Aims and Scope

We define molecular psychiatry broadly, as an interdisciplinary field focused on the elucidation of the fundamental biological mechanisms underlying psychiatric disorders and their treatment. The scope of the journal parallels the breadth of this field, with the goal of providing a forum for integrating molecular medicine with clinical psychiatry. In addition to Original Articles, the journal features News & Commentary, Reviews, and Immediate Communications.

Topics of interest include but are not limited to:

- Hypotheses-driven, high-quality work in molecular, cellular or integrative neuroscience.
- Clinical research in psychiatry, including genetics, pathophysiology, imaging, and psychopharmacology.
- Given the potential for a high number of negative genetic studies, a strong rationale is required for submissions of negative genetic data.

Editorial Note

Molecular Psychiatry is an independent journal published by Springer Nature. All contributions and general correspondence regarding editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor and sent to the editorial office. Authors will be notified of acceptance, rejection, or need for revision within approximately 3 weeks. When a manuscript is returned to the corresponding author for revision, it should be returned to the editor within 2 months, otherwise it may be considered withdrawn.

Journal Details

Editor-in-Chief
Professor Julio Licinio, MD

Editorial Office
MolecularPsychiatry@us.nature.com

Frequency
12 issues per year

Abstracted in:
Current Contents/Life Sciences
EMBASE/Excerpta Medica
MEDLINE/Index Medicus
Neuroscience Citation Index
PsycINFO
Research Alert
Science Citation Index
Science Citation Index Expanded
SciSearch

Impact Factor
13.204 (2016 Journal Citation Reports, Thomson Reuters, 2017)

Submission of manuscripts
Please visit the online submission site to submit a manuscript to the journal.
## ARTICLE TYPE SPECIFICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article Description</th>
<th>ABSTRACT</th>
<th>WORD LIMIT</th>
<th>TABLES/FIGURES</th>
<th>REFERENCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Original Articles</strong>: Please see ‘Preparation of Articles’ below for details.</td>
<td>Unstructured abstract.</td>
<td>Abstract: 150-250 words Introduction: 1,500 words Article: 3,500 words, excluding abstract and references.</td>
<td>Max of 5</td>
<td>Max of 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Immediate Communications</strong>: These are definitive, full-length articles of high merit and exceptional significance and novelty, which warrant rapid dissemination. Review and publication of Immediate Communications will be maximally expedited for fast publication. Submitting your manuscript as an Immediate Communication in no way ensures the Editor will select the paper for this category; recommendations to re-categorize papers, if appropriate, may occur.</td>
<td>Unstructured abstract required.</td>
<td>Abstract: 150-250 words Introduction: 1,500 words Article: 3,500 words, excluding abstract and references.</td>
<td>Max of 5</td>
<td>Max of 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expert Reviews</strong>: Scholarly reviews of topics within the scope of Molecular Psychiatry are submitted by invitation only. Only members of the editorial board can submit without invitation.</td>
<td>Unstructured abstract.</td>
<td>Abstract: no limit Article: 5,000 words</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>Max of 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mechanisms of Drug Action (by editor invitation only)</strong>: These are review articles focused on a particular drug. Generally commissioned, but a limited number of unsolicited manuscripts are considered</td>
<td>Unstructured abstract.</td>
<td>Abstract: no limit Article: 5,000 words</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>Max of 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reviews</strong>: Scholarly reviews of topics within the scope of Molecular Psychiatry are considered.</td>
<td>No abstract required.</td>
<td>Abstract: no limit Article: 4,000 words</td>
<td>Max of 2 each</td>
<td>Max of 150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Letters to the Editor</strong>: Letters to the Editor should contain no original or novel data. These are comments on original research papers or other technical material published in Molecular Psychiatry. Original authors will have the opportunity to respond to the letter, should it be chosen for acceptance. This response will be published alongside the correspondence</td>
<td>No abstract required.</td>
<td>Opening paragraph: 2-3 sentences Article: 700 words (900 if no image)</td>
<td>Max of 1</td>
<td>Max of 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>News &amp; Commentary</strong>: These are short overviews of new original work, or a scientific perspective on a topical issue of international public interest. News &amp; Commentary should contain no original or novel data. Generally commissioned, but a limited number of unsolicited manuscripts are considered.</td>
<td>No abstract required.</td>
<td>Introductory sentence: 20-30 words</td>
<td>Max of 1</td>
<td>Max of 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Perspectives:** A scholarly review and discussion of the primary literature that does not meet the criteria for a review article, either because the scope is too narrow, or a primary purpose of the piece is to advocate a controversial position or a speculative hypothesis, or to discuss work primarily from one or a few research groups. Perspectives tend to be more forward-looking and/or speculative than reviews and while they should remain balanced, may take a more specific point of view.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unstructured abstract.</th>
<th>Abstract: 200 words</th>
<th>Max of 2 each</th>
<th>Max of 100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**PREPARATION OF ARTICLES**

Please note that original articles must contain the following components. Please see below for further details.

