

How to publish with impact

Maria Southall
Executive Editor
Royal Society of Chemistry



My role

- Manage journals, attract best new science and promote articles
- Ensure journals have rigorous, fair, efficient peer review
- Meet scientists to keep aware of field and attract top research
- Advise researchers on publishing best practice

Royal Society of Chemistry

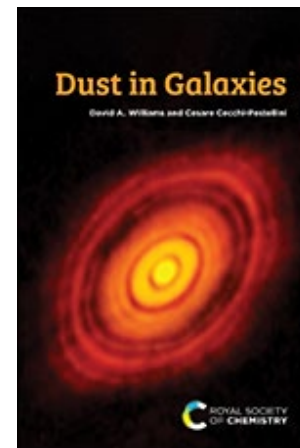
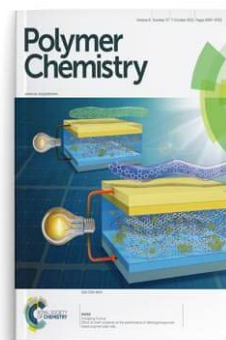
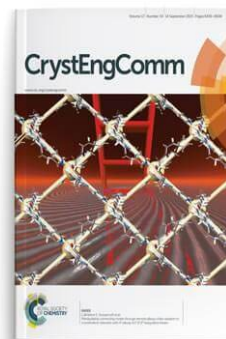
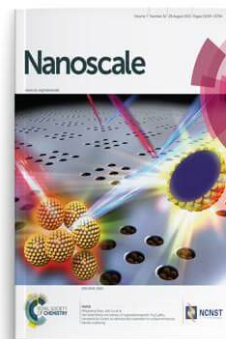
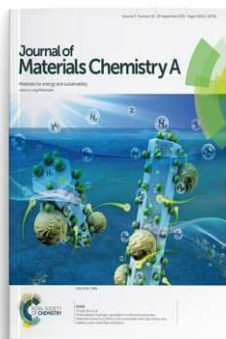
- We connect scientists with each other and society as a whole
- We publish new research
- We bring people together to spark new ideas and new partnerships
- We support teachers to inspire future generations
- And we speak up to influence the people making decisions that affect us all



A global community



A leading international publisher



THE
MERCK INDEX[®] *Online*

ChemSpider
Search and share chemistry

CHEMISTRY\WORLD

Materials Interfaces

& Engineering portfolio



Biomaterials Science

Inspiring future innovations
in biomaterials research

Community focused. Innovative.
Society owned

Find out more

Fundamental questions
Elemental answers

Biomaterials Science



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China



Can Zhang

China Pharmaceutical
University, China



Xinyuan Zhu

Shanghai Jiao Tong
University, China

Molecular Systems Design & Engineering

The hub for molecular
engineering research

Inclusive. Community led. Application focused

Find out more

Fundamental questions
Elemental answers

MSDE

- Journal Impact Factor: 4.920*
- Citescore: 7.6
- JCR Materials Science, Multidisciplinary: Q2
- Time to first decision**: 27 days

- Editorial Board Chair: **Juan de Pablo** (University of Chicago, US)



*2021 Journal Impact Factor, Journal Citation Reports (Web of Science Group, 2022)

** For peer-reviewed manuscripts in 2021

How to publish with impact

Tips from our editors

Why publish?

To contribute to the advancement of science

To establish scientific priority

To create a permanent record

To share information

To further your career

To get funding

To promote research



“He teaches, he researches and he writes.”

Where to submit



Choose an appropriate journal
before you prepare your
article



Submission checklist

1. Manuscript
2. Cover letter
3. Supplementary information (ESI)
4. Suggestions for suitable reviewers

➤ Always read the journal's author & ethical guidelines

Cover letter

- To include:
 - Summary of work
 - Statement of importance
 - Impact on community
 - Future potential
- Address to the Editor / Associate Editor
- Correct journal!



Writing and formatting

- Title
- Authorship
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Results and discussion
- Experimental
- Conclusions
- Acknowledgements
- References

Tell a **story** – clarity and conciseness


Emphasise the **novelty**

Title – be discoverable

- Short and straightforward
- Keywords (think search terms)
- Informative
- Avoid abbreviations, specific nomenclature and terms such as ‘novel’



COMMUNICATION [View Article Online](#)
[View Journal](#)

 **Durable and self-healing superamphiphobic coatings repellent even to hot liquids†**

Cite this: DOI: 10.1039/c5cc09951j

Bucheng Li and Junping Zhang*

Received 3rd December 2015,
Accepted 5th January 2016



‘Fabrication of superamphiphobic coatings under PAL, 1H,1H,2H,2H-perfluorodecyltriethoxysilane and tetraethoxysilane



‘Novel superamphiphobic coatings’

Writing the paper

Authorship

- Made a significant contribution
- Make sure all authors agree to the submission

Abstract

- Concise summary and significance
- Make it count!

