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ISSN: 0958-1669

### DESCRIPTION

The *Current Opinion* journals were developed out of the recognition that it is increasingly difficult for specialists to keep up to date with the expanding volume of information published in their subject. In *Current Opinion in Biotechnology*, we help the reader by providing in a systematic manner:

1. The views of experts on current advances in **biotechnology** in a clear and readable form.
2. Evaluations of the most interesting papers, annotated by experts, from the great wealth of original publications.

#### Division of the subject into sections

The subject of **biotechnology** is divided into themed sections, each of which is reviewed once a year. The amount of space devoted to each section is related to its importance.

Analytical biotechnology • Plant biotechnology • Food biotechnology • Energy biotechnology • Environmental biotechnology • Systems biology • Nanobiotechnology • Tissue, cell and pathway engineering • Chemical biotechnology • Pharmaceutical biotechnology

#### Selection of topics to be reviewed

Section Editors, who are major authorities in the field, are appointed by the [Editors](#) of the journal. They divide their section into a number of topics, ensuring that the field is comprehensively covered and that all issues of current importance are emphasised. Section Editors commission reviews from authorities on each topic that they have selected.

#### Reviews

Authors write short review articles in which they present recent developments in their subject, emphasising the aspects that, in their opinion, are most important. In addition, they provide short annotations to the papers that they consider to be most interesting from all those published in their topic over the previous year.

#### Editorial Overview

Section Editors write a short overview at the beginning of the section to introduce the reviews and to draw the reader's attention to any particularly interesting developments.

This successful format has made *Current Opinion in Biotechnology* one of the most highly regarded and highly cited review journals in the field (Impact factor = 8.035).

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Biotechnologists in academia and industry who are interested in keeping abreast of advances in understanding biotechnology.

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## ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

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### INTRODUCTION

The Current Opinion journals were developed out of the recognition that it is increasingly difficult for specialists to keep up to date with the expanding volume of information published in their subject. In the Current Opinion journals, we help the reader by providing in a systematic manner: (1) The views of experts on current advances in the field in a clear and readable form. (2) Evaluations of the most interesting papers, annotated by experts, from the great wealth of original publications.

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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This journal operates a single blind review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of one independent expert reviewer to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. [More information on types of peer review](#).

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It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. The text should be in single-column format. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the word processor's options to justify text or to hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. When preparing tables, if you are using a table grid, use only one grid for each individual table and not a grid for each row. If no grid is used, use tabs, not spaces, to align columns.



The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the [Guide to Publishing with Elsevier](#)). Note that source files of figures, tables and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed your figures in the text. See also the section on Electronic artwork.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

## Article structure

### *Subdivision - unnumbered sections*

Divide your article into clearly defined sections. Each subsection is given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line. Subsections should be used as much as possible when cross-referencing text: refer to the subsection by heading as opposed to simply 'the text'.

### *Introduction*

The introduction should be accessible to a wide variety of scientists by avoiding the use of jargon and concepts not familiar to non-specialists. It should outline the time period covered and the scope of the review, including the importance of and rationale behind your article. The introduction should include only a few background references.

### *Main text of review*

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.

### *Conclusions*

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

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### *Abstract*

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Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

Funding bodies should also be mentioned (please give full names rather than abbreviations), together with any relevant grant numbers

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The reference list should not be exhaustive - simply alert the reader to the most innovative recent papers and key reviews. Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list but may be mentioned in the text. References should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are cited in the text, followed by those that are only cited in the figure legends or tables. Please ensure that each item in the reference list has its own number, avoiding joint references (for example, references [32a,32b] should be listed and cited as [32,33] and subsequent references numbered accordingly). Papers accepted as 'in press' may be included.

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#### Examples:

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[1] de Alba E, Antoro J, Rico MA, Jimenez MA: **De novo design of a monomeric three-stranded anti-parallel  $\beta$ -sheet**. *Protein Sci* 1999, **8**:854-865.

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Reference to a chapter in an edited book:

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- Annotations

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- 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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