Information for Reviewers of Perspectives

MISSION: Science Translational Medicine seeks to promote human health by facilitating communication and cooperation among those dedicated to basic, translational, and clinical research and its application. Published papers should present new data or ideas that significantly advance the application of basic research results to clinical medicine or otherwise contribute to the improvement of human health.

CRITERIA FOR JUDGMENT

Perspectives are short (1000–2000 words) overviews of current research findings, intended for a broad audience of clinicians and scientists. They may accompany and discuss a paper in Science Translational Medicine, discuss work published elsewhere, or describe results presented at a workshop or conference. Perspectives should add a fresh dimension to the topic and not merely summarize results or papers.

Overall Recommendation: On the basis of the mission statement above, recommend whether the Perspective should be published in Science Translational Medicine and provide a critique based on:

1. Importance. Please evaluate to what extent the synthesis in the Perspective is broadly important to the progress of translational medicine or provides needed insight on a topic. Perspectives should explain both the basic science underlying the results under discussion and the implications for clinical practice, including a clear description of the problem addressed by the new findings. Perspectives are not a venue for an author to promote his or her own work; authors may refer to their own papers, but this should not be the focus of the Perspective. Perspectives may contain opinion but should provide a balanced view; statements of fact should be supported by references.

2. Clarity of Presentation. The arguments should flow logically and be supported by references or data.

3. Figure. The figure should illustrate the essential message of the Perspective. The aim is to catch the eye while informing the reader. Complex and detailed diagrams, tables, and graphs are to be avoided.

4. References and Length. Perspectives should be between 1000 and 2000 words, plus one or two figures. The reference list should emphasize the most recent literature and information. There should be no more than 15 references.

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Final selection is based on relative quality of papers rather than absolute merit and is constrained by available space in Science Translational Medicine and our commitment to balance subject matter.
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