Instructions to Authors

Please read these instructions carefully and follow them strictly to ensure that the review and publication of your paper is as efficient and quick as possible. The Editors reserve the right to return manuscripts that are not in accordance with these instructions. Please note that all submissions should be accompanied by a manuscript submission form, a copy of which can be found at the back of these instructions.

SCOPE

Human Molecular Genetics publishes papers of excellence, wide interest and broad significance in all aspects of human molecular genetics. Areas of interest include the molecular basis of human genetic disease, developmental genetics, chromosome structure and function, molecular aspects of cancer genetics, gene therapy, biochemical genetics and advances in gene mapping and understanding of genome organization. In general, mapping papers will be considered when they are of functional significance for the field of molecular human genetics. The molecular analysis of other species is also of interest where such studies are relevant to the understanding of the function of human genes.

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Papers will normally be reviewed within three to four weeks of submission and will be published within six to ten weeks of acceptance. Due to space restrictions and to the volume of high quality papers submitted, the Editors reserve the right to return immediately those papers which are unlikely to be competitive for space in the journal and those which do not conform to the general editorial philosophy and standards of Human Molecular Genetics.

Type of Manuscript

The emphasis of the journal is on full research papers which may be of any length required for concise presentation and discussion of the data. Succinct and carefully prepared papers are favoured in terms of impact as well as readability. Several different categories of paper are published. While authors are invited to submit manuscripts in particular categories, the Editors reserve the right to determine in which category a paper is ultimately published, according to the criteria below.

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Articles are definitive and comprehensive descriptions of major research findings of broad significance for readers of Human Molecular Genetics. The results described should be both novel and of wide interest. Articles may be of any length, although they are typically shorter than Articles.

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Reports are descriptions of complete studies detailing results in areas of interest to readers of Human Molecular Genetics. Reports are typically less comprehensive than Articles and present data that are generally of narrower subject matter.

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Analyses of mutations underlying human disease can be presented in a 1–2 page short report. The description of the disease, case and documentation of the mutation should be given. Evidence indicating that the mutation actually causes the disease should be included.

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PREPARATION OF MANUSCRIPTS

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The second page of every full research manuscript must contain the Abstract, which should not exceed 250 words. The Abstract should be comprehensive to readers before they have read the paper, and abbreviations and reference citations should be avoided. It is essential that the Abstract clearly states the biological importance of the work described in the paper.

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