Part of SPRINGER NATURE

Antarctica meltdown could double sea level rise

Review articles: editorial strategies for publishing influential reviews

Susan Allison

s.allison@nature.com

@susanallison.bsky.social

6th Dec 2025

nature portfolio

I have two joint roles:

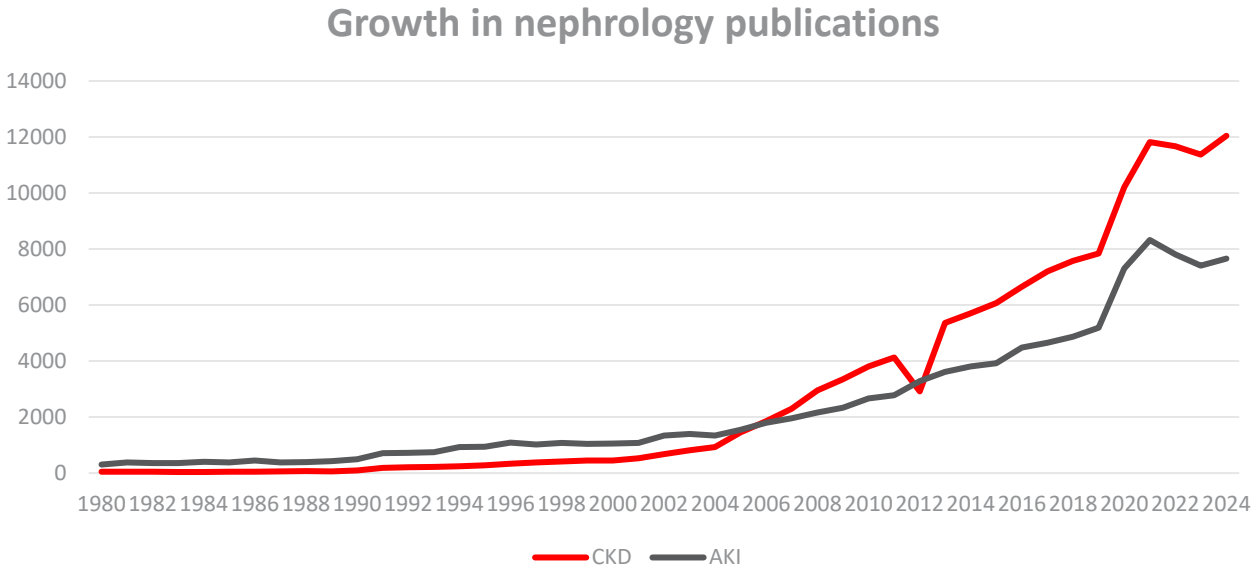
Chief Editor – *Nature Reviews Nephrology*

As Chief Editor, I am responsible for the overall strategy, direction and content of the journal and for the management of my team (n = 3)

Consulting Editor – *Nature*

As a Consulting Editor, I am a member of a much larger team, selecting original research content for external peer review and publication

Why are reviews important?

