



# Promoting Experience in Peer Review:

Use of Preprints, Blogs, and Training for Early Career  
Researchers

STM: Diversity and Inclusion  
London, December 6, 218

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# PREreview:

Supporting the next generation of peer reviewers

**Samantha Hindle**  
Co-founder PREreview.org



## Preprints

are manuscripts shared online before the completion of journal-organized peer review.



# Preprint use is increasing fast in the life sciences

~2000

Number of preprints posted on *bioRxiv* every month\*

40,000

Total number of preprints on *bioRxiv*\*

>2000%

Growth over the past 4 years\*

\*December, 2018.

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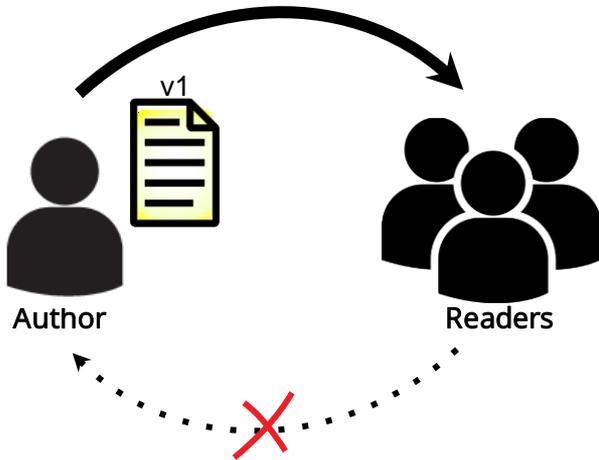
>2000%

Growth over the past 4 years\*

\*December, 2018.

# Problems

1. Preprint feedback is not common



2. Researchers are rarely trained in peer review

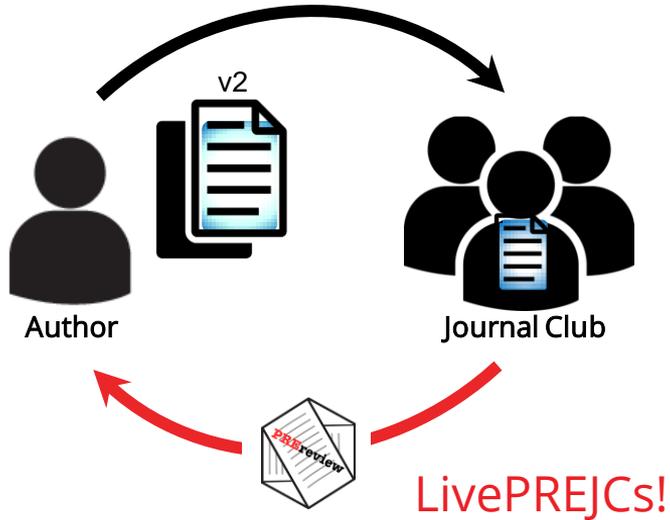


3. ECRs are not part of the picture



# Solutions

## Collaborative peer review at journal clubs



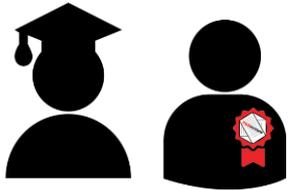
Making peer review more inclusive and diverse by:

- bringing the community together
- including authors in a live discussion
- providing ways for ECRs to get involved

Next LivePREJC: 14th December, 5pm GMT  
Join us [here](#)

# Solutions

## Interactive Peer Review training program



One-to-one  
calls



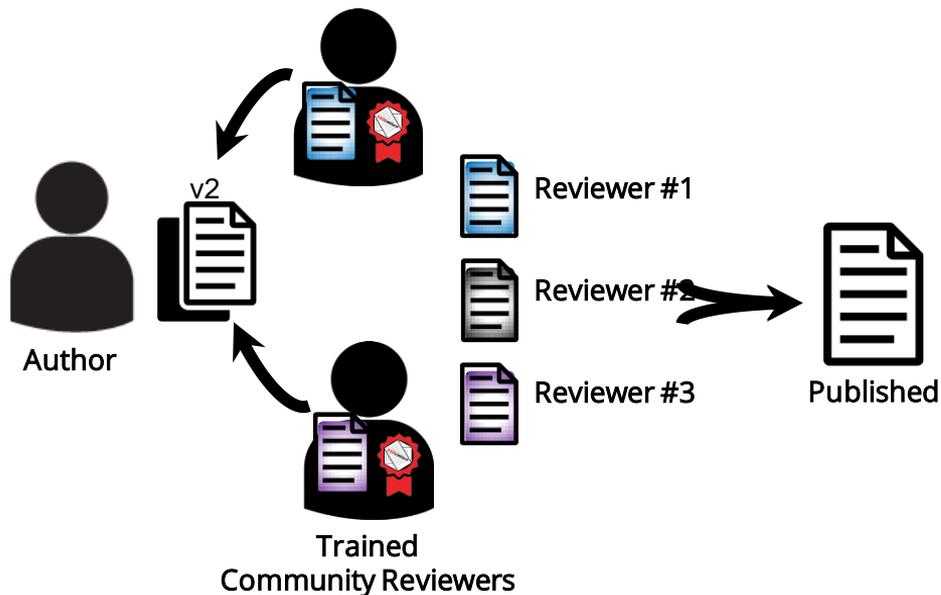
Community  
calls &  
expert  
webinars

## Training resources and guidelines

A screenshot of the PREreview website, which is powered by Authorea. The page features three main content blocks. The first block is titled "Start your own PREreview JC" and includes the tagline "Post, Read, and Engage with preprint reviews". It has a "BETA TESTERS" button and a "PREREVIEW" button, along with social media icons for Facebook and Twitter. The second block is titled "PREreview Guidelines" and includes the tagline "How to write a preprint review". It has a "GUIDELINES" button and a "PREREVIEW" button, along with social media icons. The third block is titled "Getting started on PREreview: a step-by-step guide" and includes the tagline "Post, Read and Engage with Preprint Reviews". It has a "PREREVIEW" button and social media icons. The website header includes "LOG IN" and "SIGN UP" buttons. The footer of each content block shows the "PREreview Team" and the date of the post.

