This guide outlines key points for preparing primary research manuscripts for submission to *Nature Cell Biology*.

The corresponding author should be familiar with the *Nature* journals’ editorial policies and is solely responsible for communicating with the journal and managing communication between coauthors. Before submission, the corresponding author ensures that all authors are included in the author list and agree with its order, and that they are aware the manuscript is to be submitted. For more information on editorial and authorship policies please review our Guide to Authors.

**Cover letter**

Although optional, the cover letter is an excellent opportunity to briefly discuss the context and importance of the submitted work and why it is appropriate for the journal. Please avoid repeating information that is already present in the abstract and introduction. The cover letter is not shared with the referees, and should be used to provide confidential information, such as conflicts of interest, and to declare any related work that is in press or submitted elsewhere.

**Main manuscript**

The *Nature* journals are flexible with regard to the format of initial submissions. Within reason, style and length will not influence consideration of a manuscript. If revisions are requested, the editor will provide detailed formatting instructions at that time. For information on length and formatting consult *Nature Cell Biology*’s content types.

**Title.** Titles should be 100 characters including spaces or less and avoid technical terms, abbreviations, punctuation and active verbs.

**Authors.** Corresponding author(s) should be identified with an asterisk.

**Abstract.** Provide a general introduction to the topic and a brief non-technical summary of your main results and their implication.

**Methods.** The Methods section appears in all online original research articles and should contain all elements necessary for interpretation and replication of the results. Methods should be written as concisely as possible and typically do not exceed 3,000 words. Methods-only references do not count against your reference limit. We encourage you to deposit any step-by-step protocols used in your study in Protocol Exchange, an open resource maintained by NPG. These protocols are linked to the Methods section upon publication.

**References.** These may only contain citations and should list only one publication with each number. Include the title of the cited article or dataset.

**Acknowledgements (optional).** Keep acknowledgements brief and do not include thanks to anonymous referees or editors, or effusive comments. Grant or contribution numbers may be acknowledged.

**Author contributions.** You must include a statement that specifies the individual contributions of each co-author. For example: "A.P.M. contributed Y and Z; B.T.R. contributed Y," etc. See our authorship policies for more details.

**Competing financial interests.** Submission of a competing financial interests statement is required for all content of the journal.

**Materials & Correspondence.** Indicate the author(s) to whom correspondence and material requests should be addressed.

**Tables.** Each table should be submitted as a word document and accompanied by a short title sentence describing what the table shows. Further details can be included as footnotes to the table.

**Figures**

High-resolution image files are not required at initial submission, but please ensure that images are of sufficient resolution for referees to properly assess the data. If necessary, supply separate image files or deposit image data in a suitable repository (e.g. figshare) for this purpose.

Should your manuscript be accepted, you will receive more extensive instructions for final submission of display items. However, some guidelines for final figure preparation are included below and here if you wish to minimize later revisions and possible delays.

- Provide images in RGB color and at 300 dpi or higher resolution.
- Use the same typeface (Arial or Helvetica) for all figures. Use symbol font for Greek letters.
- Use distinct colors with comparable visibility and avoid the use of red and green for contrast. Recoloring primary data, such as fluorescence images, to color-safe combinations such as green and magenta or other accessible color palettes is strongly encouraged. Use of the rainbow color scale should be avoided.
- Figures are best prepared at the size you would expect them to appear in print. At this size, the optimum font size is 7pt.
- We prefer vector files with editable layers. Acceptable formats are: .ai, .eps, .pdf, .ps and .svg for fully editable vector-based art; layered .psd and .tif for editable layered art; .psd, .tif, .png and .jpg for bitmap images; .ppt if fully editable and without styling effects; ChemDraw (.cdx) for chemical structures.
- Please refer to the *Nature Chemistry* style guide for formatting of chemical structures.

Figure legends of <350 words each should begin with a brief title sentence for the whole figure and continue with a short statement of what is depicted in the figure, not the results (or data) of the experiment or the methods used. Legends should be detailed enough so that each figure and caption can, as far as possible, be understood in isolation from the main text.

**Statistical information**

Comprehensive information on the statistical analyses used must be included in the paper. The Methods must include a statistics section where you describe the statistical tests used and whether they were one- or two-tailed. Please ensure that the error bars are defined as such. Where relevant, please provide exact values for both significant and non-significant P values. For ANOVAs, provide F values and degrees of freedom. For t-tests, provide t-values and degrees of freedom. Please specifically define the replicates.

**Costs**

We are committed to providing authors with the highest quality figures. In order to cover part of the additional cost of four-color reproduction, we charge authors a fee of $620 for the first color figure and $310 for each additional color figure. There are no additional submission fees or page charges.

**Supplementary information**

Please submit supplementary figures, small tables and text as a single combined pdf (with the pieces in the order: text, figures, tables). For submission, please incorporate as much of the figures and text as possible into the main text. Limit supplementary figures to the same number of figures in the main text.

