



How to Get your Cell Therapy Research Published

**Cell Therapy Manufacturing
& Gene Therapy Congress**

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How to get your Cell Therapy Research Published

So you want to get your cell therapy research published? Getting published is highly competitive, but hopefully this guide will make the process slightly faster and easier. We will take a look at how some of the major publications work, answering some of the questions most often asked.

Getting published may seem like more hassle than it's worth at times, but it remains an important part of all academic and scientific study. Sharing your research in a publication allows you to share your work with the wider world and reach a larger audience, which is ultimately the point. Equally, doing the grunt work of organising a research paper can also have its merits, often improving how your research is organised.

Just how
important is it
to get
published?
What will it
accomplish?



How to Prepare your Research Paper for Publication

Individual publications give specific information on what they require. Follow their guidelines to a “T”.

It's important to start with a proper outline; without one, your paper can end up with lots of data and ideas that don't address your main questions, which can be confusing to readers and detract from the point. Almost every journal emphasises that your cover letters and summaries need to focus on the theoretical implications of your paper, not just the results. Relating your work to the rest of the field, even perhaps stating the implications in your title, will generate far more interest than keeping your topic and experimentation isolated. As unappealing as it may seem, scientists do have to “sell” their work, or at least make it as interesting and understandable as possible for the reviewing audience.



What are the Top Scientific Journals for Cell Therapy?

For the purpose of this guide we will focus on four of the most well known publications - *Science*, *Nature*, *Cell* and *PNAS* (Proceedings of the National Academy of the Sciences). A possible unexpected benefit here is that some critics complain *Science* and *Nature* focus too much on the biological sciences, potentially giving cell therapy researchers a better chance to be published.

Additionally you will want to carefully consider the journals for your specific topic, whether it be neuroscience, biophysics and biochemistry, genetics, immunology, pharmaceutical, or general medicine and healthcare.

There are also open access scientific journals to consider, such as *Nature Communications*, *International Journal of Applied Sciences and Biotechnology*, and *PLOS ONE*. The latter, for example, publishes 70% of the submitted manuscripts, giving you a very good chance.

It's all about your goals and aspirations as to what journal you focus on. Word of mouth is important here, talk to your colleagues and mentors. With cell therapy such a hot topic right now, once published in a journal you must also be prepared for the possibility of gaining mainstream press.

Nature

The Nature journals are:

Nature, Nature Biotechnology, Nature Cell Biology, Nature Chemical Biology, Nature Chemistry, Nature Climate Change, Nature Communications, Nature Genetics, Nature Geoscience, Nature Immunology, Nature Materials, Nature Medicine, Nature Methods, Nature Nanotechnology, Nature Neuroscience, Nature Photonics, Nature Physics, Nature Protocols and Nature Structural and Molecular Biology.





Nature (continued)

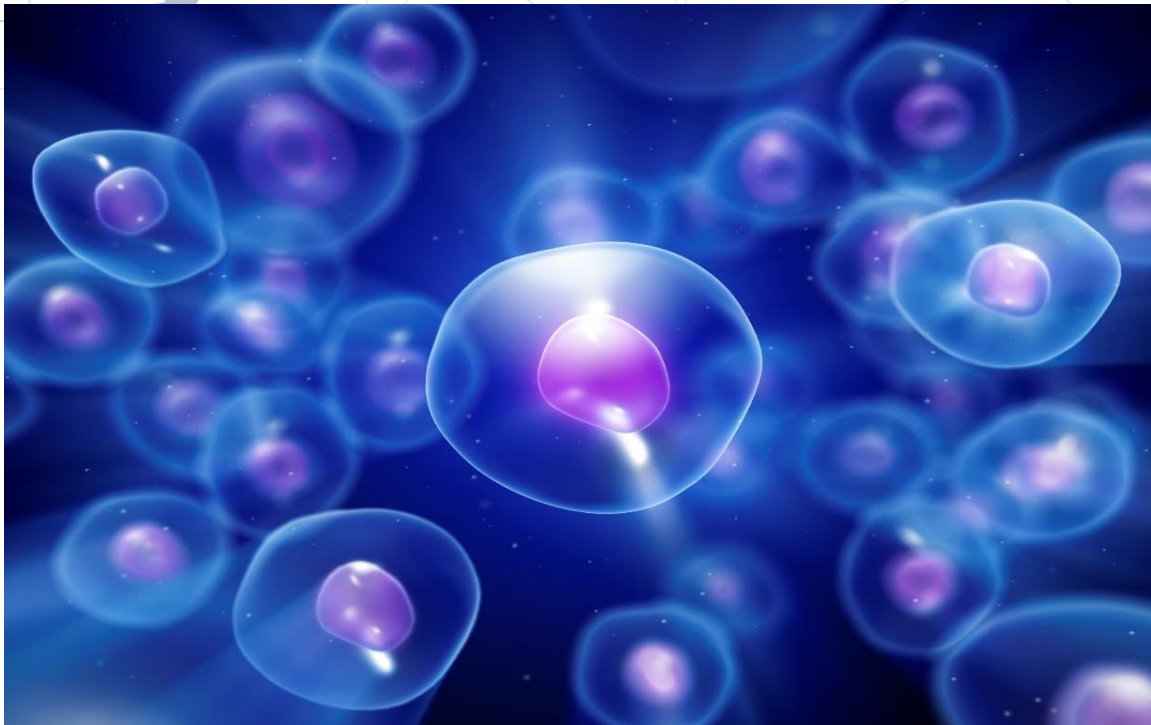
Instead of an editorial board, these journals are run by editors who consult the scientific community for advice as well as compare your paper to other recently published papers in the field.