Introduction

- “Set the scene” - why is it important?
- What has been done?
- What will you show?

Results & discussion

- Backup claims with evidence
- Explain complex arguments
- State impact compared with recent work

Writing the paper

Experimental	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enough information to replicate work• Suitable characterisation – see guidelines
Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key results and their impact• Plans for future work
Acknowledgments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding agencies• Any contributors who are not authors
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure correct style – usually Vancouver
Supplementary Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spectra, other data, experimental procedures

Effective figures, tables and graphics

- Best way to present results
- Clear yet informative
- Details in captions and legends
- Use colour – it's free!
- Graphical abstract important to grab reader's attention!

Writing the paper

- Think about audience
- Simple language
- Compare work
- Reference
- Novelty and impact
- Spelling and grammar
- Proof read

See our how to write an article support at:
rsc.li/journal-resources



Our data sharing policy

Provide all data required to understand and verify the research presented.

Findable

Accessible

Interoperable

Reusable

We strongly encourage authors to deposit the data underpinning their research in appropriate repositories and include a Data Availability Statement (DAS).

View our data policy and **find recommended repositories** on our author hub:
rsc.li/journal-resources

Why use peer review?

Authors

- Validates
- Improves article
- Mark of quality
- Requirement for publication

Readers

- Validates
- Mark of quality
- Improves article and journal
- Selection process

Reviewers

- Reciprocal activity
- Keep up to date with field
- Professional activity
- Enjoy reading new work

The aim is always to improve the paper and assure the **quality of the research**

Peer review models

Single-anonymised

- Traditional peer review model
- Reviewer(s) anonymous
- Author(s) name and affiliation are on the manuscript

Transparent (open)

- Editor's decision letter, reviewers' comments and authors' response published alongside the article
- Option on *RSC Chemical Biology* and *Environmental Science: Atmospheres*

Double-anonymised

- Reviewer(s) anonymous
- Author(s) anonymous
- An option on some of our journals



Peer review

Editorial office
(professional editors)



Hybrid
(both)



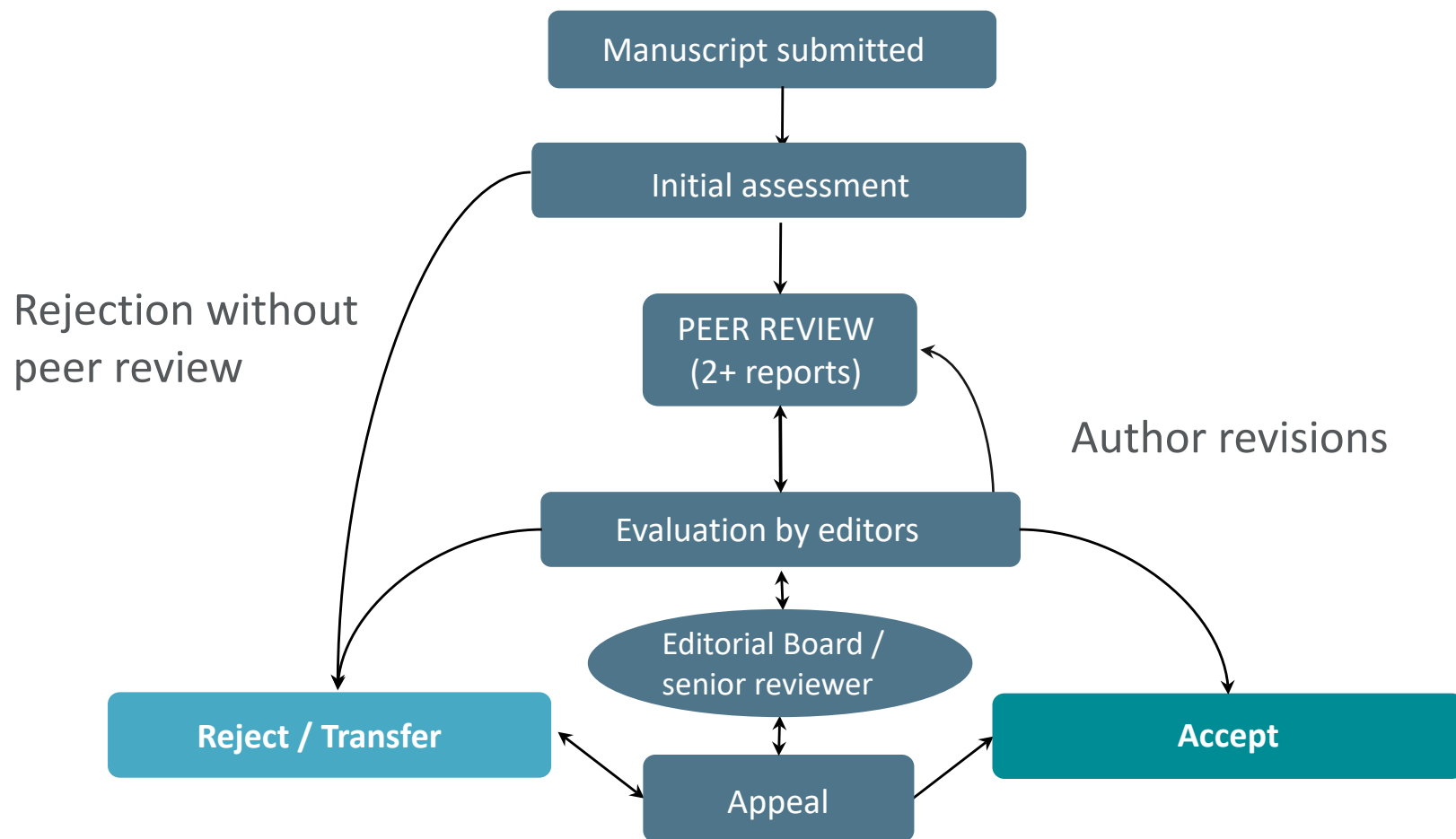
Associate editors
(active researchers)



