

About the Journal	1	Post-Acceptance	7
Article Type Specifications	2	Editorial Policies	9
Preparation of Articles	3	Further Information	14
How to Submit	5		

ABOUT THE JOURNAL

Aims and Scope

Prostate Cancer and Prostatic Diseases covers all aspects of prostatic diseases, and in particular, prostate cancer, the subject of intensive basic and clinical research worldwide. The journal also reports on exciting new developments being made in diagnosis, surgery, radiotherapy, drug discovery and medical management.

Prostate Cancer and Prostatic Diseases is of interest to surgeons, oncologists, clinicians and to those involved in research into diseases of the prostate.

Prostate Cancer and Prostatic Diseases publishes original research articles, reviews, topical comment and critical appraisals of scientific meetings and the latest books.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of the general topics covered by *Prostate Cancer and Prostatic Diseases*:

- Alternative therapies
- Angiogenesis
- Anti-sense oligonucleotides against growth factors
- Brachytherapy
- Conformal radiotherapy
- Cryotherapy
- Cyclotron fast neutron treatment
- Enhancing the results of radical prostatectomy
- Epidemiology of prostate cancer and prostatic diseases
- Familial prostate cancer
- Free to total PSA
- Gene therapy for prostate cancer
- Genetic basis for prostate cancer Hormone-related disease
- How significant is PSA-detected disease?
- Intermittent antiandrogen therapy
- Mechanisms of tumour invasion in prostate cancer
- Medical and surgical therapies for male LUTS
- Medical therapy for male LUTS: the road ahead
- Natural history of prostate cancer and prostatic diseases
- Nutrition in prostate cancer and prostatic diseases
- Photodynamic therapy
- Prognostic markers
- Prostate cancer and potency and impotence
- Prostatic intra-epithelial neoplasia - an important precursor of cancer
- Prostatitis: quo vadis?
- Quality of life issues
- Racial issues in prostate cancer
- Recurrence after radical prostatectomy
- Reproducibility (test-retest reliability) of investigations for prostatic diseases
- Reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction to detect circulating mRNA for PSA
- Role of differentiation therapy
- Screening for prostate cancer
- Staging of prostate cancer: beyond conventional imaging
- The magic bullet - use of PSA promotor gene to target gene therapy
- Utility of ultrasensitive PSA assays

Journal Details

Editor-in-Chief: Stephen J. Freedland, MD, USA

Editorial Office: pcan@us.nature.com

Impact Factor: 3.723 (2016 Journal Citation Reports, Thomson Reuters, 2017)

Frequency: 4 issues per year

Abstracted in:

Excerpta Medica/EMBASE
Current Contents
Research Alert
Science Citation Index

SCIExpanded
Index Medicus/Medline
SciSearch
UK Health Centre Index

Submission of manuscripts

Please visit the [online submission site](#) to submit a manuscript to the journal.

ARTICLE TYPE SPECIFICATIONS

Editorial Note

The journal covers three main areas: prostate cancer, male LUTS and prostatitis. *Prostate Cancer and Prostatic Diseases* publishes original research articles, reviews, letters to the editor and editorials. Editorials are by invitation only. The Editors and a distinguished Editorial Board ensure that submitted articles receive fast and efficient attention and are refereed to the highest possible scientific standard.

Article Description	ABSTRACT	WORD LIMIT	TABLES/FIGURES	REFERENCES
<p>Original Articles: These should follow the structure outlined below. The word count does not include figures or tables. Any text beyond the limit can be published as online-only supplementary material if you feel that it is necessary (see instructions below on supplementary material)</p>	Structured abstract, max 300 words.	3,000 words max, including abstract	Maximum of 5 tables/figures.	No more than 50 references.
<p>Systematic Reviews: These should clearly indicate how conclusions are drawn from the data. The word count does not include figures and tables. Review articles are required to have background, methods, results, and conclusion sections. Methods section must include information regarding citation indexes and databases searched to generate review content. *</p>	Structured abstract, max 300 words	4,000-4,500 words max, including abstract.	Liberal use of tables and figures is encouraged.	No more than 100 references.
<p>Narrative Reviews: These will need to be approved by the editors prior to submission.</p>	Structured abstract, max 300 words	4,000-4,500 words max, including abstract.	Liberal use of tables and figures is encouraged.	No more than 100 references.
<p>Letters to the Editor: These are comments on original research papers or other technical material published in <i>Prostate Cancer and Prostatic Diseases</i> in the last six months. 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.</p>	No abstract required.	Word count should not exceed 500.	Maximum of 2 tables/figures.	Maximum of 5 references.
<p>Perspective: These are intended to provide a forum for authors to discuss models and ideas from a personal viewpoint. They are more forward looking and/or speculative than Reviews and may take a narrower field of view. They may be opinionated but should remain balanced and are intended to stimulate discussion and consideration of new approaches to investigation and understanding of a field.</p>	No abstract required.	Word count should not exceed 1,000.	Maximum of 1 table/figure.	Maximum of 10 references.
<p>Brief Communication: These reports are concise studies of high quality and broad interest.</p>	Structured abstract, max 300 words	Word count should not exceed 1,000.	Maximum of 1 table/figure.	Maximum of 25 references.

