How to get published in Nature Publishing Group Journals

www.nature.com

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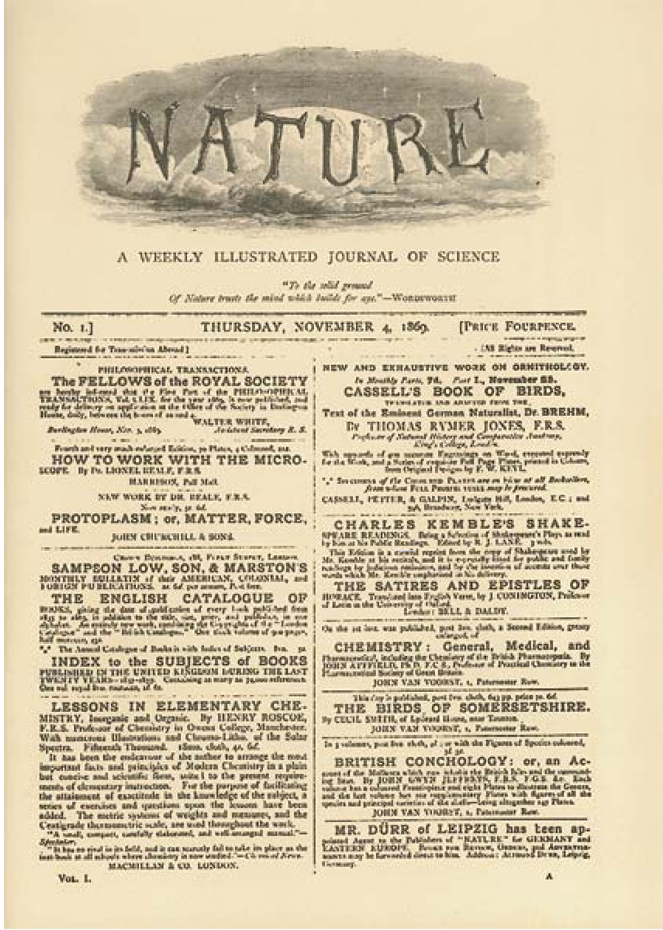
Structure of talk

1. Introduction to Nature Publishing Group (NPG)
2. NPG Nature Asia-Pacific
3. How to get published in Nature journals
4. How to get published in other NPG journals
5. Questions and Answers

Then and Now…



NATURE

A WEEKLY ILLUSTRATED JOURNAL OF SCIENCE

No. 1.] THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1869. [PRICE FOURPENCE.

PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS.

The FELLOWS of the ROYAL SOCIETY

HOW TO WORK WITH THE MICROSCOPE.

PROTOPLASM; or, MATTER, FORCE, and LIFE.

SAMPSON LOW, SON, & MARSTON'S

THE ENGLISH CATALOGUE OF BOOKS

INDEX to the SUBJECTS of BOOKS

LESSONS IN ELEMENTARY CHEMISTRY

MACMILLAN & CO. LONDON.

VOL. I.

NEW AND EXHAUSTIVE WORK ON ORNITHOLOGY.

CASSELL'S BOOK OF BIRDS,

CHARLES KEMBLE'S SHAKESPEARE READINGS.

THE SATIRES AND EPISTLES OF HORACE.

CHEMISTRY: General, Medical, and Pharmaceutical

THE BIRDS OF SOMERSETSHIRE.

