



Editorial

The scope of the *British Journal of Nutrition*

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The *British Journal of Nutrition* (*BJN*) is firmly established as one of the premier journals in nutritional science^(1,2). It is receiving more manuscripts for consideration than ever before and is now published twice monthly⁽³⁾; an online, fully open access sister journal (*Journal of Nutritional Science*) was launched in January 2012^(4,5). The goal of the *BJN* is the publication of high-quality papers based on original nutrition research in human subjects and other animal species. Contents include peer-reviewed research papers covering all aspects of nutritional science; reviews, mini-reviews, systematic reviews and meta-analyses; commentaries on controversial or emerging issues or on published papers; and supplements providing a broad discussion of topics of interest. The Editorial Board of the *BJN* is international with members from nineteen countries; authorship is even broader than this⁽⁶⁾. In previous editorials I have described the definition of authorship⁽⁷⁾, the process by which submitted manuscripts are handled before reaching a decision⁽⁸⁾, and the importance of declaring conflicts of interest⁽⁹⁾. The *BJN* publishes papers in molecular, cellular, whole body, human, clinical, public health, experimental animal and wild, captive and domesticated animal nutrition. Reports of research in the following areas of nutritional science are published in the *BJN*:

- (1) Dietary surveys and nutritional epidemiology
- (2) Behaviour, appetite and obesity
- (3) Human and clinical nutrition
- (4) Metabolism and metabolic studies
- (5) Molecular nutrition
- (6) Developmental biology
- (7) Microbiology
- (8) Nutritional immunology
- (9) Nutritional endocrinology
- (10) Nutritional toxicology
- (11) Innovative techniques

A requirement for acceptance of a paper for publication in the *BJN* is that it contributes to understanding or extending nutritional principles. All studies submitted for publication should be hypothesis testing and appropriately designed and analysed⁽¹⁰⁾. Animal and human studies should be conducted according to the highest ethical standards. The *BJN* does not publish the following:

- (1) Case studies
- (2) Studies that are confirmatory of well-established nutritional principles

- (3) Studies reporting outcomes that do not include nutrition as a part of the study design
- (4) Studies primarily about the composition of foods, about food processing or about crop breeding; these manuscripts are better suited for food science, food technology, dietetic or agricultural journals
- (5) Studies using uncharacterised or undefined diets, mixtures or extracts
- (6) Studies of nutritional substances at levels considered pharmacological

It is advisable that authors consider the scope of the journal when weighing up where to submit their manuscript. Papers outside of the scope will be rejected.

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