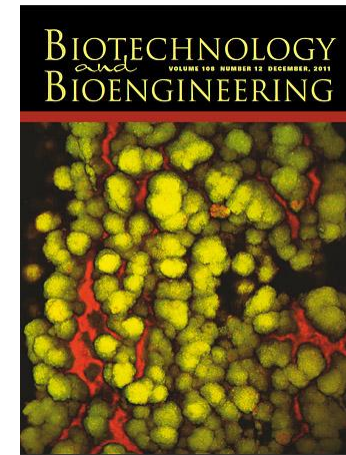
Please address all correspondence to....

Recommending reviewers



“When submitting a paper authors are requested to suggest 6 international referees...”

“The following items are also required as part of the manuscript submission process:...The names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of four or five potential independent reviewers...”



Where do I find reviewers?

- From your reading and references
- Networking
- Aim for younger and mid-level researchers
- Editors have the final decision on reviewer choice

Hints and tips

Reviewers



Point-by-point

Polite & professional

Respond to every comment

Revision

Easy to see changes

Refer to line and page numbers

Use a different color font

Highlight the text

Revision

- Conduct additional experiments and analyses as suggested
 - If this is impossible, you **must** explain **why**
- You **can** disagree with reviewers, but provide evidence
 - Cite **published** work
- Comply with deadlines
 - Extensions **are** granted

Point-by-point response

Dear Dr. _____: **[address editor by name]**

Thank you for your consideration of our manuscript entitled _____ **[insert manuscript title]**. We have reviewed the comments of the reviewers and have thoroughly revised the manuscript. We found the comments helpful, and believe our revised manuscript represents a significant improvement over our initial submission.

In response to the reviewers' suggestions we have **[summarize the key changes here]**

Agreement

Reviewer Comment: *In your analysis of the data you have chosen to use a somewhat obscure fitting function (regression). In my opinion, a simple Gaussian function would have sufficed. Moreover, the results would be more instructive and easier to compare to previous results.*

Response: **We agree with the reviewer's assessment of the analysis.** Our tailored function makes it impossible to fully interpret the data in terms of the prevailing theories. In addition, in its current form it would be difficult to tell that this measurement constitutes a significant improvement over previously reported values. **We have redone the analysis using a Gaussian fitting function.**

Disagreement

Reviewer Comment: *In your analysis of the data you have chosen to use a somewhat obscure fitting function (regression). In my opinion, a simple Gaussian function would have sufficed. Moreover, the results would be more instructive and easier to compare to previous results.*

Response: We agree with the reviewer that a simple Gaussian fit would facilitate comparison with the results of other studies. However, our tailored function allows for the analysis of the data in terms of the Smith model [Smith et al, 1998]. **We have added two sentences to the paper (page 3 paragraph 2) to explain the use of this function and Smith's model.**

Hidden questions

“The authors hypothesized to look for the pharmacokinetics of the insulin using this 4 mm needle; *however they didn't do bioequivalence analyses for glucose pharmacodynamics.* That is one of my concerns about this methodology.”

Understanding reviewer comments

“The English needs to be improved”

“Your writing is difficult to understand”

- **Grammar & spelling** ✘
- Long, complex sentences and paragraphs
- Gaps in the logic
- Poor manuscript organization
- Too much information

Free online resources

- Edanz
edanzediting.com
- Springer Exemplar
springerexemplar.com/
- Google Scholar
scholar.google.com/
- Purdue Online Writing Lab
owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/

Springer Author Academy

Springer

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Advanced Search

» *Journal Author Academy* Home > For Authors > Journal Authors > Journal Author Academy

Springer Journal Author Academy

Welcome to the **Journal Author Academy**, a guide from Springer and Edanz on writing and publishing.

You can use the links to the right or below to find advice on specific topics.

For those of you who prefer to listen to an instructor instead of reading we also provide **videos** (with Chinese and Japanese or English subtitles if you prefer).

Why publishing your work is important

Before you begin, it may be useful to remind yourself of why publishing your work is important. You might need to publish in order to graduate, get a job, or advance your career. But first take a moment to think about two of the most important aims of scientists:

- To add to the **body of human knowledge**
- To help yourself and others **understand the nature of the universe**

NAVIGATE TO...

