Rviews Cell Methods

For Authors
Editorial Instructions

OPEN ACCESS

Guidelines for publishing in *Cell Methods*

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Publishing in *Cell Methods* requires that the authors provide information that are related to the format of the type of article they want to publish. Guidelines are provided in this article to guide authors through the manuscript preparation for next submissions to *Cell Methods* following the editorial requirements.

Keywords: author guidelines, article types, quality standards, instructions, cell methods, resource, tools

Author guidelines

General instructions

Cell Methods proposes several formats of original primary articles, reviews, commentaries and others. We invite authors to submit manuscript regard to the types of articles accepted by *Cell Methods*. The submissions will be evaluated by the editorial team to determine whether they meet the aims and scope of *Cell Methods*. This evaluation will result in the first editorial decision. This crucial round decides whether the journal is interested to collaborate with the authors for further evaluation by external experts. Indeed, the submissions considered to be a good fit for *Cell Methods* will be further evaluated by the scientific advisors, and if required by the article type will be sent for peer reviewing before deciding the acceptance or sending back to the authors for revision. The essential information is highlighted below to allow the submission of manuscripts that meet all requirements of Cell Methods for evaluation and publication.

Before submitting a manuscript, authors are advised to check whether their manuscript suite the scope of *Cell Methods*. Authors are responsible of obtaining all permissions to publish any material included with the submission, such as photos, documents and datasets. All authors identified on the submission must consent to be identified as an author. Otherwise, some contributions can be acknowledged in the dedicated Acknowledgement section. Where appropriate, research should be approved by an appropriate ethical committee in accordance with the legal requirements of the study's country.

The editor may return the submission back to the author if it does not meet minimum standards of

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quality or if it does not fit the journal aims and scope. Before submitting, please ensure that the manuscript is structured and articulated properly in a logical manner. *Cell Methods* is for a broad readership (from students to professors in fundamental and clinical research). Thus, authors should make sure that the narrative is understandable by a broad readership in life science community.

The title and summary should be concise, structured, clear and straight to the facts. This will increase the chance for reviewers to review the manuscript. When you're satisfied that your submission meets this standard, please choose one of the following article types for your manuscript (Fig. 1), format it accordingly and follow the checklist below to prepare your submission.

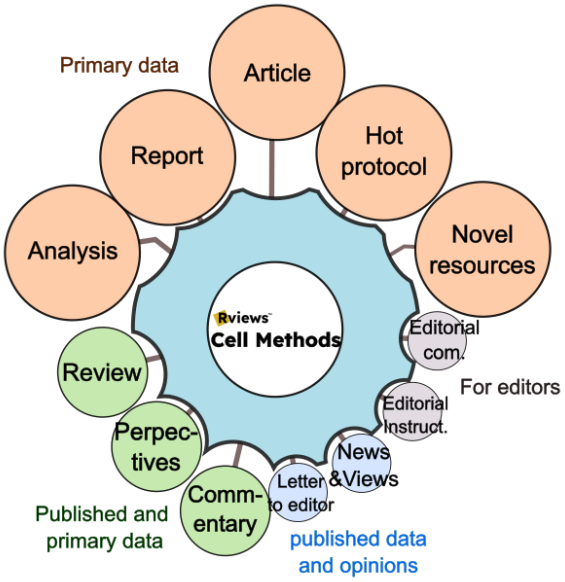

Figure 1: Article types that are accepted by Cell Methods for publication.
Most of the types of articles concern previously unpublished method data including Article, Report, hot protocol, novel resource and analysis.

Article types

Article

An *article* is a peer-reviewed article that reports and discuss the detailed description of a method or tool as well as the primary experimental results supporting its scientific relevance and reproducibility that were not previously published elsewhere. However, the method could have been used to generate data presented in an article published in a journal of Rviews Press. The data should validate the method or tool, demonstrate its reproducibility, performance compared to the existing alternatives, the possible applications in broad fields of life science.

Method article can be long as there is no word count restriction. But the narrative should be clear, understandable and followable by common scientists of the field. It is focused of the step-by-step description of the experimental procedure. This procedure can be assimilated almost to a protocol.

