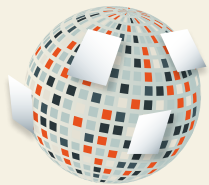


# PNAS Submission & Editorial Review

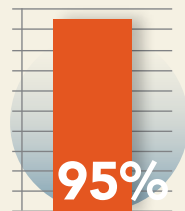
## HOW IT WORKS . . .

### 1. OVERVIEW



**Submissions are welcomed from researchers all over the world.**

Authors do not need to have a connection to an NAS member to publish in PNAS.



**95% of submitted papers are Direct Submissions—** not NAS member Contributed papers.



**PNAS is committed to transparency in its editorial review process.**

FAQs for authors explaining the review process are available at [www.pnas.org/site/authors/authorfaq.xhtml](http://www.pnas.org/site/authors/authorfaq.xhtml).



**All articles are evaluated solely on their scientific merit by peers—**not by staff editors.

Accepted papers must be of exceptional scientific importance and intelligible to a broad scientific audience.

### 2. SUBMISSION AND REVIEW

#### TWO CATEGORIES

- 1 Direct Submission**—the primary and preferred route for publication in PNAS
  - A member of the NAS does not need to sponsor the paper.
  - Authors receive a first decision within about 3 weeks and have their papers published online as soon as 4–5 weeks after acceptance.
- 2 Contributed Papers**—articles authored and submitted by NAS members
  - Members select their own reviewers.
  - Less than 25% of the papers published in PNAS are Contributed by NAS members.

#### THREE-TIER REVIEW PROCESS FOR ALL RESEARCH ARTICLES

**An NAS member makes the final decision for every paper.**

- 1 Editorial Board Member**—Each paper is assigned to an Editorial Board member from one of the 31 NAS disciplines. For a list of Editorial Board members and their disciplines see [www.pnas.org/misc/masthead.xhtml](http://www.pnas.org/misc/masthead.xhtml). All articles are subject to evaluation by the Editorial Board.
- 2 NAS Member Editor**—If the Editorial Board member decides the paper should proceed further, it is assigned to an NAS Member Editor, a professional scientist and active researcher, who oversees the review process and determines suitability of the work for PNAS.
- 3 Independent Peer Reviewers**—Recognized subject experts are selected by the Member Editor to review the work. The reviewers' recommendations are evaluated by the Member Editor, and the final decision to accept an article is made by an Editorial Board member.

### 3. PUBLISHING OPTIONS: OPEN ACCESS and PNAS PLUS



→ Published papers can be made immediately available online at no cost to the reader when the authors choose the **open access** option. All PNAS papers are freely available 6 months after publication.



→ **PNAS Plus** allows authors the option to publish an expanded research article with a 10-page limit. PNAS Plus articles follow the same peer review process as regular papers.