# Solutions

## Connect ECRs with journal editors



PREviews are linked & acknowledged on the preprint page



Preprint discussion sites covering this article:



PREreview, 30 Apr 2018 Review by Anthony Mathelier

Daniela



Monica



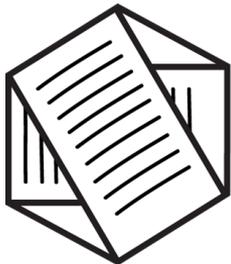
# Post, Read and Engage with Preprint Reviews

We are scientists and ASAPbio Ambassadors who want to encourage other scientists to post their scientific outputs as Preprints. We hope to do that by making it easier to start and run a Preprint Journal Club, or integrate preprint review into conventional journal clubs.



[PREreview.org](https://PREreview.org), a community and a platform to:

- Encourage **discussions around preprints** and help with **peer-review training** for ECRs
- Provide **guidelines** on how to start a preprint JC and how to write a **constructive peer review**
- Post preprint reviews with a **free DOI** so they are **citable** and easy to share



# PREreview

Post, Read, and Engage with preprint **reviews**



## What's next?

- Launching our Peer Review Mentoring Program: please join us!
- Rapid PREreviews: collaboration with **outbreak science**

# Thank you!



[www.prereview.org](http://www.prereview.org)



[contact@prereview.org](mailto:contact@prereview.org)



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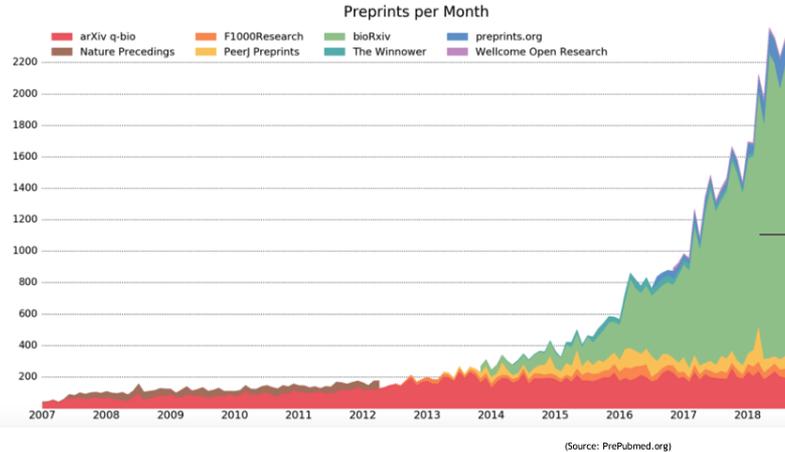




# preLights: a new community platform for preprint highlights

Teresa Rayón (preLighter - EMBO training fellow)  
The Francis Crick Institute  
STM London 6 December 2018