1. Cover letter (must include a Conflict of Interest statement)
2. Title page (excluding acknowledgements)
3. Abstract
4. Introduction
5. Materials (or patients) and methods
6. Results
7. Discussion
8. Acknowledgements
9. Conflict of Interest
10. References
11. Figure legends
12. Tables
13. Figures

**Cover letter**

The uploaded cover letter must state the material is original research, has not been previously published and has not been submitted for publication elsewhere while under consideration. The cover letter must also include a Conflict of Interest statement, which is also included in the text of the manuscript (see Editorial Policy section). Please note: As with *Nature* titles, MP does not collect keywords. Keywords that are provided to us will not be published. If a term is important in the discoverability of the paper, it should be in the title or abstract of the paper.

**Title page**

The title page should bear the title of the paper, the full names of all the authors, highest academic degree obtained, and their affiliations; also, the name, full postal address, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address of the author to whom correspondence and offprint requests are to be sent (This information is also asked for on the electronic submission site). The title should be brief, informative, of 150 characters or less and should not make a statement or conclusion. The running title should consist of not more than 50 letters and spaces. It should be as brief as possible, convey the essential message of the paper and contain no abbreviations.

**Abstract**

The Abstract should consist of one, single, continuous paragraph of 150-250 words in length. In Molecular Psychiatry abstracts do NOT have paragraph breaks, headings or subheadings (such as methods, results, etc) in the abstract.

**Introduction**

The Introduction should assume that the reader is knowledgeable in the field and should therefore be as brief as possible but can include a short historical review where desirable.

**Materials/subjects and Methods**

This section should contain sufficient detail such that experimental procedures can be reproduced. For methods that have been published in detail elsewhere, authors can reference more full descriptions in other publications, but should still make effort to describe adequately in the main body of the text (not supplemental files). Authors should provide the name of the manufacturer and their location for any specifically named medical equipment and instruments, and all drugs should be identified by their pharmaceutical names, and by their trade name if relevant.

**Results and Discussion**

The Results section should briefly present the experimental data in text, tables or figures. Tables and figures should not be described extensively in the text, either. The discussion should focus on the interpretation and the significance of the findings with concise objective comments that describe their relation to other work in the area. It should not repeat information in the results. The final paragraph should highlight the main conclusion(s), and provide some indication of the direction future research should take.

**Acknowledgements**

These should be brief, and should include sources of support including sponsorship (e.g. university, charity, commercial organization) and sources of material (e.g. novel drugs) not available commercially.

Last updated June 2017
Conflict of interest

Authors must declare whether or not there are any competing financial interests in relation to the work described. This information must be included at this stage and will be published as part of the paper. Conflict of interest should also be noted on the cover letter and as part of the submission process. See the Conflict of Interest documentation in the Editorial Policy section for detailed information.

References

Only papers directly related to the article should be cited. Exhaustive lists should be avoided. References should follow the Vancouver format. In the text they should appear as numbers starting at one and at the end of the paper they should be listed (double-spaced) in numerical order corresponding to the order of citation in the text. All authors should be quoted for papers with up to six authors; for papers with more than six authors, the first six only should be quoted, followed by et al. Abbreviations for titles of medical periodicals should conform to those used in the latest edition of Index Medicus. The first and last page numbers for each reference should be provided. Abstracts and letters must be identified as such. Papers in press and papers already submitted for publication may be included in the list of references but no citation is required for work that is not yet submitted for publication.

Personal communications must be allocated a number and included in the list of references in the usual way or simply referred to in the text; the authors may choose which method to use. In either case, authors must obtain permission from the individual concerned to quote his/her unpublished work

Journal article, up to six authors et al:

Journal article, e-pub ahead of print:

Journal article, in press:

Complete book:

Chapter in book:

Abstract:

Letter to the editor:

EndNote users should select the Molecular Psychiatry output style for the correct reference style.

Tables

These should be labelled sequentially and cited within the text. Each table should be presented on its own page, numbered and titled. Reference to table footnotes should be made by means of Arabic numerals. Tables should not duplicate the content of the text. They should consist of at least two columns; columns should always have headings. Authors should ensure that the data in the tables are consistent with those cited in the relevant places in the text, totals add up correctly, and percentages have been calculated correctly. Unlike figures or images, tables may be embedded into the word processing software if necessary, or supplied as separate electronic files.