*Systematic reviews are highly encouraged. Non-systematic reviews are subject to editorial rejection without review, depending on the topic.

PREPARATION OF ARTICLES

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

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. Tables
12. Figures

Cover letter

The uploaded covering 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 covering letter must also contain a Conflict of Interest statement (see Editorial Policy section).

Title page

The title page should contain:

- Title of the paper - brief, informative, of 150 characters or less and should not make a statement or conclusion
- Running title – should convey the essential message of the paper in no more than 50 characters. Should not contain any abbreviations
Please note – the running head for a manuscript on all pages after the title page will be the shortened manuscript title followed by an ellipsis.
- Full names of all the authors and their affiliations, as well as the e-mail address of the corresponding author. If authors regard it as essential to indicate that two or more co-authors are equal in status, they may be identified by an asterisk symbol with the caption 'These authors contributed equally to this work' immediately under the address list.
Group Authorship/Collaborations - Please note that if in the list of authors you wish to include additional authors/collaborators/groups/consortiums that aren't part of the core list of authors as 'on behalf of', 'for the' or 'representing the' you need to ensure you list the authors correctly within the paper to ensure these are deposited correctly in PubMed.
 - Groups where there is an 'on behalf of', or 'representing the', or 'for the' will appear in the HTML/PDF as follows: Author A, Author B, Author C and Author D on behalf of...
The list of individual members should then appear in the Acknowledgements section and not under Notes or Appendix
 - A Group name who is an author in its own right should have the list of authors as usual and then all the individual authors of the group listed in their own section at the end of the article, NOT in Acknowledgement/Appendix or Notes

Abstract

The abstract should not exceed 300 words. Abstracts require the headings BACKGROUND, METHODS, RESULTS, and CONCLUSIONS.

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, so that all experimental procedures can be reproduced, and include references. Methods, however, that have been published in detail elsewhere should not be described in detail. 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.

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

Manuscripts should have no more than 50 references. Only references directly related to the article should be cited and 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.

Journal article, up to six authors:

1 Reiter RE, Gu Z, Watabe T, Thomas G, Szigeti K, Davis E *et al.* Prostate stem cell antigen: a cell surface marker overexpressed in prostate cancer. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 1998; **95**: 1735–1740.

Journal article, e-pub ahead of print:

2 Glendenning J, Khoo V. Sweet's syndrome in prostate cancer. *Prostate Cancer Prostatic Dis* 2008; e-pub ahead of print 29 January 2008; doi:10.1038/sj.pcan.4501029.

Journal article, in press:

3 Kao PF, Chou YH, Lai CW. Diffuse FDG uptake in acute prostatitis. *Clin Nucl Med* (in press).

Complete book:

4 Burnet FM. *Immunological Surveillance*. Pergamon Press: Oxford, UK, 1970.

Chapter in book:

5 Denmeade SR, Isaacs JT. Activation of programmed (apoptotic) cell death for the treatment of prostate cancer. In: August JT, Anders MW, Murad F, Coyle JT (eds). *Advances in Pharmacology*, vol. 35. Academic Press: London, 1996, pp 281–306.

Abstract:

6 Lennon S, Strong A. Wnt signaling and cancer development: therapeutic implications. *Neoplasma* 2006; **53**(Suppl 1): 123 (abstract 456).

Letter to the Editor:

7 Brailon A. Re: is a screening interval of every 4 years for prostate cancer acceptable? [letter]. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2008; **100**: 222–223.

[EndNote](#) users should select the *Prostate Cancer and Prostatic Diseases* output style for the correct reference style.

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.

Figure Legends

These should be brief, specific and appear on a separate manuscript page after the References section.