# Some challenges with preprints



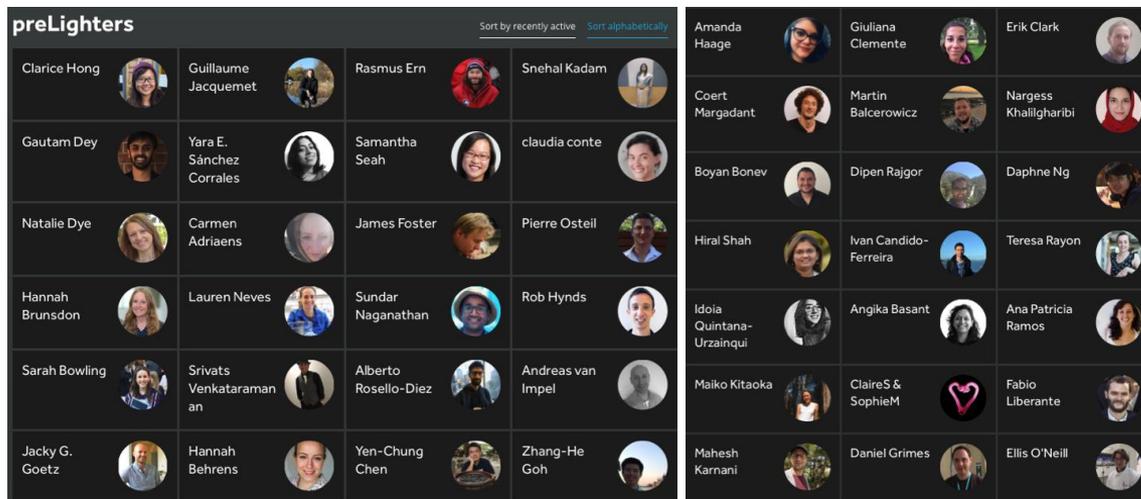
bioRxiv



Difficult to keep up with preprint literature

Public commenting on preprints is not happening

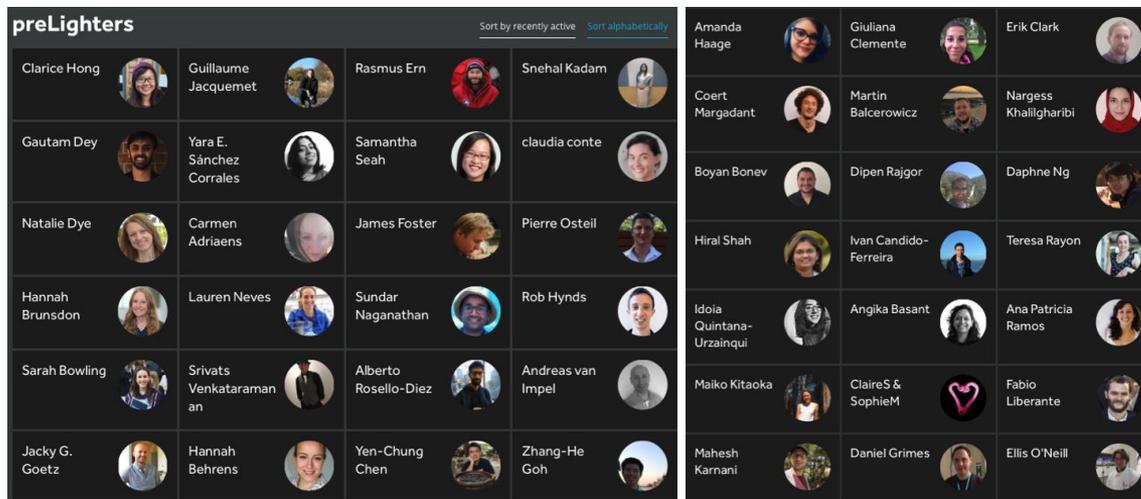
# Early-career researchers are at the heart of preLights



Building a resource of preprint highlights for the community

Championing preprints & open science

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# preLights: News & Views type of articles for preprints

## Quantification of gene expression patterns to reveal the origins of abnormal morphogenesis

 *Neus Martinez-Abadias*,  *Roger Mateu Estivill*,  *Jaume Sastre Tomas*, *Susan Motch Perrine*, *Melissa Yoon*,  *Alex Robert-Moreno*,  *Jim Swoger*, *Lucia Russo*, *Kazuhiko Kawasaki*, *Joan Richtsmeier*,  *James Sharpe*

Preprint posted on January 11, 2018 <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/early/2018/01/11/246256>

Geometric morphometrics for quantifying developmental defects - analysis of spatio-temporal gene expression in numbers

Selected by **Teresa Rayon**



Categories: [developmental biology](#)

### Summary

In this pre-print, the Sharpe lab develops a tool to quantitatively characterize gene expression patterns in whole embryos. They identify a limb defect in a mouse model of Apert syndrome carrying a missense mutation on the Fibroblast Growth Factor Receptor 2. In particular, quantifying downstream target *Dusp6* allows them to spot the appearance of the limb defects, which have previously remained difficult to discern in mouse models of Apert syndrome.

Preprint information  
& link

Short engaging summary of  
the preprint 

preLighter profile (link)



# preLights: News & Views type of articles for preprints

## Why I chose the paper:

One of my mantras is that new discoveries arise when biological phenomena are revisited in quantitative terms, even though they could have been previously studied on the basis of qualitative analysis; this preprint nicely provides a new look at gene expression.

The description of gene expression patterns over time during development is the pillar for our understanding of how genes work. In situ hybridisation is as a long existing technique that can be performed in any organism that contains RNA, and it has been used to unravel where and when genes are expressed. However, this technique has always been considered qualitative, difficult to analyse in whole embryos, and subjective at times. Neus Martinez-Abadias and colleagues develop a tool that allows them to accurately measure and determine subtle spatial changes in gene expression patterns in mouse mutants by combining image analysis, segmentation, and geometric morphometrics. There are very few examples where morphometric approaches have been applied to study morphological variability, and precisely relate it to gene expression. In the method, the authors first image and segment the shape of the tissue, and the expression pattern of *Dusp6*. Then, they describe its shape in 3D as a set of landmark coordinates. In this way, they objectively compare tissue morphology with a given gene expression pattern across embryos at various developmental stages to identify previously unrecognised limb defects at the molecular level.

## Questions to the authors:

Since the technique is very powerful, I wonder the amount of time the authors dedicated to process the data, and how easily could it be applied in other labs.

Which do the authors think are the limitations of the technique?

How subtle can the changes be to define a given phenotype?

Have they tried to do the analysis with more than one gene?

my take on

Questions to the preprint  
author



# preLights: News & Views type of articles for preprints

## Author's response

*Neus Martinez-Abadias shared*

### Questions to the authors:

**Since the technique is very powerful, I wonder the amount of time the authors dedicated to process the data, and how easily could it be applied in other labs.**

As we have developed this technique from scratch, we worked on this project for 2-3 years. Now that all the technical issues have been sorted out, we could reprocess all the data in just 2-3 months. We have optimized the experimentation, imaging, segmentation and landmark processing of the samples. All the details of the “recipe” are now described in the paper. Our next goal is to fully automatize the whole pipeline.

The technique is indeed powerful and adaptable to other organs and model systems. It would be great to see other labs applying our approach and discovering new processes and mechanisms that the eyes just can't see! Whole mount in situ hybridization (WISH) is a technique that is already in use in most molecular labs around the world. Many groups may already have in their “drawers” data on gene expression patterns ready to be quantified. Geometric morphometrics (GM) is also a discipline within everyone's reach, with a long history, plenty of available resources, user-friendly free software and a big community of users ([www.morphometrics.org](http://www.morphometrics.org)). It was a pity that GM had not reached the developmental biology community before. Hopefully, our work will eventually bridge these two fields. OPT scanning is perhaps the least accessible technology, but OPT scanners are gradually getting to more and more labs and at EMBL we are always open to collaborate and share our expertise!