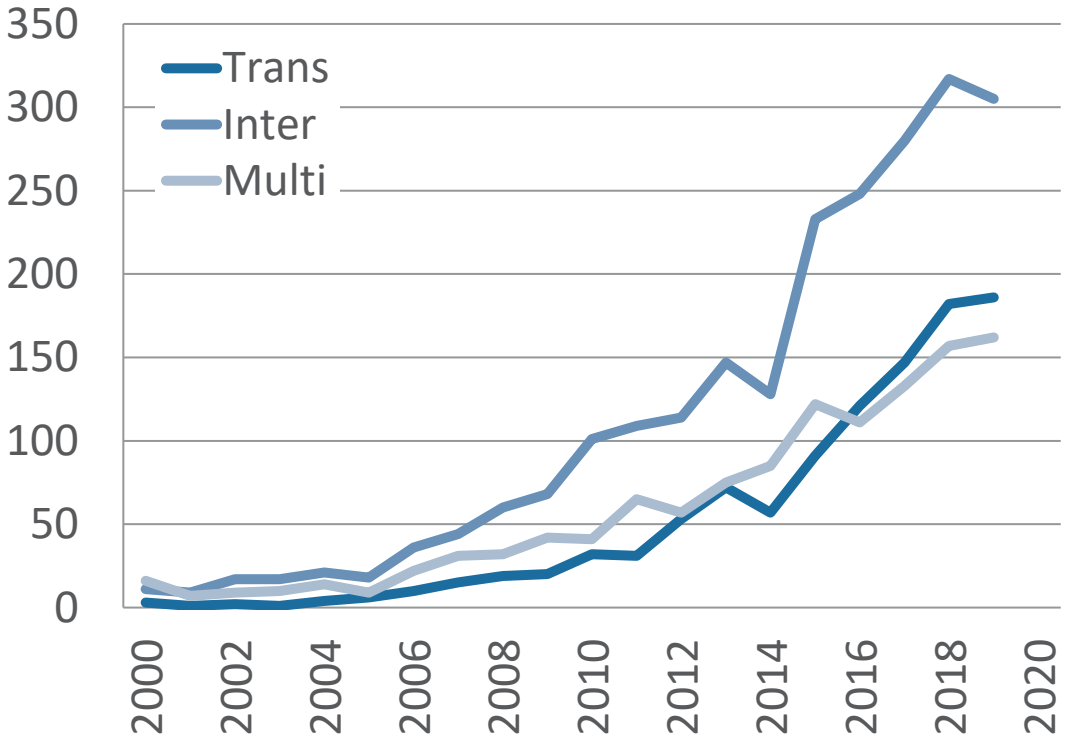


- An estimated 5.4 million academic papers are published per year
- 12,043 papers on “chronic kidney disease” were published in 2024 (32/day)

(from Web of Science)

Collaborative approaches across scientific publishing

Research is evolving and becoming more collaborative



- This also means it is becoming more complex, involving many more disciplines

nature portfolio

Adapted from *Sustainability* **2011**, *3*(8), 1090-1113; https://doi.org/10.3390/su3081090

What is the role of a Review?

