

## Nature Masterclasses

### Agenda and Objectives

By the end of today, you should understand:

- How to get the most out of the writing process
- Editorial processes and how to work with them
- What it takes to get published in top-ranked journals

### Day 1

**09:00** Welcome and Introductions – 30min

**09:30 What Makes a Great Paper?** – 45 min

Example of what top tier journal editors look for in a manuscript

**Practical exercise:** You're the Editor - 15 min

**10:30 Figure Presentation** – 45 min

An interactive module on designing clear and informative figures and tables

**11:15** Break

**11:30 Elements of Writing Style** – 30 min

The golden rules of writing and structuring the text in your paper

**12:00 Titles and Abstracts** – 30 min

How to create an engaging and brief Title and Abstract

**Practical exercise:** Writing a Title – 15 min

**12:45** Lunch

**13:45 From Introduction to Conclusion** – 45 min

A guide to structuring each part of the paper to facilitate clear writing

**14:30 Submitting your Paper** – 30 min

Submission procedures, making a case to editors, and tips on structuring and writing a good cover letter

**Practical exercise :** Pitching your Research – 30 – 45 min

**15:45** Break

**16:00 Writing a Review**

How to write a Review Article for a top journal

**16:30** End of day and homework

**Homework:** Please bring along a printed version of a recent, unpublished paper or conference abstract for the editor to review with you. It needn't be publishable or in a final form. Try to keep a word limit of 200 words.

**Day 2**

**09:00** Recap and overview

**09:15 Practical exercise :** Reviewing your abstracts (homework) – 105 min

**11:00** Break

**11:15 The Editorial Process and Peer Review** – 60 min

An overview of editorial processes at top tier journals and of peer-review, tips on writing rebuttal letters when responding to reviewer's comments, and how to be a good peer reviewer yourself

**12:15** Lunch

**13:15 Practical exercise:** Assessing Referee Reports – 45 min

**14:00 Practical exercise:** Assessing the Rebuttal – 30 min

**14:30** Break

**14:45 Writing a Research Summary** – 30 min

Techniques for creating a balanced and engaged summary paragraph

**15:15 Plagiarism and Other Ethical Issues** - 30 min

Why misconduct happens, what it looks like and what to do about it

**15:45 Practical exercise: Best Practice in Scientific Publishing** – 30 min

An overview of research metrics of research and researchers

**16:15 Discussion**

**16:30** End of day