BRITISH CONCHOLOGY: or, an Account

MR. DÜRR of LEIPZIG has been appointed Agent

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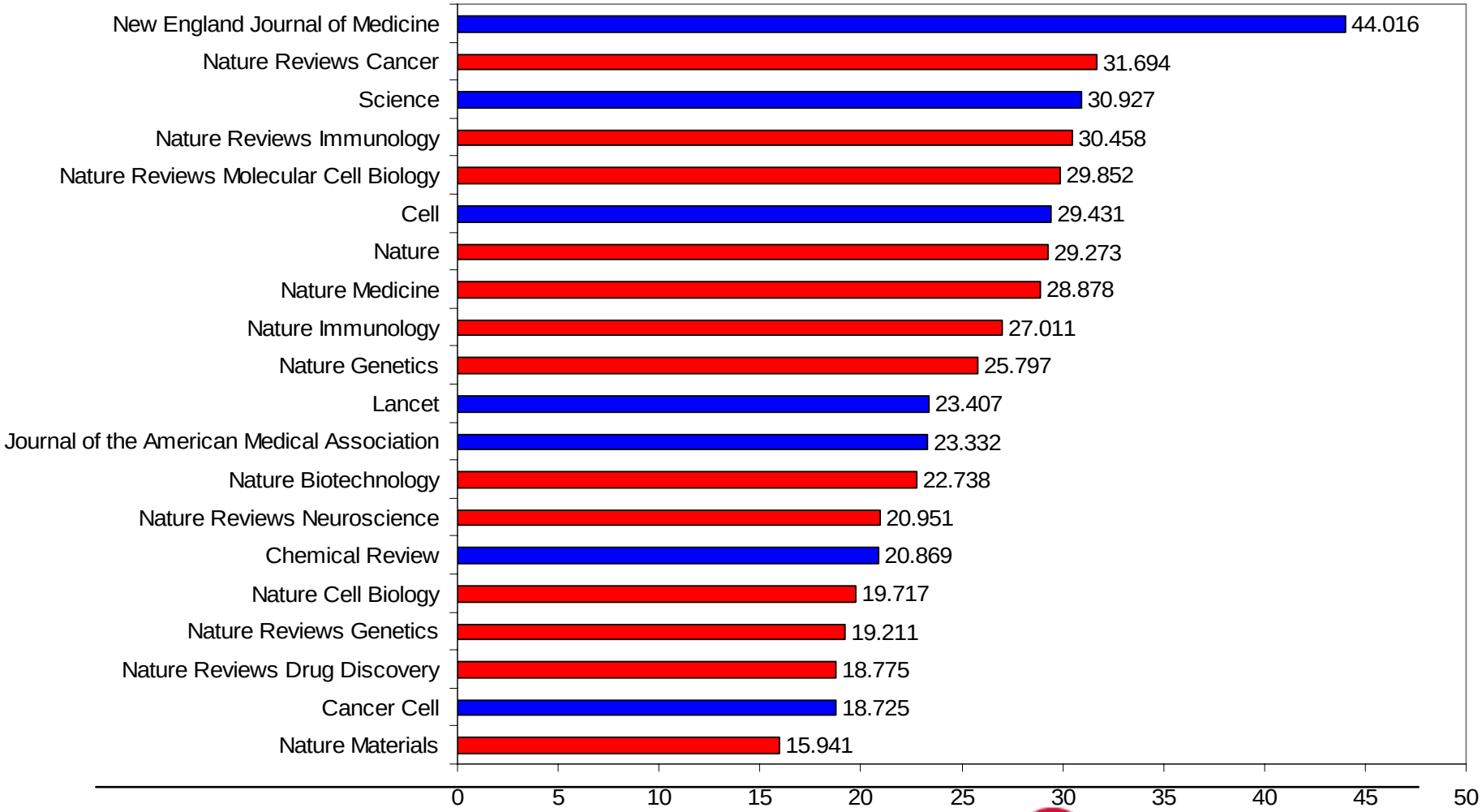
NPG Impact factors 2005



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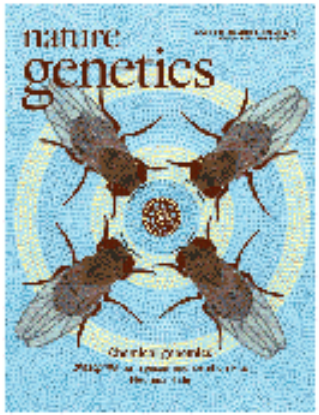
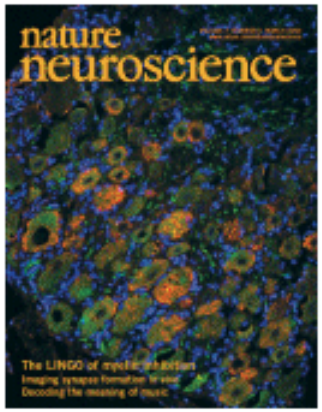
Nature monthly research journals





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Nature Reviews journals

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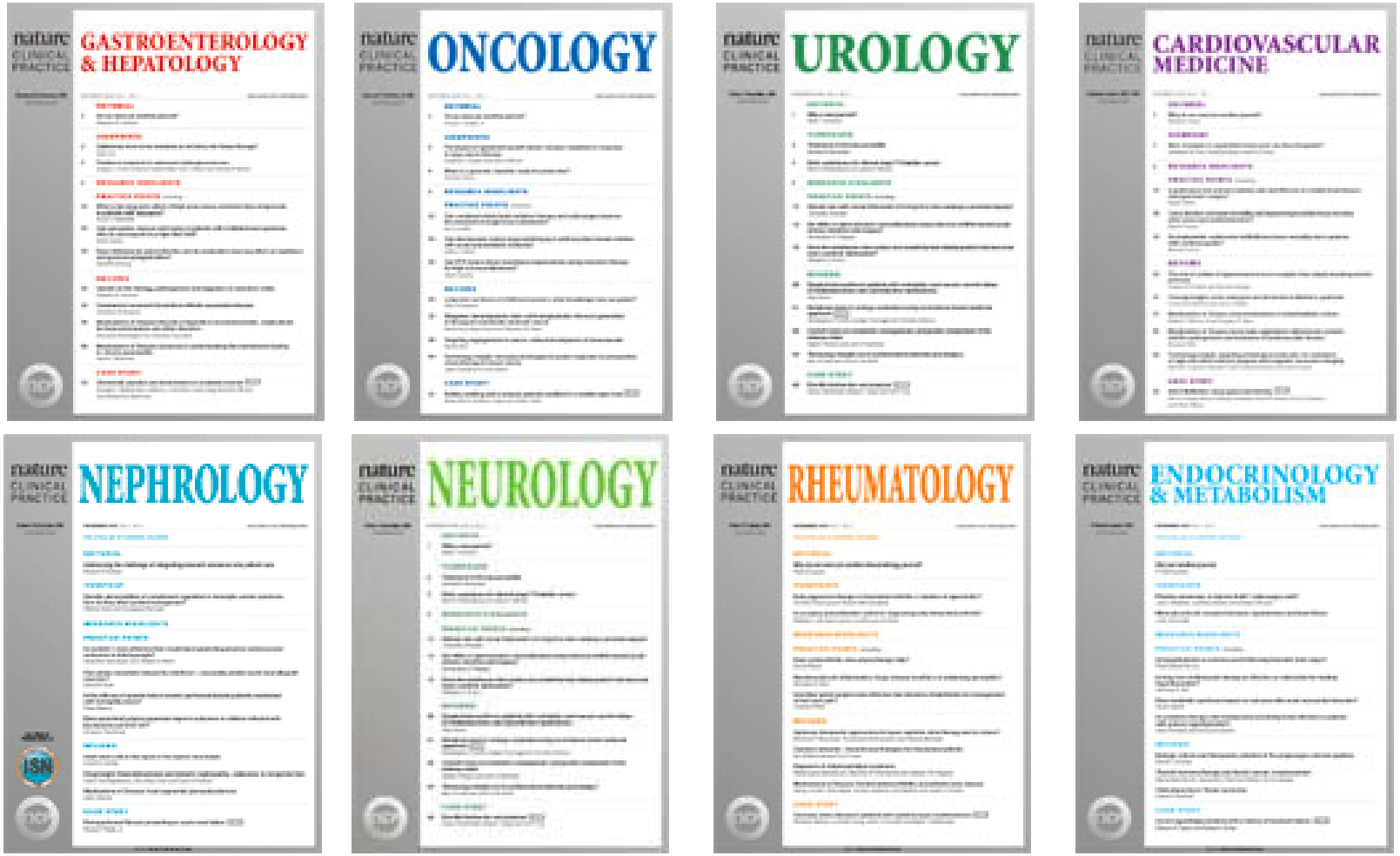
Nature Clinical Practice journals



