

Field chief editor



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Frontiers in Medicine

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Mission & scope

Frontiers in Medicine is a broad-scope, multidisciplinary journal covering all established medical disciplines to improve clinical practice and patient care.

Led by Field Chief Editor Prof Michel Goldman (Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium), Frontiers in Medicine is indexed in PubMed Central (PMC), Web of Science (SCIE), and Scopus, among others, and welcomes basic and clinical medical research that facilitate the translation of scientific advances into new therapies or diagnostic tools. Topics include, but are not limited to:

- dermatology
- family medicine and primary care
- gastroenterology

- infectious diseases, pathogenesis and therapy
- intensive care medicine and anesthesiology
- nephrology
- nuclear medicine
- obstetrics and gynecology
- ophthalmology
- pathology
- precision medicine
- pulmonary medicine
- regulatory science
- rheumatology
- translational medicine.

In addition to papers that provide a link between basic research and clinical practice, a particular emphasis is given to studies that are directly relevant to patient care.

As well as the established medical disciplines, Frontiers in Medicine aims to publish research that will facilitate:

- access to medicinal products and medical devices worldwide
- addressing the grand health challenges around the world
- the exploitation of big data and the use of novel information and communication tools in the assessment of new medicines
- the scientific bases for guidelines and decisions from regulatory authorities
- the use of patient-reported outcomes under real world conditions.

All studies must contribute insights into the field of medicine. Papers which do not primarily focus on a medical discipline are not suitable for publication in this journal. Manuscripts that focus solely on the molecular or cellular mechanisms of

not within the scope of this journal.

Research that is primarily epidemiological or public health-oriented, without a foundation in the pathophysiology or treatment of disease, is also not appropriate for this journal.

Frontiers' journals require that manuscripts primarily comprising computational studies of public data, must include appropriate validation. Please refer to the [Frontiers Standards for research methodology policy](#), for more information. Manuscripts not adhering to these standards will not be considered.

Frontiers in Medicine is committed to advancing developments in the field of medicine by allowing unrestricted access to articles and communicating scientific knowledge to researchers and the public alike, to enable the scientific breakthroughs of the future.

Ethics Statement:

All manuscripts submitted to Frontiers in Medicine that have been conducted in human subjects must conform with current regulations and the Declaration of Helsinki. Ethics committee approval and informed patient consent are required for studies involving human subjects. Ethics committee approval is also needed for studies involving animals. Phase I - Phase IV clinical trials submitted for publication in Frontiers in Medicine must have been registered with an appropriate public trials registry at the time or before the first patient enrolment. The information on the clinical trial registration (Unique Identifier and URL) must be included in the abstract. Authors are required to disclose all apparent or potential conflicts of interest

Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).
 Authors should refer to the author
 guidelines for full details.



Frontiers in Medicine is a
 member of the Committee
 on Publication Ethics.

Facts

Short name Front. Med.	Abbreviation fmed	Electronic ISSN 2296- 858X
Indexed in PubMed, PubMed Central (PMC), Scopus, Google Scholar, DOAJ, CLOCKSS, Web of Science Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)	PMCID All published articles receive a PMCID	Impact 3 Impact Factor 6 CiteScore

Frontiers in Medicine is composed of the following Specialty sections:

Dermatology



Family
Medicine and
Primary Care



Gastroenterology



Gene and Cell
Therapy



Geriatric
Medicine



Healthcare
Professions
Education



Hematology



Hepatobiliary
Diseases



Infectious
Diseases:
Pathogenesis
and Therapy



Intensive Care
Medicine and
Anesthesiology



Nephrology



Nuclear Medicine



Obstetrics and

Ophthalmology

Pathology



Rheumatology

Translational
Medicine

The specialty sections of Frontiers in Medicine welcome submission of the following **article types**: Addendum, Brief Research Report, Case Report, Classification, Clinical Trial, Community Case Study, Correction, Curriculum, Instruction, and Pedagogy, Data Report, Editorial, General Commentary, Hypothesis & Theory, Methods, Mini Review, Opinion, Original Research, Perspective, Policy Brief, Policy and Practice Reviews, Review, Study Protocol, Systematic Review, Technology and Code.

When submitting a manuscript to Frontiers in Medicine, authors must submit the material directly to one of the specialty sections. Manuscripts are peer-reviewed by the Associate and Review Editors of the respective specialty section.

Open access statement

should be returned to all people without borders or discrimination, serving society universally and in a transparent fashion.

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Quality

Each Frontiers article strives for the highest quality, thanks to genuinely collaborative

and on society and, hence, does not support superficial review, light review or no-review publishing models.

Frontiers uses the single anonymized peer review model, where the reviewer identity is not made visible to the author, while the author identity is visible to the reviewer, and reviewer and the authors' identities are visible to the decision-making editor. Reviewers interact with the handling editor and the authors. Editor and reviewer names and affiliations are published on all Frontiers articles.

Research must be certified by peers before entering a stream of knowledge that may eventually reach the public - and shape society. Therefore, Frontiers only applies the most rigorous and unbiased reviews, established in the high standards of the Frontiers Review System. Furthermore, only the top certified research, evaluated objectively through quantitative online article level metrics, is disseminated to increasingly wider communities as it gradually climbs the tiers of the Frontiers Tiering System from specialized expert readership towards public understanding.