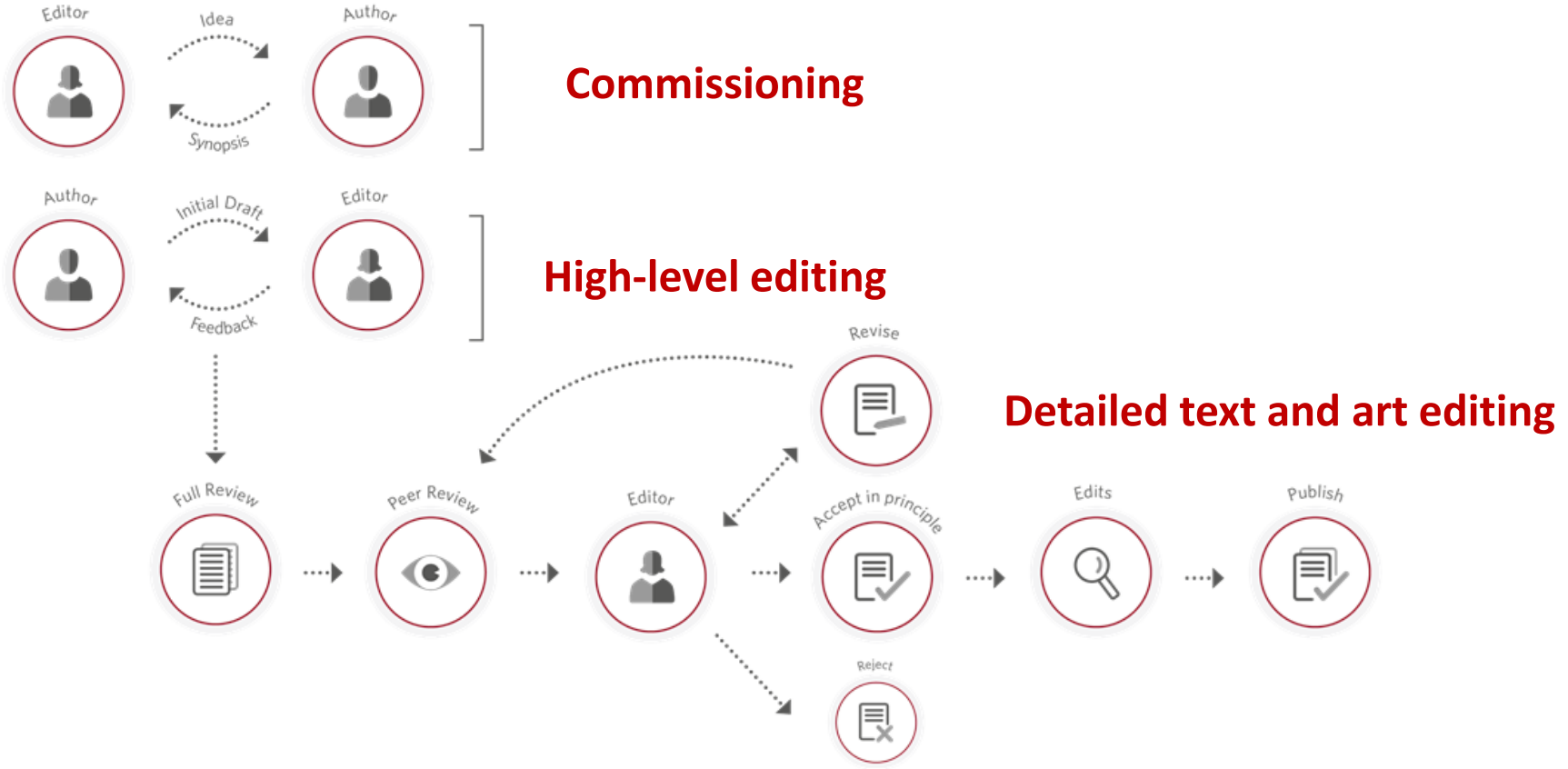
Filter the literature
Disseminate ideas

- Help researchers to filter through, and analyse, the vast primary literature
- Provide accessible commentaries and Reviews to facilitate the dissemination of ideas

To lead the field:

- Exposure to new fields
- Encourage interdisciplinarity
- Inspire new research
- Allow new concepts to emerge

The life cycle at *Nature Reviews* - we're very involved!



Identifying the most relevant topics

What's new; what's interesting; who is doing interesting work?

- Reading the published literature
- Attending and talking with researchers at conferences
- Lab/institute visits
- We aim to invite authors who are actively working in the field and have interesting ideas and insights

How can we make a positive contribution to the field?

- Can we expose readers to fresh insights and integrate ideas?
- Can we pair up authors from different fields to encourage interdisciplinarity?

Most of our Reviews are commissioned but we do consider proposals

- We do not publish original research, systematic reviews or meta-analyses
- *We will not knowingly overlap with ourselves or other published Reviews*

Synopsis

The synopsis provides a roadmap for the article

- Rationale – *Why is this topic timely and of broad interest?*
- Angle – *What insight will the article provide?*
- Scope – *What material will be covered? Is it too much to tackle? Is anything missing?*
- Structure – *How will the material be logically arranged? Does it support the key message?*
- Figures – *What display items could be developed?*

High-level edits before peer review

Context

Explain why the topic is important and timely.

Does the introduction motivate the article?

Flow

Does the manuscript as a whole flow well and are concepts illustrated with figures and diagrams.

Do the article structure and display items clearly convey the main message?

Focus

Make sure your key themes and ideas come through and minimize side points.

Is there missing information or tangential information?

Relevance

Propose future directions to move the field forward.

Does the final section propose concrete next steps for future research?