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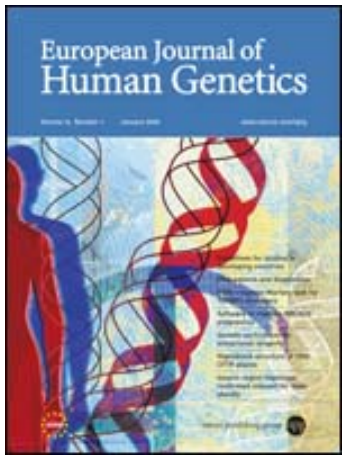
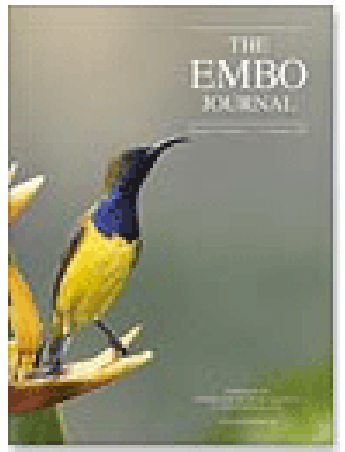
Nature Publishing Group academic journals





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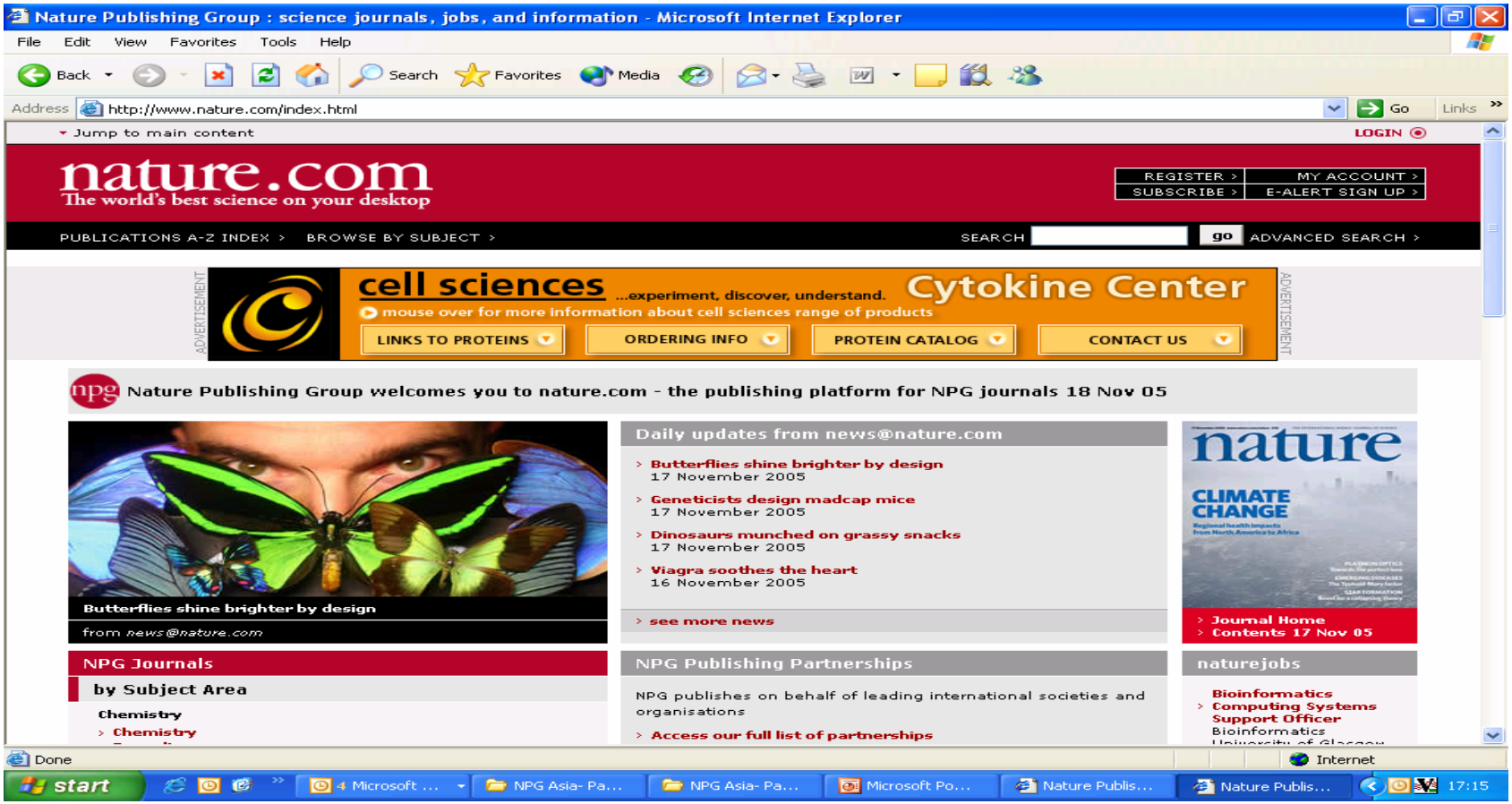
Nature Publishing Group online



