



ISAG CONFERENCE 2012, Cairns, Australia

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| Title of Workshop: Publishing in <i>Animal Genetics</i> |
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STANDING COMMITTEES / WORKSHOPS

Information will be posted online

Organised by a standing committee

no

Date and meeting time: Thursday July 19 2012, 9:00 am – 12:20 pm

Chair, name and contact email: Chris Moran, Christopher.Moran@sydney.edu.au

Agenda / programme attached

Presentation by Editor in Chief

- The journal and its objectives
- Quality control
- Peer review
- What can you do to increase your chance of publication?
- Introduction of “Behind-the-scenes” editors
- Introduction of Editors
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Presentations by each of the Associate Editors

- James Kijas
- John Bastiaansen
- Chris Tuggle (delivered by Chris Moran)
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Open discussion

Number of participants at meeting: ~30

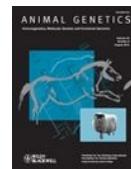
Summary of the meeting including votes, decisions taken and plans for future conferences

The meeting was essentially an information session for the benefit of authors wishing to publish in *Animal Genetics*. For each of the main areas of responsibility of associate editors, broadly i) quantitative genetics and association studies, ii) gene expression analyses and iii) phylogenetics, important “make or break” requirements relating to experimental design, sample sizes, interpretation of results and presentation were described to assist authors in the preparation of their manuscripts. An appeal was also made to members to assist with review of manuscripts submitted to the journal.

A similar workshop will be presented at the next conference as for the past conferences.

Publishing and participating in *Animal Genetics* – advice for early career scientists

Chris Moran, Editor in Chief



Structure of this Workshop

- The journal and its objectives
- Quality control
- Peer review
- What can you do to increase your chance of publication?
- Introduction of “Behind-the-scenes” editors
- Introduction of Editors
- Presentations by each of the Associate Editors
- Open discussion

The journal and its objectives

- *Animal Genetics* reports frontline research on immunogenetics, molecular genetics and functional genomics of **economically important and domesticated animals***.
- Publications include the study of variability at gene and protein levels, mapping of genes, traits and QTLs, associations between genes and traits, genetic diversity, and characterization of gene expression and control.
- It is published by **Wiley Blackwell** on behalf of **Stichting International Foundation for Animal Genetics**

*Not humans, not rats nor mice nor other lab animals, not wildlife species, but includes fish and invertebrates in aquaculture

The journal and its objectives

- The page space in the journal is limited
- For this reason, submitted manuscripts must fit the journal objectives and must be of sufficient interest and scientific quality
- We normally publish 6 issues per year, each of slightly over 100 pages
- We encourage the inclusion of less vital information as online-only supplementary files in order to remain within our page limits

The journal and its objectives

- There are three forms of papers:
 1. Full paper ($\leq 5,000$ words)
 2. Short Communication ($\leq 1,500$ words)
 3. Brief Report (≤ 500 words)
- Full instructions for the style and formatting of these manuscripts is available at www.blackwellpublishing.com/age
- Manuscripts are submitted via Animal Genetics-Scholar One at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/angen>

Quality control

- All manuscripts are assessed on submission by the Editor-in-Chief (about 350-400 mss per year)
- Any manuscripts lying outside the scope of the journal (eg on wildlife species) or inadequately presented (eg very poor English) are rejected immediately
- All remaining Full Papers and Short Communications are then assigned to the relevant Associate Editors who then send them out for peer review or less commonly “Reject without review”
- Brief Reports are not peer reviewed

Quality control

- Following peer review, mss may be:
 1. Accepted without further revision (rarely)
 2. Accepted subject to minor revision
 3. Major revision required before acceptance – generally requiring another round (or two) of review.
 4. Rejected
- Brief Reports receive the same range of recommendations, after assessment by the Editor-in-Chief, sometimes in consultation with an Associate Editor or Editorial Board member