Figures

Figures and images should be labelled, sequentially numbered and cited in the text. Figure legends should be brief, specific and appear on a separate manuscript page after the References section. Refer to (and cite) figures specifically in the text of the paper. Figures should not be embedded within the text. If a table or figure has been published before, the authors must obtain written permission to reproduce the material in both print and electronic formats from the copyright owner and submit it with the manuscript. This follows for quotes, illustrations and other materials taken from previously published works not in the public domain. The original source should be cited in the figure caption or table footnote. The use of three-dimensional histograms is strongly discouraged when the addition of the third dimension gives no extra information. Scale markers should be used in the image for electron micrographs, and indicate the type of stain used. Detailed guidelines for submitting artwork can be found by downloading the Artwork Guidelines PDF.

Supplementary information

Supplementary information (SI) is peer-reviewed material directly relevant to the conclusion of an article that cannot be included in the printed version owing to space or format constraints. The article must be complete and self-explanatory without the SI, which is posted on the journal’s website and linked to the article. SI may consist of data files, graphics, movies or extensive tables, view the Artwork Guidelines PDF for more information on accepted file types. Authors should submit documents in their FINAL format as they are not edited, typeset or changed, and will appear online exactly as submitted.

Each piece of SI must be referred to at least once within the text of the main article. SI must be referred to and labelled as follows: Supplementary Table, Figure, or Video. Each type of SI should be continuously numbered (for example,
Supplementary Figure 1, Supplementary Figure 2, Supplementary Table 1, Supplementary Table 2 and so on. Please provide a title for Supplementary Tables and a title and a caption for Supplementary Figures and Supplementary Videos.

When submitting SI authors are required to:

- Include a text summary (no more than 50 words) to describe the contents of each file.
- Identify the types of files (file formats) submitted.
- Include the text “Supplementary information is available at MP’s website”) at the end of the article and before the references.

Availability of Data and Materials

Please see our Editorial Policies for information regarding data, protocols, sequences, or structures.

House Style

- Do not make rules thinner than 1pt (0.36mm)
- Use a coarse hatching pattern rather than shading for tints in graphs
- Color should be distinct when being used as an identifying tool
- Spaces, not commas should be used to separate thousands
- Abbreviations should be preceded by the words they stand for in the first instance of use
- Use SI units throughout
- Text should be double spaced with a wide margin
- At first mention of a manufacturer, the town (and state if USA) and country should be provided

English Language Support

For editors and reviewers to accurately assess the work presented in your manuscript you need to ensure the English language is of sufficient quality to be understood. If you need help with writing in English you should consider:

- Asking a colleague who is a native English speaker to review your manuscript for clarity.
- Visiting the English language tutorial which covers the common mistakes when writing in English.
- Using a professional language editing service where editors will improve the English to ensure that your meaning is clear and identify problems that require your review. Two such services are provided by our affiliates Nature Research Editing Service and American Journal Experts.

Please note that the use of a language editing service is not a requirement for publication in this journal and does not imply or guarantee that the article will be selected for peer review or accepted.

If your manuscript is accepted it will be checked by our copyeditors for spelling and formal style before publication.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Pre-submission Enquiries

Pre-submission enquiries should be sent to the editorial office: Molecularpsychiatry@us.nature.com

Online Submission

We only accept manuscript submissions via our online manuscript submission system. Before submitting a manuscript, authors are encouraged to consult both our Editorial Policies and the Submission Instructions for our online manuscript submission system. If you have not already done so, please register for an account with our online manuscript system. You will be able to monitor the status of your manuscript online throughout the editorial process.

Submission of Revisions

Authors submitting a revised manuscript after review are asked to include the following:

1. A rebuttal letter, indicating point-by-point how you have addressed the comments raised by the reviewers. If you disagree with any of the points raised, please provide adequate justification in your letter.
2. A marked-up version of the manuscript that highlights changes made in response to the reviewers’ comments in order to aid the Editors and reviewers.
3. A ‘clean’ (non-highlighted) version of the manuscript.
POST-ACCEPTANCE

License to Publish form

Once a manuscript is accepted, the corresponding author must complete and sign a License to Publish form on behalf of all authors and return it to the editorial office. Failure to promptly return the form will result in delay of publication.

Springer Nature does not require authors of original research papers to assign copyright of their published contributions. Authors grant Springer Nature an exclusive license to publish, in return for which they can re-use their papers in their future printed work. Springer Nature’s author license page provides details of the policy.

Standard Publication

Manuscripts published under the standard method of publication will be behind a paywall, requiring readers to pay to view the article, either via their institutional or personal subscription or on a pay-per-view basis.

Open Access & Self-Archiving

Self-archiving and manuscript deposition (green open access)

Authors of original research articles are encouraged to submit the author's version of the accepted paper (the unedited manuscript) to a repository for public release six months after publication. Springer Nature also offers a free, opt-in Manuscript Deposition Service for original research articles in order to help authors fulfill funder and institutional mandates.

Learn more about self-archiving and manuscript deposition.

Open access publication (gold open access)

Authors of research articles can opt to pay an article processing charge (APC) for their accepted articles to be open access online immediately upon publication. Open access articles are published under Creative Commons licenses, which allow authors to retain copyright to their work while making it open to readers.