NPG Nature Asia-Pacific

- Long history of Nature commitment to the region
- Growth in Nature Japan office
- January 2006: formation of NPG Nature Asia-Pacific:

nature asia-pacific npg

nature asia-pacific

- Launch of two *Nature* journals with editorial staff in the region:
  - *Nature Nanotechnology*
  - *Nature Photonics*
- Custom-publishing service
- Production of high quality journals in partnership

Journal partnerships in the Asia-Pacific

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Journal partnerships in the Asia-Pacific

- 2nd journal partnership in the Asia-pacific to be launched in January 2007

Immunology and Cell Biology

- Australasian Society for Immunology journal
- One of the highest impact journals based in Australia
- Well-respected and enthusiastic editor

Nature China website

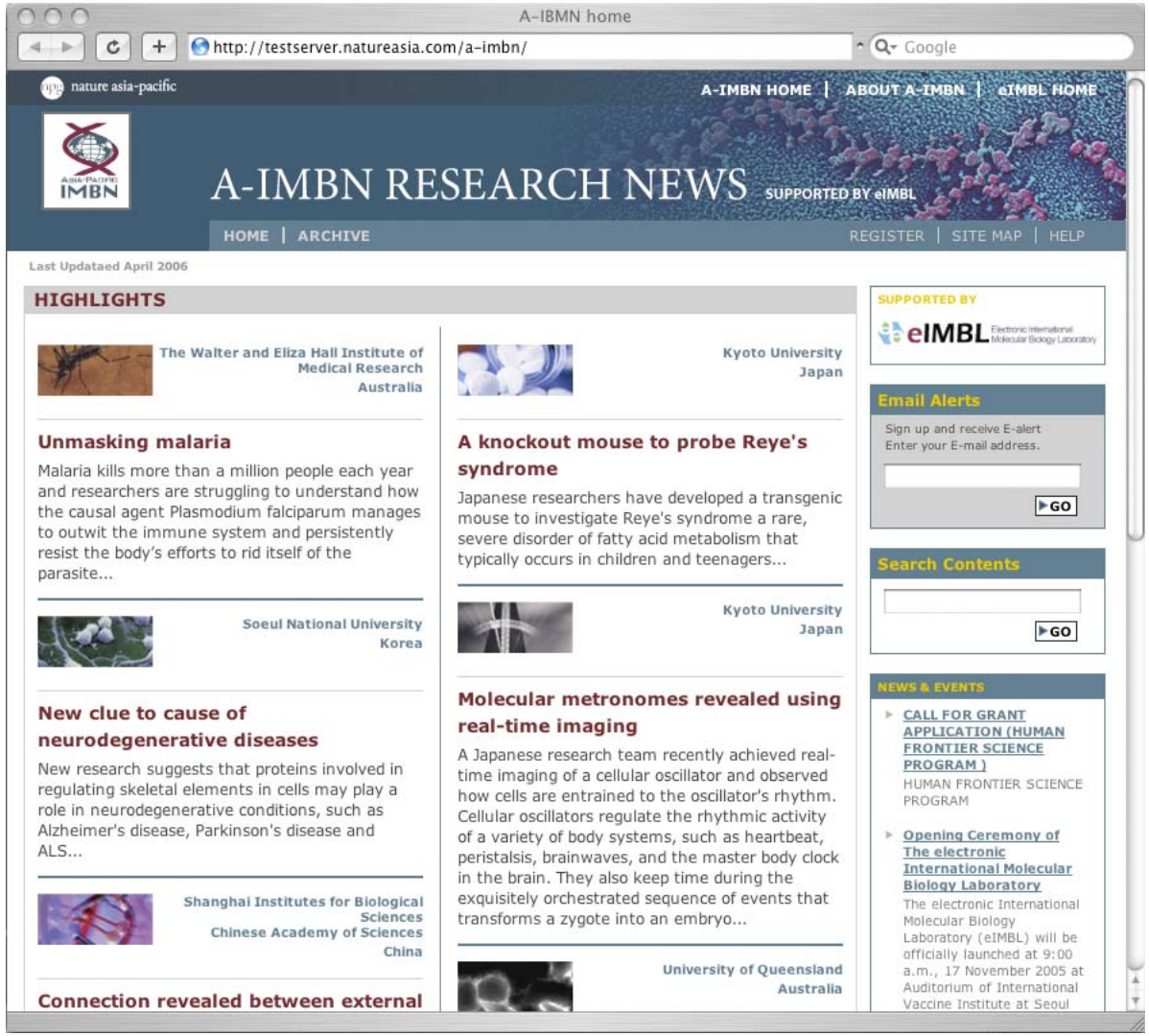
Highlighting the best of China's science

