

The Macmillan Building 4-6 Crinan Street LONDON N1 9XW

Dear Author

I am pleased to be able to send you the new Nature Publishing Group licence in place of the old copyright transfer form. We have listened to the concerns of authors over the last year and are pleased to be able to change our policies to be more in line with the wishes of the author community.

The licence is different from traditional copyright transfer in a number of important ways:

- Copyright remains with the authors
- A licence is granted to Nature Publishing Group to publish your paper in print and on the web
- Authors and their institutions are explicitly allowed to use the paper in course materials
- Authors can re-use the content of the paper in books and other journal articles without coming to us to request permission
- Authors can post a copy of their paper on their own web site.

In most other respects the licence remains the same and we still ask one author to sign on behalf of all authors.

Should you wish to take up the opportunity to have a pdf to place on your web site, this can be obtained by going to our web site via www.nature.com and collecting a copy if you have access to a subscription. Or you may purchase a copy via our document delivery system. I am sorry to say that we are not able to provide individual pdfs to authors at this stage, although we will be working towards this.

We hope you will find this new licence a welcome new development in our service to authors. We would be pleased to hear from you if you have any comments.

Yours faithfully

David Swinbanks Publishing Director

Author licence FAQ

The licence says I may post the PDF on my "own" web site. What does "own" mean?

It means a personal site, or portion of a site, either owned by you or at your institution (provided this institution is not-for-profit), devoted to you and your work. If in doubt, please contact permissions@nature.com.

How can I show my article to my colleagues?

By sending a link to the paper on your website. You may not distribute the PDF by email, on listservs or on open archives. Please remember that although the content of the article is your copyright, its presentation (i.e. its typographical layout as a printed page) remains our copyright.

Does the licence mean I can reprint my article in a collection of papers?

You may do this provided that the collection is in book form, and provided also that it is a collection of your papers. Publishers seeking permission to include your paper in a themed collection of work by a number of authors, for example, will still need to obtain permission from us (even when the work is not-for-profit). Please remember that if you needed permission from a third party when the paper was originally published - for example, to include a figure - you may need to obtain a fresh permission.

How do I obtain a PDF copy of my article?

You can download a copy from our web site. If your institution has a site licence, or you have a personal subscription, simply find the article and download the PDF. Otherwise, you will need to buy a copy via our document delivery system on the web. Unfortunately we are unable to provide individual PDFs to authors at this stage.

May I sign the author licence if I am employed by the US Government?

If any of your co-authors are not US Government employees then the corresponding author needs to sign the normal licence agreement on behalf of all authors as the work is not entirely within the public domain in the US and has copyright protection in the US as well as outside the US.

If all of the authors are US Government employees we have a special form for you to sign (please contact permissions@nature.com for further guidance). Although US Government employees' work is in the public domain in the US, we publish outside the US, where copyright protection does apply to US Government employees' work. So we need permission to publish it outside the US, and the special form enables us to publish it in this way. It also confirms to us that the authors are all Government employees.

I have already signed a copyright agreement transferring all copyright to you. Am I still bound by this, or can I sign a licence agreement?

Literally hundreds of thousands of scientists are authors of papers covered by copyright agreements that are still in force, and the Nature Publishing Group cannot renegotiate every agreement. However, the NPG has declared that we are happy to extend to all authors the rights laid out in our new licence agreements in respect of the material assigned to us: to re-use the papers in any printed volume of which they are an author; to post a PDF copy on their own (not-for-profit) website; to copy (and for their institutions to copy) their papers for use in coursework teaching; and to re-use figures and tables. For the exact terms and conditions, please see a copy of the licence agreement at http://npg.nature.com/authornews.

Important note to authors: If you needed someone else's permission to publish, for example, a figure in your paper, you may need to get further permission from them before putting the paper up on your website.

The licence says that the agreement applies "for the full term of copyright". How long is that?

Copyright law varies from country to country. If you are not sure, you should check with your institution's intellectual property department.



	mature publishing group
Manuscript #:	[name of journal] ("the Journal")
Title of the contribution:	("the Contribution")
Author(s):	("the Authors")
To: Nature Publishing Group ("NPG"), a divi	sion of Macmillan Publishers Ltd
1. In consideration of NPG agreeing to publish the Contribution the Authors grant to NPG for the full term of copyright in the Contribution and any extensions thereto, subject to clause 2 below, the exclusive licence (a) to publish, reproduce, distribute, display and store the Contribution in all forms, formats and media whether now known or hereafter developed (including without limitation in print, digital and electronic form) throughout the world, (b) to translate the Contribution into other languages, create adaptations, summaries or extracts of the Contribution or other derivative works based on the Contribution and exercise all of the rights set forth in (a) above in such translations, adaptations, summaries, extracts and derivative works and (c) to license others to do any or all of the above. 2. Ownership of copyright remains with the Authors, and provided that, when reproducing the Contribution or extracts from it, the Authors	owners of the copyright in the Contribution. If the Contribution includes materials of others, the Authors have obtained the permission of the owners of the copyright in all such materials to enable them to grant the rights contained herein. Copies of all such permissions are attached to this licence. b) All of the facts contained in the Contribution are true and accurate. c) The Author who has signed this Agreement has full right, power and authority to enter into this Agreement on behalf of all of the Authors. d) Nothing in the Contribution is obscene, defamatory, libelous, violates any right of privacy or infringes any intellectual property rights (including without limitation copyright, patent or trademark) or any other human, personal or other rights of any person or entity or is otherwise unlawful.
 acknowledge first and reference publication in the Journal, the Authors retain the following non-exclusive rights: a) To reproduce the Contribution in whole or in part in any printed volume (book or thesis) of which they are the author(s). 	e) Nothing in the Contribution infringes any duty of confidentiality which any of the Authors may owe to anyone else or violates any contract, express or implied, of any of the Authors, and all of the institutions in which work recorded in the Contribution was carried out have authorised
b) They and any academic institution where they work at the time may reproduce the Contribution for the purpose of course teaching.	publication of the Contribution. 4. The Authors authorise NPG to take such steps as it considers necessary at its own expense in the
c) To post a copy of the Contribution on the Authors' own web site after publication of the printed edition of the Journal, provided that they	Authors' name and on their behalf if it believes that a third party is infringing or is likely to infringe copyright in the Contribution.
also give a hyperlink from the Contribution to the Journal's web site.	5. The Authors hereby consent to the inclusion of

- To reuse figures or tables created by them and contained in the Contribution in other works created by them.
- 3. The Authors warrant and represent that:
- a) The Authors are the sole authors of and sole

- electronic links from the Contribution to third-party material wherever it may be located.

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of England without regard to the principles of conflicts of law. The parties hereto submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts

Signed for and on behalf of the Authors	Date
Please print name	
Address	