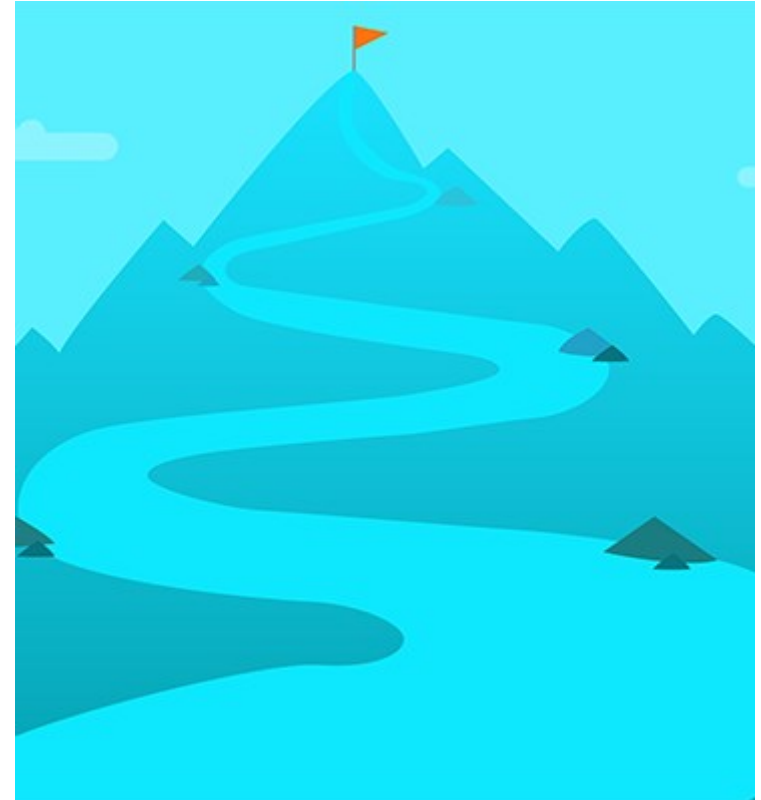


Life cycle of a publication: Up to submission

- Do the research
 - Decide on figures
 - Decide on journal
 - Write methods & results
 - Write intro & conclusion
 - Write abstract
 - Write cover letter
 - Submit to a journal
- } sort of together



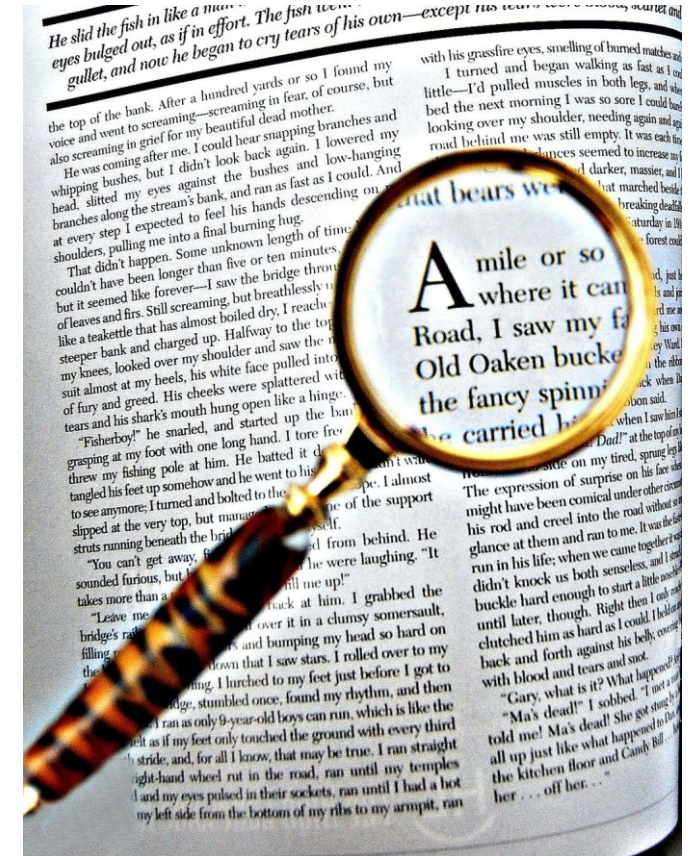
Choosing a journal

- How “high impact” is this work?
 - Appeal to broad readership, not just a specific subfield
- Word limits, figure limits
- Formatting requirements
 - Some are strict even for initial submission; some allow any format for 1st submission
- Review turnaround time
 - Consult others who have recently published in that journal
- Do they allow preprints?
- Publication cost
- Also need to choose article type
 - Generally harder to get a longer article type submitted (there are fewer per issue)



Review process

- Journals have editors
- Editors decide whether to send article to reviewers
- Reviewers are other scientists - people like you
 - Considered a conflict of interest to review a manuscript by a collaborator or coworker
- In most journals, the identity of reviewers is hidden from the authors, while the reviewers do know the identity of the authors
 - But there are starting to be some exceptions
- Reviewers can say “accept as-is” (almost never happens), “minor revisions” (relatively rare), “major revisions” (common), or “reject submission” (common)
- Generally 2-3 rounds of revision & re-review
- Editor can decide disagreement among reviewers