Frontiers has a number of procedures in place to support and ensure the quality of the research articles that are published:

1 Editorial Board Quality ^

- Only leading experts and established members of the research community are appointed to the Frontiers Editorial Boards. Chief Editors, Associate Editors and Review Editors are all listed with their names and affiliations on the Journal pages and

Assignment Quality

- Associate Editors oversee the peer-review and take the final acceptance decision on manuscripts. Editorial decision power is distributed in Frontiers, because we believe that many experts within a community should be able to shape the direction of science for the benefit of society.
- Submitting authors can choose a preferred Associate Editor to handle their manuscript, because they can judge well who would be an appropriate expert in editing their manuscript. There is no guarantee for this preference of choice, Associate Editors can decline invitations any time, and the handling Associate Editor can also be over-ridden by the Chief Editor before she/he is invited to edit the article or at any other stage.
- Associate Editors are mandated to only accept to edit a manuscript if they have no conflicts of interest ([as stated here](#) and in their review invitation and assignment emails).
- Should it become clear that the Associate Editor has a conflict of interest or is unable to perform the peer-review timely and adequately, a new Associate Editor can be assigned to the manuscript by the Chief Editor, who has full control to intervene in the peer-review process at any time.
- The Associate Editor initially checks that the article meets basic quality

Quality

- The Associate Editor can then personally choose and invite the most appropriate reviewers to handle the peer-review of the manuscript, including Review Editors from the board or external reviewers.
- The Associate Editor is aided in this by the Frontiers Collaborative Review Forum software and interface, which suggests the most relevant Review Editors based on a match between their expertise and the topic of the manuscript. Associate Editors can however choose any reviewer they deem adequate.
- After a certain time frame and if no reviewers have in the meantime been assigned to the manuscript, the Frontiers platform and algorithmic safety-net steps in and invites the most appropriate Review Editors based on constantly updated and improved algorithms that match reviewer expertise with the submitted manuscript.
- Review Editors and reviewers are mandated to only accept to review a manuscript if they have no conflicts of interest ([as stated here](#) and in their review invitation and assignment emails).
- Frontiers algorithms are constantly fine-tuned to better match Review Editors with manuscripts, and additional checks are being coded

interest or is unable to perform the peer-review timely and adequately, he or she shall be replaced with an alternative reviewer by the Associate Editor or the Chief Editor, who will be alerted and has full control to intervene into the peer-review at any time.

4 Independent Review Stage Quality [^]

- In the Independent Review Stage the assigned reviewers perform an in-depth review of the article independently of each other to safeguard complete freedom of opinion.
- The reviewers are aided by an online standardized review questionnaire – adopted to article types – with the goal to facilitate rigorous evaluation according to objective criteria and the [Frontiers Review Guidelines](#).

5 Interactive Review Stage Quality [^]

- The Associate Editor assesses the reviews and activates the “Interactive Review” – informing the authors of the extent of revisions that are required to address the reviewers’ comments, and starting the Interactive Discussion Forum where authors and also the reviewers get full access to all review reports.

version of the manuscript is endorsed by the reviewers.

- Reviewer identity is protected at this stage to safeguard complete freedom of opinion.
- Reviewers can recommend rejection at this stage if their requests to correct objective errors are not being met by the authors or if they deem the article overall of insufficient quality.
- Should a dispute arise, authors or reviewers can trigger an arbitration and will alert the Associate Editor, who can assign more reviewers and/or bring the dispute to the attention of the Chief Editor. The Associate Editor can also weigh in on the discussion and is asked to mediate the process to ensure a constructive revision stage.

6 Decision Stage Quality ^

- The decision to accept an article needs to be unanimous amongst all reviewers and the handling Associate Editor.
- The names of the Associate Editor and reviewers are disclosed on published articles to encourage in depth and rigorous reviews, acknowledge work well done on the article and to bring transparency and accountability into peer-review.

who can then ultimately reject the article if it is of insufficient quality, has objective errors or if the authors were unreasonably unwilling to address the points raised during the review.

- Chief Editors can at any stage of the peer-review step in to comment on the review process, change assigned editors, assign themselves as a reviewer and even as the handling editor for the manuscript, and therefore have full authority and all the mechanisms to act independently in their online editorial office to ensure quality.

7 Safeguards against Financial Conflicts of Interest [^]

- Only leading researchers acting as Associate Editors, who are not part of Frontiers staff, can make acceptance decisions based on reviews performed by external experts acting as Review Editors or reviewers. None have a financial incentive to accept articles, i.e. they are not paid for their role to act as Associate or Review Editors, and any award scheme is not linked to acceptances of manuscripts.
- Chief Editors receive an honorarium if their specialty section or field reaches certain submission levels. However, this honorarium is based on the total number of **submitted** articles during a calendar year, and **not** the number of accepted articles. Therefore they also

Quality

- The Frontiers platform enables post-publication commenting and discussions on papers and hence the possibility to critically evaluate articles even after the peer-review process.
- Frontiers has a community retraction protocol in place to retract papers where serious concerns have been raised and validated by the community that warrant retraction, including ethical concerns, honest errors or scientific misconduct.

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