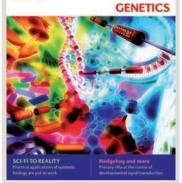
FROM THE EDITORS

nature publishing gro

nature REVIEWS



► COVER: 'SynBiolism' by Patrick Morgan, inspired by the Review on p367.





LOUISA FLINTOFT



MEERA SWAM

ince the launch of *Nature Reviews Genetics* almost a decade ago, we have used a variety of ways to communicate the most important advances in genetics and genomics. As well as the classic Review format, our Perspective, Analysis and Progress articles have enabled authors to tackle topics in a range of useful and interesting ways. This month's issue sees our first Comment article, a new format that we hope you will find engaging and informative.

As the name suggests, Comment articles allow authors to provide a commentary on issues that are having an impact on how genetic, genomic and related research is carried out and applied. Such issues might range from the ethical to the technical, and will have broad relevance to the journal's readership.

On p310, Sharon Terry uses the Comment format to argue that the traditional way of allocating funding for disease research is stunting the translational impact of genetics and genomics. She sees the earmarking of funds for research on specific diseases as outdated in an era in which genomics approaches are providing unprecedented means to identify connections between diseases.

Terry's Comment calls on striking examples of how Mendelian diseases can inform about diseases with a multifactorial basis, and vice versa. The relationship between Mendelian and complex diseases is also the focus of a Viewpoint article on p380. Here, four leading geneticists give their perspectives on how advances in technology are changing the way that both types of disease are studied.

We hope that these two articles showcase the continued strength of *Nature Reviews Genetics* in providing our readers with a broad picture of exciting fields in genetics and genomics.

EDITORIAL OFFICES

LONDON NatureReviews@nature.com The Macmillan Building, 4 Crinan Street. London N1 9XW, UK Tel: +44 (0)20 7843 3620; Fax: +44 (0)20 7843 3629 CHIEF EDITOR: Louisa Flintoft SENIOR EDITORS: Tanita Casci, Mary Muers ASSISTANT EDITOR: Meera Swami **COPY EDITOR:** Lewis Packwood SENIOR COPY EDITOR: Man Tsuey Tse SENIOR ART EDITOR (NRG): Patrick Morgan ART CONTROLLER: Susanne Harris SENIOR ART EDITOR: Vicky Summersby MANAGING PRODUCTION EDITOR:

Judith Shadwell SENIOR PRODUCTION EDITOR: Simon Fenwick PRODUCTION CONTROLLER: Natalie Smith EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS: Jacques Smit, Laura Coms WEB PRODUCTION MANAGER: Deborah Anthony MARKETING MANAGERS: Tim Redding, Leah Rodriguez

MANAGEMENT OFFICES

LONDON nature@nature.com The Macmillan Building, 4 Crinan Street, London N1 9XW, UK Tel: +44 (0)20 7833 4000; Fax: +44 (0)20 7833 4596/7 OFFICE MANAGER: Laura Firman PUBLISHER: Stephanie Diment MANAGING DIRECTOR: Steven Inchcoombe EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, NATURE PUBLICATIONS: Philip Campbell ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS: Jenny Henderson, Tony Rudland EDITORIAL PRODUCTION DIRECTOR: Iames McOuat PRODUCTION DIRECTOR: Yvonne Strong DIRECTOR, WEB PUBLISHING: Dan Pollock HEAD OF WEB PRODUCTION: Alexander Thurrell

NEW YORK nature@natureny.com Nature Publishing Group, 75 Varick Street, 9th floor, New York, NY 10013-1917, USA Tel: +1 212 726 9200; Fax: +1 212 696 9006 CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER: Howard Ratner HEAD OF INTERNAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT: Anthony Barrer HEAD OF SOFTWARE SERVICES: Luigi Squillante GLOBAL HEAD OF ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP: Dean Sanderson HEAD OF NATURE RESEARCH & REVIEWS MARKETING: Sara Girard

TOKYO nature@natureasia.com Chiyoda Building 5F, 2-37-1 Ichigayatamachi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0843, Japan Tel: +81 3 3267 8751; Fax: +81 3 3267 8746 ASIA-PACIFIC PUBLISHER: Antoine E Bocquet MANAGER: Koichi Nakamura ASIA-PACIFIC SALES DIRECTOR: Kate Yoneyama SENIOR MARKETING MANAGER: Peter Yoshihara MARKETING/PRODUCTION MANAGER: Takesh Murakami INDIA 5A/12 Ansari Road, Daryganj,

INDIA SA/12 ANSAI NOAG, Daiyganj, New Delhi 110 002, India Tel/Fax: +91 11 2324 4186 SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER, INDIA: Harpal Singh Gill Copyright © 2010 Nature Publishing Group Research Highlight images courtesy of

Research Highlight images courtesy of Getty Images unless otherwise credited. Printed in Wales by Cambrian Printers on acid-free paper