What does an editor do?

- Manages peer review
- Mediates
- Fairness and quality
- Final decision on publication
- Oversees publication process

Manuscript life cycle



Peer review

Selecting a reviewer:

Specialist knowledge

Speed / reliability / accuracy

Questions for reviewers:

Correct experimental work?

Novelty and impact

Suitability for publication in the journal

Make recommendation



Questions each editor asks

- Is the research correct and robust?
- Is the paper ethically sound?
- Can the science be easily understood?
- Are there new insights?
- Is it of interest?

Transfers

Our aim is to find a suitable home for your research

Saves work for reviewers and editors (we share reports)

Benefits for authors:

- Quicker decision
- Easy and immediate re-submission
- Often with no further peer-review



Revising your paper

Do

- Stick to the deadline
- Read each report carefully
- Ask if anything is unclear
- Address **all** the comments
- Be polite
- Provide a version with changes highlighted

Avoid

- Personal comments about the reviewers
- Taking critical comments personally

Good publishing practice

Read and follow author and ethical guidelines

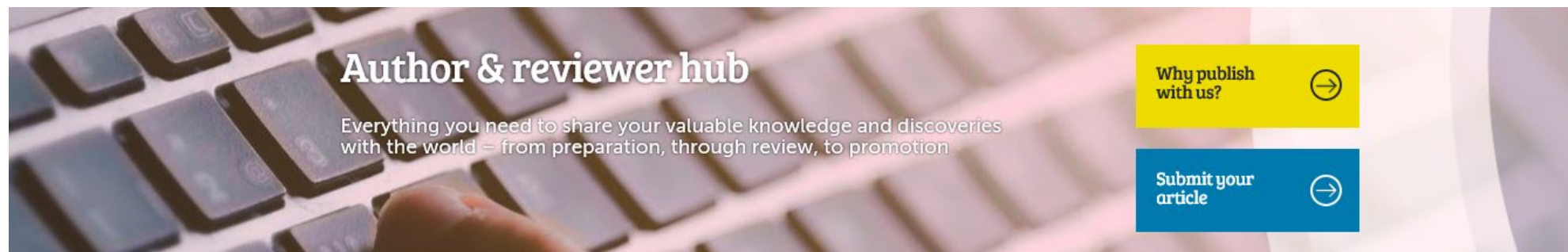
- Check authorship
- Avoid plagiarism
- Avoid fragmenting your work
- No unsupported claims
- Only submit to one journal at a time

