

Reviews and Mini-Reviews – Guidelines for Authors

Microbiology publishes both mini-reviews and longer review articles. Mini-reviews are likely to attract more readers, and authors are encouraged to use this format where appropriate. Specific guidelines on both formats are given below. There is open access to all reviews as soon as they are published.

General points: applicable to both reviews and mini-reviews

All reviews must be submitted via the online submission system (<http://submit-mic.sgmjournals.org/>). Authors should consult the *Microbiology* Instructions for Authors (<http://mic.sgmjournals.org/misc/ifora.shtml>) and recent issues of the journal for general guidance on presentation. The text should be divided into subsections with appropriate (un-numbered) headings. All review articles must include a summary (abstract) of not more than 250 words.

Reviews are subject to independent peer review, and the Reviews Editor may request changes, or decide not to proceed with publication. For advice about the suitability of a potential review for *Microbiology*, authors should contact the Reviews Editor via the Editorial Office (micro@sgm.ac.uk).

Microbiology attracts a wide range of readers, who will not necessarily be specialists in the field of the review article. Authors should therefore provide a brief background to place their review in the broader context of microbiology as a whole.

The text should not give undue emphasis to the work of the author(s), and should present controversial areas of the topic in a clear and fair way. However, authors need not refrain from being critical, or from concentrating on areas in which their personal research interests lie.

References to unpublished work should be avoided as far as possible and should never be used to underpin key points of the review.

Mini-Reviews

These should focus on a clearly defined topic of current interest, and describe recent developments in the field.

They should not exceed 3500 words (excluding the abstract and references but including figure and table legends), 4 figures plus tables combined, and about 40 references.

Reviews

This format is appropriate for authors wishing to give a broader overview of a microbiological topic.

Reviews should not exceed 6000 words (excluding the abstract and references but including figure and table legends), 6 figures plus tables combined, and about 80 references.