## Author's response to questions

## preLights posts are linked in bioRxiv

Preprint discussion sites covering this article:

 preLights, 11 Jan 2018 Review by Teresa Rayon

Blog posts linking to this article:

the Node, 02 Feb 2018



# From preprint to publication

## Quantification of gene expression patterns to reveal the origins of abnormal morphogenesis

bioRxiv

 Neus Martínez-Abadías,  Roger Mateu Estivill,  Jaume Sastre Tomas, Susan Motch Perrine, Melissa Yoon,  Alex Robert-Moreno,  Jim Swoger, Lucia Russo, Kazuhiko Kawasaki, Joan Richtsmeier,  James Sharpe

doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/246256>

Now published in *eLife* doi: [10.7554/elife.36405](https://doi.org/10.7554/elife.36405)

POSTED Jan 11, 2018



eLIFE

## Quantification of gene expression patterns to reveal the origins of abnormal morphogenesis

**Neus Martínez-Abadías<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Roger Mateu Estivill<sup>4</sup>, Jaume Sastre Tomas<sup>5</sup>, Susan Motch Perrine<sup>6</sup>, Melissa Yoon<sup>6</sup>, Alexandre Robert-Moreno<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Jim Swoger<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Lucia Russo<sup>1,2</sup>, Kazuhiko Kawasaki<sup>6</sup>, Joan Richtsmeier<sup>6</sup>, James Sharpe<sup>1,2,3,7\*</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Centre for Genomic Regulation, The Barcelona Institute for Science and Technology, Barcelona, Spain; <sup>2</sup>Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain; <sup>3</sup>EMBL Barcelona, European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Barcelona, Spain; <sup>4</sup>Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain; <sup>5</sup>Universitat de les Illes Balears (UIB), Palma de Mallorca, Spain; <sup>6</sup>Pennsylvania State University, Pennsylvania, United States; <sup>7</sup>Institució Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avançats, Barcelona, Spain

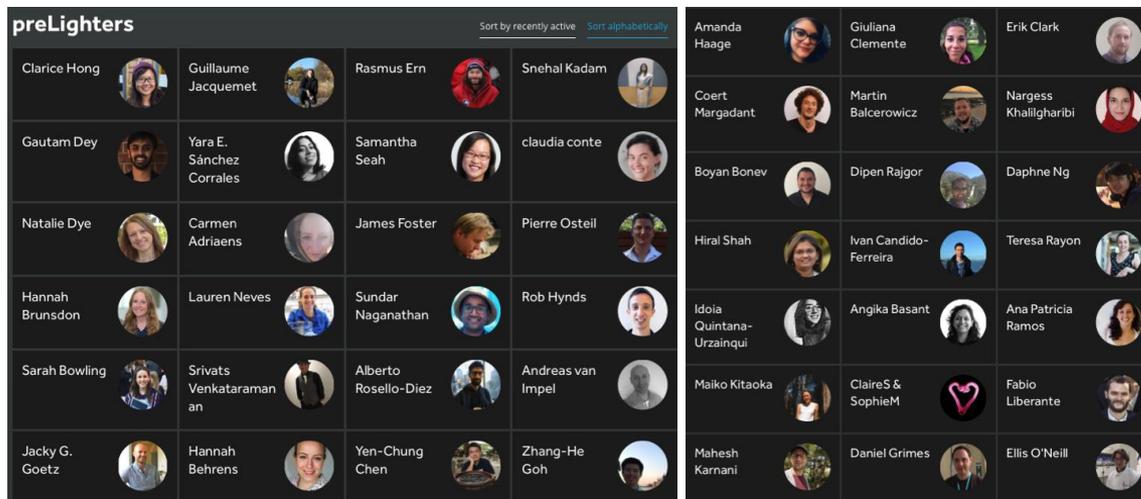
PUBLISHED Sep 20, 2018



# Prelight used in author's response to referees

Article	The manuscript reflects how labor intensive it was to develop the technique for the first time. Now that the experimentation, imaging, segmentation and landmark processing of the samples have all been optimized, and are explained in full detail in the paper, a similar sample as the one used in this study could be processed in several weeks. The number of genes to be assessed will depend on the intrinsic nature of the investigation and the available resources.
Figures and data	
Side by side	
▼ Jump to	
Abstract	
eLife digest	
Introduction	
Results	
Discussion	One of the main apparent difficulties to implement the OPT-GM method might be the lack of familiarity with Geometric Morphometrics (GM) within the Developmental Biology field. However, GM is currently used in many laboratories to analyze the patterns of morphological variation in all types of organisms (Klingenberg, 2010). Thanks to the growing interest in this technique, many resources are available to learn and perform GM studies ( <a href="http://life.bio.sunysb.edu/morph/index.html">http://life.bio.sunysb.edu/morph/index.html</a> ). Actually, all the analyses in this study have been performed using freely available software and scripts that were rewritten to automatize the process, as for example <i>Fiji</i> (Fiji is just ImageJ) and R packages especially suited to GM, such as <i>geomorph</i> .
Materials and methods	
References	
Decision letter	
<b>Author response</b>	An extended discussion on these issues can be found at the following link:
Article and author information	<a href="https://prelights.biologists.com/highlights/quantification-gene-expression-patterns-reveal-origins-abnormal-morphogenesis/">https://prelights.biologists.com/highlights/quantification-gene-expression-patterns-reveal-origins-abnormal-morphogenesis/</a>
Metrics	This issue has been dealt with in the text in the Discussion section.