Tables

Tables should only be used to present essential data; they should not duplicate what is written in the text. **It is imperative that any tables used are editable**, ideally presented in Excel. Each must be uploaded as a separate workbook with a title or caption and be clearly labelled, sequentially. Please make sure each table is cited within the text and in the correct order, e.g. (Table 3).

Please save the files with extensions .xls / .xlsx / .ods / or .doc or

.docx. Please ensure that you provide a 'flat' file, with single values in each cell with no macros or links to other workbooks or worksheets and no calculations or functions.

Figures

Figures and images should be labelled sequentially and cited in the text. Figures should not be embedded within the text but rather uploaded as separate files. Detailed guidelines for submitting artwork can be found by downloading our [Artwork Guidelines](#). The use of three-dimensional histograms is strongly discouraged when the addition of the third dimension gives no extra information.

Color charges

There is a charge if authors choose to publish their figures in color in print publication. In 2019, these charges are:

Number of color illustrations		1	2	3	4	5	6	7+	
Cost	Rest of world	£590	£876	£1,165	£1,341	£1,517	£1,667	£151	per additional color figure
	USA & Canada	\$1,178	\$1,754	\$2,331	\$2,680	\$3,031	\$3,332	\$301	

Color charges will not apply to authors who choose to pay an article processing charge to make their paper open access.

Supplementary information

Supplementary information (SI) is 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. 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.

Please note: We do not allow the resupplying of Supplementary Information files for style reasons after a paper has been exported in production, unless there is a serious error that affects the science and, if by not replacing, it would lead to a formal correction once the paper has been published. In these cases we would make an exception and replace the file; however there are very few instances where a Supplementary Information file would be corrected post publication.

Availability of Data and Materials

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

Abbreviations and Symbols

These must be standard and SI units used throughout. The following abbreviations are approved: ACE-Angiotensin-converting-enzyme; PRA-Plasma renin activity; PRC-Plasma renin concentration; BP-Blood pressure; SBP-Systolic blood pressure; DBP-Diastolic blood pressure; MAP-Mean arterial pressure; RAS-Renal artery stenosis; RAA System - Renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system and ANP-Arterial natriuretic peptide. Acronyms should be used sparingly and must be fully explained when first used. Whenever possible drugs should be given their approved generic name. Where a proprietary (brand) name must be used, it should begin with a capital letter. Statistical analyses must explain the methods used. The use of footnotes is not permitted. Single quotation marks should be used and words to be italicized should be underlined.

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: pcan@us.nature.com

Online Submission

We only accept manuscript submission via our online [manuscript submission system](#). Before submitting a manuscript, authors are encouraged to consult both our [Editorial Policies](#) and Preparation of Articles instructions above.

Navigating the online 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.

Make sure that your browser is set to accept cookies. Our tracking system requires cookies for proper operation.

When you first access our tracking system, you will be taken to your Home page, where different categories of tasks are listed. If you are required to perform a pending action item or task, there will be a red arrow  next to a 'Manuscript' link. Throughout the system, red arrows  reflect pending action items which you should address. If there are no red arrows visible on your Home page, then you are finished and have no outstanding tasks to complete. At any time please press [HOME](#) to go to the submission home page.

'What you'll need'

You will need to have the following details for all authors to submit your paper online. Items in parenthesis are not essential for co-authors:

- Email Addresses
- First and Last Names
- Institution
- (Full Postal Address)
- (Work Telephone Numbers)

In addition you will need:

- Covering letter, including a Conflict of Interest statement
- Title and Running Title (you can copy and paste this from your manuscript)
- Abstract (you can copy and paste this from your manuscript)
- Manuscript files in Word, WordPerfect, text or any RTF format
- Figures/Images in external files in TIFF or JPEG, in either grayscale or CMYK color, not in RGB
- Tables in Excel (preferred) as separate files or embedded at the end of the manuscript file

The manuscript submission process is broken down into a series of 4 primary tasks that gather detailed information about your manuscript and allow you to upload the pertinent text and figure/image files. The sequence of screens is as follows:

1. The 'Files' primary task allows you to select the actual file locations (via an open file dialogue). You will be able to 'Browse' for the relevant files on your computer. **Please include the figure number in the title line for each figure.** On the completion screen, you will be asked to specify the order in which you want the individual files to appear in the merged document. Editors and/or reviewers will also be able to look at the individual PDF files if necessary. For more information on accepted file types, view the [Artwork Guidelines PDF](#).
2. The 'Manuscript Information' primary task which asks for author details, the manuscript title, abstract, other associated manuscript information and types/number of files to be submitted. Please note, if you are the corresponding author please submit your details in the corresponding author fields; DO NOT re-enter the same details in the contributing author fields.
3. The 'Validate' primary task gives you the opportunity to check and verify the manuscript files and manuscript information uploaded. If you are submitting manuscript files separately, we create a merged PDF containing your manuscript text, figures and tables to simplify the handling of your paper. You will need to approve the merged PDF file, and a PDF or any other file not included in the merge, to submit your manuscript. You may also update and/or change manuscript files and manuscript information by clicking on the 'Change' or 'Fix' links respectively.
4. The 'Submit' primary task is the last step in the manuscript submission process. At this stage the Manuscript Tracking System will perform a final check to ensure that all mandatory fields have been completed. Any incomplete fields will be flagged by a red arrow and highlighted by a red box. Click on the 'Fix' link to return to relevant section for completion. Once your manuscript has been finalised, click on the 'Approve Submission' button to submit your manuscript for consideration. A 'Manuscript Approved' message will display on your author desktop to confirm the submission.

Conflict of interest

It is essential that you note whether or not there is any conflict of interest in the submission form. This does not act as a substitute for the

information that must be provided in the manuscript. See the Conflict of Interest documentation in the Editorial Policy section for detailed information.

Six preferred reviewers

Authors are welcome to suggest suitable independent reviewers. Email addresses provided must be institutional email addresses only. Personal email addresses will not be accepted. Authors may also request that the journal excludes one or two individuals or laboratories. However, it is ultimately at the editor's discretion to determine the choice of referees.

Submitting additional files

For more information on submitting figure files and tables, please refer to the [artwork guidelines PDF](#).

Equations in Word must be created using Equation Editor 3.0

Equations created using the new equation editor in Word 2007 and saved as a "Word 97-2003 Document" (.doc) are converted to graphics and can no longer be edited. To insert or change an equation with the previous equation editor:

- Select "Object" on the "Text" section of the "Insert" tab
- In the drop-down menu - select "Equation Editor 3.0"

Do not use the "Equation" button in the "Symbols" section of the "Insert" tab.

Social media

Did you know that PCAN is on Twitter? Follow us at [@pcan_journal](#). If your paper is accepted, we would like to promote it on Twitter, and invite you to include your social media information on the online submission form while submitting your article. Please supply our social media editor with a suggested "tweet" or short blurb about your article, which may or may not be used or edited at the discretion of the journal (250 character limit). Please also include your Twitter handle and/or the Twitter handle of your co-authors so we can tag you in relation to your article.

Getting help

If you need additional help, you can click on help signs available throughout the system and a box will appear with context sensitive help. If further assistance is required, then please contact the [Applications Helpdesk](#).

Manuscript status

After your manuscript is approved, you will receive an email acknowledgement. You can check the manuscript's status at any time in the review process by:

1. Accessing the system with your password or via the link provided in the acknowledgement email
2. Clicking on the link represented by your manuscript tracking number and abbreviated title on your homepage.
3. Clicking on the "Check Status" link at the bottom of the displayed page.

This procedure will display tracking information about where your manuscript is in the submission/peer review process. See Navigating the system in the [Submission of Papers](#) section for more information.

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

The corresponding author must complete and sign the [License to Publish form](#) upon resubmission of the manuscript. Failure to complete and sign this form will result in delays to the publication of your paper.

Springer Nature does not require authors to assign copyright of their published contributions. Authors grant an exclusive licence to publish, in return for which they can re-use their papers in their future printed work.

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 and Europe PubMed Central 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 *PCAN*:

- [About Creative Commons licensing](#)
- [Creative Commons license options and article processing charges \(APCs\) for *PCAN*](#)
- [APC payment FAQs](#)
- [Help in identifying funding for APCs](#)
- [Site license price adjustments for hybrid journals](#)
- [Editorial process for OA publication in hybrid journals](#)
- [Self-archiving and deposition](#)

If authors opt to publish via the open access route then the corresponding author must complete and sign the [Article Processing Charge \(APC\) payment form](#) and an [open access License to Publish \(LTP\) form](#) on behalf of all authors, and return these to the editorial office. All forms will be provided upon acceptance of the article. Failure to promptly return forms will result in delay of publication.

Government employees from the United States, UK, and Canada are required to sign and submit the relevant government open access license to publish form.

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 *Prostate Cancer and Prostatic Diseases*, [visit this site](#).

