

Talk to authors

After waiting in eager anticipation for a decision on their paper, when authors receive a rejection letter from this journal, it can be frustrating and confusing, sending these letters is not favorite part of the job. Though our editors need to be selective about the papers they choose to publish, they also want to help every author to find the perfect home for their manuscript.

Once authors get past the initial emotion of a rejection, they can move forward to the next steps. Depending on the decision received from the handling editor, those steps might vary, requests for reconsideration are always welcome. We're human. If we've missed something, if we've made an error, we want to hear from you. Each case is different, and our editors take care to evaluate each paper not only with the submitting journal's scope in mind, but also keeping in mind where the paper could thrive.

If an editor feels that another journal is a better fit for the paper, a transfer option will be offered, keeping in mind the authors' and paper's best interests. Editors are familiar with the scopes and standards of journal. This, together with the input given by the editorial team and reviewers, enables editors to accept or refer papers to other journals in the most effective way possible.

After a paper is editorially evaluated, and possibly also been through peer review, the editors are very familiar with the paper, which allows them to have a productive conversation with the authors regarding what the next steps might be for that manuscript.

We want to see how best we can use the effort and time that everybody has already put into the process of evaluating a manuscript. We're really thinking about how best we can guide authors.

Each journal wants to publish the best of the best in their field, and this means having to decline a significant number of papers. However, we recognize that the process of submission, editorial handling, and review involves time and effort on part of the authors, editors, and reviewers. We also appreciate the need for a faster publication process .

At the end this journal is a publishing house, not a rejecting house, and we're committed to serving the scientific community. We hope we can make the author's journey, no matter how many twists and turns there may be, as easy and beneficial as possible.

Adopted and modified from conversation on cross talk, the cell press blog, cell press

With thanks and respect