What reviewers look for

Reviewers assess:

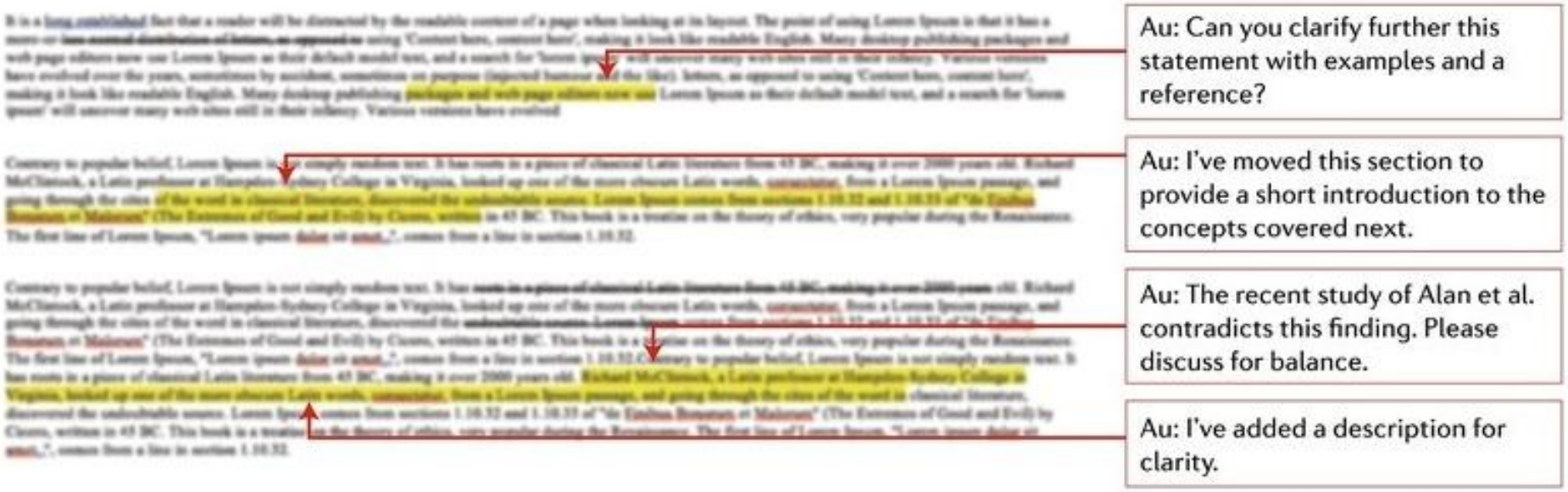
- The scientific accuracy of the content
- Whether findings are discussed in a balanced manner
- The authors' conclusions are reasonable, given current knowledge in the field

- The peer-review process is intended to improve the article
- We do sometimes reject commissioned articles
- The final decision is the editor's

The line edit

- **All of our content is thoroughly edited**
- Are the sections balanced? Not enough detail, too much detail?
- Is the abstract clear and engaging; does it reflect the article's scope?
- Is the introduction accessible? Does it provide the foundation for the reader to get into the details of the topic?
- Are the concepts presented in a logical order, or do sections need be moved around?
- Is the content scientifically accurate and balanced?
- Is it clear and enjoyable to read for specialists and non-specialists?
- Is the text properly referenced?
- Do the display items complement the text?

The line edit



- Structure, language, sense, clarity, readability, technical accuracy, community standards (nomenclature)

