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Volume 1/ Issue 1, July 2024

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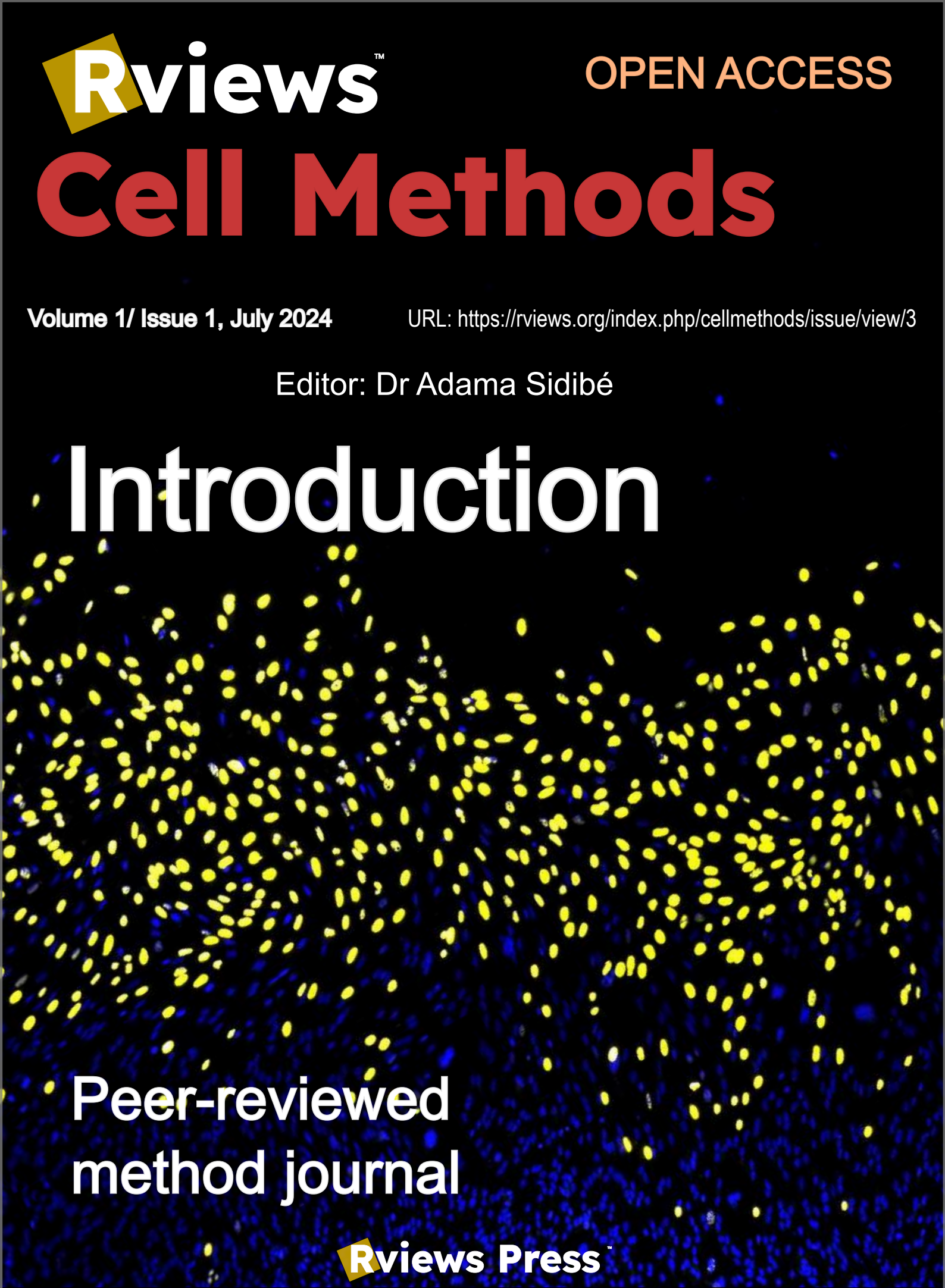
Editor: Dr Adama Sidibé

Introduction



Peer-reviewed
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Rviews Cell Methods

Policies
Editorial communications

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Editorial policies of *Cell Methods*

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***Cell Methods* is a peer-reviewed open access journal aiming at publishing original articles and reviews that present new and high-quality standards methods allowing to address current issues in life science. Here are the journal aims and the editorial policies.**

