



## Information for Authors-Neural Regeneration Research

### About the Journal

#### Aims

*Neural Regeneration Research* (NRR; ISSN 1673-5374, eISSN1876-7958), founded in April 2006 and sponsored by the Chinese Association of Rehabilitation Medicine, is an international, peer reviewed, open-access journal (English website: [www.nrronline.org](http://www.nrronline.org); Chinese website: [www.sjzsyj.com.cn](http://www.sjzsyj.com.cn)).

NRR has been indexed by Science Citation Index Expanded, PubMed/PMC, SCOPUS, and other international indexing systems. As of March 25, 2021, the immediate 2020 JCR impact factor of NRR was 4.985.

We hope that with your support, NRR will become a highly recognized journal in the field of neural regeneration.

#### Scope

NRR's topics of interest include, but are not limited to, changes in the translation and regeneration of adult neurons; the repair and regeneration of axons and dendrites of injured neurons; changes in neurons, the microenvironment, and new vessels during neural regeneration; intervention outcomes measured using histomorphology, cell biology, and molecular cell biology; repair, protection, and regeneration after nerve injury; and new theories, technologies, and methods in neural regeneration research. For more topics of interest, please see **Table 1**.

#### Indexing and Abstracting

- BIOSIS previews (BP)
- Chinese Science Citation Database (CSCD)
- Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
- Embase (Elsevier)
- Excerpta Medica (EM)
- Index Copernicus (IC)
- ProQuest
- PubMed via PMC deposit (NLM)
- Science Citation Index Expanded (Clarivate Analytics)
- Scopus (Elsevier)
- Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics)

#### Awards

- Selected journal in “Excellence Action Plan for China STM Journals”
- Included in “China High-Quality Sci-tech Journals” T2 in the neurology category
- “Most internationally influential academic journal” in China
- “The First Award for Excellent Journals” issued by the National Health Commission of the

People's Republic of China

### **Editorial board members**

The editorial board, led by Professor Kwok-Fai So and Xiao-Ming Xu, comprises over a hundred members who are dedicated to presenting outstanding peer-reviewed, evidence-based scholarly research in neural regeneration. Other editorial board members are named in **Table 2**.

### **Readership**

NRR has a strong international focus on neural regeneration and is of interest to neuroscientists working in neuroanatomy, neuroimmunity, neuropathology, neuropharmacology, neurophysiology, biochemistry, biophysics, neurosurgery, neurology, neuroimaging, neuroradiology, neurobiology, and neurorehabilitation. NRR has emerged as an important forum for experts from a wide range of disciplines including medicine, biostatistics, epidemiology, computer science, management science, pharmaceuticals, bioethics, and evidence-based medicine, and as an important platform for communication between the government, funding agencies, journals, pharmaceutical companies, insurance companies, continuing education institutes, and patients.

### **Publication criteria**

NRR welcomes academic and technological articles that describe innovative contributions to existing research. The journal publishes rigorously conducted scientific articles with high technical standards, sound methodology, ethics, and analytical and statistical methods, repeatable results, comprehensive and convincing discussion, and data-supported conclusions without overstatements.

NRR publishes invited reviews. Prominent authors from internationally renowned laboratories are invited to write topical reviews that cover a current topic of interest in the field of neural regeneration. Authors who are interested in publishing an invited review in NRR can submit a paper outline to the editorial committee before writing.

Requirements for invited reviews:

- In depth investigation of a 'hot topic' in a given field that provides the author(s)'s analytical opinions, and introduces the sources of the retrieved articles.
- 3000–6000 words, 1–2 figures, 1–2 tables, 50–80 references, no more than three references from the same journal, no more than 2 references from the same author.

Excellent original research articles with innovative results are encouraged.

NRR focuses on basic research papers on the following topics:

- The development of neural regeneration-related models using new methods and techniques
- Experiments conducted at the cellular level, which introduce cell selection, intervention methods (gene silencing/overexpression, siRNA), phenotype detection (such as proliferation, cycle, apoptosis, or autophagy) (NRR does not publish papers that only include conventional in vitro cytology detection)
- Experiments with animal models, in which animal models are established based on

internationally accepted gold standards (with clinical significance and considering differences in immune, gene, or metabolic factors between animal models and humans), and with detailed information on grouping, control, and phenotype detection for intervention modes including drugs, cells, genes, and viral vectors.