Figure development at Nature Reviews

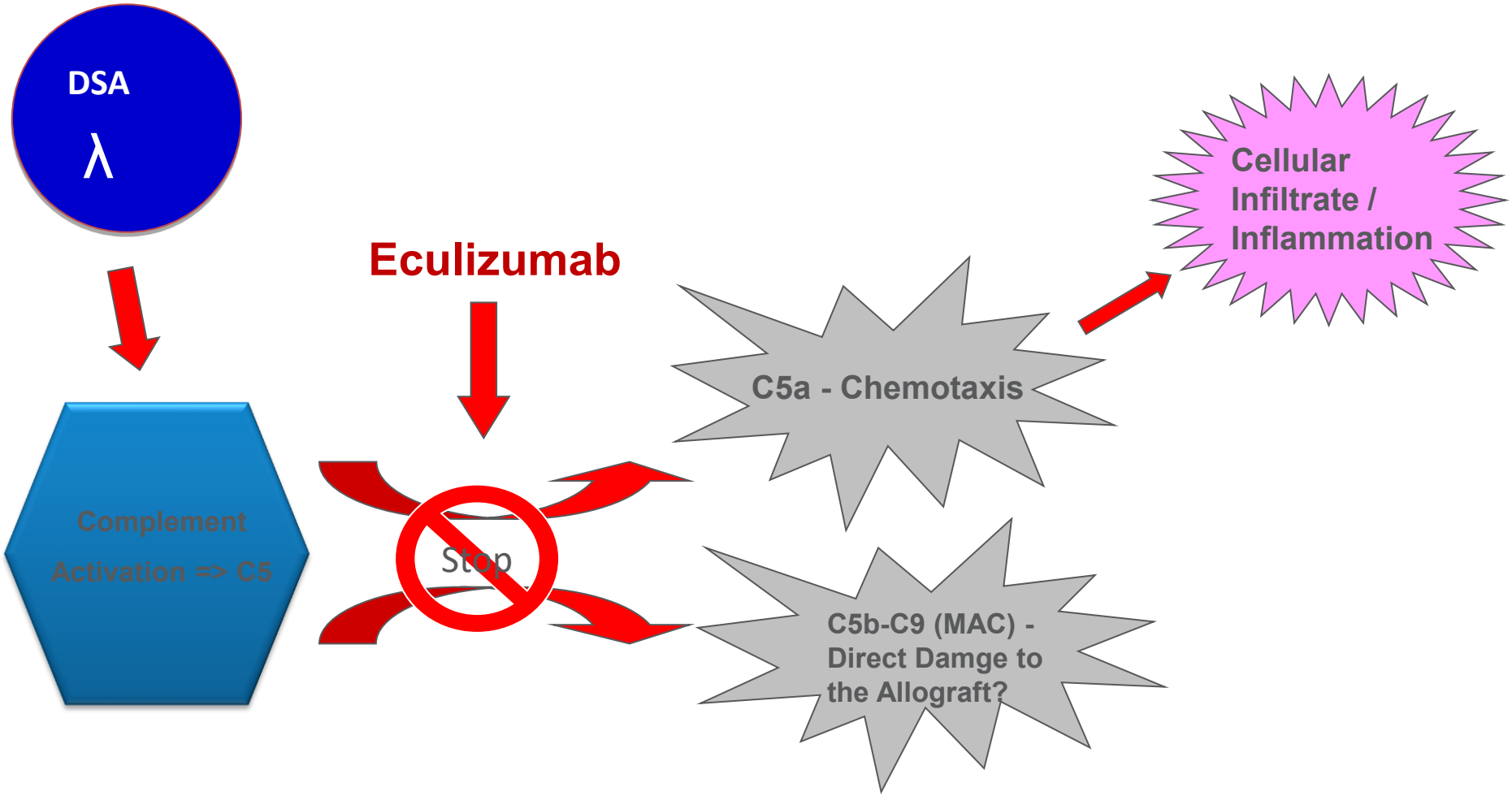
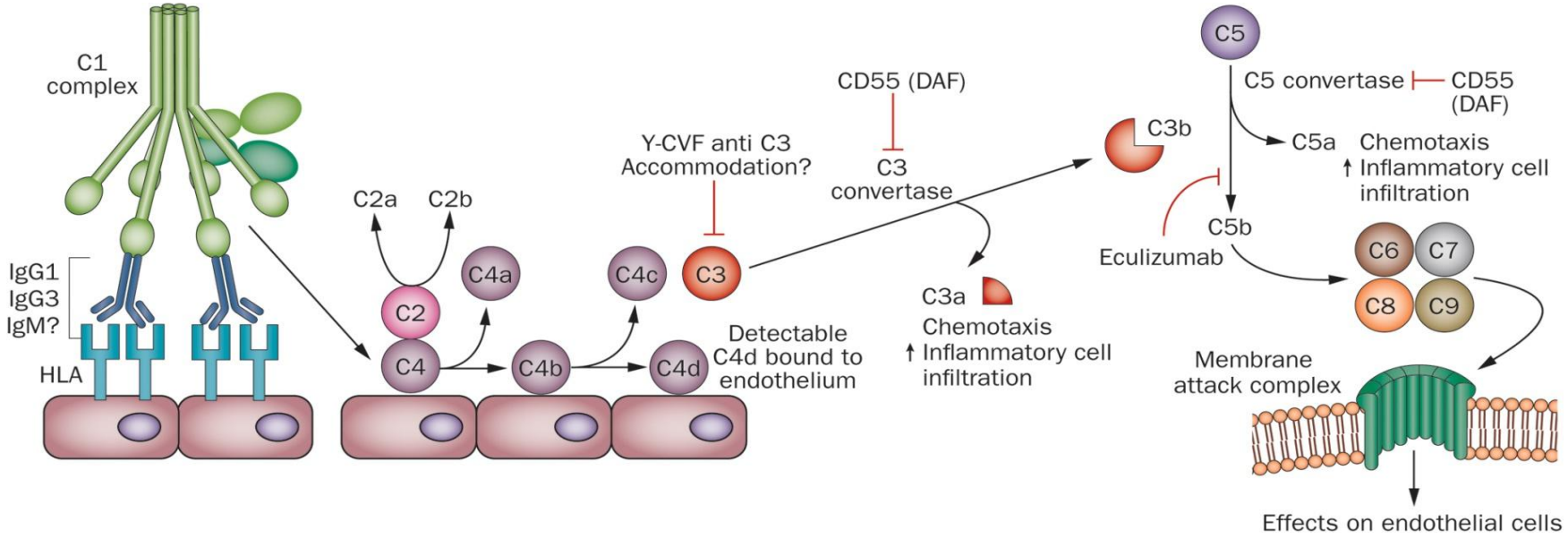