**Data availability**

Please provide a Data Availability statement in the Methods section under “Data Availability”; detailed guidance can be found in our data availability and data citations policy.

The following data types must be deposited in an appropriate public structured data depository (see below) and the accession number(s) provided in the manuscript. Full access is required at publication. Should full access to data be required for peer review, authors must provide it.

- Protein sequences – Uniprot
- DNA & RNA sequences – Genbank, DDBJ, ENA
- DNA & RNA sequencing data – NCBI Trace Archive, NCBI SRA
- Genetic polymorphisms – dbSNP, dbVar, EVA

*For more information on editorial and authorship policies please refer to the Nature Chemistry style guide for formatting of chemical structures.*
• Linked genotype and phenotype data – dbGAP, EGA
• Macromolecular structure data – wwPDB, BMRB, EMDB
• Microarray data (MIAME compliant) – ArrayExpress, GEO
• Crystallographic data for small molecules – Cambridge Structural Database
• More information is available here. Depositation of the data types below is strongly encouraged.
• Proteomic data – PRIDE, ProteomeXchange
• Chemical data – Pubchem

We encourage provision of other source data in unstructured public depositories such as Dryad or figshare, or as supplementary information. To maximize data reuse, we encourage publication of detailed descriptions of datasets in Scientific Data.

Crystallographic data
Manuscripts reporting new crystallographic structures of small molecules must be accompanied by a standard .cif file. A structural figure with probability ellipsoids should be included in the main supplementary information file. The structure factors for each structure should also be submitted, preferably embedded in the main .cif file, although they may be provided as a separate .hkl and/or .fcf file. Use of the 2014 version of the program SHELXL, which embeds the structure factors information in the main .cif file, is encouraged. The structure factors and structural output must be checked using IUCr's CheckCIF routine and a pdf copy of the output supplied, explaining any A- or B-level alerts.

Computer code
Any previously unreported custom computer code used to generate results reported in the manuscript that are central to the main claims must be made available to editors and referees upon request. Any practical issues preventing code sharing will be evaluated by the editors who reserve the right to decline the manuscript if important code is unavailable. At publication, Nature journals consider it best practice to release custom computer code in a way that allows readers to repeat the published results.

For all studies using custom code that is deemed central to the conclusions, a statement must be included in the Methods section, under the heading "Code availability", indicating whether and how the code can be accessed, including any restrictions.

Life sciences reporting guidelines
Life sciences research manuscripts sent for external review must include relevant details about several elements of experimental and analytical design. These requirements aim to improve the transparency of reporting and the reproducibility of published results. They focus on elements of methodological information that are frequently poorly reported (see more details on these elements here). You must complete a reporting checklist to indicate where these details are presented in your manuscript prior to peer review. The completed checklist will be provided to the referees. Guidance and resources related to the use and reporting of statistics are available.

Human subject data
For describing human biospecimens, we recommend referring to the BRISQ reporting guidelines and ensuring at least Tier 1 characteristics are provided (doi: 10.1002/cncy.20147).

Related manuscripts
It is a requirement of submission that you alert us to any related manuscripts with overlapping authorship that are under consideration (including under appeal) or in press at other journals (see our editorial policies on duplicate submissions for details). Copies of these manuscripts should be clearly marked and included as separate files with your submission. Abstracts or other unreferred preprints do not compromise novelty.

Preprint servers
The Nature journals support the posting of submitted manuscripts on non-commercial preprint servers such as arxiv and bioRxiv. We do, however, ask you to respect the following summaries of our policies:
• The original submitted version may be posted at any time.
• The accepted version may be posted 6 months after publication.
• The published version—copyedited and in Nature journal format—may not be posted on a preprint server or other website.

Double-blind peer review
To participate in double-blind peer review, please prepare your manuscript in a way that conceals the identities of all the authors (see checklist) and tick the appropriate box during online submission. Please note that editors do not ensure that the paper is properly anonymized; that is the responsibility of the authors.

Transferring your manuscript
If an editor is unable to offer publication of your manuscript, you have the opportunity to transfer all manuscript materials, the decision letter and any referee comments to a selection of Springer Nature journals without re-entering submission information. Use the link in your decision letter to explore suggested alternative journals. You may then initiate the transfer process to the journal of your choice or submit elsewhere. Please see this page for more information.

Appeals
Authors who feel that they have strong grounds for appealing a decision may contact the journal to request the opening of an appeal, after which they may upload a cogently argued rebuttal letter that addresses the referees’ and/or editor’s comments in a point-by-point manner. Decisions are reversed on appeal only if the editors are convinced that the original decision was made in error, or if critical new information or data has been added.

Comments on published articles
Important scientific comments and clarifications on content published in Nature Cell Biology may be submitted as Correspondence.

Questions and manuscript submission
General editorial enquiries should be addressed to the Editor at ncb@nature.com. Manuscripts should be submitted through our online submission system. Further submission details are available here.