You should read the author information pages for each specific journal before submitting to get criteria for publication and manuscript preparation.

For the journal you choose, you must use their online system that allows you to submit a paragraph describing your paper as well as an abstract and citation list. Once they have this, an editor will either invite you to submit your research paper or let you know that it is not suitable for the journal. They ask that you do not reply to negative responses, but they also allow you to submit your paper regardless of the editor's initial reservations.

Once they receive your manuscript, it will be assigned to an editor and read. One of four things will happen:

1. It will be sent out for peer-review
2. It will be suggested it is more suited to one of the other Nature journals (it is your choice to send it on)
3. It will be suggested you revise it for resubmission (with specific suggestions)
4. It will be declined.



Science

When you submit to *Science*, your paper will be assigned to a staff editor who has knowledge in the field discussed in your paper. *Science* has a Board of Reviewing Editors who will rate the paper and assess its suitability for publication. Those whose papers are rejected will be contacted at this stage. Rejected papers cannot be resubmitted, unless there is a case of serious reviewer error.

It is also possible at this stage that your paper is eligible for one of *Science*'s other journals: *Science Signaling* and *Science Translational Medicine*.

Those papers that are selected for review are then evaluated by two outside experts, who are given up to two weeks to comment. At this point papers are edited and published.

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

PNAS strives to make manuscript submission as easy as possible through the website. There are helpful videos and even an “express submission” which they say takes only 10 minutes.

You will need: manuscript file (with all main text, figures and tables along with any supporting information), cover letter (with supporting videos or data sets), manuscript abstract, and significance statement.

There is a fee of around \$2,000 and if you want your article to be open access, it's a further \$1,000.

PNAS requires authors to recommend three Editorial Board members, three NAS experts in the paper's scientific area and five reviewers, although the Board ultimately has the power to choose these individuals.





Cell

Helpfully, *Cell* has “A Guide to Publishing with Cell Press” on YouTube, featuring interviews with Cell Press editors answering questions from early-career scientists about preparing, submitting and publishing an article in a Cell Press journal.

They also provide a service for pre-submission inquiries, even before the manuscript has been written. These inquiries should be sent via email and must include the tentative title, abstract, a description of the results and explanation as to why the readers of *Cell* would be interested in the paper.

What is unique to *Cell* is that you can submit to multiple titles, and be co-reviewed for two journals at once. *Cell*'s editorial is independent from its sister journals. All submissions are evaluated by scientific editors, and will be returned to within 3-5 days if they are declined. If the paper is accepted with revisions, you are given approximately two months to make any changes.



A Revolution in Scientific Publishing

There is a revolution in scientific publishing now with open access journals, and there are a great deal of them popping up. These journals are often easier to get published in than *Nature* or *Science*.

Their critics are concerned with the quality of these “pay to play” journals, where a journal may publish sub quality papers in order to prey upon scientists or institutions. There are those who will give the more traditional journals more weight, but for many scientists the goal is to be accessible to the largest possible audience, have the quickest time-to-publication, and be subjected to rigorous peer review, whilst maintaining the highest quality.

Thank you for reading. If referencing please link to <https://informabiopharm.wordpress.com/2016/03/02/cell-therapy-research-published-guide/>.

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