Quality control

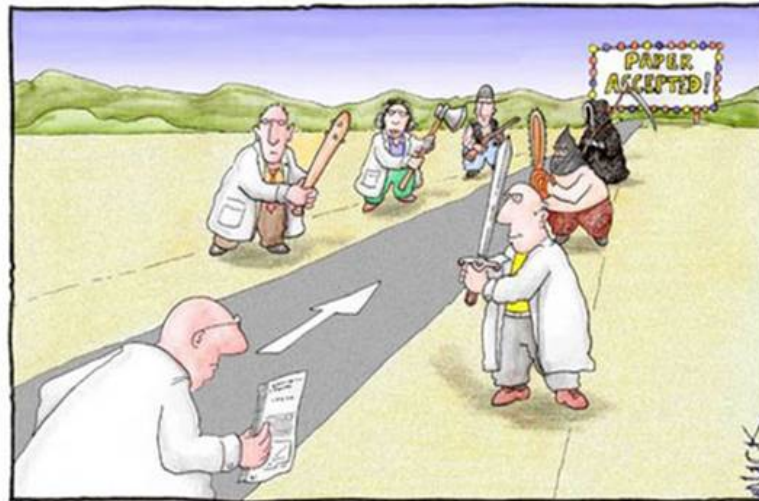
- How do we know whether the journal is doing well?
 1. The number of manuscripts submitted for consideration (about 350-400 per year ✓) – but could do with more submissions
 2. Citation impact (Impact Factor: 2.403 in 2011; Ranking: 3/55 Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science; 89/157 Genetics & Heredity ✓) – but would prefer to be 1 in Agriculture, Dairy and Animal Science again and higher in the Genetics and Heredity category
 3. Subscription income ✓ - supports other activities of ISAG

Peer review

- While we need authors to submit manuscripts, we also depend on reviewers.
- The bottleneck in ms decisions is peer review.
- Finding reviewers and getting reports from them is time consuming.
- Scientific publication as we know it would grind to a halt without the voluntary contribution of time and effort by reviewers.
- *While we would like you to review papers, please feel free to say No if you can't realistically perform the review – saying Yes and then not delivering is much more problematic for us*

Peer review

- *Animal Genetics* provides a temporary on-line subscription to reviewers.
- I would strongly encourage early career researchers to learn from and assist their supervisors with peer review to help build the skills and confidence to be effective reviewers.
- *Animal Genetics* maintains a database of reviewers and I would encourage you to put your name forward as reviewers to the Animal Genetics-ScholarOne site.



Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as 'quite an improvement.'

Peer Review

- Don't think of peer review as a confrontational process
- I haven't seen a manuscript yet which has not been improved by peer review, resulting from suggestions for more appropriate analyses, refined interpretation and/or more polished presentation
- Some reviewers will spend hours correcting grammar and structure and providing suggestions for better ways to present results – they are your unpaid friends
- Even rejection can be a blessing in disguise if it prevents you from publishing embarrassing errors

What can you do to increase your chance of publication?

- Pre-submission
- Submission and Peer-Review
- Revision
- Publication

Pre-submission: Research your Research

- Is *Animal Genetics* the right journal?
- What are the Aims and Scopes of your ms?
- What do the Author Guidelines say?

Contact the Editor-in-Chief on questions of appropriateness. Email an abstract or a brief description of the proposed ms.

Pre-submission: Present your Research

- Draft and redraft your ms.
- Get friends and colleagues, including non-specialists, to read and edit the drafts.
- Does the manuscript describe the methods well enough to enable replication of the work?
Remember some details can be included as supplementary material
- Does the work have clearly stated objectives and have you succeeded in meeting those objectives?