Keywords: editorial policies, aims and scope, Open Access, copyright, licensing, APC, digital preservation plans

Policies of Cell Methods

Aims

Rviews Press introduced *Cell Methods* journal to serve as the protocol, method, resource and tool publishing journal that follows our mission and vision. *Cell Methods* is a peer-reviewed open access journal that is focused on experimental methods of broad importance allowing outstanding discoveries in cell biology as well as all areas of life science. *Cell Methods* as all journals of Rviews Press promotes a responsible, transparent, rigorous and fair communication of relevant and reproductible experimental methods, resources and tools of high quality and ethical standards in step-by-step description. *Cell Methods* aims at publishing original primary, review, commentary and discussion articles of experimental processes. To allow easy replication, the detailed description of the experimental process is critical. This is indispensable for improving responsibility and the experimental reproduction by peers. *Cell Methods* follows the mission and vision of Rviews Press and is part of three sister journals (with *Cell Reviews* and *Cell Biology*) that embody the founding values of our scholarly publishing concept and model.

Cell Methods supports the vision of Rviews Press to open the public access to all scientific primary discoveries and inspire public implications in scientific knowledge acquisition.

Cell Methods journal propels an ecosystem of public spreading relevant and reproducible experimental methods as well as new tools and resources to foster public knowledge acquisition. Cell Methods shares the aims of Rviews Press to allow an equal commitment of institution-appointed researchers as well as independent scientists in a responsible scholarly publishing, identification and long-term preservation of primary scientific documents and data.

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Policies

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Scope

The scope of *Cell Methods* includes but is not limited to : original primary as well as review articles on the resources, methods and tools used in life science fields such as development, stem cell biology, metabolism, glycobiology, cell biochemistry, cell adhesions, migration, lipid and membrane biology, cell division, cell death, DNA repair, genetics, omics, translational biology, system biology, developmental biology, plant biology, gene expression, protein folding and structure, tissue stroma and matrices, cell communication, cell and microorganisms, epigenetics, organelle organization and regulation.

Cell Methods also promotes method articles of broad interest for life scientist and clinician community in the following subjects: molecular biology, microbiology, neuroscience, physiology, pathology, immunology, inflammation, mechanisms of diseases, vascular biology, cancers and oncology, chronic inflammatory diseases, biomarkers and treatment approaches, translational medicine, biotechnology, synthetic biology and new field conception in life science.

Open Access policies

As part of Rviews Press journals, *Cell Methods* promotes editorial policies that are compliant with the Plan S initiative for Open Access publishing.

The Plan S is an initiative of the cOAlition S[1], which is an international consortium of national research funding organisations that received support from the European Commission. Plan S supports that all scientific publications resulting from research funded by all private and public grants must be published in Open Access journals or platforms since 2021.

Cell Methods requires the authors to understand and agree with the fact that once accepted and published in Open Access, their materials including but not limited to articles, resources, tools, associated images or data, will be freely accessible by anyone under the license Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY)[2]. This means that anybody will be free to use, modify and redistribute in any form possible on condition that the primary authors are credited of the authorship of the original work and publication.

Consistent with the vision of Rviews Press, Cell Methods endorses the full free public access to primary scientific publications and the total disposal for reanalysis, reproducibility study and fostering the public learning of relevant and reproducible experimental methods and implications in knowledge acquisition.

Copyright and licensing policies

The authors of articles published in *Cell Methods* retain the copyright at no extra cost after the article publishing charge (APC) payment or its waiver in agreement with the journal office.

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Article Processing Charges

Cell Methods applies article processing charges (APC) to cover the cost of the editorial process, persistent identification, indexing, global distribution through networks and libraries, and the long-term preservation of the articles published in the journal. Rviews Press uses the APC application as a sustainable financial model that support the free access of the public to costly produced scientific articles and sustain the accomplishment of our mission.
Thus, for none-invited articles, *Cell Methods* applies a transparent APC that is fixed by the journal office in advance and in agreement with Rviews Press, and visibly posted on the journal homepage.

The APC for suitable articles in *Cell Methods* can also be found in the “About Cell Methods” section of the journal website. This is also announced to

Editorial communication

the author during submission and throughout the different editorial steps. The payment of APC or its waiver is formally due before publication.