- Journal Author Home
- How to publish your journal article
- Book Author Home
- How to publish your book

JOURNAL AUTHOR ACADEMY

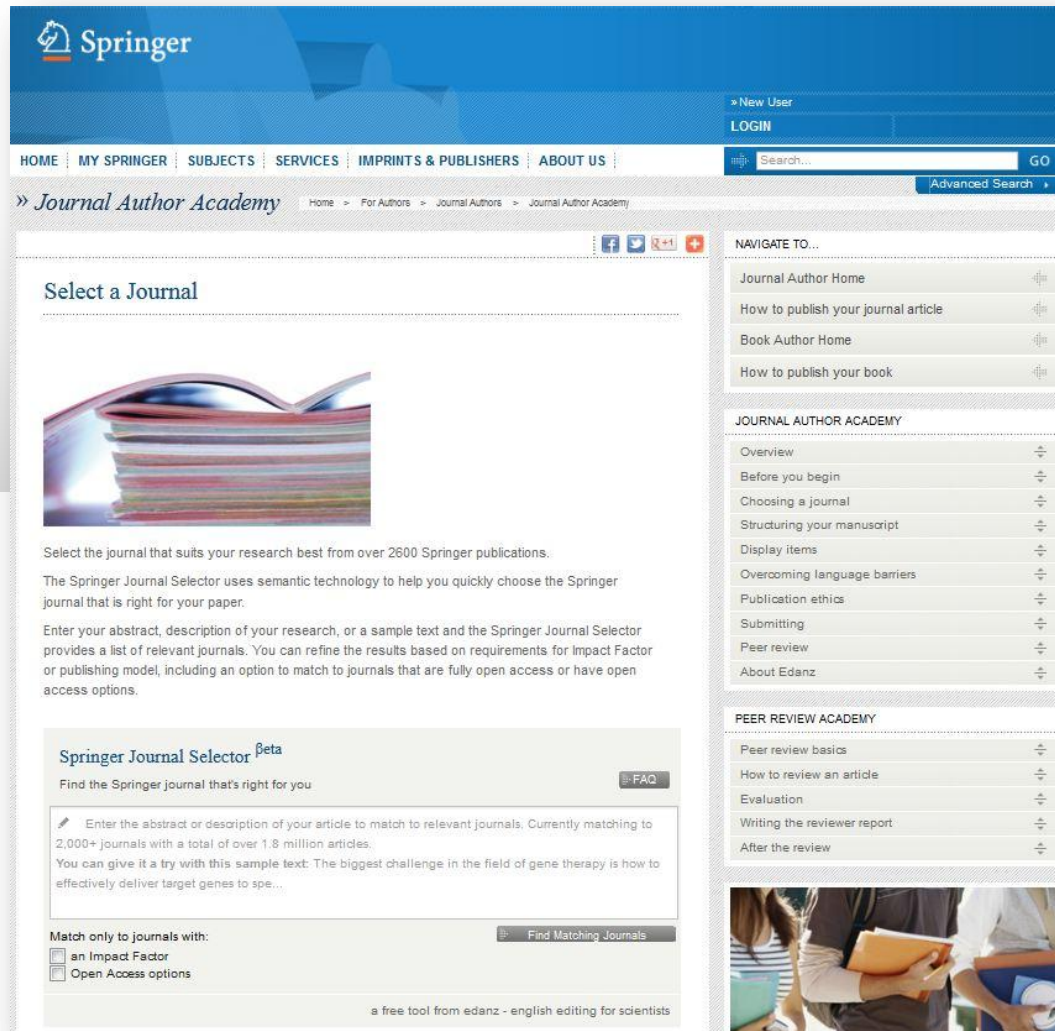
- Overview
- Before you begin
- Choosing a journal
- Structuring your manuscript
- Display items
- Overcoming language barriers
- Publication ethics
- Submitting
- Peer review
- About Edanz

PEER REVIEW ACADEMY

- Peer review basics
- How to review an article
- Evaluation
- Writing the reviewer report

Hints and tips

Free online resources



The screenshot displays the Springer Journal Author Academy website. At the top, the Springer logo is visible on the left, and navigation links for 'New User', 'LOGIN', and a search bar are on the right. Below the header, a main navigation bar includes links for 'HOME', 'MY SPRINGER', 'SUBJECTS', 'SERVICES', 'IMPRINTS & PUBLISHERS', and 'ABOUT US'. The breadcrumb trail indicates the current location: '» Journal Author Academy'.