Outline

- Nature Publishing Group proposes to create an online publication highlighting the best research papers from mainland China and Hong Kong
  - *Nature* editors will scan the literature (not only *Nature* journals) to identify the top quality papers covering all areas of science
  - Editors will write concise summaries of approximately 300 words length each explaining the broad scientific and/or medical importance of these articles. We anticipate producing 30-50 summaries per month.
  - These summaries, including translations into Chinese, will be freely available and housed on www.nature.com with links to the source articles
  - A weekly email alert service to alert users to new content

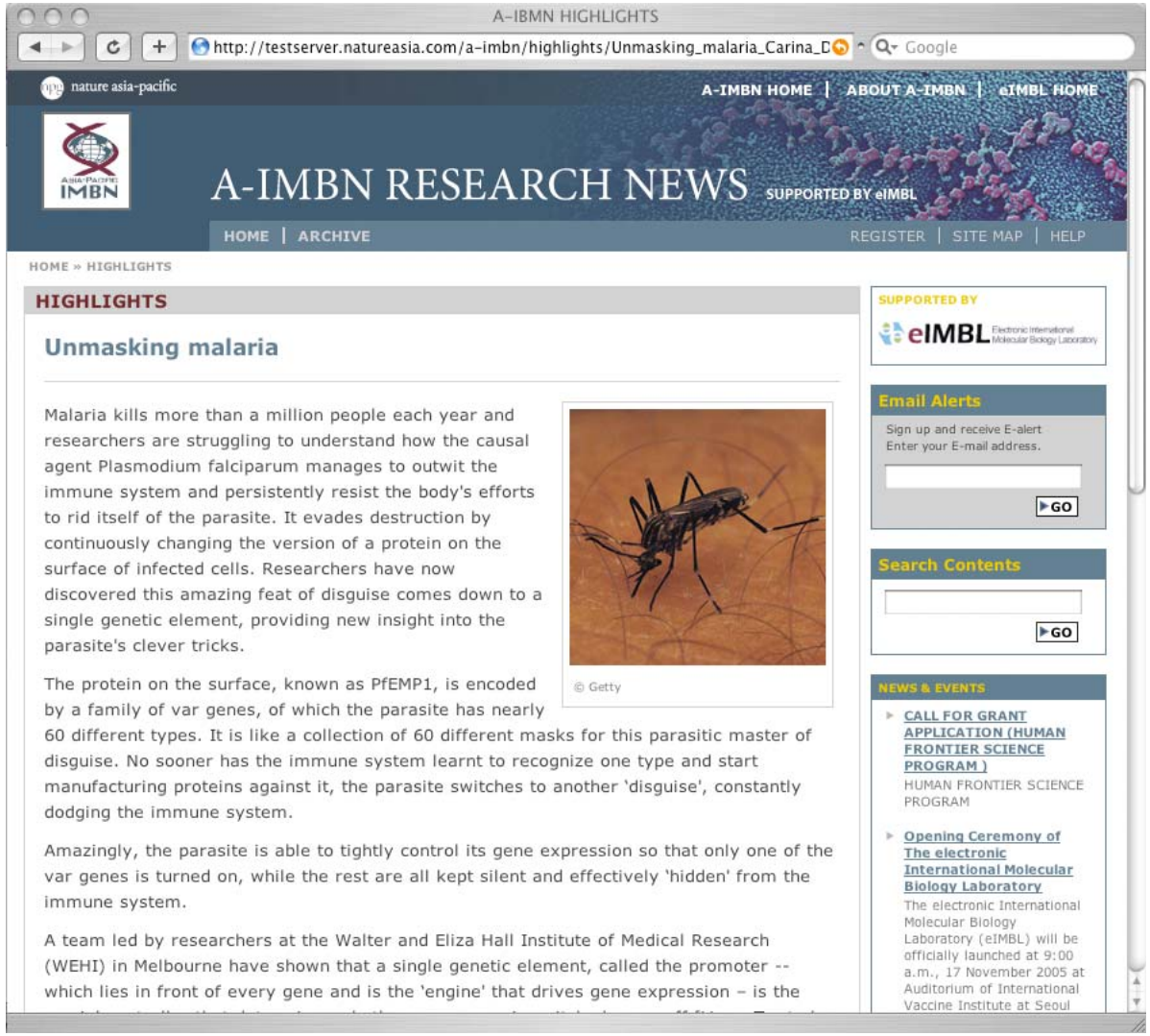
A-IMBN RESEARCH NEWS Homepage

- **Highlights: titles, institution name, first paragraph**
- **E-mail Alert registration**
- **News & Event links to A-IMBN website**
- **Graphical Link to eIMBL**



Highlight page

- **400-500 word highlight**
- **Generic image**
- **Potential for job adverts, banner ads, and additional sponsorship**



How to get published in Nature journals

Read and follow the Guide to Authors!