Authors from low-income countries and APC waivers

Cell Methods participates in the pricing accommodation policies of Rviews Press to encourage the active implication of scientists in financial needs or researchers from low-income countries in the global knowledge acquisition. Cell Methods encourage authors in demonstrated financial need and those from low-income countries to publish quality original primary or review articles.

Indeed, Rviews Press promotes responsible and fair scholarly publishing in life science community providing the same opportunity to all institutional and independent scientists around the world, without any distinction of origin, gender, financial situation, belonging institutions or independency. Only the reel science and knowledge matters.

Thus, *Cell Methods* provides APC waivers or discount to authors from low-income economy countries, lower middle-income economy countries, as well as authors with demonstrated needs[3].

Editorial timeline

Cell Methods aims at accelerating the communication of primary discoveries in life science. *Cell Methods* supports a rapid editorial process and publishing articles without compromising the rigor needed for high-quality standards in evaluation and copyediting. We aim at offering a rapid and effective article processing for an enhanced publishing experience.

The editorial timeline for a peer-reviewed manuscript is as follows:

- Editorial initial decision: **6 days**
- Peer-review evaluation: **2-3 weeks**
- Editorial development and production: **1-2 week**s

This is an estimated timeline of the editorial process from submission to publication online. The actual timeline may be different and may reflect specific cases.

Cell Methods in line with Rviews Press mission supports the formation of early career life scientist in the reviewing and improvement of scholarly research primary articles for high quality, timely and rapid publishing experience.

Long-term digital preservation policies

Cell Methods adheres to the archiving and preservation policies of Rviews Press. The journal uses two long-term preservations and self-archiving plans:

- The Public Knowledge Project preservation Network (PKP PN) through the LOCKSS network.[4,5]
- The internet Archives initiative[6].

The published issues and the articles are automatically dark archived through PKP PN process. The published volumes are annually archived through the Internet Archives plan.

Reviewing policies

Cell Methods follows a reviewing policy that is compliant with the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), the International Committee of Medical Journal Editor (ICMJE) according to the Mission and vision of Rviews Press[7–9].

By submitting, the authors attest that neither the manuscript nor the associated contents were previously published and that they are not under consideration for publication elsewhere. However, we encourage reproduction study reports but should be clearly exposed in the manuscript key sections such as title, abstract and in the background information section.

Cell Methods supported by Rviews Press uses several open-source and commercial tools for

Policies

Editorial communication

plagiarism detection during evaluation. Scientific misconduct including data fabrication, falsification, non-declaration of conflicts of interest and plagiarism are taken seriously and will be addressed following the guidelines of necessary authorities.

All manuscripts are evaluated or moderated by editors and/or external experts prior to publication, excepted the two types of articles mainly published by members of the editorial team namely: Editorial instructions and Editorial communications. This policy is explained for each type of article in the guidelines for authors[10].

Briefly, the submitted manuscripts undergo the initial evaluation by the handling editor to check for the journal quality standards and fitting within *Cell Methods* aims and scope. The authors are notified for the editorial decision whether to pursue with further scientific, technical and ethical evaluations through peer-reviewing. The peer-reviewing steps in *Cell Methods* aims at evaluating the methods and the resulting results as well as reproducibility data. This may allow the building of a strong story by the authors with forward-looking perspectives in collaboration with the editors and the peer-reviewers. Correspondences are established between the authors, editors and reviewers until the manuscript complies with the highest quality standards for publication in Cell Methods. The manuscript is then accepted, copyedited and published in agreement with the authors, editors and reviewers.

Cell Methods and Rviews Press recognize the effort and expertise provided by the reviewers and academic editors during the manuscript evaluation as well as through the editorial development process. Thus, the names of the editors and reviewers are included in a dedicated special section within the published article allowing them to record and track their roles through several services including ORCID, ResearchGate, LinkedIn and others.

In addition, Rviews Press provides the editorial advisors and reviewers with incentives including APC waivers, credits and discounts on their own publications in our journals. In the cases of independent or professional reviewers, the gratification can be cash to encourage further participation of qualified enthusiastic independent scientists in the process.

Rviews Press through *Cell Methods* aims at fostering the commitment of young researchers and independent researchers. Thus, we solicitate the implication of earl career life scientists also in the evaluation and editorial processes.

