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Current Opinion in Plant Biology

Guide for Authors

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The review

The aim of the manuscript is to review recent articles, with particular emphasis on those articles published in the **past two years**. In addition to describing recent trends, you are encouraged to give your subjective opinion of the topics discussed, although you should not concentrate unduly on your own research. Your review should be approximately 2000 words (not including references or reference notes), with approximately 50 references and, as such, the review is intended to be a concise view of the field as it is at the moment, rather than a comprehensive overview. Our audience ranges from student to professor, so articles must be accessible to a wide readership. Please avoid jargon, but do not oversimplify: be accurate and precise throughout. Occasionally, unpublished data can be referred to, but only when essential and should never be used to substantiate any significant point.

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Please provide the names of all authors in full, including first name. No more than five authors should be listed (only those who contributed to the actual writing of the manuscript, rather than members of the laboratory contributing to primary work). Anyone else who contributed to the article can be thanked in the acknowledgements section.

3. Addresses

Include full addresses for all authors, including e-mail addresses, and nominate a corresponding author (usually the invited author).

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All reviews should be prefaced by a summary of 100–120 words. The summary is important: it should contain sufficient information for the reader to be able to appreciate the relevance of the full article when read alone. Summaries are used by abstracting services and many users of these services read only the summary. It should include background information and *specific examples of recent advances*, rather than promises that a particular subject 'will be discussed' - the scope of the review should instead appear at the end of the introduction. References should not be included and abbreviations should be avoided as far as possible.

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Use concise, logical subheadings to provide clear links between the different sections and guide the reader through your review. Please write all abbreviations in full on first use, and use the abbreviation thereafter. Any algebra should be >14pt, with variables in italics and vectors in bold.

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The conclusions section should summarise the topics discussed and describe future directions, including the author's opinions, as appropriate.

8. Acknowledgements

In addition to any acknowledgement of help in the production of the manuscript, funding bodies should also be mentioned (please give full names rather than abbreviations), together with any relevant grant numbers.

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The majority of the references (please aim to cite approximately 50) should come from the period under review (i.e. **the past two years**) and, in general, at least 10% of these should be selected and annotated as being papers of special interest (*) or outstanding interest (**). Annotated references **MUST** be from the past two years, and the annotation should provide a brief description of the major findings and the importance of the study. **This is an essential part of each review** and is very popular with our readers. For example:

- 30. Wong FS, Karttunen J, Dumont C, Wen L, Visintin I, Pilip IM, Shastri N, Pamer EG, Janeway CA Jr: **Identification of an MHC class I-restricted autoantigen in type 1 diabetes by screening an organ-specific cDNA library.** *Nat Med* 1999, **5**:1026-1031.

Using class I tetramers, the authors demonstrate that insulin-specific CD8⁺ T cells account for a large proportion of infiltrated T cells in the islets of prediabetic NOD mice. This is the first study to use peptide multimers to decipher the mechanism of autoimmunity.

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