Pre-submission: Present your Research

- Check a recent issue for correct formatting.
- Use tables and figures to more effectively present your results.
- Check your reference list and in-text citations to ensure they match and are formatted correctly.
- If English is not your native language, please get a fluent, preferably native, English speaker to proof read the manuscript. Manuscripts with very poor English will be returned to the authors for revision without review, otherwise it would be unfair on our volunteer reviewers.
- If English language is a major problem, you should use a professional editing service. See Author Guidelines page on the Animal Genetics website for details on getting help with English language editing

Submission and Peer-Review

- Your manuscript will be converted to a pdf file within ManuscriptCentral. Make sure that you use the correct file formats so this can happen. Supplementary material can be submitted separately.
- Ensure that you use the appropriate nomenclature for genes, SNPs etc
- Lodge raw data where necessary in appropriate databases eg sequences in GenBank and provide accession codes. The copy/technical editors will check these

Submission and Peer-Review

- Include all necessary permissions including ethics approvals
- Provide correct email addresses for all authors. If registering author details in ManuscriptCentral, ensure details are correct and that you are not creating duplicate entries
- Please suggest some reviewers and notify us of anyone whom you don't wish to review the ms

Editor-in-Chief's Initial Assessment

- Is the English good?
- Is the paper appropriate (relevant) for *Animal Genetics*?
- Has the correct format been used? (references, titles, etc.)

The paper could be rejected immediately or it could be assigned to an associate editor.

Revisions

- Respond promptly to revision requests and queries.
- Do not ignore or dismiss comments from the editor and reviewers. At best it will cause delay; at worst, rejection. Discuss and rebut requests, if you do not implement them.
- Remember always that the editor and the reviewers are trying to help, so don't take the comments personally.

Acceptance and Publication

- It is not all over when you get the acceptance email!
- You may be contacted to provide higher resolution image files.
- Ensure that all contact information is updated if necessary.
- The Copy Editor will check the English, check all accession codes eg Genbank; completeness and formatting of the reference list, after which you will receive proofs including suggested changes or problems.
- Respond promptly and carefully to proofs. Ideally this is a two person job – one reading the manuscript, the other the proofs.
- Check tables and figures for accuracy and formatting
- Check that URLs are still functional

- Helpful websites:

Author Guidelines on the Animal Genetics website

[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1365-2052](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1365-2052)

English language writing on the Animal Genetics website

http://authorservices.wiley.com/bauthor/english_language.asp

Author Services on the Wiley-Blackwell Publishing website

<http://authorservices.wiley.com/bauthor/>

“Behind the Scenes” Editors

- Senior Journal Publishing Manager, Rosie Trice
- Based in Oxford (rtrice@wiley.com)
- Production Editor, Sue Tok
- Based in Singapore (sutok@wiley.com)
- Copy Editor/Technical Editor, Denise Rothschild (djroths@iastate.edu) (shared until recently with Camilla Whittington)
- Copy edits accepted mss and generates proofs



Editor-in-Chief

- Chris Moran, Professor of Animal Genetics, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney (Christopher.Moran@sydney.edu.au)
- Oversee the operation of the journal, report to the ISAG Executive
- Assess all mss, assign mss to Associate Editors, review all decisions, deal with all Brief Reports
- Liaise with Associate Editors, Production Editor and Managing Editor



Associate Editor - Quantitative

- DrJohn Bastiaansen, Wageningen University (john.bastiaansen@wur.nl)
- Deals with all QTL mapping, candidate gene, genome wide association and other quantitative manuscripts



Associate Editor – Quantitative and Aquaculture

- Dr Anna Sonesson, Nofima, Ås, Norway (anna.sonesson@nofima.no)
- Deals with all QTL mapping, candidate gene, genome wide association and other quantitative manuscripts, but has a special interest in aquaculture



Associate Editor - Biodiversity

- Dr James Kijas, Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO Livestock Industries, Brisbane, Australia (James.Kijas@csiro.au)
- Deals with biodiversity, population structure, and parentage manuscripts



Associate Editor – Gene Expression

- Professor Chris Tuggle, Department of Animal Science, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, USA (cktuggle@iastate.edu)
- Deals with manuscripts involving microarrays, qRT-PCR and other forms of gene expression analysis