This type of article is suited for complex but replicable new techniques and tool that development deeded high level of expertise.

The manuscript should not be under consideration elsewhere at the time of submission.

Reference to personal communication is not allowed in this article but new hypotheses or model proposition can be formulated based on existing or newly published data to support the narratives.

Copy-edition and narrative improvements may be suggested to the authors. Graphical edition of the displayed figures may also be proposed to the authors if necessary to improve the understanding of the articles.

Accepted *articles* are published as Open Access in *Cell Methods*, thus an article publishing charge are in-principle charged to the authors.

An article should contain the following information and sections:

- ***Title*** *(90 characters max)*, maybe the main piece of conclusion of the study
- ***Author(s)****:* the name of at least one author is required. Two first or last authors with equivalent contribution is acceptable.
- ***Author contact information***: mailing addresses of the authors

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- ***Corresponding author***: at least one corresponding author and its email address. Two corresponding authors is acceptable.
- ***Summary*** (max. 150 words): concise, structured and clear with key information on the study, the main contribution of the authors, the main conclusions and their implications for life science and the future.
- ***Graphical abstract*** *(optional):* 1200 x 1200 px structured graphics summarizing the discovery or main conclusion of the study
- ***Significance highlight:*** 4-6 pullet points of the main results each of about 50-60 characters including space
- ***Keywords*** (min. 5): important for abstracting and indexing
- ***Article text*** (no word limit): Structured and clear. The text length should be reasonable for readability and clarity. The text should be composed of the following sections:
    - **Introduction:** The introduction should not be too long but should have enough contextualization for the non-specialist reader to get the rational of the initial question. This section states the background information based on the literature state-of-the-art. It explains the problem, the hypothesis and the possible ways of contributing to improve our understanding of this issue. It presents all necessary information a reader may need to grasp the main question, the approaches of the authors, the rationale of these approaches and maybe announce the possible outcome of resolving the issues.
    - **Results:** Present concisely and consistently the primary and previously unpublished results and data that the authors are reporting in the article. The structure and clarity of the demonstration and narrative are critical for a good understanding of the result. The context of the result acquisition may be of interest a well as the particularly important information needed to understand the rational of the experiments is crucial in each subheading of the result section. It is also advised to include the information on the replication and reproduction of the experiments. All information that are required for the understanding of the result should be provided or referred here and clear explanations given to the reader how to access them. It should also contain a clear conclusion that reflect whether or not the initial hypothesis was confirmed or not, or at least provide clear conclusions on the initial relevant question.
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    - **Methods (no limit of word):** A clear step-by-step and detailed explanation of the methodology used to generate the experimental data including notices of reproduction experiments and statistics. It is advised to include all ethical information, authorization and permission needed for animal experimentation and studies including human samples. For new codes and applications developed during the study, it is advised to deposit them in a suitable platform and include a working link, identifier and references.
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- ***Article tables*** (no number limit): To support the narrative and the clarity of the text. All tables should have a title, numbered in ascending order and referenced in the text as Table 1, Table 2…
- ***Declaration of interests***: The authors should declare eventual conflicts of interest or state at

least that "The author declares no financial conflict of interest."