- Models constructed using different methods in two or more animal categories (such as transgenic models, spontaneous disease models, disease models constructed in different animal categories) and addressing pathological processes, pathogenesis, symptoms and mechanism of injury, and repair and regeneration in the field of neural regeneration.

NRR requires that the results of experimental animal studies reflect changes in histology, behavior, and function.

NRR focuses on papers that examine innovative hypotheses and research results related to nerve injury and regeneration. Prospective randomized controlled multi-center clinical trials with clinical registration protocols and single arm clinical trials with results that provide significance for guiding nerve injury repair and reconstruction are particularly welcome.

### **Editorial Process**

The publisher is committed to evaluating each NRR manuscript in a prompt and efficient manner to enable fast and successful publication.

The average time from submission to the start of peer review is 6 days. The average time from submission to the first editorial decision based on comments made by peer-reviewers is 30 days.

The time from acceptance to publication is 8–120 days.

NRR requires that accepted manuscripts are original, and that they have not been submitted to or are not under consideration by another publication in any language or any form. However, NRR accepts the following forms of authorized manuscripts:

- Oral presentations given at meetings
- Articles published on a non-profit preprint service platform
- Articles with materials and methods that are the same as those published previously by the same research team, but with novel results
- Articles published in a language other than English

### **Rigorous Peer Review**

*NRR* submissions undergo rigorous peer-review and all papers that are published are judged to be technically sound. Judgments about the importance of each paper are made after publication by the readership, who are the most qualified to determine what is of interest to their field.

Only 15%–20% of the approximately 2,000 manuscripts submitted per year are published in *NRR*. Approximately 1/3–1/2 of non-invited contributions are rejected and are not assigned to the international peer review process because they do not meet the publishing objectives or are not

current and topical. Rapid rejection decisions enable authors to submit their contributions to other journals as soon as possible without delaying the final publication of the manuscript.

### Peer-review process

Each submission to *NRR* passes through a rigorous quality control and peer-review evaluation process before a decision is made. A flowchart of this procedure is provided below:

- Key points are assessed by the editorial screening team (**Table 3**)
- Once a submitted manuscript has passed quality control screening, it is assigned to the strict double-blinded peer-review process.
- Each manuscript receives at least three effective peer-review reports.

Each manuscript is submitted to the peer-review process within 7 days after submission. Peer-reviewers are required to provide a peer-review report within 14 days after accepting the review task (**Table 4**). The peer-review report mainly focuses on the scientific merit of the submitted manuscript and gives a suggestion regarding the acceptance or rejection of the manuscript (**Table 5**).

-Within 30 days after submission, the editorial department makes a preliminary decision to accept, invite revision of, or reject the article based on the peer-review reports.

-If they are invited to revise their manuscript, the authors have 21 days to submit a 'response to reviewers' file. This file should address the specific points made by each reviewer. A marked-up copy and a clean copy of the revised manuscript are required.

-A re-review of the revised manuscript is conducted by reviewers within 7 days

-Editing suggestions are then collected based on the re-review reports and the manuscript formatting guidance from the editorial department

-The author conducts a re-revision

-A decision is made to accept or reject the paper after a final discussion by the editorial committee.

The time requirements for peer-review are provided in a flowchart in **Table 6**.

### Reviewer recognition

Before manuscripts are sent for review, potential peer reviewers are contacted to confirm their availability and the absence of conflicts of interest, as well as their consent to have their names included with the published reviewed report. A peer-review report, together with the reviewer's name, if permitted, is posted at the end of the article.

The quality of *NRR* depends on the generous contributions of our reviewers, who offer their expertise and time to help ensure that we publish great science. We particularly thank our outstanding reviewers, who have provided an extraordinary number of thoughtful reviews, and particularly those who have reviewed four or more manuscripts each year, provided more than 400 words of general comments, and completed the peer-review process within 14 days. Please find attached a full list of *NRR*'s outstanding reviewers for each year on the website. We deeply appreciate their constructive and valuable suggestions regarding *NRR* manuscripts. We provide a

proof of review for those who provide more than 300 words of general comments and complete the peer-review process within 14 days. We also encourage the reviewers to share and discuss their review comments on Publons ([www.publons.com](http://www.publons.com)). *NRR* will also give credit to registered reviewers on Publons.

### Criteria for Publication

- The study presents the novel results of primary scientific research.
- Experiments, statistics, and other analyses are performed to a high technical standard and are described in sufficient detail.
- Results reported have not been published elsewhere.
- Conclusions are presented in an appropriate fashion and are supported by the data.
- The research meets all applicable standards for the ethics of experimentation and research integrity.
- The article adheres to appropriate reporting guidelines and community standards for data availability.
- The article is presented in an intelligible fashion and is written in American English.