Figure development at Nature Reviews



Our approach to inclusive publishing

A diverse and inclusive approach to science and publishing is beneficial for science.

a. **Authorship**
b. Topics we cover
c. The formats we use

Mentorship in the lives of scholars

Mentoring is an essential component of scientific leadership and can have a profound impact on the development and life course of the mentee. Isi Ero-Tolliver, Dean of the School of Science at Hampton University, describes the life-changing and long-lasting effects of mentorship and why it is important to invest time and effort in mentoring.

Isi Ero-Tolliver

Nephrology education and training in Africa

To quote Nelson Mandela, "education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". Education and training have changed the world of nephrology in Africa for many patients and their physicians, but most low- and middle-income countries still lack access to affordable therapies for kidney disease.

Saraladevi Naicker

Safeguarding dialysis services during the COVID-19 pandemic

Interruptions to dialysis services in resource-limited settings, like India, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted our ill-preparedness. We need alternative plans to safeguard the provision of this life-sustaining treatment and protect our vulnerable patients.

Mayuri Trivedi

A call for civic engagement

As witnesses to the health consequences of social discrimination, clinicians are uniquely positioned to build coalitions of stakeholders to address inequities and drive change. Such civic engagement is needed to ensure that all populations are given the opportunity to thrive.

Lilia Cervantes

Kidney health equity for Indigenous Australians: an achievable goal

Ameliorating the inequitable burden of kidney disease that is experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is an achievable goal. Genuine and committed partnerships between the Australian government, health-care providers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are imperative to maximize the success of health equity initiatives.

