

# How do I find the right journal for my paper?

**Posted by Jerry Fagerberg | Published July 17, 2020, 08:00**

With so many journals out there, how do you find the best home for your research? Getting that journal-paper fit just right is key to making sure that the right audience is being reached, and having a good search mechanism can spell long-term impact and success.

## **Claudia Willmes, Editor, Trends in Molecular Medicine**

To find the right journal for your paper, the most important thing is actually to read, read, read. This is not only important not only for this point, but also for other points I don't really want to go into. If you read journals, you will know the topics they covered, the structure the papers normally have, and this will help you understand where you want to send your paper or how you want to structure it. Ultimately, maybe you'll also find out if you want to do additional experiments to back up your conclusions.

## **Julie Sollier, Editor-in-Chief, Developmental Cell**

To find the right journal for your paper, I would start by looking at the table of contents of different journals you are aiming to target so you can have an idea of which kinds of papers the journal has published over the last six months.

Something else you can do is ask a colleague who is not working in your field specifically to read the paper and extract the most important finding. You can start from there and say, "Who is going to care about this finding?" and find the most appropriate journal for it.

## **Jonathan Saxe, Senior Scientific Editor, Cell Stem Cell**

It's really important to find the right journal for your paper, and there's a number of things that you can do. One of those is to look at all the papers that you are actually reading that you find interesting and helpful for your own work, and look at the journal those papers are published in. That might be a natural home for your paper as well.

Also talk with colleagues about your research, and get a good sense from them as to where they think your paper might have a good home. Another way is to just email editors at any journal. Send them an abstract and title of your paper, and ask if it would be a good fit for their journal. At Cell Press, we're always happy to have these conversations and give authors feedback about whether their paper would be a good fit with us.

## **Ruthie Zearfoss, Deputy Editor, Cell Reports**

To find the right journal for your paper, the most effective thing you can do is to browse the journals that you are considering. Look at a few different issues and decide if that journal is publishing papers that are broadly similar to your paper. For example, if your story is very medically oriented, you would do well to target a journal that publishes medically oriented work. If it's a mechanistic story, you would do well to target a journal that publishes mechanistic stories.