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Common Policies at Nature journals

- Authorship
- Deposition of data
- Sharing of materials
- Copyright
- Manuscript transfer service
- Competing financial interests
- Plagiarism
- Image integrity
- Biosecurity

Immunology. All of it.

Nature Immunology is a multidisciplinary journal

Covers a wide range of subject areas in immunology, from immune receptor signaling to microbial immunopathology

Human immunology welcome

nature immunology

What are NI editors looking for?

- Novelty
- Interest to the general immunologist
- Sizeable step forward
- Impact in the field
- Provide new directions for research
- Provide fundamental insights into the workings of the immune system

nature immunology

Elements of a “strong contender”

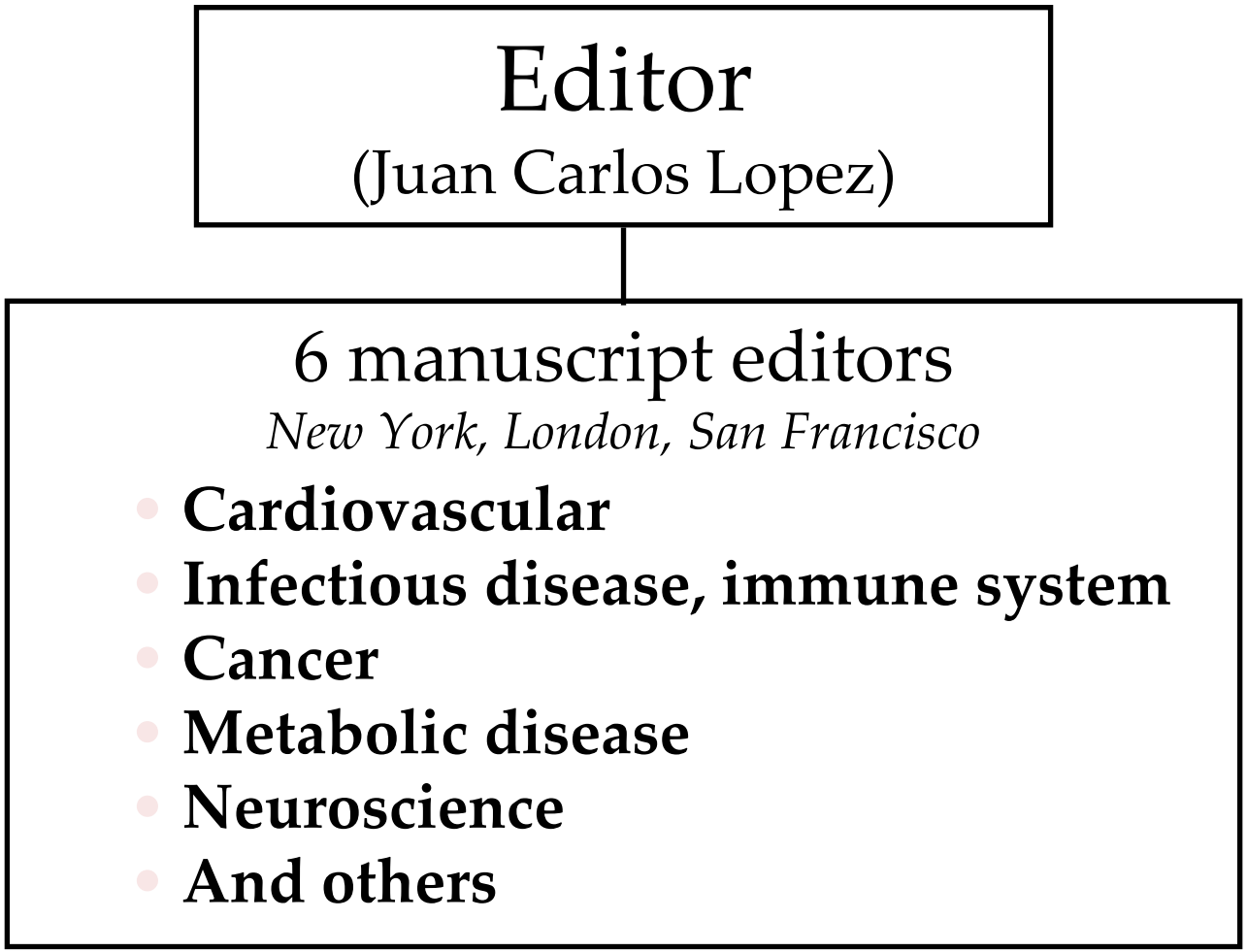
- Clear presentation of an interesting question
- Intro creates interest – why should reader care?
- Strong, well-controlled data
- Rules out some alternative explanations
- Speculation doesn’t “stretch the data”
- Discussion puts paper in perspective
- Data is significant step forward with broader implications