Post-publication discussion

Cell Methods encourages discussion of a published articles for free through Correspondence and News&Views articles that are assessed and if accepted will be published under the CC BY license.

Declaration of interests

Adama Sidibé is the Editor-In-Chief of *Cell Reviews, Cell Biology and Cell Methods*, three sister journals of Rviews Press, Marseille, France.

Adama Sidibé is the founder of Rviews Press.

This document declares the policies governing the editorial process of the journal: *Cell Methods* (Marseille, France). This is consistent with the mission and vision of Rviews Press supporting its foundation.

Declaration concerning generative AI use

The author declares that no generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools were used to make this manuscript.

Citing the article

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9. ICMJE ICMJE | Home. https://www.icmje.org/.

10. Sidibé, A. (2024). Guidelines for publishing in Cell Methods. Cell Methods *1*, 6–26. https://doi.org/10.70296/cm-1gs81qbrtr.

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For Authors
Editorial Instructions

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Guidelines for publishing in *Cell Methods*

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DOI: 10.70296/cm-1gs81qbrtr

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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Editorial instructions

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.

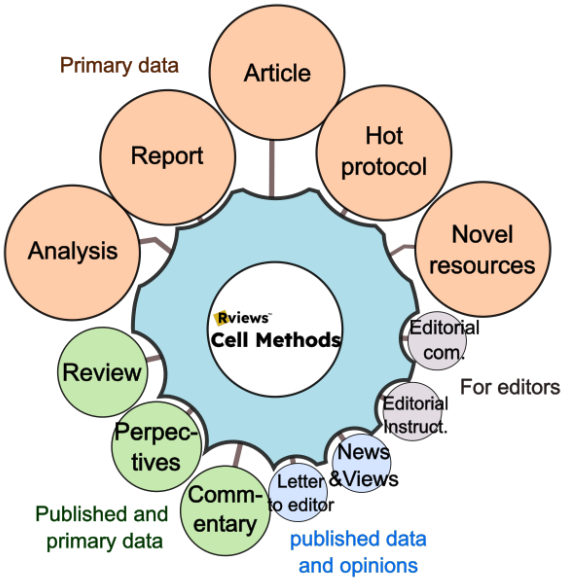

Figure 1: Article types that are accepted by Cell Methods for publication.
Most of the types of articles concern previously unpublished method data including Article, Report, hot protocol, novel resource and analysis.

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

For 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.
    - **Discussion:** Discuss the data presented in regard to the current knowledge on the subject in the available literature. It also includes alternative models and explanations of the data presented although the authors may not defend them. It could contain conclusions and positioning of the understanding regarding what is known and unknown currently in given contexts.

    - **Limitation:** no limit in word count but 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 (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.
    - **List of resources:** a list of all resources used in the study.
- ***Article figures*** (no number limit): 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…
- ***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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Report

A *report* is a peer-reviewed article that have all the characteristic of an *article* but in a more concise, short and condensed form. However, the quality and ethical standards remain similar to a regular original method or tool a*rticle.* A report is evaluated with the same rigor and transparence as an article. Reports discuss the primary experimental results that were not previously published elsewhere. The method or tool should be of broad interest in life science. It may describe a groundbreaking method or tool that showed reproducible results although all aspects have not been studied yet. This could be also about broadly interesting, reproduced method at earlier phases of development but promising for the community. This type of article is suited for an article in its condensed form with few necessary data of reproduction. The scientific as well as technical relevance and quality are key. There is a limit of word. The manuscript should not be under consideration elsewhere at the time of submission.

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

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An analysis should contain the following information and sections:

- ***Title*** *(90 characters max)*, maybe the main piece of conclusion of the study
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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. 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:
    - **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.
    - **Discussion:** Discuss the data presented in regard to the current knowledge on the subject in the available literature. It also includes alternative models and explanations of the data presented although the authors may not defend them. It could contain conclusions and positioning of the understanding regarding what is known and unknown currently in given contexts.

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    - **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.

- **List of resources:** a list of all resources used in the study.