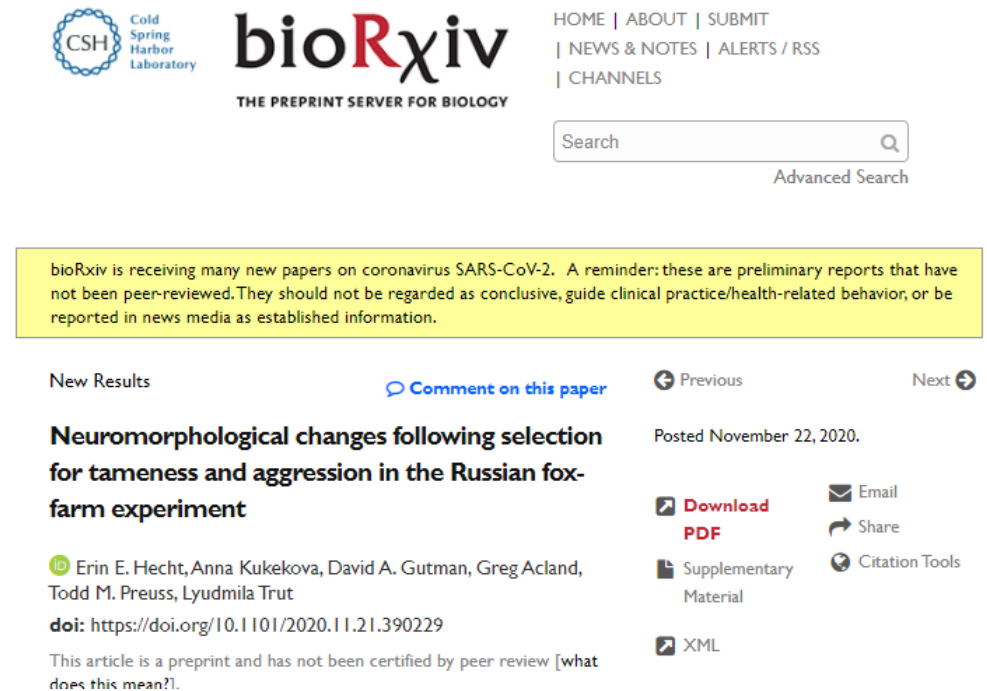
Strategies to optimize chances of success

- Cover letter should explain why the editors should send this to review
- Similarity to articles published by the journal before can help
 - Cite those in your paper
 - Note in cover letter &/or intro/discussion
- You can suggest preferred & non-preferred reviewers
 - Preferred = have expertise in this area, will think the research is interesting
 - Non-preferred = competitor, conflict of interest (collaborator)
 - Not OK = name a friend who owes you a favor as a preferred reviewer, etc.
- Cite preferred reviewers in your article



Preprint servers

- Can post before submitting to a journal to spark interest by editors
 - Allegedly?
- Can allow for some discussion/feedback on your work before the article is published
- Provides free public access to your work
- Some worry that this could result in you getting “scooped”
 - But also, the preprint can serve as a record of priority
- Note: some journals do not allow!



The screenshot displays the bioRxiv website header with the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory logo and navigation links (HOME, ABOUT, SUBMIT, NEWS & NOTES, ALERTS / RSS, CHANNELS). A search bar is present. A yellow banner contains a disclaimer about COVID-19 preprints. The main content area shows a paper titled "Neuromorphological changes following selection for tameness and aggression in the Russian fox-farm experiment" by Erin E. Hecht et al., with a DOI link. On the right, there are buttons for "Download PDF", "Email", "Share", "Supplementary Material", "Citation Tools", and "XML".

bioRxiv is receiving many new papers on coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. A reminder: these are preliminary reports that have not been peer-reviewed. They should not be regarded as conclusive, guide clinical practice/health-related behavior, or be reported in news media as established information.

New Results [Comment on this paper](#) [Previous](#) [Next](#)

Neuromorphological changes following selection for tameness and aggression in the Russian fox-farm experiment

Erin E. Hecht, Anna Kukekova, David A. Gutman, Greg Acland, Todd M. Preuss, Lyudmila Trut
doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.11.21.390229>

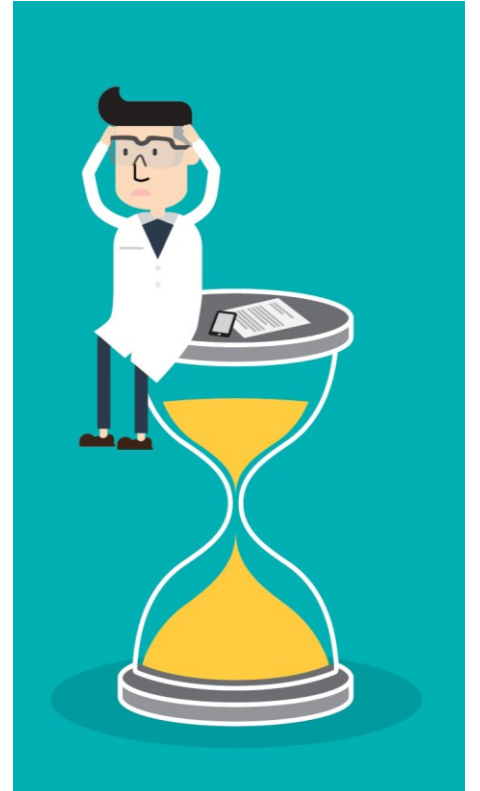
This article is a preprint and has not been certified by peer review [what does this mean?].