Reasons for rejection

- Lack of mechanistic insight
- Catalog of data
- Data do not support conclusions
- Raises many interesting possibilities, but doesn’t begin to distinguish between them
- New, but not a large enough step in field
- Lacking in significant novelty
- Only of interest to specialists in a subfield
- Experiments all performed in cell lines
- No broad conclusions

nature immunology

Nature Medicine editorial structure



nature medicine

What are we looking for?

- Important question, new concepts
- Therapeutic advances, even in the absence of conceptual advance
- Technically convincing
- Direct relevance to human disease
- Mechanistic and molecular insight
  - Mechanisms involved in disease processes
    - Relevant animal models
    - Human clinical samples or data from patients
  - New therapeutic agents or strategies
    - Mechanism of action *in vivo*

nature medicine

How does "translational research" fit in?

- Definitions:
  - "The process of applying ideas, insights and discoveries generated through basic scientific inquiry to the treatment or prevention of human disease" (NIH)
  - Taking ideas from clinical research back into experimental settings
- We are eager to publish translational research
  - Research involving humans is difficult
  - High standards should be maintained

September 2004 editorial (10:879)

nature medicine

Probably not right for NM

- Create new disease model, but have not yet used it to learn something new about the biology of the disease
- Experiments all done in cell lines, *ex vivo*
- Compound works great, but mechanism is unclear
- Gene or protein profiling
  - Provocative changes, but functional importance *in vivo* is unclear
  - For diagnostics, need prospective study, blinded samples
- Mutation identification
  - Effect of mutation on protein function or expression not clear
  - Provides limited new insight into disease process

January 2004 editorial (10:1)

nature medicine

What happens to submitted papers?

- ~280 papers received per month
- Each paper read in detail by one editor, discussed by all
- ~75-85% returned without review in 1-2 weeks
- ~15-25% are sent for review, 2-4 referees
- Decision for reviewed papers takes 4-6 weeks
- ~ 5% of submitted papers are published
  - Most reviewed more than once
  - Most are substantially revised

nature medicine

Nature Genetics Team

5 genetics editors
Senior editorial assistant
Senior copy editor
Production editor
Scientific illustrator (News and Views)
Production team
Proofreader
Web editor

Scope

Common/complex diseases

Gene networks

Cancer
Human disease genetics
Pharmacological genomics
Epigenetics
Developmental genetics
Functional genomics
Stem cell genetics
Genetic technology
Genome evolution

Get priority for your paper

Story

Is this a comprehensive and integrated set of experiments addressing a coherent and important question? *Nature Genetics* referees are rarely keen on work they can describe as preliminary, incremental or descriptive.

Abstract

How the experimental methods led to the conclusion
This is a qualitative conceptual advance over which work?
Why previous experiments have not addressed this point.

State of the art

For a geneticist, access to several datasets and robust statistical procedures.
For functional studies (molecular biology or biochemistry), first, is the basic genetics sound?
If you work with cells, do your results hold up *in vivo*?

Get priority for your paper (2)

Consult

Talk with an editor about current criteria, these evolve and are reviewed regularly by the editorial team, but may not yet have found their way into a recent editorial.

Referees

Recommended for particular expertise

Excluded for reasons of competition, recent collaboration or bias

Expediting

We can ensure fast review if given name and date of competing author or journal but we will not publish any work before it meets our standards.

Peer review

Referees

~850 in database

Many review >10 times per year and for >5 journals

Quick

Reply yes or no in 24h, return review in 7-10 days

Fair

Declare conflicts of interest whether actual or perceived

Suggest experiments that have high probability of success

Thorough

Examine the assumptions, basic data and analysis as well as conclusions

Calibrated

Have reviewed before and show they know the journal

Problem areas

Biological insight is usually the issue

Clinical report on one individual
Gene identification in model organism out of context
Pure bioinformatics
Disease model
Current version of technique
Descriptive global expression profiling
Human gene identification with sensitive/general phenotype
Oncogene/tumor suppressor gene identification in cell culture
Methylation correlation

Add value to your paper

Are your results transferrable to other disciplines?
eg. medicine, anthropology, bioinformatics, bioethics.

Sharing research materials
NCBI, GEO, ArrayExpress, BIND, HapMap etc.