# Early-career researchers are at the heart of preLights

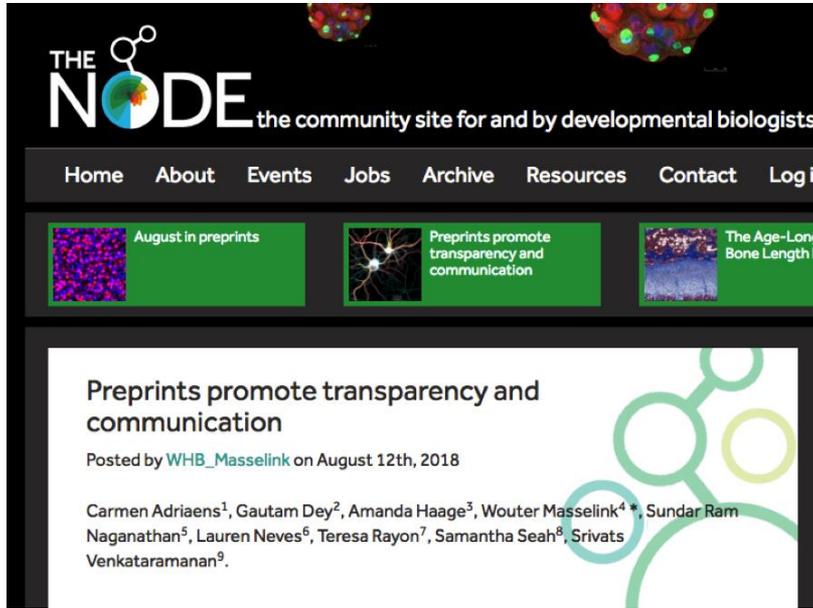


Building a resource of preprint highlights for the community

Championing preprints & open science

# Championing preprints & open science

## Commentaries and blog posts



THE NODE the community site for and by developmental biologists

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August in preprints

Preprints promote transparency and communication

The Age-Long Bone Length P

Preprints promote transparency and communication

Posted by WHB\_Masselink on August 12th, 2018

Carmen Adriaens<sup>1</sup>, Gautam Dey<sup>2</sup>, Amanda Haage<sup>3</sup>, Wouter Masselink<sup>4</sup>\*, Sundar Ram Naganathan<sup>5</sup>, Lauren Neves<sup>6</sup>, Teresa Rayon<sup>7</sup>, Samantha Seah<sup>8</sup>, Srivats Venkataraman<sup>9</sup>.

## Meeting up at conferences



Discussions, giving feedback to each other





# So far the preLights ‘experiment’ is encouraging

## Initial stats on preLights:

- Launched end of February 2018
- 90 ‘preLighters’
- >200 posts after 8 months
- 30% of posts feature an author’s response
- ~2000 views per week
- >2000 followers on twitter
- Feedback from community has been hugely positive

“Wonderful! This is a game changer”

“It looks fantastic!”

“I do like the ‘Author’s Response’ section”

“great initiative”

“Showing how preprints allow for the evolution of the scientific publishing model”

# Thank you



Preprint highlights, selected by  
the biological community

Apply to join the team of  
preLighters!

<https://prelights.biologists.com>  @preLights #preLights  /preLights



<https://sruk.org.uk/>  @t\_rayon #EnFaseExperimental

# JOURNAL REVIEW CLUB

Emma Shumeyko

Managing Editor

American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics

# WHAT IS IT?

An interactive session, focusing on a recently published article, that

- provides real-world review practice alongside insights from the author,
- highlights the impact and importance of peer-review,
- engages early career members (and reviewers and authors!), and
- answers questions about how peer review works from inside the editorial office.

# HOW DOES IT WORK?

Participants receive a copy of the manuscript **as it was submitted** to the journal and are asked to come to the session prepared with their own comments on the manuscript.

## Review Form

- Decision Recommendation (Reject, Major Revision, Minor Revision, Accept)
- Quality of Science (Please rate the quality of science of this manuscript on a scale of 1 (low) - 5 (high))
- Comments on article's potential impact
- Remarks to the Author

# HOW DOES IT WORK?

## Session Agenda

1. Introduction and overview
2. Summary of the paper
3. Review/comments discussion
4. Author perspective of review/comments and explanation of revision process
5. Discussion on benefits of the peer review process

## Additional Materials

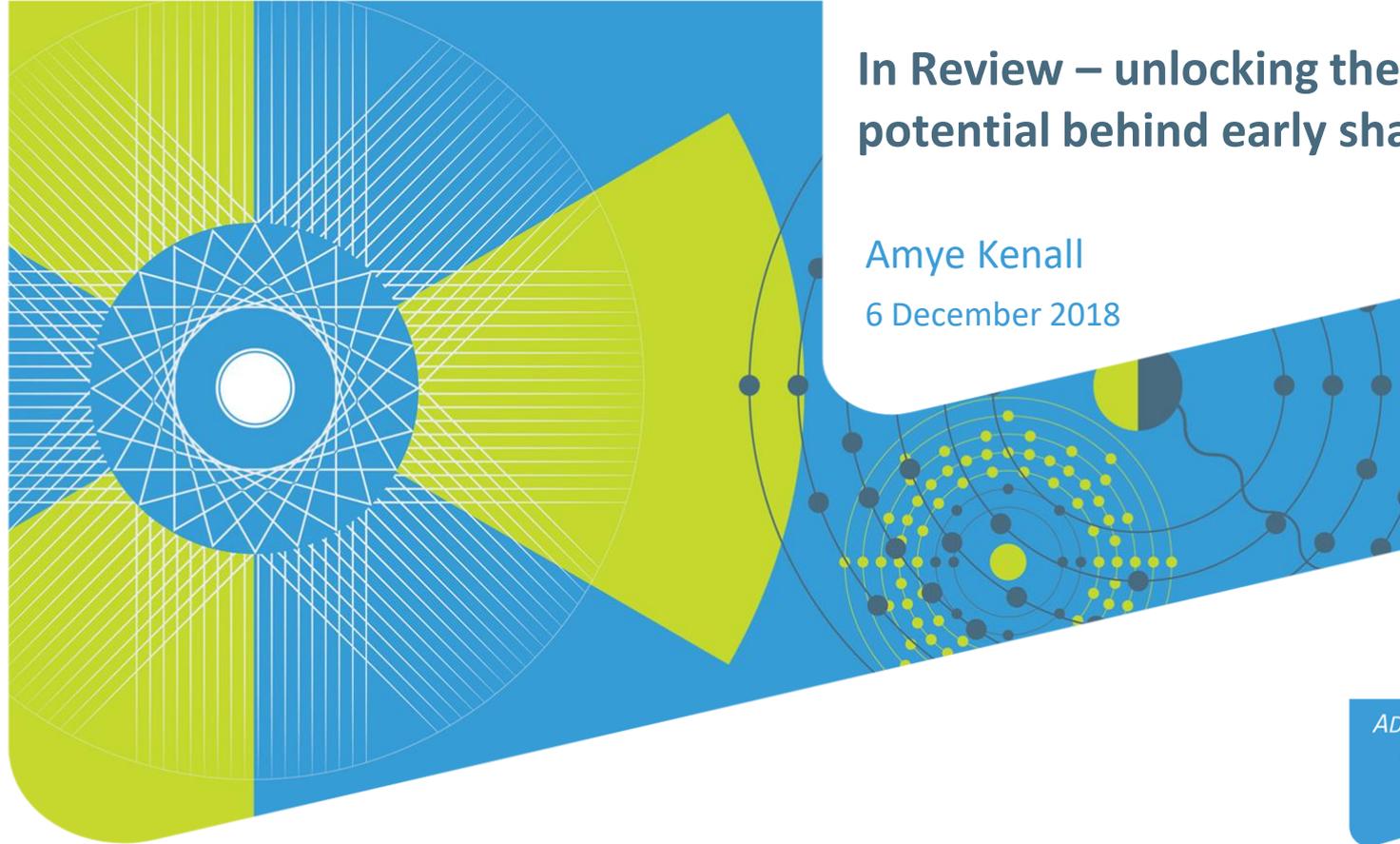
1. Original review comments
2. Tracked changes manuscript
3. Author's Response to Reviewer comments
4. Published paper