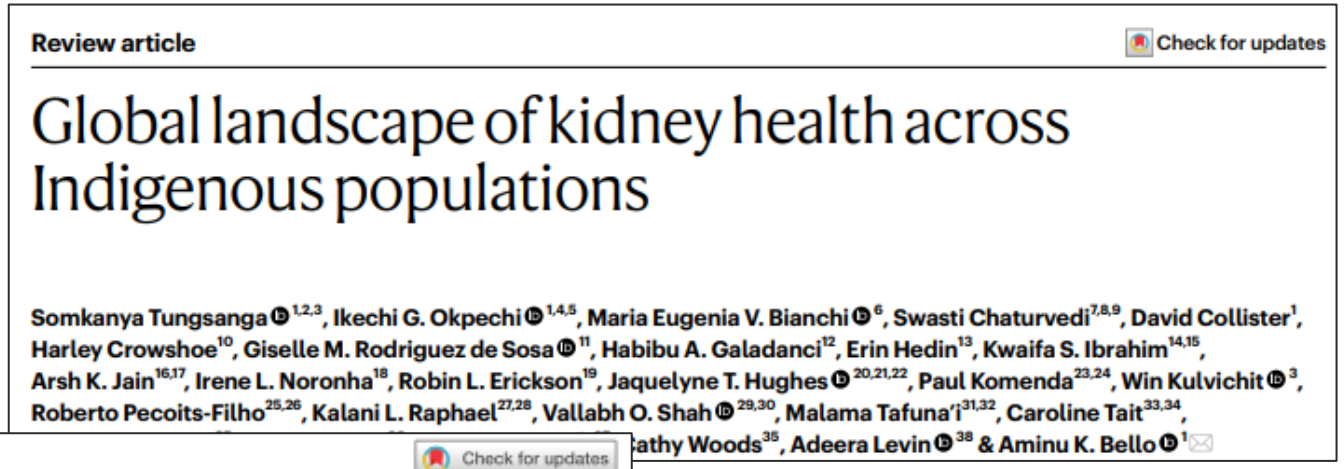
Jaquelyne T. Hughes

nature portfolio

Our approach to inclusive publishing

A diverse and inclusive approach to science and publishing is beneficial for science.

a. **Authorship**
b. Topics we cover
c. The formats we use



Review article

Check for updates

Global landscape of kidney health across Indigenous populations

Somkanya Tungsanga[1,2,3], Ikechi G. Okpechi[1,4,5], Maria Eugenia V. Bianchi[6], Swasti Chaturvedi[7,8,9], David Collister[1], Harley Crowshoe[10], Giselle M. Rodriguez de Sosa[11], Habibu A. Galadanci[12], Erin Hedin[13], Kwaifa S. Ibrahim[14,15], Arsh K. Jain[16,17], Irene L. Noronha[18], Robin L. Erickson[19], Jaquelyne T. Hughes[20,21,22], Paul Komenda[23,24], Win Kulvichit[3], Roberto Pecoits-Filho[25,26], Kalani L. Raphael[27,28], Vallabh O. Shah[29,30], Malama Tafuna'i[31,32], Caroline Tait[33,34], ...athy Woods[35], Adeera Levin[38] & Aminu K. Bello[1]

Check for updates

Pervasive kidney health inequities for Māori require multi-level attention

David Tipene-Leach and ...

Indigenous Māori experience i... transplant, pre-emptive proced... population as a whole. Prevent... clinical audit for renal practitio... and the clinical workforce wou...

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41581-025-00987-6

Patient involvement in nephrology research

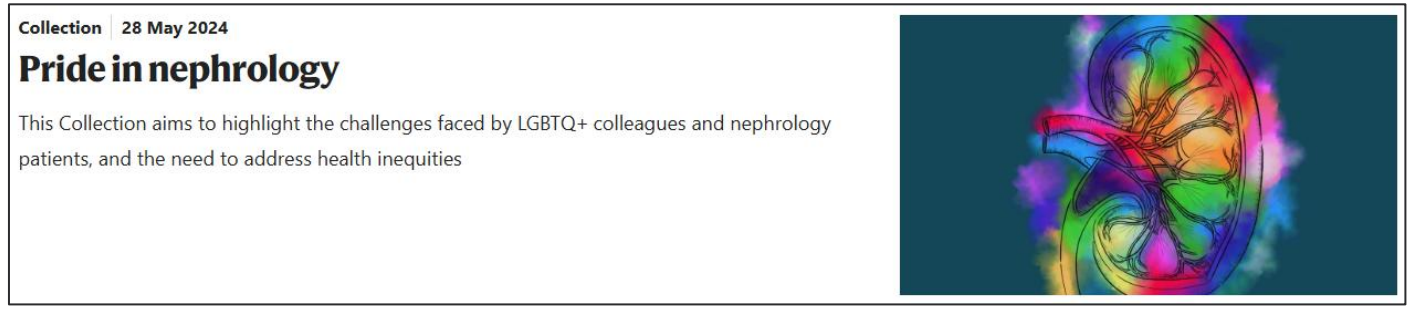
Nicole Scholes-Robertson & Allison Jaure