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- ***Article figures*** (1-2 figures): To support the narrative and the clarity of the text. It could be maximum 2 figures if needed for the understanding of the text narrative. Figure should have a title and short explanation of the graphic in the legend. They should be numbered in ascending order and referenced in text as Fig. 1A, B…, Fig. 2A, B…,
- ***Article tables*** (1-2 tables): To support the narrative and the clarity of the text. The resting number of tables depend on that of already included figures. A total of two tables or figures is allowed. 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.",
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Commentary articles report a though-provoking views of an internal or external experts on the technical, scientific, ethical, legal, commercial, political features of existing or completely new concept or model in a field of life science in general and cell biology in particular. The proposal should be realistic, and the discussion balanced with the different conceptual possibilities. It is encouraged to support a major part of the commentary by published articles or data, preprint manuscripts or all materials that can be accessed in print or online. *Commentary articles* are indicated for setting a forum to discuss original and pioneering concepts, technical, molecular and therapeutic tools, as well

For Authors

Editorial instructions

as methodological advancements. It is highly recommended for hot and timely developing topics.

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- ***Keywords*** (min. 5): important for abstracting and indexing,
- ***Article text*** (no word limit): Structured and clear. At the discretion of the editor,
- ***Article figures*** (no number limit): 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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Before submission to *Cell Methods*, the authors should check that:

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- All supporting documents, all primary materials (articles and data) are available, or the missing

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part is clearly stated in the data availability section allowing fair and global evaluation of the manuscript by the editors and the reviewer. It is advised to deposit the standardized data on an adequate platform that is accessible to all. If needed, the author can place an embargo to avoid release before the article publication. Don't hesitate to contact the editorial office for any question about the data availability cellmethods@rviews.org or support@rviews.org

- All references are accurate, complete and follow the *Cell Reviews (Zotero and endnote versions of style is linked above)* or Vancouver styles, available in most referencing applications and softwares.
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- All necessary legal information and permissions have been included in the manuscript, the photographs in figures, artworks and necessary materials provided with the submitted documents.

Declaration of interests

Adama Sidibé is the Editor-In-Chief of *Cell Reviews, Cell Biology and Cell Methods*, three sister journals of Rviews Press, Marseille, France.

Adama Sidibé is the founder of Rviews Press.

This document instructs on the formatting, the scientific and ethical quality standards for publication in *Cell Methods* (Marseille, France).

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Rviews Cell Biology

For Editors and Reviewers
Editorial instructions

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Information for editors and reviewers of *Cell Methods*

Adama Sidibé[1,*,#]

[1]-Editor-in-Chief of Cell Methods, Rviews Press, 13010, Marseille, France

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The commitment of experts in the evaluation of research articles is crucial for an effective publishing experience. *Cell Methods* relies on internal and external life scientists to rigorously and transparently evaluate the publication materials. Herein, the expert roles and competences are defined. Guidelines are provided for consistent and objective reviewing.

Keywords: editorial advisors, editors, reviewers, evaluations, manuscripts, guidelines

Role definition in editorial process

Editors and advisors

Cell Methods (Marseille, France) relies on the objectivity and rigor of editorial team members including external editorial advisors. The editorial process of the manuscripts is ensured by at least one internal editor of Rviews Press depending on the availability of the editors. The roles in the editorial team are defined following the recommendations of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and Public Knowledge Project (PKP)[1,2].

Editor-in-Chief

The Editor-in-Chief defines, coordinates and ensures the editorial process of article publication in *Cell Methods* according to the journal editorial line and in agreement with the missions and vision of Rviews Press. The editor-in-chief is appointed and evaluated by Rviews Press. The editor-in-chief is responsible for building the editorial team by inviting external experts to join the editorial advisory board and may be assisted by managing and section editors in agreement with Rviews Press policies. The editor-in-chief can assume all roles and responsibilities in the editorial team as needed and according to the availability of assisting editors.

The editor-in-chief ensures that:

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For Editors and Reviewers

Editorial instructions

- Effective efforts are deployed toward the aim and scope of *Cell Methods*.
- The journal strategy is continuously reviewed and redefined to improve the editorial process.
- The external experts are qualified and diverse for playing consistent advisory or reviewer roles.
- The promotion of *Cell Methods* is effective and directed to authors and readers.
- Editorial advisors and reviewers get adequate recognition and credit of their contribution in the editorial process and article improvement.
- All submitted manuscripts are equally considered and evaluated through a transparent and fair manner in line with the journal policies
- All authors are equally considered with no regard to their origin, gender, revenues, belonging to institutions or independency. This is consistent with Rviews Press and the journal policies.
- Accepted articles are timely published, indexed and preserved in long-term plans in the adequate forms on relevant platforms.