Please note with regards to payment that usual credit terms are 30 days from receipt of invoice. Failure to pay your invoice within the stated credit term may result in the Open Access status of the paper being rescinded, with the paper being placed behind the paywall. You may also be subject to such penalties as restrictions on your ability to publish with Springer Nature in the future, involvement of a third party debt collection agency and legal proceedings.

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.](#)

E-proofs

The Springer Nature e-proofing system is a unique solution that will enable authors to remotely edit /correct your article proofs.

The corresponding author will receive an e-mail containing a URL linking to the e-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.

For more information and instructions on how to use the e-proofing tool please see [here](#).

Advance online publication

All original articles are published ahead of print on advance online publication. This is the final version and will subsequently appear in a print issue unchanged.

Offprints

Offprints may be ordered on the form accompanying the proofs.

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.

Terms of submission

Manuscripts are considered with the understanding that they have not been published previously in print or electronic format and are not under consideration by another publication or electronic medium. Although the Editor and referees make every effort to ensure the validity of published manuscripts, the final responsibility rests with the authors, not with the journal, its Editor or the Publisher.

Patient Anonymity, Informed Consent and Animal Welfare

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.

It is the author's responsibility to ensure that a patient's anonymity is carefully protected. Authors should remove patients' identifying information from figures unless they obtain written consent and submit this documentation with the manuscript.

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.

When reporting experiments on human subjects, indicate whether the procedures followed 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.

In cases where a study involves the use of live animals, the manuscript should include a statement that all experiments were performed in compliance with relevant laws and institutional guidelines.

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. For more information on color figures, please review the [Figures](#) and [Costs](#) sections.

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.

All clinical trials must be registered in a public registry prior to submission. *Prostate Cancer and Prostatic Diseases* 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/trialsubmissionform.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/>

- Medical Publishing Insights and Practices Initiative: http://www.mpip-initiative.org/PDF/MPIP_Authors_Submission_Toolkit.pdf

Conflict of interest

In the interests of transparency and to help readers form their own judgments of potential bias, effective from January 1st 2009, authors must declare whether or not there is any competing financial interests in relation to the work described. This information must be included in their cover letter and in the conflict of interest section of their manuscript. In cases where the authors declare a competing financial interest, a statement to that 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 acknowledging or denying conflicts of interest 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.

Following the Conflict of Interest heading, there must be a listing for each author, detailing the professional services relevant to the submission. 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

Requirements for all categories of articles should conform to the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals," developed by the ICMJE (www.icmje.org).

Each author must have contributed sufficiently to the intellectual content of the submission. The corresponding author should list all authors and their contributions to the work. 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, must be approved by a signed letter from every author. The corresponding author must confirm that he or she has had full access to the data in the study and final responsibility for the decision to submit for publication.

To qualify as a contributing author, one must meet all of the following criteria:

- Conceived and/or designed the work that led to the submission, acquired data, and/or played an important role in interpreting the results.
- Drafted or revised the manuscript.
- Approved the final version.

Contributions by individuals who made direct contributions to the work but do not meet all of the above criteria should be noted in the Acknowledgments section of the manuscript. Medical writers and industry employees can be contributors. Their roles, affiliations, and potential conflicts of interest should be included in the author list or noted in the Acknowledgments and/or Contributors section concurrent with their contribution to the work submitted.

Signed statements from any medical writers or editors declaring that they have given permission to be named as an author, as a contributor, or in the Acknowledgments section is also required. Failure to acknowledge these contributors can be considered inappropriate, which conflicts with the journal's editorial 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.

Statement of Ethics

Prostate Cancer and Prostatic Diseases 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 [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.

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 paper 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.

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 whenever 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](#).

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](#).

Bioethics

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

All contributions that are selected for peer-review are sent to at least one, but usually two or more, independent reviewers. To save time for authors and peer-reviewers, only those papers that seem most likely to meet our editorial criteria are sent for formal review. Those 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.

Anonymity and Confidentiality

We do not release reviewers' identities to authors, except when reviewers specifically ask to be identified. Unless they feel strongly, however, we prefer that reviewers should remain anonymous throughout the review process and beyond. 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, or if this is not practicable, we ask authors to inform the editor as soon as possible after the reviewer has revealed his or her identity to the author. We deplore any attempt by authors to confront reviewers or 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.

Selecting peer reviewers

Reviewer selection is critical to the publication process, and we base our choice on many factors, including expertise, reputation, and specific recommendations.

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

To find out who to contact for advertising, subscriptions, permissions, papers in production or publishing a supplement, please visit our publisher's [contacts](#) page.