



**frontiers**

# Research Topics

Spotlight your research field  
and maximize your impact

[frontiersin.org/ResearchTopics](https://frontiersin.org/ResearchTopics)



# What is a Research Topic

A Frontiers Research Topic is a collection of peer-reviewed articles on a well-defined subject of research. Research Topics are unique in that they are managed by leading scientists and clinicians using our tailor-built platform, designed to simplify logistics while stimulating teamwork. Our technology defines new communities around cutting-edge subjects of research and makes the content highly discoverable, thus optimizing the impact for both the published articles and their authors.

Frontiers Research Topics have been phenomenally successful across all fields of science and medicine. **Over 6'000 editors and 70'000 authors** have contributed, and Research Topic articles have received more than 32 million article views and downloads.



“What’s special about  
Frontiers is that it is  
really designed for  
scientists to have  
a publishing medium  
for them”

Alex Thomson  
University College London

## NUMBERS

*(Data as of October 2014)*



**2.5K**

Research Topics  
organized



**6K**

Researchers edited  
a Research Topic



**70K**

Contributing authors



**90K**

Social media shares  
Research Topic pages



**14M**

Profile views  
on editors and authors



**32M**

Views on dedicated  
Research Topic pages

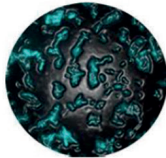


**35M**

Views and downloads  
Research Topic articles

# At a glance

- 1 Full integration into **Loop**, our **research network** for scientists and scholars.
- 2 Freely downloadable **ebooks** of the entire article collection.
- 3 **Overview section**: provides the title, scope and objectives in one place.
- 4 **Articles tab**: highlights published articles, abstract and impact summary.
- 5 **Contributors tab**: features authors and Topic Editors for maximum discoverability and impact.
- 6 **Powerful impact metrics** on the Research Topic and its articles, including views, downloads, social media buzz, geographic and demographic info.
- 7 **Discussion Forum** around this Research Topic and its articles.
- 8 **Online academic profiles** for editors and authors.
- 9 **Article impact metrics** including views, downloads, citations, social media shares, social buzz via Altmetric, geographic and demographic info.



Research Topic

## Human health and disease in a microbial world

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Overview Articles 13 Authors 58 Impact Comments

VIEWS  
66,700



### About this Research Topic

Humans and other mammals have co-evolved with trillions of microorganisms (the microbiota), whose aggregate genomes (the microbiome) contribute functions that are not encoded by our own human genome. Recent developments in the emerging field of metagenomics have enabled an unprecedented description of ...

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Aimee Marguerite Moore, Christian Munck, Morten Otto Alexander Sommer and Gautam Dantas

**Perspective** The human intestinal microbiota encode multiple critical functions impacting human health, including, metabolism of dietary substrate, prevention of pathogen invasion, immune system modulation, and provision of a reservoir of antibiotic resistance ...

Published on 17 October 2011  
Front. Microbiol. doi: 10.3389/fmicb.2011.00188



5,370 views 457 shares 1

### Human Health and Disease in a Microbial World

### Submission Deadlines

Submission closed.

[Author guidelines >](#)

### Participating Journals

Frontiers in

# Ways to participate

## AS AN EDITOR

Frontiers offers Topic Editors a customized IT platform where you and your colleagues can host a Research Topic and take the lead in your own area of research. As a Topic Editor of a Research Topic you act as the handling editor for submitted manuscripts. It is like developing your very own mini-journal devoted entirely to your area of research.

We will help you take the lead in showcasing your research area with all the editorial tasks - sending out the call for participation; managing manuscript submissions as well as following up with reviewers and authors. We will maximize the readership of your Topic and allow you to track its impact in real-time. Should your Research Topic reach 10 articles we will be able to publish a dedicated ebook including an introductory editorial written by you.

## AS AN AUTHOR

Author participation of Frontiers Research Topics is fully open, and we encourage submissions that provide a strong interdisciplinary flavour to the collections. Authors may first submit an abstract to obtain some editorial feedback concerning the suitability of the contribution; if accepted, the authors can look forward to a spectrum of advantages of publishing in a Frontiers Research Topic. Specifically, they enter the spotlight, joining a group of experts of their field;

- benefit from the Frontiers peer-review system (fast, collaborative and transparent);
- retain copyright by publishing under the terms of the CC-BY license;
- provide their colleagues worldwide immediate and unrestricted access to the work;
- qualify for discounts on publication fees at Frontiers;
- track readership statistics with our article-level metrics.

# Have an idea for a Research Topic?

The launch and management  
of a Research Topic is easy and free.

Please contact us at:

**[researchtopics@frontiersin.org](mailto:researchtopics@frontiersin.org)**  
**[frontiersin.org/researchtopics](https://frontiersin.org/researchtopics)**



# How to organize a Research Topic

To lead a Research Topic, Frontiers requires that one of the Topic Editors be a well-established expert in his or her field. Less senior researchers are welcome to join the editorial team — in fact, the Research Topic offers an excellent opportunity for younger researchers to raise their profiles as Community leaders.

Once your Topic is accepted by one of Frontiers Chief Editors, you become the handling editor of the collection, with full access to our award-winning publishing platform. With the support of our editorial office in Switzerland, you will be guided in the process of sending out a

call for participation, evaluating abstracts and overseeing the peer-review process. The dynamic is similar to that of a small conference or workshop.

Once on track, you will see how the specially designed web environment will drive discussion and maximise readership of the Topic's contributions, which you can follow with our industry-leading article-level metrics. When your project closes, the contributions are published as an e-book, complete with introductory editorial and ISBN, lending a distinct monographic quality to the collection that further drives discoverability and impact.



# RESEARCH TOPIC TIMELINE

(estimated time)



## PROPOSAL

### Day 1

Outline your Research Topic

### Day 10

Officially suggest your Research Topic online

### Day 17

Suggested Topic validated by Chief Editor

## SUBMISSIONS

### Month 1

Call for participation

### Month 3

Evaluate abstracts and confirm contributors

### Month 7

First manuscript submitted for peer review

## PEER REVIEW

### Month 8

Assign reviewers and monitor review process

### Month 10

Accept manuscripts or recommend rejection

## PUBLICATION

### Month 11

Send articles for publication

### Month 12

Topic compiled into an ebook

1

2

3

4

## TOPIC EDITOR RESPONSIBILITIES



**IDENTIFYING**  
potential  
contributors



**EVALUATING**  
abstract  
proposals



**OVERSEEING**  
the peer-review  
process

## EDITORIAL SUPPORT WITH



**CALL**  
for participation



**MANUSCRIPT**  
management



**FOLLOWING UP**  
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and authors



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from Chief Editors



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- Review Article
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2116**

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