The role of editor-in-chief of *Cell Methods* can be assumed by individuals qualified by Rviews Press as holding all the necessary qualifications for getting the journal to a higher level according to the journal objectives and the mission and vision of Rviews Press.

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The managing editor of *Cell Methods* ensures the fluidity of the editorial operations and keeps the editors, advisors, reviewers and authors on schedule. The managing editor make sure that a rapid decision is taken regarding the manuscript at any step of the editorial process and can constitutes with the editor-in-chief the intermediate contact between authors, reviewers and section or guest editors.

The roles of managing editor include but are not limited to:

- Outlooking the daily operations
- Serving as intermediate between authors, editors and reviewers
- Making reports to the editor-in-chief about everything related to the journal
- Supervising the assignment of manuscripts to handling editors
- Ensuring decision delivery on schedule
- Improving the fluidity of editorial operation. If needed, survey and necessary actions can be used.
- Proposing names for joining the section editorial board, advisory board and reviewer board.

As for the editor-in-chief, the managing editor role in *Cell Methods* can be played by individuals with the necessary qualifications and suggested by the editor-in-chief to Rviews Press for appreciation. The appointment of the managing editor is finally decided by the editor-in-chief in agreement with the mission and vision of Rviews Press.

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The section editor in *Cell Methods* ensures the handling of submissions, their editorial evaluation, peer reviewing and decides on the acceptance or revision of the manuscript. They report to the editor-in-chief and ensures that all necessary actions are taken for the copy-editing of articles. The section editor and the editor-in-chief decide on the interest of a manuscript for the editorial line of *Cell Methods*, acceptance or rejection of an article.

The roles of section editor are further defined in agreement with the editor-in-chief and include but are not limited to:

- Serving as the main handler of submissions
- Ensuring the progression of manuscript on schedule during the editorial process
- Choosing the qualified reviewers either from the reviewer board or external reviewer
- Proposing thematic or special issues of the journal

- Main contact between the authors, reviewers and the editorial team during the editorial process
- Making decisions during the editorial evaluation and after peer review.
- Reporting special situations of the authors to the editor-in-chief for consideration regarding their finance, position, conflict of interest, ethical concerns etc…

The section editors in Cell Methods are individuals with the necessary qualifications for judging the quality, ethics, novelty and relevance of articles in life science. The section editors are suggested by the editor-in-chief to Rviews Press for appreciation. The section editor is appointed by Rviews Press in agreement with the editor-in-chief.

Occasionally, a guest editor role can be assigned to an external expert by the managing editor in agreement with the editor-in-chief to assemble manuscripts treating a given subject in a special issue. For this specific special issue, the guest editor takes on all the roles and responsibilities of a section editor. In agreement with the editor-in-chief, she/he can be discharged of some functions and responsibility according to her/his availability.

Editorial advisor

Cell Methods relies also on external experts in life science who agreed to advise the journal in the development of its editorial line to reflect the current needs in fundamental and clinical research fields, advance the strategic positioning decided by the editor in chief and progress the mission of Rviews Press. The editorial advisors are solicitated by the section editors or the editor-in-chief to be advised on a manuscript, an issue as well as editorial line development. Editorial advisors can also make spontaneous proposals and suggestions to section editors or to the editor-in-chief regarding articles, issues and editorial line. As for all roles in the editorial process of *Cell Methods*, the editorial advisors are recognized, and they are credited of their contributions in the most relevant manner. The execution of this measure is ensured by the editor-in-chief.

The role of the editorial advisor is further defined by the editor-in-chief and include but is not limited to:

- Advising on manuscripts, issues, editorial lines, reviewing and other part of the editorial process
- Make proposal aiming at supporting the effort and objectives of *Cell Methods* and Rviews Press
- participate in the evaluation of article during editorial process

The editorial advisors are qualified experts in the fields of life science as appreciated by the editor-in-chief and Rviews Press. They are suggested by section editors or the editor-in-chief to Rviews Press for appreciation and approval. The editorial advisors are named by Rviews Press.

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Cell Methods (Marseille, France) also relies on the contributions of external experts in fields of life science to serve as peer reviewers. The peer reviewers are part of our esteemed and valued community that evaluates and proposes improvements of the quality of the published materials in *Cell Methods*. The peer reviewers are solicitated by the section editor or the editor-in-chief to evaluate a manuscript on schedule with objectivity, rigor, transparency and fairness anonymously, and under confidentiality. If the manuscript is accepted after improvement suggested by the peer reviewer, it is proposed to the reviewer to include her/his name in the endorsed article in a dedicated section.

