

## EDITORIAL

# Open for business

Nature Publishing Group launches its second multidisciplinary journal, 140 years after the first issue of *Nature*.

“an online-only journal publishing high-quality papers from all corners of the physical, chemical and biological sciences, with an open-access option for authors”

Science is now more multidisciplinary than ever – new fields are emerging from the cross-fertilization of traditionally distinct disciplines at an ever-increasing rate. However, the number of truly multidisciplinary primary research journals can be counted on one hand. *Nature Communications* is a new, and unique, venue in this arena: an online-only journal publishing high-quality papers from all corners of the physical, chemical and biological sciences, with an open-access option for authors.

*Nature Communications* will not be competing with Nature Publishing Group's existing journals. *Nature* will continue to publish the most significant advances in science, and the Nature research journals will remain the publications of choice for the most important broad-interest papers within those specific communities. *Nature*

*Communications* instead provides a venue for the many comprehensive, rigorous and often elegant studies that do not have such broad appeal – the so-called ‘specialist interest’ papers. We recognise the importance and value of such studies and are seeking to publish the very best in this genre.

The Nature brand carries with it a set of core values to which we are committed. Our peer-review process is as rigorous as any other Nature journal (although our editorial criteria are different) and our internal editorial team carries the responsibility for making decisions about publication. However, *Nature Communications* benefits from the

additional support of an Editorial Advisory Panel, whose members collectively span the breadth of the physical, chemical and biological sciences (<http://tinyurl.com/ydfc79z>), and who provide occasional and informal advice about the importance of a paper within its field.

Our focus on primary research further distinguishes *Nature Communications* from other Nature titles. Aside from the occasional review article, we have no plans to publish news or opinion pieces, for which *Nature* and the Nature research journals are renowned. Our primary goal is to provide highly efficient peer review and rapid publication, which we have achieved by streamlining the editorial process (described at <http://tinyurl.com/ya2ayul>).

As a born-digital publication, *Nature Communications* has, and will continue, to make full use of enhanced web technologies. Our online-only presence affords us flexibility in the number of papers we publish and the schedules in which they are made available. We have also structured our website to provide an intuitive browsing experience: readers will be able to browse by date of publication, subject category and personal preferences.

Perhaps the most important feature of *Nature Communications* is the opportunity for authors to pay an Article Processing Charge to publish their papers without restriction – with ‘open access’ (<http://tinyurl.com/yf3axlm>). If authors choose this option, their papers will be published under one of two Creative Commons licenses and be clearly delineated on the website with an ‘open’ logo. In welcoming submissions from the widest possible range of communities, we hope to provide a high-visibility platform for the communication of the broadest research and to make that research widely available to others.