The main content area is titled 'Select a Journal' and features an image of an open book. Below the image, the text reads: 'Select the journal that suits your research best from over 2600 Springer publications. The Springer Journal Selector uses semantic technology to help you quickly choose the Springer journal that is right for your paper. Enter your abstract, description of your research, or a sample text and the Springer Journal Selector provides a list of relevant journals. You can refine the results based on requirements for Impact Factor or publishing model, including an option to match to journals that are fully open access or have open access options.'

The 'Springer Journal Selector ^{beta}' section includes a search input field with a placeholder: 'Enter the abstract or description of your article to match to relevant journals. Currently matching to 2,000+ journals with a total of over 1.8 million articles. You can give it a try with this sample text: The biggest challenge in the field of gene therapy is how to effectively deliver target genes to spe...'. Below the search field, there are checkboxes for 'an Impact Factor' and 'Open Access options', and a 'Find Matching Journals' button.

The right sidebar contains a 'NAVIGATE TO...' section with links for 'Journal Author Home', 'How to publish your journal article', 'Book Author Home', and 'How to publish your book'. Below this is the 'JOURNAL AUTHOR ACADEMY' section with a list of topics: 'Overview', 'Before you begin', 'Choosing a journal', 'Structuring your manuscript', 'Display items', 'Overcoming language barriers', 'Publication ethics', 'Submitting', 'Peer review', and 'About Edanz'. The 'PEER REVIEW ACADEMY' section includes 'Peer review basics', 'How to review an article', 'Evaluation', 'Writing the reviewer report', and 'After the review'.

At the bottom of the page, there is a small image of people in a library or study setting. The footer contains the text 'a free tool from edanz - english editing for scientists'.

Edanz Journal Selector

The screenshot shows the Edanz website header with the logo and navigation menu. The main content area features a green banner for the 'Edanz Journal Selector beta' with a 'FREE' tag. Below the banner is a search form with a text input field and a 'Find matching journals' button. To the right of the search form is a large green arrow button labeled 'Give it a try!'. A 'Journal Advisor' box is positioned in the top right of the main content area. The footer contains the text 'We significantly increase your chances of acceptance for publication' and three circular buttons: 'Explore our services', 'Experts in your field', and 'Quote Order'.

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Enter the abstract or description of your article to match to relevant journals. Currently matching to 18,000+ journals with a total of over 23 million articles.
You can give it a try with this sample text: We describe two patients who did not experience a viral rebound after cessation of HAART which was i...

Match only to journals with:
 an Impact Factor
 Open Access options

Find matching journals

Give it a try!

a free tool from edanz – english editing for scientists

We significantly increase your chances of acceptance for publication

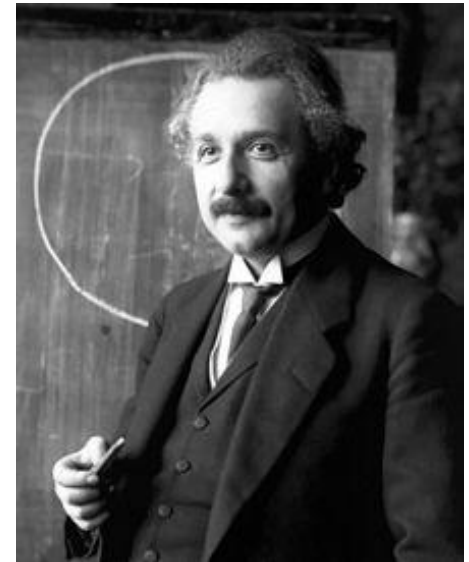
Explore our services | Experts in your field | Quote Order

Help your readers understand

“If you can’t explain something simply, you don’t understand it well.”

– Albert Einstein

- Write to express **not** impress
- Consider your audience – their native language may not be English





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Downloads and further reading



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Thank you
Good luck!



Any questions?

chris.bendall@springer.com



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