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- Evaluating the manuscript following the review guidelines (see below)
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- Communicate its appreciation in the form of a report in English
- Promote the novelty or discuss the limitation of an evaluated manuscript

For Editors and Reviewers

Editorial instructions

The peer reviewers are qualified external scientists (early or advanced in career, institutional or independent) with strong attention to detail, knowledge in fields of life science and the current technical and research trends, experience in reviewing scientific manuscripts, written communication skills and capability of punctuality and working under pressure. Each review in *Cell Methods* is awarded of a certificate, incentives in form of publishing credit or cash for independent experts in agreement with the editorial office and the mission of Rviews Press to promote sustainable implication and recognition of all players in the development of knowledge acquisition.

Initial editorial evaluation

The initial editorial evaluation aims at checking whether the submitted manuscript is of interest for *Cell Methods* and ensuring its compliance with the journal quality and ethical standards. This initial evaluation of the submission is consistent with the policies and procedures of *Cell Methods* regarding new submissions. The assigned section editor or the editor-in-chief oversee the initial editorial evaluation which is the most stringent step of manuscript selection. The editor ensures that the timeline defined in *Cell Methods* policies is respected. A rapid but motivated decision is made by the editor who informs the author about the decision regarding the submission. This decision can be rejection, acceptance or pursuing with the necessary rounds of peer reviewing followed or not by revisions and editorial improvements as well as copy-editing. Implication of managing editors is advised to ensure the delivery of a motivated decision on schedule to the authors. The approach for the initial evaluation and decision on new submissions is coordinated and supervised by the editor-in-chief. If needed, an editorial advisor can be solicitated to advise on specific points on the manuscript before the initial decision.

Reviewing for *Cell Methods*

The peer review process is an excellent opportunity for an external trusted expert to evaluate, appreciate, and provide comments on new manuscripts accepted for review in *Cell Methods*. These manuscripts that passed the initial editorial evaluation step are in-principle of interest for *Cell Methods* but may need to be further externally evaluated for technical, ethical and contextual aspects as well as the timeliness of their publication in regard to the current standards in life science and subdomains. This is also a good opportunity to suggest improvement of the manuscript to the highest quality standards in the field thanks to the reviewer feedback.

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In principle a minimum of **two** reviewer endorsements including that of the handling editor is required for formal acceptance in-principle of a manuscript.

Below are outlined some guidance for helping the reviewer during the peer review process.

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The reviewer can suggest to the editor a colleague or collaborator because of expertise, availability or opportunity of learning (e.g. a student looking for experience in manuscript evaluation). But the reviewer should not directly share with anybody including but not limited to students under her/his supervision, colleagues or collaborators. In addition, should not use the data of the reviewed manuscript for their own purposes unless they are officially asked by the editor to contribute a News and Views article to be published with the reviewed article. If accepted and published, the data and article distributed by *Cell Methods* in Open Access under the CC BY[3] license can be used by anyone including the authors, editors and reviewers.

Evaluation based on editorial policies

The reviewers are asked to be familiar with the editorial policies of *Cell Methods*[4]. The reviewers are mainly solicitated for further evaluation of the technical, ethical, transparent and scientific aspects of manuscripts. The review solicitation is a formal proof of the interest of *Cell Methods* for the subject and the manuscript.

For Editors and Reviewers

Editorial instructions

The aim of the reviewing process is to highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the manuscript in order to help the editor and the author to understand what is accomplished and what is needed to be addressed for proposing an article of the highest quality and ethical standards for publication (Figure 1). The participation of reviewers is highly appreciated in this constructive improvement and development of an impactful publication.