Posted November 22, 2020.

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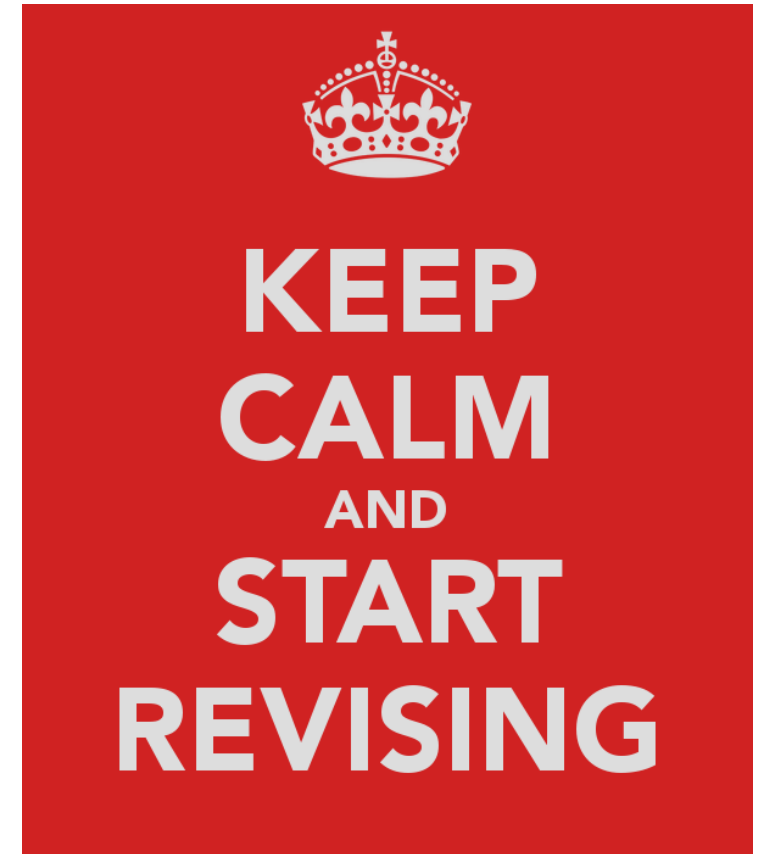
Life cycle of a publication: After submission

- Journal can reject → usually fairly rapid
- Journal can send for review
 - Then you wait... maybe a LOOOONG time (6+ months)
 - Reviewer comments arrive. Invariably they have misunderstood your work, the background literature, and several simple facts about the universe.
 - And sometimes they're wrong AND rude.
 - Read through comments at the end of the day, leave work, revisit carefully another day.



Revise & resubmit

- Typically reviewer comments come in the form of a bulleted list
- Respond to each bullet point underneath (can use a different color, etc.)
- Try to avoid disagreeing with their comments; try to address everything
- Resubmit to same journal → cycle begins again
- Eventually, paper is accepted, editorial office makes proofing edit requests (spelling, reference formatting, etc), and you sign a copyright agreement
- Total time from submission to publication can be >1 year



Most common outcome!

Your manuscript, NN-A74182



shari.wiseman@us.nature.com

To Hecht, Erin Elisabeth

 Reply	 Reply All	 Forward	
---	---	---	---

Mon 11/30/2020 9:07 AM

Our ref: NN-A74182

30th Nov 2020

Dear Dr. Hecht,

Thank you for submitting your manuscript "Neuromorphological changes following selection for tameness and aggression in the Russian fox-farm experiment" to Nature Neuroscience. I have now had an opportunity to carefully read your paper and discuss the study with my editorial colleagues.

While we recognize the potential novelty in documenting brain structural correlates of tameness and aggressiveness in foxes, we are not convinced of the paper's suitability for publication here. Unfortunately we feel this work would be a better fit for a readership focused on evolutionary biology.

I have consulted with our colleague Dr. Wenfei Tong (wenfei.tong@us.nature.com) at Nature Communications, who has confirmed that they will send the manuscript to peer review if you choose to transfer it. Should you wish to take up this option, please use the link to the Springer Nature manuscript transfer service in the footnote.

Please note that Nature Communications is a fully open access journal. All submissions (and transfers) received are, if accepted, open access upon publication and subject to an article processing charge. Please see the open access pages (www.nature.com/ncomms/open_access/index.html) for information about article processing charges, open access funding, and advice and support.

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9.601

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5.673