To facilitate self-archiving Springer Nature deposits open access articles in PubMed Central, Europe PubMed Central, and PubMed Central Canada on publication. Authors are also permitted to post the final, published PDF of their article on a website, institutional repository or other free public server immediately on publication.

Visit our open research site for detailed information about publishing open access in MP:

- About Creative Commons licensing
- Creative Commons license options and article processing charges (APCs) for MP
- APC payment FAQs
- Help in identifying funding for APCs
- Site license price adjustments for hybrid journals
- Editorial process for OA publication in hybrid journals

Compliance with open access mandates

Springer Nature's open access journals allow authors to comply with all funders' open access policies worldwide. Authors may need to take specific actions to achieve compliance with funder and institutional open access mandates.

Learn more about open access compliance.

Proofs

The corresponding author will receive an e-mail containing a URL linking to the proofing site. Proof corrections must be returned within 48 hours of receipt. Failure to do so may result in delayed publication. Extensive corrections cannot be made at this stage.

Advance online publication

The final version of the manuscript is published online in advance of print. AOP represents the official version of the manuscript and will subsequently appear unchanged, in print.
COSTS

Open Access Publication (Gold Open Access)

Upon acceptance, authors can indicate whether they wish to make their article open access online immediately upon publication, an option which will incur a fee or “article processing charge” (APC). For information about the Creative Commons license options and APC prices for the *Molecular Psychiatry*, visit this site.

Page charges

Molecular Psychiatry levies a fixed page charge of US$196/£126 per typeset page, which is fully inclusive of color reproduction of all color images in print, HTML, and PDF formats. If applicable, 20% VAT will be added to the total page charge amount upon invoicing. This also applies to all EU authors who do not provide a valid VAT number upon returning their form.

Offprints

Offprints may be ordered on the form accompanying the proofs.

EDITORIAL POLICIES

Duplicate publication

Papers must be original and not published or submitted for publication elsewhere. This rule applies to non-English language publications. Springer Nature allows and encourages prior publication on recognized community preprint servers for review by other scientists before formal submission to a journal. The details of the preprint server concerned and any accession numbers should be included in the cover letter accompanying manuscript submission. This policy does not extend to preprints available to the media or that are otherwise publicized outside the scientific community before or during the submission and consideration process.

Permissions

If a table or figure has been published before, the authors must obtain written permission to reproduce the material in both print and electronic formats from the copyright owner and submit it with the manuscript. This follows for quotes, illustrations and other materials taken from previously published works not in the public domain. The original source should be cited in the figure caption or table footnote. Color figures can be reproduced if necessary, but the authors will be expected to contribute towards the cost of publication.

Clinical Trials

As defined by the ICMJE, a clinical trial is any research project that prospectively assigns human subjects to intervention and comparison groups to study the cause-and-effect relationship between a medical intervention and a health outcome. A medical intervention is any intervention used to modify a health outcome and includes but is not limited to drugs, surgical procedures, devices, behavioral treatments, and process-of-care changes. A trial must have at least one prospectively assigned concurrent control or comparison group in order to trigger the requirement for registration. Nonrandomized trials are not exempt from the registration requirement if they meet the above criteria.

When reporting experiments on human subjects, please indicate whether the procedures were in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional or regional) or with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975 (as revised in 1983). Include Institutional Review Board or Animal Care and Use Committee approvals.

All clinical trials must be registered in a public registry prior to submission. *Molecular Psychiatry* follows the trials registration policy of the ICMJE (www.ICMJE.org) and considers only trials that have been appropriately registered before submission, regardless of when the trial closed to enrollment. Acceptable registries must meet the following ICMJE requirements:

- be publicly available, searchable, and open to all prospective registrants
- have a validation mechanism for registration data
- be managed by a not-for-profit organization

Examples of registries that meet these criteria include (1) the registry sponsored by the United States National Library of Medicine (http://www.clinicaltrials.gov); (2) the International Standard Randomized Controlled Trial Number Registry (http://www.controlled-trials.com); (3) the Cochrane Renal Group Registry (http://www.cochrane-renal.org/trialssubmissionform.php); (4) the National (United Kingdom) Research Register (http://www.updatesoftware.com/national/); and (5) the European Clinical Trials Database (http://eudract.emea.eu.int/). The trial registry number for eligible papers will be collected during the submission process.

Springer Nature endorses the toolkits and guidelines produced by the following bodies:

- Committee on Publication Ethics: http://publicationethics.org/
- Good Publication Practice: http://www.gpp-guidelines.org/
They can include any of the following:

- Objectivity, integrity or perceived value of a publication.
- Perception of such potential influences, could undermine the potential influence on behavior or content, or from defined as those of a financial nature that, through their effect is published as part of the article. If no such conflict exists, the statement will simply read that the authors have nothing to disclose.