The principles of manuscript acceptance by NRR are provided in **Table 7**.

### For Authors

#### Submission

All manuscripts should be submitted at the official NRR website: <http://www.editorialmanager.com/nrr/>

Once submitted to NRR, the manuscript should not be submitted to other journals within 1 month, whether it is undergoing or awaiting the review process.

The materials and data that are uploaded online are described in **Table 8**.

#### Manuscript template

Formatting guidelines for NRR article types (Review, Perspective, Research Article, and Imaging in Neural Regeneration) are provided in **Table 9**.

#### Reporting guidance

Manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with the ICMJE Recommendation for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals (**Table 10**). Self-checklists and flowcharts are provided when submitting a manuscript.

#### Guideline details

- For reporting guidelines for materials and methods, please see **Additional File 2.1**.
- For standard use of terms in scientific research and statistical design, please see **Additional File 2.2**.
- For reporting guidelines regarding figures and tables, please see **Additional File 2.3**.
- For standardized use of terminology, digitals, symbols, and units of measurement, please see **Additional File 2.4**.

- For reporting guidelines regarding reference formatting, please see **Additional File 2.5**.

### **Link your publication to ORCID**

The corresponding author should provide their ORCID (<https://orcid.org/>) identifier upon manuscript submission to uniquely identify the publication for journal or database statisticians.

### **Contributor credit**

NRR requires that each contributor's specific contribution to the scholarly output be defined at submission. The CRediT (Contributor Roles Taxonomy, <https://www.casrai.org/credit.html>) system is recommended. The roles played by contributors to scientific scholarly output are given in **Table 11**.

### **Transfer of copyright agreement**

Once your paper is successfully submitted, all publishing agreements (**Additional File 3**) should be signed by all authors and uploaded to the editorial system.

### **Publication after acceptance**

After acceptance, the authors have access to inquiries regarding the progress of their manuscript submitted online via [szb@nrren.org](mailto:szb@nrren.org). Generally, accepted manuscripts will be published within 3-6 months after revision; however, authors can apply for rapid publication within 2-3 months after revision via [bwb01@nrren.org](mailto:bwb01@nrren.org).

### **Publication ethics and requirements**

According to the ICMJE recommendations, the authors should follow all ethical principles for medical research involving humans and experimental animals (**Table 12**).

Papers involving animal experiments and clinical trials should provide details of ethical approval including the name of ethics committees, approval number, and approval date.

All prospective clinical studies should be registered in an international clinical trials registry platform prior to participant recruitment. The registry platform, register identifier, and the date of registration should be provided upon submission and included in the abstract of the manuscript.

NRR focuses on ethical issues related to medical research, animal experiments, clinical trials, and subject consent, privacy, and confidentiality.

Reviewers and editors are required to treat manuscripts fairly and in confidence according to ICMJE and COPE guidelines (**Additional File 4**). Publication ethics are involved in, but are not limited to, paper preparation, review and revision, copyright transfer/permission, data sharing, hazardous substances, risks, and biosafety.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

Authors, editors, and reviewers must declare all potentially competing interests that affect the presentation and objective review of the manuscript, including financial (such as patent, ownership of stocks, paid consultancy, and honoraria for speaking at meetings) as well as personal, political, and religious competing interests (**Table 13**).

## **Publishing Practice Policies**

The editors and reviewers will vigorously investigate allegations of publication misconduct according to the guidelines of the Committee on Publication Ethics (**Additional File 5**).

### **Permission to reuse**

Before reusing images or data from your own previous publications or from other sources, it is necessary to obtain permission from the authors or the corresponding rights holder (publisher) before quoting. In some cases, authorization is not required unless this is clearly and officially stated. The methods of applying for authorization are provided in **Table 14**.

### **Duplicate publication**

Re-submission of a paper, text recycling, and multiple interpretations of original text using the same language may be considered to represent duplicate publication. This may also be the case for submissions of a paper translated into different languages, unless authorized by the original journal (some international journals provide authorization licenses in the signed version of a transfer of copyright form). For secondary publication in another language (i.e., translated version), acknowledgements must be included, and how much of the content belongs to the secondary publication should be indicated. More guidelines for duplicate publication/misconduct are provided in **Table 15**.