# KEYS FOR SUCCESS

- Great facilitator
- Right manuscript
- Face-to-face, in person or virtually
- Limited participants (10-12 ideal)
- Relaxed, comfortable atmosphere

THANK YOU!

[emma@ascpt.org](mailto:emma@ascpt.org)

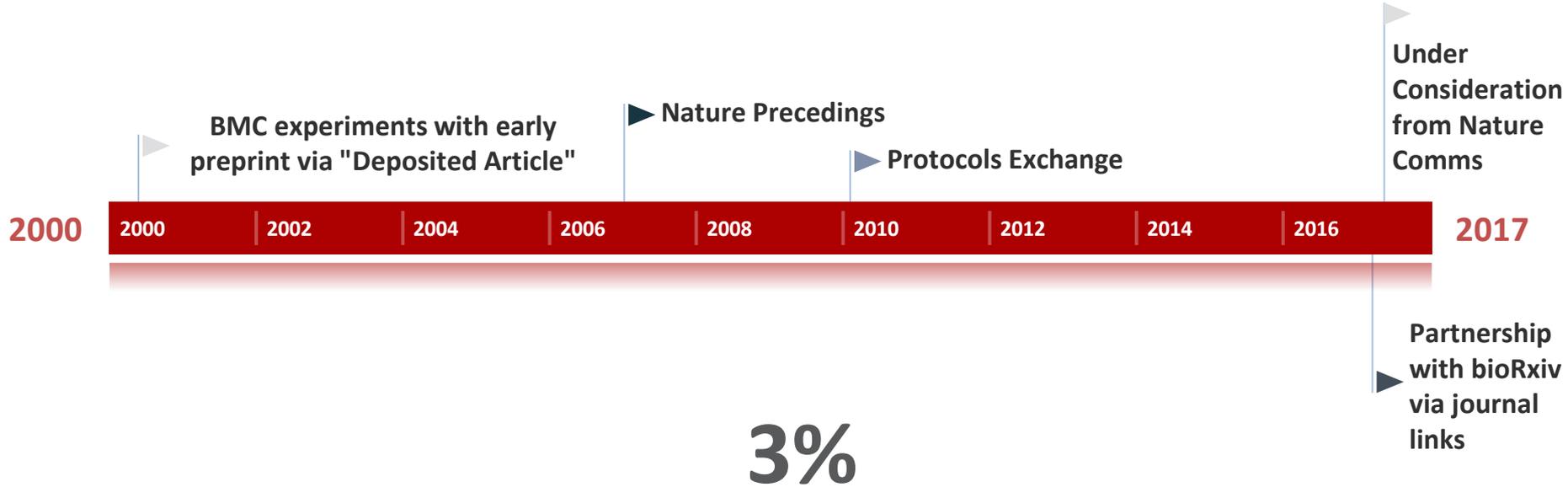


## In Review – unlocking the potential behind early sharing

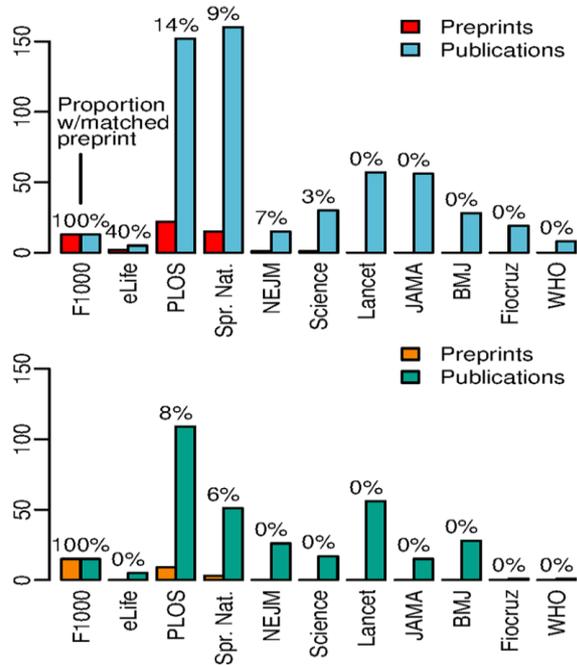
Amye Kenall

6 December 2018

# Springer Nature and the early sharing space



## Publications with preprints — the Ebola and Zika outbreaks



*Even after a Statement on data sharing during public health emergencies signed by Springer Nature, Wellcome, and many others, only 3% of publications across both outbreaks were associated with preprints.*

