

# molecular microbiology

## Instructions for MicroReview Authors

### **AIMS:**

**MicroReviews** should be aimed at as broad a readership as possible. Recent advances should be described and their wide implications discussed. Lengthy historical introductions should be avoided, while the importance of the subject and the novelty of recent developments should be stressed. Your **MicroReview** should reflect your enthusiasm for the subject. You are encouraged to propose new, well-founded ideas and to present novel experimental strategies. MicroReviews should be thought pieces, not merely summaries of existing findings and ideas. Please try to avoid going over the same ground as previous reviews on the topic. Your review should be fair and balanced. If you know of conflicting opinions or interpretations, present them in such a way that the reader can reach his/her own conclusion before revealing what your own position is. Please avoid too much emphasis on your own work. Try to tell us what you think is coming up in the future, what the main questions are and why they are important, and where new technologies are likely to have a major impact. Careful attention should be paid to both factual content and presentation. Errors in reviews are more easily perpetuated than in research papers because reviews are more widely read and cited. In our experience, many excellent **MicroReviews** have been ruined by poor presentation, so ask some colleagues from outside of the field to read the manuscript and to tell you what they got out of it, and please get someone to check the English. **Most importantly, our aim is to ensure that MicroReviews become benchmark papers.**

**MicroReviews** are made freely and immediately available to non-subscribers to the Journal through the journal web site, thereby increasing the potential readership and impact.

### **FORMAT:**

**MicroReviews** should normally be **about twelve pages of double-spaced text including a short (approximately 200 word) summary**, plus references (unlimited), figures, legends and tables. Authors are also asked to suggest a **running title**.

**Figures.** A single, well-drawn figure illustrating basic concepts of working models is often the best way to present a subject. Figures should not contain minute details (e.g., sequence data). Supplementary material can be supplied for access via the on-line version of the journal. In order to save space, please ensure that blank areas are kept to a minimum on composite figures, and ensure that all lettering remains legible when reduced to the single or double column widths used in the Journal. Particularly striking colour illustrations or electron micrographs might be suitable for the front cover of the Journal - please contact me if you have a photograph that might be suitable. **Colour work will be published free of charge (at the editor's discretion).**

**References** should be cited in the text by first author (both authors if there are only two) and publication date, and should be listed alphabetically at the end of the text, where complete details (including the title of the article) should be given.

#### **HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR MICROREVIEW:**

For unsolicited reviews, please contact Peggy Cotter (pcotter@med.unc.edu) with your idea before you begin writing to find out if the proposed review is appropriate for MolMicro and, importantly, if a review on the same topic is already in the works. If approved, or if your review was solicited, please submit your manuscript on-line (at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/mmi>), choosing Peggy Cotter as the editor; it will then be sent out to selected referees (see below).

#### **REFEREEING:**

**MicroReviews** are subjected to the same peer review system as research articles. Several specialist referees (usually three) will be asked to comment on the accuracy of statements in the text and on its originality and general impact. Referees' comments are normally e-mailed to authors together with suggestions for corrections and modifications within four weeks of submission. You will be informed of any likely delays. Please propose six potential referees in the appropriate section of the on-line submission procedure. Collaborators and associates should be excluded from the list. Referees to whom the review should not be sent because of conflicts of interest should also be indicated.

#### **PERK:**

At the discretion of the handling editor, MolMicro allows MicroReview authors to have charges waived for colour artwork in the first Mol Micro research paper they publish after the publication of their MicroReview. Please ask the handling editor for details.