

# Publishing with the Nature journals

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Springer **Nature**



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“...FIRST, to place before the general public the grand results of Scientific Work and Scientific Discovery ; and to urge the claims of Science to a more general recognition in Education and in Daily Life ;  
And, SECONDLY, to aid Scientific men themselves, by giving early information of all advances made in any branch of Natural knowledge throughout the world, and by affording them an opportunity of discussing the various Scientific questions which arise from time to time...”

- Aims to publish the most important advances
- Significance should be appreciated by non-specialists
- Publishes across the full range of scientific disciplines

# nature group

nature nature nature nature immunology  
nature methods nature neuroscience nature  
nature biotechnology nature cell biology **nature**  
nature plants **nature** **nanotechnology** **chemistry**  
nature **nature** **nature** nature chemical biology  
nature microbiology **energy** **physics** nature  
**nature communications** **climate change**  
nature **nature** nature **nature**  
nature medicine **photonics** protocols **materials**  
nature **nature** nature nature reviews...  
**geoscience** nature genetics

nature

nature  
journals

nature  
communications

scientific reports

# nature and nature research journals...

- are highly selective, with high impact (factors)  
acceptance rates <10%, *Nature Physics* impact factor 20.147
- require novelty and general interest
- are staffed by professional editors with academic backgrounds (PhD + postdoc)
- have no editorial board
- are editorially independent of each other  
shared policies and designs

# Step 1: write the paper

- Get the title right: succinct, informative, tempting
- The most important paragraph — the first one

Give the reader a context in which to understand the significance of your work.

- **STORY**

The clearer and simpler, the more engrossing it is.

Make use of 'Methods' or 'Supplementary Information' for details.

Devise figures that enhance the story-telling.

- Explain, don't hype; avoid clichés, 'very', 'ultra'...
- Conclusion should offer something NEW

# Step 2: submit

- Check Guide to Authors online
  - preprint ok
  - LaTeX ok
  - **no special formatting**, single PDF
- Cover letter
  - explain, don't hype
- Online submission
  - suggest/exclude reviewers

# What then?

The manuscript is assigned to an editor, who

- **reads it** and may discuss it with other editors in the team.
- reads relevant references; looks at previous publications.
- considers how wide an audience is likely to be interested.

“If in doubt, send it out.”



# So...

- ~80% rejected without peer review, usually within 1 week (60% for Nature Communications).
- ~20% sent to ~3 reviewers, decision typically within 4 weeks.

**Reviewers** chosen for:

- relevant expertise
- broad knowledge of field
- consistency
- efficiency and reliability

**Report** should be:

- fair
- clearly presented
- detail-oriented
- constructive

# Then...

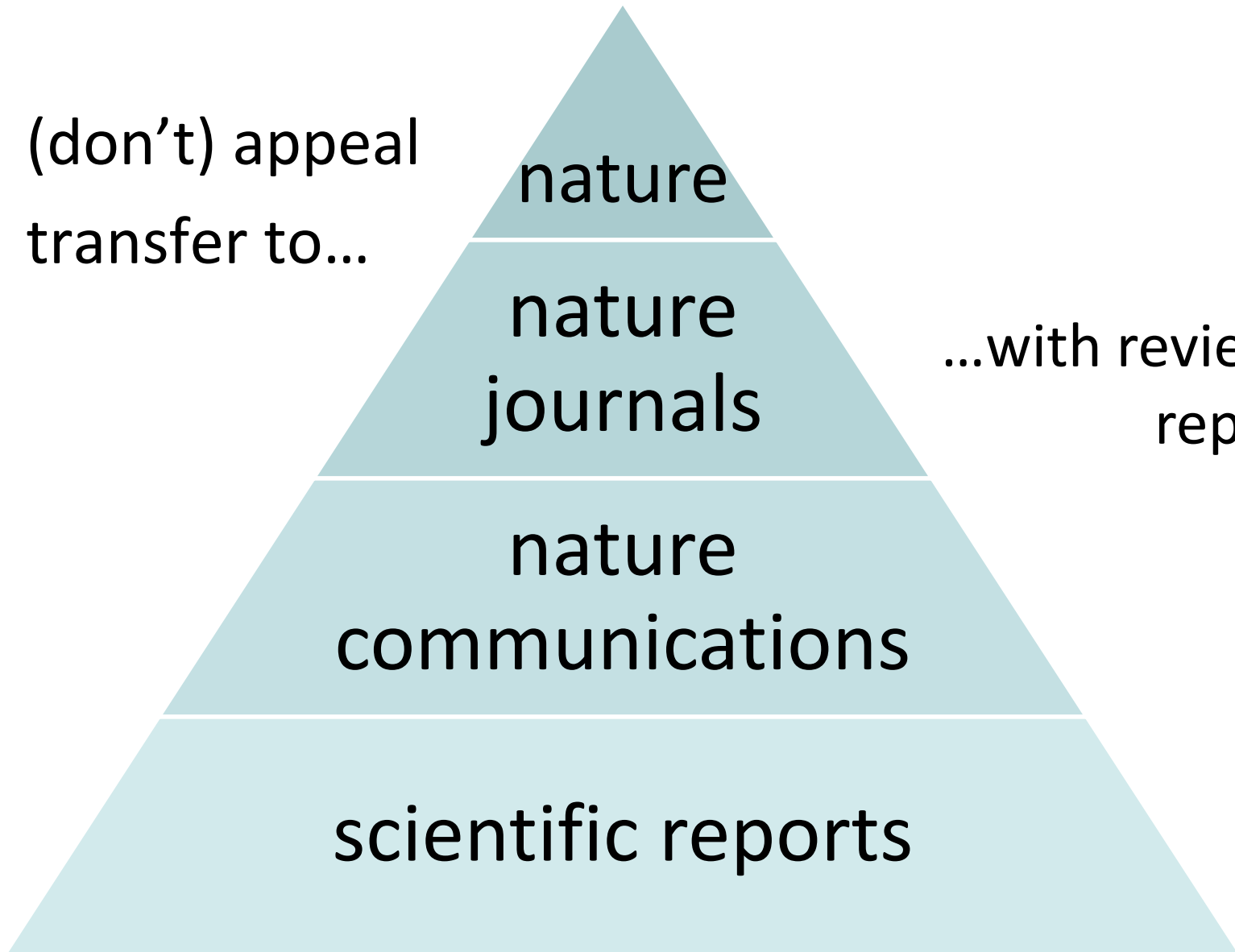
- revise manuscript, back to reviewers

## ... manuscript accepted!

- copy editing, typesetting
- online publication ahead of print / online only
- copyright rests with author
- NIH repository (etc) after 6 months (**GREEN OA**) / open access in Nature Communications (**GOLD OA**)
- press release, News & Views

# If your manuscript is not accepted...

- (don't) appeal
- transfer to...



...with reviewer reports

# Working with the research community...

Editors attend conferences, visit labs

– aware of research, of people, of issues

- Open access
- Author contributions
- Reproducibility
  - solar cells checklist
- Data availability, code sharing