*Of those that were made available, most were available more than 100 days before publication.*

**More than a nice practice, sharing early is a necessary condition of openness**

## The *In Review* platform

Powered by **Research Square** and developed **in partnership with BMC**, *In Review* aims to **open up the peer review process** to authors and beyond. The first service of its kind, *In Review* will provide authors with **on-demand access** to the **granular status** of their manuscript, including number of reviewers invited and immediate access to reviewer reports, and will allow authors to **showcase their work** to funders and others and to **engage the wider community** for comment and collaboration **while their manuscript is under review.**

# Tour of In Review

# Author opt-in

## Try out our author dashboard and share your work early

*BMC Anesthesiology* is launching a new initiative to help open up the submission and peer review process for authors called *In Review*. Powered by [Research Square](#) and their author dashboard, *In Review* will provide you with on-demand access to the status of your manuscript and will allow you to showcase your work to the wider community for comment while your manuscript is under review.

### By using *In Review* authors are able to:

- Showcase their work to funders and others in a citeable way while it is under review and engage the wider community in discussion to improve their paper
- Track the status of their manuscript on a more granular level -- including number of reviewers invited, number of reports received, and immediate access to reviewer reports
- Demonstrate the integrity of their work with a transparent editorial checklist
- Benefit from early sharing, such as more collaboration opportunities and earlier citations.

You can read more about *In Review* [here](#). By opting in all versions of your manuscript will be posted as and when they are available. **Tick this box if you would like to opt in to this opportunity and agree to the [licencing terms](#).**

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# Public Article page

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STATUS: **ACCEPTED** JOURNAL: **TRIALS**

Research Article

Surgeons' and methodologists' perceptions of utilising an expertise-based randomised controlled trial design: A qualitative study

Jonathan A. Cook Marion K. Campbell Katie Gillies Zoë Skea

**INTEGRITY CHECK: PASSED**

- ✓ Cleared for plagiarism
- ✓ Ethical approvals present
- ✓ Financial disclosures and conflicts of interest declared
- ✓ Relevant permissions obtained

version:

Twitter Email Facebook LinkedIn

Journal status

Editorial badges

Hypothes.is annotations

## Article

Version 3

Submitted 22 July 2018

This is the most recent version of this article.

## ABSTRACT

Background: Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) are widely recognised to be the most rigorous way to test new and emerging clinical interventions. When the interventions under study are two different surgical procedures, however, surgeons require to be trained and sufficiently proficient in the different surgical approaches to take part in such a trial. It is often the case that even where surgeons can perform both trial surgical procedures, they have a preference and/or have more expertise in one of the procedures. The expertise-based trial design, where participating surgeons only provide the procedure in which they have appropriate expertise, has been proposed to overcome this problem. When expertise-based designs should be best used remains unclear; such approaches may be more suited to addressing specific questions. The aim of this qualitative study was to improve understanding about the range of views surgeons and methodologists have regarding the use of the expertise-based RCT design. Methods: Twelve individual interviews with surgeons and methodologists with experience of surgical trials were conducted. Interviews were semi-structured and conducted face-to-face or by telephone. Interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed and analysed systematically using an interpretive approach. Results:

## Peer Review Timeline

**Version 3**  
Submitted 22 Jul, 2018

- No community comments so far
- Published**  
On 06 Sep, 2018
- Editorial decision: Accept**  
On 01 Aug, 2018

**Version 2**  
Submitted 11 May, 2018

- No comments provided
- Editorial decision: Revise**  
On 01 Jul, 2018
- Review #2 received**  
Received 22 May, 2018

Review history – updated in real time whenever there is a status change

# Author view

RESEARCH SQUARE

STATUS: ACCEPTED JOURNAL: BMC CANCER

INTEGRITY CHECK: PASSED

## Poor prognosis of nucleophosmin overexpression in solid tumors: a meta-analysis

Dr. Siying Chen Hairong He Yan Wang Leichao Liu Yang Liu Haisheng You Yalin Dong Jun Lyu

Invite for comment on the most recent version:

This is a private page for the most recent version of your article visible only to you.

Article Peer Review Timeline Suggest Reviewers

Full Peer Review History - Updated as soon as a review or decision is received

Suggest Reviewers – Allows authors to suggest reviewers if their paper is held up

### ABSTRACT

Background: Nucleophosmin is a non-ribosomal nucleolar phosphoprotein that is found primarily in the nucleolus region of cell nucleus, plays multiple important roles in tumor processes. Accumulated previous studies have reported a potential value of NPM acted as a biomarker for prognosis in various solid tumors, but the results were more inconsistency. We performed this meta-analysis to precisely evaluate the prognostic significance of NPM in solid tumors. Methods: Clinical data were collected from a comprehensive literature search in PubMed, Web of Science, Embase, and China National Knowledge Infrastructure databases (up to October, 2017). A total of 11 studied with 997 patients were used to assess the association of NPM expression and patients' overall survival (OS). The

### Peer Review Timeline



# Journal In Review browse page

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**A huge lacrimal gland ductule dacryolith with a hairy nucleus: a case report**