### **Preprint policy**

NRR accepts research published on non-profit preprint services. Authors are strongly encouraged to provide links to their preprint during submission and are obligated to notify the journal about preprints of their research at submission. Authors are not allowed to grant copyright to the research during the preprint process. When using preprint services, authors reserve the copyright to the research.

### **Plagiarism**

*NRR* will strictly follow the requirements of plagiarism management issued by the Committee on Publication Ethics.

### **Corrections and Retractions**

*NRR* publishes corrections, retractions, and expressions of concern as appropriate, and as quickly as possible. We follow the ICMJE and COPE guidelines where applicable.

*NRR* will issue a notice of correction to the document and correct substantial errors when the corrected contents do not affect the results, understanding of the work reported, or the significance of the conclusion.

*NRR* will retract an article upon confirmation of academic misconduct, such as falsification of research data, manipulation of figures, and plagiarism, or if the errors are serious enough to make the results and conclusions of the paper unreliable.

Flowcharts showing the COPE guidelines for correction and retraction are provided in **Table 16**.

### **Open-Access Publication**

NRR is a global open access journal accepted by DOAJ. NRR applies the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 License to works we publish. This license allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as the author is credited and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms. Once your paper is successfully submitted, all publishing agreements (Additional file 3) should be signed by all authors or the authorizer before publication.

Anyone interested in reading your research can get free access to your paper at our official website ([www.nrronline.org](http://www.nrronline.org)) or PubMed Central.

### **Open-Access Service Fees**

Authors of invited papers may, at the discretion of the NRR editorial committee, be granted complete waivers for the open-access service fee.

When a paper is accepted for publication, the authors will be issued an invoice for payment of the open-access service fee. The open-access service fee is used to pay for online open access, development and maintenance of the editing and reviewing system, and data processing for access on Google Scholar, iPhone, iPad, and Android smartphones, as well as for PubMed indexing and CrossRef presentation. The open-access service fee will, at the discretion of the editorial committee, be reduced or waived for manuscripts from low-income countries according to the quality of the manuscript. Consideration of research articles is not related to the author's ability to pay the fee. The cost for language modification is billed separately.

### **Data Auditability**

NRR encourages authors to upload original experimental data on international data hosting and management databases prior to or after publication, including original data, images, or tables.

Such open access of data will increase study transparency, accelerate the pace of scientific research, and establish a more credible system of scientific research. Manuscripts submitted to NRR that report the results of clinical trials must contain a data-sharing statement. Data-sharing statements used in basic research and clinical trials are provided in Table 17.

### **Policies after Publication**

#### **Transfer of copyright agreement**

NRR, as an international open access journal approved by the DOAJ, publishes papers under the Creative Commons – Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International Public License.

Once a paper is successfully submitted, all publishing agreements (**Additional File 3**) should be signed by all authors or the authorizer before publication.

#### **Publisher and author rights**

The publisher retains all rights concerning assembling, printing, reproducing, translating, disseminating, exhibiting, publishing, retrieving, and indexing part or all of the contents of the article.

After signing a transfer of copyright with the journal, the authors retain the rights.

### **Reprints**

In not-for-profit circumstances, when cited appropriately, the use, dissemination, and reproduction of part or all of the contents of the article is permitted.

### **Reprints/Subscriptions**

We are committed to providing a journal copy to the first author and the corresponding author for free. Reprints can be purchased as print or electronic reprints.

### **Dissemination after publication**

Once a paper is published, it can be rapidly retrieved and accessed via Google Scholar, iPhone, iPad, and Android smart phones.

Published papers will be scheduled for dissemination to NRR's editorial board members, peer reviewers, authors, readers, and academic experts in the field of neural regeneration via multiple platforms at the following official accounts:

Facebook: Neural Regeneration Research

Twitter: Neural Regeneration Research-Journal

Mendeley: Neural Regeneration Research

WeChat: sjzsyj\_nrr

Sina micro-blog: Neural Regeneration Research (in Chinese)

Sohu: Journal of Neural Regeneration Research (in Chinese)

Dissemination should comply with NRR's management system regarding new media exposure after publication (**Additional File 6**).

### **Advertising policy**

If you are interested in publishing advertisements in the NRR journal, please consult the editorial office directly at [szb@nren.org](mailto:szb@nren.org).

### **Contract Us**

English website:

<http://www.nrronline.org/>

Chinese website:

<http://www.sjzsyj.org/>

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