Scientific progress depends on the integrity of the scientific record



Author & reviewer hub

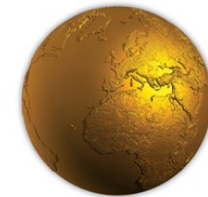
rsc.li/journal-resources





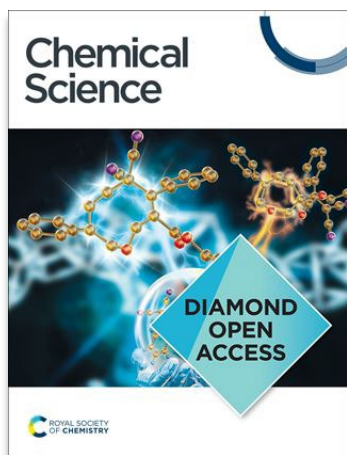
ROYAL SOCIETY
OF **CHEMISTRY**

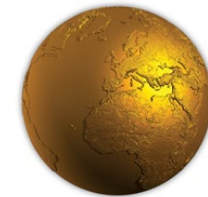
Publishing choices



Gold Open Access journals

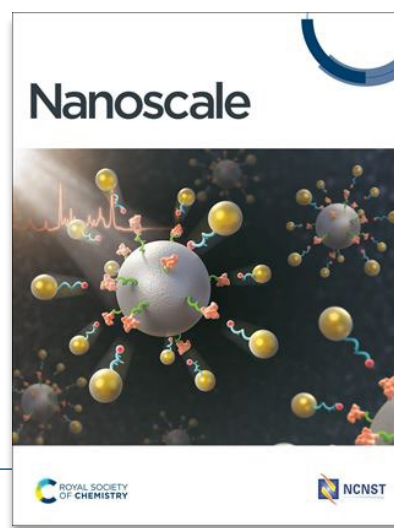
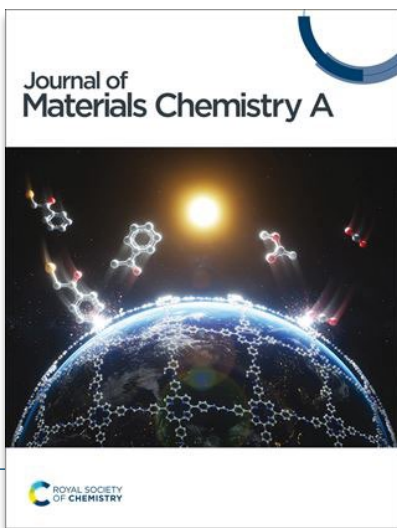
- 'Article Processing Charge' (APC) is paid on acceptance for all articles
- All articles (version of record) are free to read from date of publication
- Many of our Gold OA journals are currently waiving their APCs



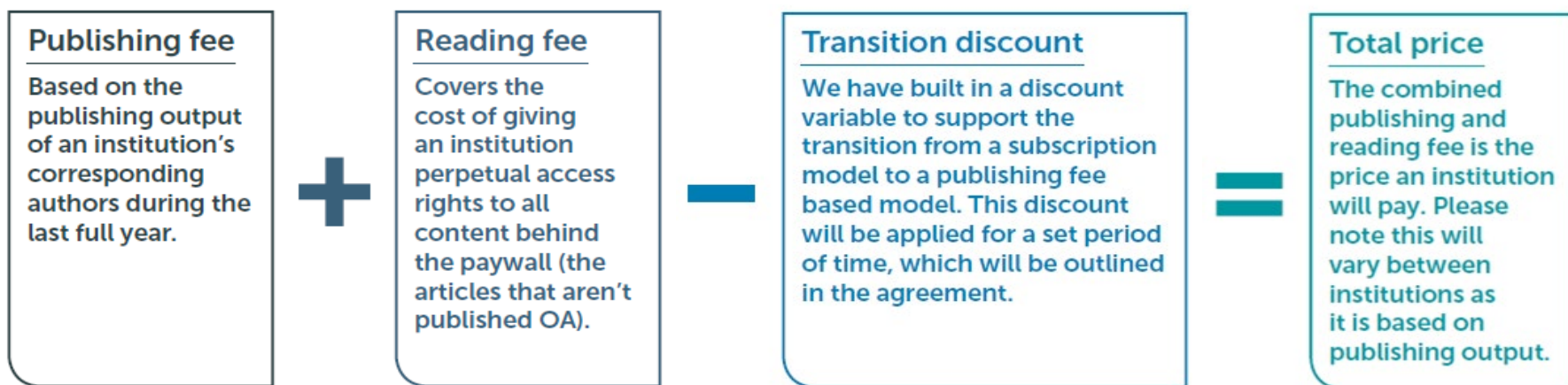


Gold Open Access: Hybrid journals

- Gold Open Access is optional
- 'Article Processing Charge' is usually paid on acceptance
- Individual article (version of record) is free to read from date of publication - other articles available with subscription