Jiao Zhao, Zhike Xu, Aijun Han, Li Zeng, Gengsheng Hao and Bin Chen

In Review

**Ocular surface health in Shanghai University students: a cross-sectional study**

Shanshan Li, Jiangnan He, Qiuying Chen, Jianfeng Zhu, Haidong Zou and Xun Xu

In Review

**Ocular surface health in Shanghai University students: a cross-sectional study**

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In Review

Showing 3 of 24 ▶

[See all articles in Revision](#)

**Pattern dystrophies in patients treated with deferoxamine: report of two cases and review of the literature**

Constantine D. Georgakopoulos, Foteini Tsapardoni, Elli V. Kostopoulou and Olga E. Makri

In Revision

**Progression of retinal pigmentation mimicking unilateral retinitis pigmentosa after bilateral pars planitis: a case report**

José I. Vela, Ivanna Marcantonio, Jesús Díaz-Cascajosa, Jaume Crespi and José A. Buil

In Revision

**Ocular surface health in Shanghai University students: a cross-sectional study**

Shanshan Li, Jiangnan He, Qiuying Chen, Jianfeng Zhu, Haidong Zou and Xun Xu

In Revision

**Journal Information**

**Journal:** *BMC Ophthalmology*

**Citation impact**

- 1.77 - 2-year Impact Factor
- 1.82 - 5-year Impact Factor
- 1.06 - SNIP (Source-Normalized Impact per Paper)
- 0.92 - SJR (SCImago Journal Rank)

**Usage**

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A metagenome-wide association study of the fecal microbiota reveals the lack of diversity of the gut microbiome in asthma patients in UK. Published in [#BMCMicrobiolbmcmicrobiol.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.11...](#)

**A metagenome-wide associati...**

Asthma, one of the most comm... [bmcmicrobiol.biomedcentral.com](#)

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## Feedback so far

- First opt in 2 hrs after launching
- Over 100 articles opted in within first 3 weeks
- Opt in rate to early sharing: 3% → 44%
- Lots of positive feedback on twitter

### Pilot opt in rate, 19 November

Journal	Submissions to "In Review"	Total Submissions (since 18 Oct)	Opt-in rate (%)
Trials	29	126	23%
BMC Neurology	45	89	51%
BMC Anaesthesiology	43	74	58%
BMC Ophthalmology	48	90	53%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>44%</b>

# Majority of opt-ins are coming from China and Asia generally

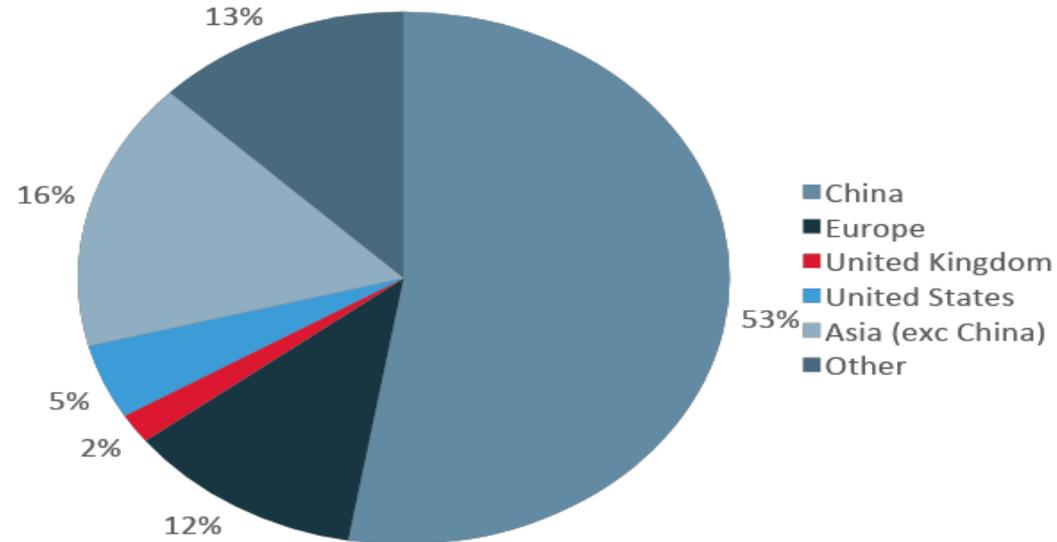
## Positive qualitative feedback

[#TrialsJournal](#) launches innovative [#preprint](#) [#platform](#). Great idea! [@MedicalEvidence](#) [@shauntreweek](#) [@GrimshawJeremy](#) Tianjing Li [@JohnsHopkinsEPI](#)

Very interesting concept. Hope it becomes the new standard so we can stop frantically checking our papers' status. [#open](#) [#PeerReview](#)

This is a great pilot! Your work gets a DOI (similar to a preprint) while it is undergoing peer review [@BioMedCentral](#)

“Cool. It’s a little like F1000’s approach but on steroids.”



# Next steps

- Expand journal participation—at Springer Nature and beyond—creating a cross-publisher service
- Migration of *Protocols Exchange* and *Nature Precedings* (early January)
- Offer ‘Direct Submission’ pathway so that authors can post preprints directly
- Offer author tools such as automated language assessment and reproducibility checks
- Expand community review functionality
- Work with you — to ensure we are providing an “approved platform that supports immediate publication of the complete manuscript” before peer review (new OA policy requirement #4)

# Thank you

## Questions?

The story behind the image



### Marie Curie (1867–1934)

In a scientific world still dominated by men, Marie Curie shone not only as an extraordinary pioneer in the field of radioactivity, but also as a trailblazing female scientist. A French-Polish chemist and physicist, Curie discovered two new elements, polonium and radium, and revolutionised our understanding of radioactivity, the process by which unstable atoms decay by emitting energy in the form of radiation. The first person of either gender to win or share two Nobel Prizes, Curie is one of the most renowned scientists of a generation, whose influences can be seen throughout many areas of modern science, from particle physics to medicine.