For the purposes of this statement, competing interests are defined as those of a financial nature that, through their potential influence on behavior or content, or from perception of such potential influences, could undermine the objectivity, integrity or perceived value of a publication. They can include any of the following:

- Funding: Research support (including salaries, equipment, supplies, reimbursement for attending symposia, and other expenses) by organizations that may gain or lose financially through this publication. The role of the funding body in the design of the study, collection and analysis of data and decision to publish should be stated.
- Employment: Recent (while engaged in the research project), present or anticipated employment by any organization that may gain or lose financially through this publication.
- Personal financial interests: Stocks or shares in companies that may gain or lose financially through publication; consultation fees or other forms of remuneration from organizations that may gain or lose financially; patents or patent applications whose value may be affected by publication.

It is difficult to specify a threshold at which a financial interest becomes significant, but note that many US universities require faculty members to disclose interests exceeding $10,000 or 5% equity in a company. Any such figure is arbitrary, so we offer as one possible practical alternative guideline: "Declare all interests that could embarrass you were they to become publicly known after your work was published." We do not consider diversified mutual funds or investment trusts to constitute a competing financial interest.

The statement must contain an explicit and unambiguous statement describing any potential conflict of interest, or lack thereof, for any of the authors as it relates to the subject of the report. Examples include "Dr. Smith receives compensation as a consultant for XYZ Company," "Dr. Jones and Dr. Smith have financial holdings in ABC Company," or "Dr. Jones owns a patent on the diagnostic device described in this report". These statements must be included in the manuscript under the heading Conflict of Interest. The Conflict of Interest disclosure appears in the cover letter, in the manuscript submission process and before the References section in the manuscript.

Potential conflicts of interest should be provided for all authors, including compensation for professional services. Neither the precise amount received from each entity nor the aggregate income from these sources needs to be provided. Professional services include any activities for which the individual is, has been, or will be compensated with cash, royalties, fees, stock or stock options in exchange for work performed, advice or counsel provided, or for other services related to the author's professional knowledge and skills. This would include, but not necessarily be limited to, the identification of organizations from which the author received contracts or in which he or she holds an equity stake if professional services were provided in conjunction with the transaction.

Examples of declarations are:

**Conflict of interest.**
The authors declare no conflict of interest.

**Conflict of interest.**
Dr. Caron's work has been funded by the NIH. He has received compensation as a member of the scientific advisory board of Acadia Pharmaceutical and owns stock in the company. He also has consulted for Lundbeck and received compensation. Dr. Rothman and Dr. Jensen declare no potential conflict of interest.

**Communication with the media**
Material submitted must not be discussed with the media. We reserve the right to halt the consideration or publication of a paper if this condition is broken. If a paper is particularly newsworthy, the press release will be sent to our list of journalists in advance of publication with an embargo that forbids any coverage of the manuscript, or the findings of the manuscript, until the time and date clearly stated. Authors whose papers are scheduled for publication may also arrange their own publicity (for instance through their institution's press offices), but they must strictly adhere to our press embargo and are advised to coordinate their own publicity with our press office.

**Communication between scientists**
We do not wish to hinder communication between scientists. We ask you to communicate with other researchers as much as you wish, whether on a recognized community preprint server, by discussion at scientific meetings or by online collaborative sites such as wikis, but we do not encourage premature publication by discussion with the press (beyond a formal presentation, if at a conference).

**Pre- and Post- Submissions**
Authors are welcome to post pre-submission versions or the original submitted version of the manuscript on a personal blog, a collaborative wiki or a recognized preprint server (such as ArXiv) at any time (but not subsequent pre-accept versions that evolve due to the editorial process).
For subscribed content, the accepted version of the manuscript, following the review process, may only be posted 6 months after the paper is published in a Springer Nature journal. A publication reference and URL to the published version on the journal website must be provided on the first page of the post-print. The published version - copyedited and in the individual Springer Nature journal format - may not be posted on any website or preprint server.

For open access content published under a creative commons license, authors can replace the submitted version with the final published version at publication as long as a publication reference and URL to the published version on the journal website are provided.

Authorship

According to the International Committee on Medical Journal Ethics (ICMJE), an author is defined as one who has made substantive intellectual contribution to the development of a manuscript. Molecular Psychiatry adheres to the ICMJE guidelines, which state that authorship credit should be based on:

1) Substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data;

2) Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and

3) Final approval of the version to be published.

Additional contributors to the submitted work should appear in the Acknowledgments.

A manuscript will be considered for publication on the understanding that:

1. All named authors have agreed to its submission

2. It is not currently being considered for publication by another journal

3. If the paper is accepted it will not subsequently be published in the same or similar form in any language without the consent of publishers

Any changes to the author list after submission, such as a change in the order of the authors, or the deletion or addition of authors, needs to be approved by a signed letter from every author. Moreover, articles found to have been "ghost authored" (e.g., written by unacknowledged freelance writers) will be considered to have violated Molecular Psychiatry's authorship policy.

