Top tips for publishing your research - before submitting

Tip 1: Know the journal's scope.

Tip 2: Read the Guide to Authors.

Tip 3: Provide a cover letter.

Tip 4: Think carefully about excluding editors with the necessary expertise to handle your paper, as we may not have anyone else with the relevant expertise.

Tip 5: Be familiar with the journal's editorial policies e.g. data sharing, ethical approval.

Tip 7: Provide appropriate suggestions for potential reviewers (a.k.a. avoid suggesting people who have a conflict of interest).

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Tip 8: Limit the number of excluded reviewers (i.e. don't exclude the whole field).

Top tips for publishing your research - at revision

Tip 1: Make it easy for referees to see that all concerns have been addressed.

Tip 2: Provide a detailed point by point rebuttal.

Tip 3: Take your time to address all concerns in the revised manuscript, to avoid unnecessary rounds of peer review and revision.

Tip 4: If you're not sure what the referees are asking for, ask the editor for clarification.

Tip 5: Be polite, even if you disagree with the referees.

Tip 6: If a referee has misunderstood something, remember that referees may not be an expert in all aspects of the work, so explain with a broad audience in mind.

By Ioanna Tsiligianni Editor in Chief and Arianne Heinrichs Editorial Manager of npj PCRM

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