

## Brief Communication

A Brief Communication is a more concise format used typically to report a significant improvement to a tried-and-tested method, its modification and adaptation to an important original application, or an important new tool or resource of broad interest for the scientific community. This format typically does not exceed 3 printed pages. Brief Communications begin with a brief unreferenced abstract (3 sentences, no more than 70 words), which will appear on Medline. The title is limited to 10 words (or 90 characters). The main text is typically 1,000–1,500 words, including the abstract and contains no headings with the exception of a single heading for Methods to point readers to the online Methods section providing all technical details necessary for the independent reproduction of the methodology. Brief Communications normally have no more than 2 display items, although this may be flexible at the discretion of the editor, provided the page limit is observed. References are limited to 20. Article titles are omitted from the reference list. Brief Communications include received/accepted dates. They may be accompanied by supplementary information. Brief Communications are peer reviewed, and authors must provide a competing financial interests statement before publication