Changes to authorship

It is the corresponding author's responsibility to ensure that the author list is correct at the point of first submission. Requests to change the authorship (such as to include or exclude an author, change an author's name or contribution) must be accompanied by a letter signed by all authors to show they concur with the change. New authors must also confirm that they fully comply with the journal's authorship requirements. Changes to the authorship will not be allowed once the manuscript has been accepted for publication.

Correspondence with the Journal

One author is designated the contact author for matters arising from the manuscript (materials requests, technical comments and so on). It is this author's responsibility to inform all co-authors of matters arising and to ensure such matters are dealt with promptly. Before submission, the corresponding author ensures that all authors are included in the author list, its order agreed upon by all authors, and are aware that the manuscript was submitted. After acceptance for publication, proofs are e-mailed to this corresponding author who should circulate the proof to all co-authors and coordinate corrections among them.

Plagiarism and fabrication

Plagiarism is when an author attempts to pass off someone else's work as his or her own. Duplicate publication, sometimes called self-plagiarism, occurs when an author reuses substantial parts of his or her own published work without providing the appropriate references. Minor plagiarism without dishonest intent is relatively frequent, for example, when an author reuses parts of an introduction from an earlier paper.

Springer Nature Journals use CrossCheck, a plagiarism detection software tool, to identify instances of overlapping and similar text in submitted manuscripts. CrossCheck is a multi-publisher initiative to screen published and submitted content for originality. To find out more about CrossCheck visit www.crossref.org/crosscheck.html.

If a case of plagiarism comes to light after a paper is published, the Journal will conduct a preliminary investigation, utilizing the guidelines of the Committee on Publication Ethics. If plagiarism is proven, the Journal will contact the author's institute and funding agencies as appropriate. The paper containing the plagiarism may also be formally retracted or subject to correction.

Image integrity and standards

Images submitted with a manuscript for review should be minimally processed (for instance, to add arrows to a micrograph). Authors should retain their unprocessed data and metadata files, as editors may request them to aid in manuscript evaluation. If unprocessed data is unavailable, manuscript evaluation may be stalled until the issue is resolved.

A certain degree of image processing is acceptable for publication (and for some experiments, fields and techniques is unavoidable), but the final image must correctly represent the original data and conform to community standards. The guidelines below will aid in accurate data presentation at the image processing level:

- Authors should list all image acquisition tools and image processing software packages used. Authors
should document key image-gathering settings and processing manipulations in the Methods section.

- Images gathered at different times or from different locations should not be combined into a single image, unless it is stated that the resultant image is a product of time-averaged data or a time-lapse sequence. If juxtaposing images is essential, the borders should be clearly demarcated in the figure and described in the legend.
- Touch-up tools, such as cloning and healing tools in Photoshop, or any feature that deliberately obscures manipulations, is to be avoided.
- Processing (such as changing brightness and contrast) is appropriate only when it is applied equally across the entire image and is applied equally to controls. Contrast should not be adjusted so that data disappear. Excessive manipulations, such as processing to emphasize one region in the image at the expense of others (for example, through the use of a biased choice of threshold settings), is inappropriate, as is emphasizing experimental data relative to the control.

For gels and blots, positive and negative controls, as well as molecular size markers, should be included on each gel and blot – either in the main figure or an expanded data supplementary figure. The display of cropped gels and blots in the main paper is encouraged if it improves the clarity and conciseness of the presentation. In such cases, the cropping must be mentioned in the figure legend.

- Vertically sliced gels that juxtapose lanes that were not contiguous in the experiment must have a clear separation or a black line delineating the boundary between the gels.
- Cropped gels in the paper must retain important bands.
- Cropped blots in the body of the papers should retain at least six band widths above and below the band.
- High-contrast gels and blots are discouraged, as overexposure may mask additional bands. Authors should strive for exposures with gray backgrounds. Immunoblots should be surrounded by a black line to indicate the borders of the blot, if the background is faint.
- For quantitative comparisons, appropriate reagents, controls and imaging methods with linear signal ranges should be used.