- ***Data availability***: The authors should make a statement concerning the availability of all data used in the study that led to the presented conclusion. Standards datasets should be deposited in a relevant platform, and they include but are not limited to RNAseq, proteomics, crystal structure data. Anyway, the data should be available on an internal or external platform for eventual requests. If any part of the data is missing including those of reproduction studies, they should be declared in this section. The supplementary information can be included in PDF or XLSX formats. Supplementary videos are accepted and are published on the YouTube account of Cell Methods, Marseille, France and referenced in the article.
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- ***Corresponding author***: at least one corresponding author and its email address. Two corresponding authors is acceptable.
- ***Summary*** (max. 150 words): concise, structured and clear with key information on the study, the main contribution of the authors, the main conclusions and their implications for life science and the future.
- ***Graphical abstract*** *(optional):* 1200 x 1200 px structured graphics summarizing the discovery or main conclusion of the study
- ***Significance highlight:*** 4-6 pullet points of the main results each of about 50-60 characters including space
- ***Keywords*** (min. 5): important for abstracting and indexing
- ***Article text*** (max. 1800-2000 words): Structured and clear. The text length should be reasonable for readability and clarity. The text should be composed of the following sections:
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    - **Limitation:** clear and preferably short. All limitations in the data interpretation and the demonstration should be stated or discussed here. If there are mitigations of those limitations, it may be interesting to highlight them as well in this section. This is more disclaimer-like section which should be complementary to the discussion. It should help the readers to grasp also the difficulties that the authors faced in critical steps of the study and that may compromise partially some of the claims. It may be also fair to state in this section unexpected events that impacted the execution of some experiments that resulted in the presented data.
    - **Methods** (not included in word count limit)**:** A clear explanation of the methodology used to generate the experimental data including notices of reproduction experiments and statistics. It is advised to include all ethical information, authorization and permission needed for animal experimentation and studies including human samples. For new codes and applications developed during the study, it is advised to deposit them in a suitable platform and include a working link, identifier and references.

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- ***Declaration of interests***: The authors should declare eventual conflicts of interest or state at least that "The author declares no financial conflict of interest."
- ***Data availability***: The authors should make a statement concerning the availability of all data used in the study that led to the presented conclusion. Standards datasets should be deposited in a relevant platform, and they include but are not limited to RNAseq, proteomics, crystal structure data. Anyway, the data should be available on an internal or external platform for eventual requests. If any part of the data is missing including those of reproduction studies, they should be declared in this section. The supplementary information can be included in PDF or XLSX formats. Supplementary videos are accepted and are published on the Youtube account of Cell Methods, Marseille, France and referenced in the article.
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- ***Author contact information***: mailing addresses of the authors
- ***Corresponding author***: at least one corresponding author and its email address. Two corresponding authors is acceptable.
- ***Summary*** (max. 150 words): concise, structured and clear with key information on the study, the main contribution of the authors, the main conclusions and their implications for life science and the future.
- ***Graphical abstract*** *(optional):* 1200 x 1200 px structured graphics summarizing the discovery or main conclusion of the study
- ***Significance highlight:*** 4-6 pullet points of the main results each of about 50-60 characters including space
- ***Keywords*** (min. 5): important for abstracting and indexing
- ***Article text*** (max. 6000 words): Structured and clear. The text length should be reasonable for readability and clarity. The text should be composed of the following sections:
    - **Introduction:** The introduction should not be too long but should have enough contextualization for the non-specialist reader to get the rational of the initial question. This section states the background information based on the literature state-of-the-art. It explains the problem, the hypothesis and the possible ways of contributing to improve our understanding of this issue. It presents all necessary information a reader may need to grasp the main question, the approaches of the authors, the rationale of these approaches and maybe announce the possible outcome of resolving the issues.
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- ***Article figures*** (max 6): To support the narrative and the clarity of the text. A figure is composed of a multi/mono-panel graphic, a title and a legend. They should be numbered in ascending order and referenced in the text as Fig. 1A, B…, Fig. 2A, B…
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- ***Data availability***: The authors should make a statement concerning the availability of all data used in the study that led to the presented conclusion. Standards datasets should be deposited in a relevant platform, and they include but are not limited to RNAseq, proteomics, crystal structure data. Anyway, the data should be available on an internal or external platform for eventual requests. If any part of the data is missing including those of reproduction studies, they should be declared in this section. The supplementary information can be included in PDF or XLSX formats. Supplementary videos are accepted and are published on the YouTube account of Cell Methods, Marseille, France and referenced in the article.
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Analysis

An Analysis is a peer-reviewed article that reports the detailed methodology of comparing two or several new or established methods and analyze the performance and other relevant parameters that could be of broad interest to the life science community. The quality and ethical standards remain similar to a regular original method or tool a*rticle. Analysis article* is evaluated with the same rigor

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and transparence as an article. The analysis could also concern tools, instruments, datasets or any relevant matter of materials and methods.

The scientific as well as technical relevance and quality are key. There is a no limit of word count. The manuscript should not be under consideration elsewhere at the time of submission.

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