MIAME - gene expression by microarray
aCGH - genome copy number changes
Genotypes - quality of data, use to others, clinical data can be separated

Submit large datasets **before** review but control access

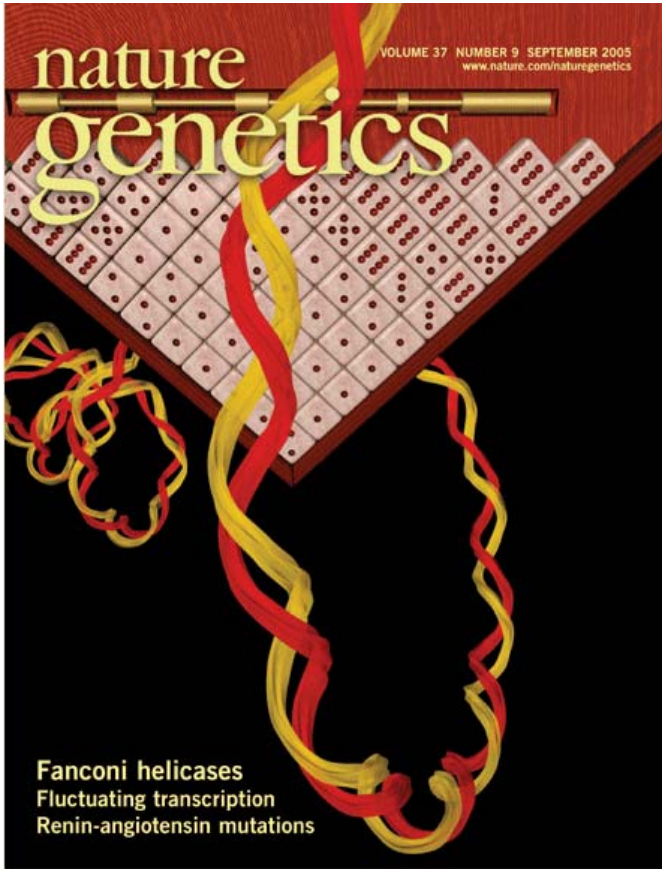
To get published in Nature journals, papers need …..

- Broad interest
- Novelty
- Unquestionable insight
- Impact in field

MS Transfer Service

- Eliminates need for author to re-input a manuscript, if they choose to submit their manuscript to another NPG journal
- Authors provided with a link in their decision letter
- Authors can choose any of the NPG journals
- If the manuscript had been reviewed at the first Nature journal, and the author chooses to send the manuscript to another Nature journal, the reviews are automatically forwarded to the next Nature journal - this can save time in the evaluation of the manuscript at the second journal.
- Authors can transfer their manuscript to any other NPG journal without submitting any new files – it is all automatic!

Easy one-step transfer



What to look for in a journal

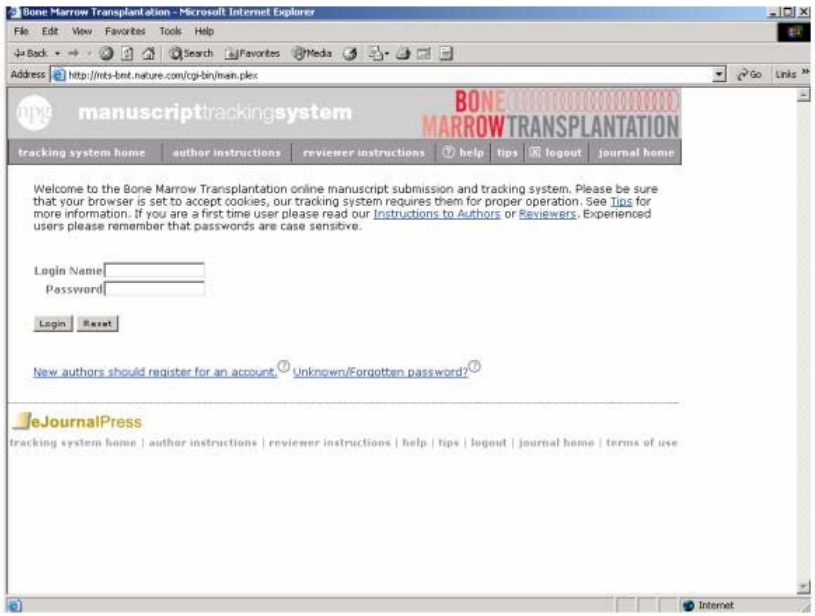
- Is your paper within the scope of the journal?
- Does the journal reach an audience appropriate for your research?
- What is the quality of other papers published?
- How easy is electronic submission?
- Will your paper be published on line?
- How quickly will your paper appear online?

Before you submit you should…

- Read the Instructions to Authors
- Ensure that all authors agree to the submission
- Confirm that your paper is not under consideration by another journal
- Remember that once accepted your paper must not be published elsewhere in the same or similar format without consent of the publishers

How to Prepare & Submit your Paper

- The majority of journals now have electronic submission – the benefits are:



How to Prepare & Submit your Paper

Before submitting your paper ensure you have available :

- All authors names, postal and e-mail addresses
- The complete manuscript with Tables and Figures
- A cover letter mentioning additional information that may be helpful for the Editor

What are Journal Editors looking for?

- Novel findings
- Clarity of data and conclusions
- Of interest to the international community
- Good standard of English
- Brevity
- Compliance with ethical standards and approval by Institutional Review Board if appropriate
- Disclosure of any possible conflicts of interests by all authors
- References complete and up-to-date

Questions and Answers