Microscopy adjustments should be applied to the entire image. Threshold manipulation, expansion or contraction of signal ranges and the altering of high signals should be avoided. If ‘Pseudo-coloring’ and nonlinear adjustment (for example ‘gamma changes’) are used, this must be disclosed. Adjustments of individual color channels are sometimes necessary on ‘merged’ images, but this should be noted in the figure legend. We encourage inclusion of the following with the final revised version of the manuscript for publication:

- In the Methods section, specify the type of equipment (microscopes/objective lenses, cameras, detectors, filter model and batch number) and acquisition software used. Although we appreciate that there is some variation between instruments, equipment settings for critical measurements should also be listed.
- The display lookup table (LUT) and the quantitative map between the LUT and the bitmap should be provided, especially when rainbow pseudocolor is used. It should be stated if the LUT is linear and covers the full range of the data.
- Processing software should be named and manipulations indicated (such as type of deconvolution, three-dimensional reconstructions, surface and volume rendering, ‘gamma changes’, filtering, thresholding and projection).
- Authors should state the measured resolution at which an image was acquired and any downstream processing or averaging that enhances the resolution of the image.

Reproducibility of Data and Materials

As of March 2015, Molecular Psychiatry requires authors of papers that are sent for external review to include in their manuscripts relevant details about several elements of experimental and analytical design. This initiative aims to improve the transparency of reporting and the reproducibility of published results, focusing on elements of methodological information that are frequently poorly reported. Authors being asked to resubmit a manuscript will be asked to confirm that these elements are included by filling out a checklist that will be made available to the editor and reviewers.

Research Data Policy

We strongly encourage that all datasets on which the conclusions of the paper rely should be available to readers. We encourage authors to ensure that their datasets are either deposited in publicly available repositories (where available and appropriate) or presented in the main manuscript or additional supporting files wherever possible. Where one does not exist, the information must be made available to referees at submission and to readers promptly upon request. Any restrictions on material availability or other relevant information must be disclosed in the manuscript’s Methods section and should include details of how materials and information may be obtained. Please see the journal’s guidelines on Research Data policy [here](#).

Sequences, Structures and “Omics”

Papers reporting protein or DNA sequences and molecular structures will not be accepted without an accession number to Genbank/EMBL/DDBJ, Protein DataBank, SWISS-PROT or other publicly available database in general use in the field that gives free access to researchers from the date of publication.

Authors of papers describing structures of biological macromolecules must provide experimental data upon the request of Editor if they are not already freely accessible in a publicly available database such as Protein DataBank.
Gene Nomenclature

Authors should use approved nomenclature for gene symbols, and use symbols rather than italicized full names (Ttn, not titin). Please consult the appropriate nomenclature databases for correct gene names and symbols. Approved human gene symbols are provided by HUGO Gene Nomenclature Committee (HGNC), www.genenames.org. Approved mouse symbols are provided by The Jackson Laboratory, www.informatics.jax.org/mgihome/nomen. For proposed gene names that are not already approved, please submit the gene symbols to the appropriate nomenclature committees as soon as possible, as these must be deposited and approved before publication of an article.

Avoid listing multiple names of genes (or proteins) separated by a slash, as in ‘Oct4/Pou5f1’, as this is ambiguous (it could mean a ratio, a complex, alternative names or different subunits). Use one name throughout and include the other at first mention: ‘Oct4 (also known as Pou5f1)’

Bioethics

Human and other animal experiments

For primary research manuscripts reporting experiments on live vertebrates and/or higher invertebrates, the corresponding author must confirm that all experiments were performed in accordance with relevant guidelines and regulations. The manuscript must include in the Supplementary Information (methods) section (or, if brief, within of the print/online article at an appropriate place), a statement identifying the institutional and/or licensing committee approving the experiments, including any relevant details regarding animal welfare, patient anonymity, drug side effects and informed consent.

For experiments involving human subjects, authors must identify the committee approving the experiments, and include with their submission a statement confirming that informed consent was obtained from all subjects.

Biosecurity policy

The Editor may seek advice about submitted papers not only from technical reviewers but also on any aspect of a paper that raises concerns. These may include, for example, ethical issues or issues of data or materials access. Very occasionally, concerns may also relate to the implications to society of publishing a paper, including threats to security. In such circumstances, advice will usually be sought simultaneously with the technical peer-review process. As in all publishing decisions, the ultimate decision whether to publish is the responsibility of the editor of the journal concerned.

Peer-review

Manuscripts sent out for peer review are evaluated by at least one independent reviewer (often two or more). Authors may recommend up to 6 reviewers, but they must be from different institutions than the author and with whom the authors have not collaborated or co-authored with in the last 5 years. All recommendations are considered, but it is at the Editor’s discretion their choice of reviewers. To expedite the review process, only papers that seem most likely to meet editorial criteria are sent for external review. Papers judged by the editors to be of insufficient general interest or otherwise inappropriate are rejected promptly without external review.

The editors then make a decision based on the reviewers’ advice, from among several possibilities:

Accept, with or without editorial revisions. Invite the authors to revise their manuscript to address specific concerns before a final decision is reached.

Reject, but indicate to the authors that further work might justify a resubmission.

Reject outright, typically on grounds of specialist interest, lack of novelty, insufficient conceptual advance or major technical and/or interpretational problems.