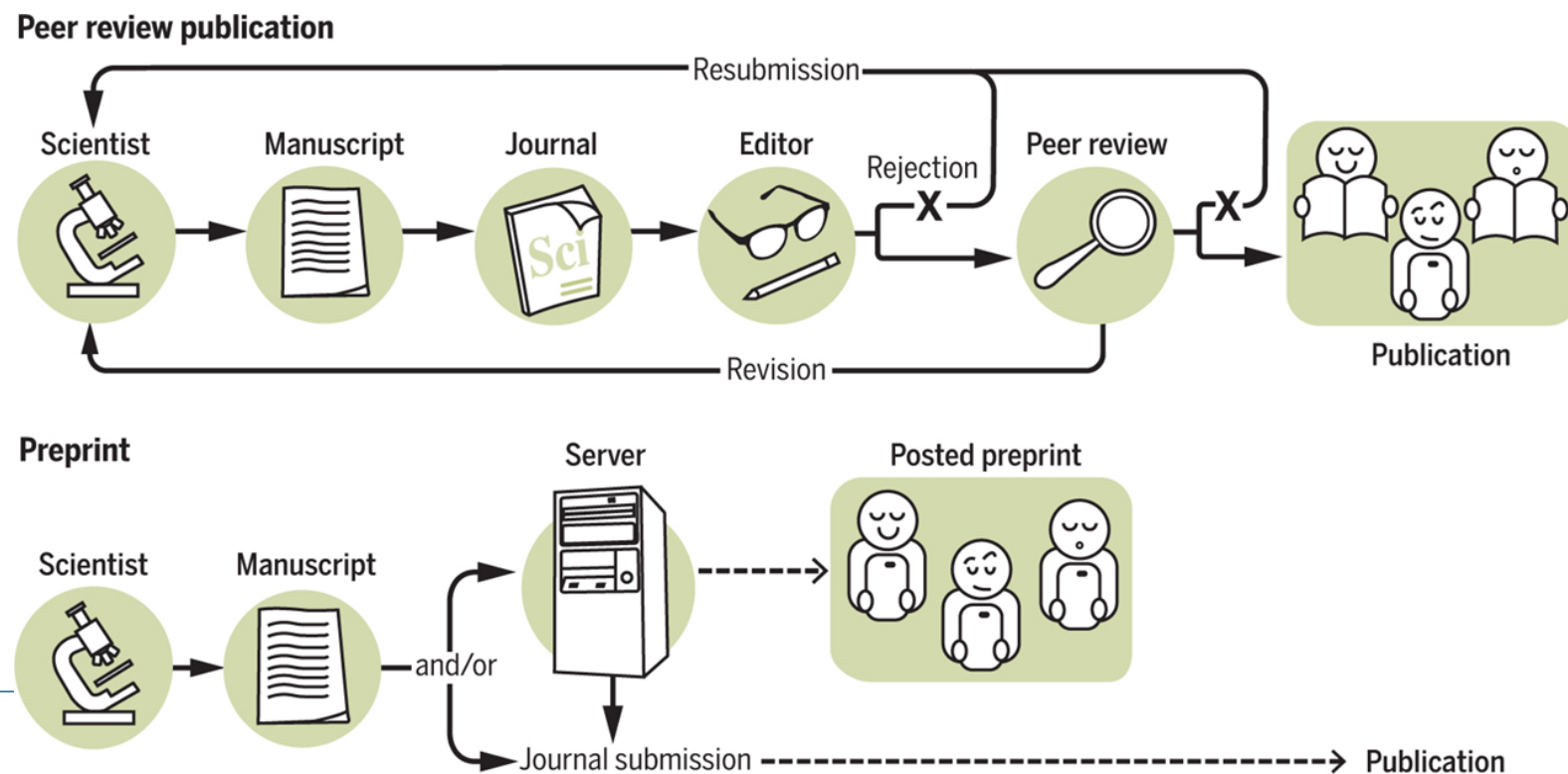
Read & Publish



- 28 agreements in Germany (including with Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and Technische Universität Berlin)
- See more: <https://www.rsc.org/journals-books-databases/open-access/read-and-publish/deals/>

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Thank you