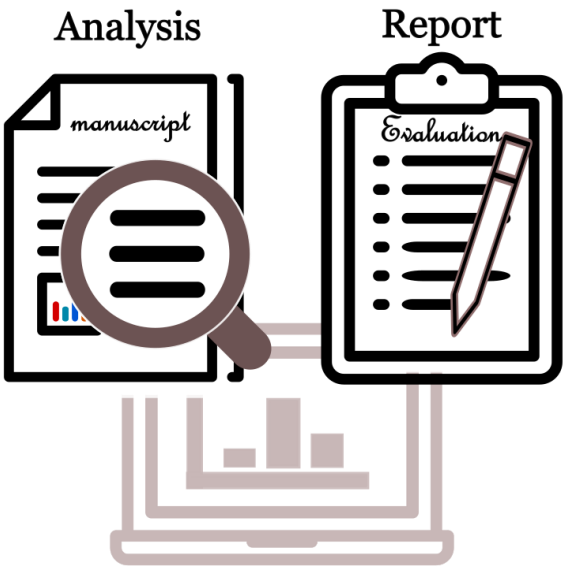

Figure 1: Reviewing a Cell Methods submission
Reviewing for Cell Methods consists in analysing and evaluating the manuscript to eventually make proposal of improvement if necessary

Therefore, we ask that the reviewer be objective, impartial and rigorous during the evaluation process and be courteous in their report. Indeed, we are all supporting the same goal: improve communication of scientific discoveries as well as the published contents. We are all learning to do better. Courtesy and kindness are advised common sense for the conduct of authors, editors and reviewers.

Reporting the review

The review report consists of different parts including but not limited to:

- The summary of the understanding of the reviewer about the manuscript. This is only fact report (no appreciation of the reviewer). This can include few bullets point to highlight the message.
- The general comment of the manuscript
- The strength and weaknesses of the manuscript seen by the reviewer
- The timeliness in current context in the field
- Comment on specific points that the reviewers want to emphasize
- Major concern and suggestion of improvement
- Minor concerns and suggestions of improvement
- Necessity of editorial scientific copyediting, artwork editing and correction for English to make the article accessible and understandable

Several aspects of the manuscript of *Cell Methods* are appreciated by the reviewer. They include:

- The impact on our understanding of the topic and the field in life science
- The importance in the current context
- Quality appreciation relative to high ranked publications in the field
- Quality appreciation relative to common quality standard in the field
- The supporting published data or references
- Impacts on technical advances
- Impact on technological developments
- Impact on the knowledge application in science and clinic
- Impact on human progress
- Scientific relevance
- Technical relevance
- Relevance of the used statistics
- Ethical compliance
- Readiness for immediate publication
- Readiness for publication after minor revision
- Readiness for publication after major revision

The reviewer may provide a numeric estimate of appreciation to these points: 1: Very strong, 2: strong, 3: satisfactory, 4: somewhat satisfactory and 5: Poor

The reviewer is advised to make suggestions to improve the manuscript in that specific aspect towards the highest level of appreciation.

This is the basis for making a relevant and effective reporting of the manuscript reviewing for *Cell Methods*. The report can be filled online in the platform of *Cell Methods* or a word/PDF document with the reviewer comments can be uploaded. The numeric appreciations should be filled in the reviewer space of our platform or through a confidential link provided by the editor after acceptance for reviewing.

The reviewer is kept in loop and informed about the decision on the manuscript and eventual submission of a revised version if he agreed to consider the evaluation of revisions. If accepted, it will be suggested to the reviewer in associate his name with manuscript and publish it in a dedicated section of the article in agreement with the journal policies.

Incentives and gratification for reviewers

Common encouragement to review

After the report of a review, *Cell Methods* will systematically grant the reviewer with a certificate of review, voucher and credit for future publication opportunity in *Cell Methods* or in a journal of Rviews Press.

Special case of independent researchers and early scientists

Cell Methods may also propose incentives in form of cash gratification as an encouragement in line with the mission of Rviews Press to promote the strong implication and recognition of independent researcher and early-career scientist in research evaluation as well as knowledge acquisition.

Declaration of interests

Adama Sidibé is the Editor-In-Chief of *Cell Reviews, Cell Methods and Cell Methods*, all journal of Rviews Press, Marseille, France.

Adama Sidibé is the founder of Rviews Press.

This document provides the guidance for editors, advisors and reviewers of manuscripts submitted to Cell Methods for publication.

Declaration concerning generative AI use

The author declares that no generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools were used to make this manuscript.

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4. Sidibé, A. (2024). Editorial policies of Cell Biology (Marseille, France) journal. Cell Biology *1*, 1–5. https://doi.org/10.70296/cb-16pt5xpcjk.

For Editors and Reviewers

Editorial instructions

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