Molecular Psychiatry is a member of the Neuroscience Peer Review Consortium (NPRC). The purpose of the NPRC is to decrease the time and effort involved in the peer review process, and reduces the burden placed on reviewers. Authors of papers that have been rejected after review may request that Molecular Psychiatry transfer reviews to other member journals, and or request member journals transfer requests to Molecular Psychiatry.

Authors can request to have reviews transferred by contacting the journal’s editorial office. For a complete list of member journals, please see the list on the NPRC website.

Anonymity and Confidentiality

All details about submitted manuscripts are kept confidential and no comments are issued to outside parties or organizations about manuscripts under consideration or if they are rejected. Editors are restricted to making public comments on a published article’s content and their evaluation.

We do not release reviewers’ identities to authors, except when reviewers specifically ask to be identified.

We ask reviewers not to identify themselves to authors without the editor’s knowledge. If they wish to reveal their identities while the manuscript is under consideration, this should be done via the editor; if this is not practicable, we ask authors to inform the editor as soon as possible after the reviewer has revealed their identity. We deplore any attempt by authors to confront reviewers or try to determine their identities. Our own policy is to neither confirm nor deny any speculation about reviewers’ identities, and we encourage reviewers to adopt a similar policy.

Upon accepting an invitation to evaluate a manuscript, reviewers must keep the manuscript and associated data confidential, and not redistribute them without the journal’s permission. If a reviewer asks a colleague to assist in assessing a manuscript, confidentiality must be ensured and
their names must be provided to the journal with the final report.

Content Sharing

In order to aid the dissemination of research swiftly and legally to the broader community, we are providing all authors with the ability to generate a unique shareable link that will allow anyone to read the published article. If you have selected an Open Access option for your paper, or where an individual can view content via a personal or institutional subscription, recipients of the link will also be able to download and print the PDF.

As soon as your article is published, you can generate your shareable link by entering the DOI of your article here: http://authors.springernature.com/share

We encourage you to forward this link to your co-authors, as sharing your paper is a great way to improve the visibility of your work. There are no restrictions on the number of people you may share this link with, how many times they can view the linked article or where you can post the link online.

More information on Springer Nature’s commitment to content sharing is available here.

Selecting peer reviewers

Reviewer selection is critical to the publication process, and we base our choice on many factors, based on expertise, reputation, and specific recommendations. Authors may recommend up to 6 reviewers, but they must be from different institutions than the author and with whom the authors have not collaborated or co-authored with in the last 5 years. A reviewer may decline the invitation to evaluate a manuscript where there is a perceived conflict of interest (financial or otherwise).

Appeals

If Molecular Psychiatry declines to publish a paper and does not suggest resubmission, authors are strongly advised to submit their paper for publication elsewhere. Appeal requests are necessarily subordinate to normal workflow and therefore the process may be quite lengthy.

If an author wishes to appeal the editor’s decision, a request must be made by emailing the editorial office at MolecularPsychiatry@us.nature.com, and must strictly confine itself to the scientific case for publication. Due to high volume, such enquiries sent directly to the Editor-in-Chief will not receive a response.

Decisions are reversed on appeal only if the journal is convinced that the original decision was a serious error, as opposed to an editorial judgment for which there may be strong evidence on either side. Therefore, after careful consideration of the authors’ points, most appeals are rejected.

Correction and retraction process

We recognize our responsibility to correct errors. Content published online (as Advance Online Publication - AOP) or in an issue is final and cannot be amended. The online and print versions are both part of the published record hence the original version must be preserved and changes to the paper should be made as a formal correction. If an error is noticed in an AOP article, a correction should accompany the article when it publishes in print. An HTML (or full-text) version of the correction will also be created and linked to the original article. If the error is found in an article after print publication the correction will be published online and in the next available print issue.

Decisions about corrections are made by the Editor (sometimes with peer-reviewers’ advice) and this sometimes involves author consultation. Requests to make corrections that do not affect the paper in a significant way or impair the reader’s understanding of the contribution (a spelling mistake or grammatical error, for example) are not considered.

In cases where coauthors disagree about a correction, the editors will take advice from independent peer-reviewers and impose the appropriate correction, noting the dissenting author(s) in the text of the published version.

Please note the following policy for making corrections to print and online versions of peer-reviewed content:

- **Erratum.** Notification of an important error made by the journal that affects the publication record or the scientific integrity of the paper, or the reputation of the authors, or of the journal.
- **Corrigendum.** Notification of an important error made by the author that affects the publication record or the scientific integrity of the paper, or the reputation of the authors or the journal.
- **Retraction.** Notification of invalid results. All coauthors must sign a retraction specifying the error and stating briefly how the conclusions are affected.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For inquiries related to submission requirements or submitted manuscripts, please contact the editorial office. For inquiries related to advertising, subscriptions, permissions, papers in production or publishing a supplement, please contact the publisher’s office.