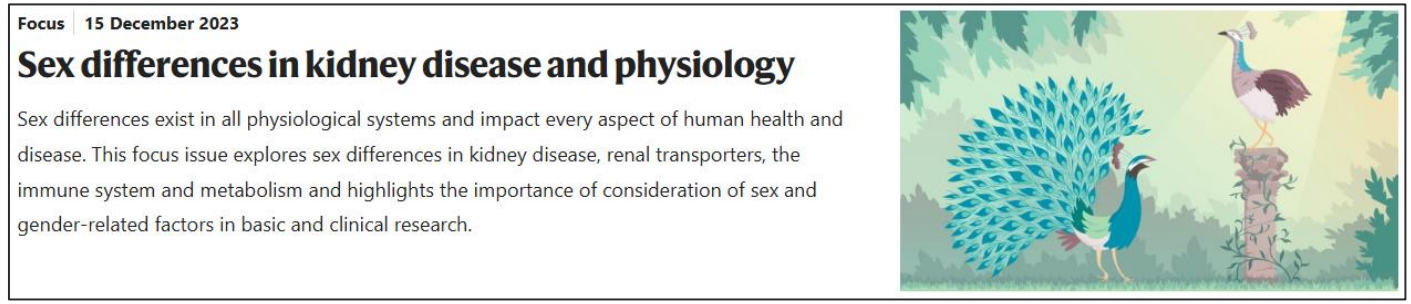
Check for updates

Our approach to inclusive publishing

A diverse and inclusive approach to science and publishing is beneficial for science.

a. Authorship
b. **Topics we cover**
c. The formats we use





Our approach to inclusive publishing

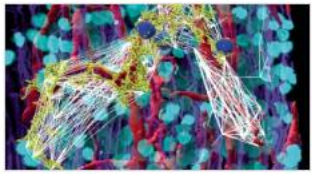
A diverse and inclusive approach to science and publishing is beneficial for science.

a. Authorship
b. Topics we cover
c. **The formats we use**

Python image analysis tool reveals the basis of coordinated human kidney function

In this Tools of the Trade article, Liam McLaughlin (Jain lab) describes the development of an open-source Python tool that converts volumetric imaging data into quantifiable network graphs.

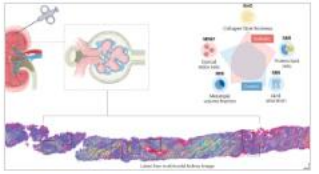
Liam McLaughlin



A label-free optical analysis for molecular nephrology

In this Tools of the Trade article, Fung and Shi describe a label-free optical imaging platform to capture the spatial molecular landscape of same-slide kidney tissue pathology.

Anthony A. Fung & Lingyan Shi

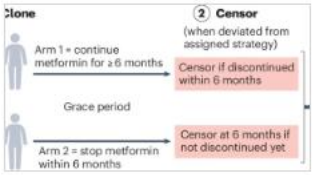


Reference-trial-informed design to explore treatment effects in trial-underrepresented subgroups

Paris J. Baptiste

Improving the quality of pharmacoepidemiological studies using the target trial emulation framework

Emilie Lambourg



Summary

- Review journals act as a **filter** of the research literature
- Our authors provide **essential insight** and disseminate ideas
- We help authors **chart a course** for their review article
- Editors, not referees, take the **ultimate responsibility** for decisions
- Our editors will make sure your article is **clear and compelling**
- Our artists will make your **graphics shine**
- We also have a role to ensure that **diverse views** are amplified

Thank you

s.allison@nature.com

@susanallison.bsky.social

The story behind the image

Antarctica meltdown could double sea level rise

Researchers at Pennsylvania State University have been considering how quickly a glacial ice melt in Antarctica would raise sea levels. By updating models with new discoveries and comparing them with past sea-level rise events they predict that a melting Antarctica could raise oceans by more than 3 feet by the end of the century if greenhouse gas emissions continued unabated, roughly doubling previous total sea-level rise estimates. Rising seas could put many of the world's coastlines underwater or at risk of flooding and storm surges.