Special Collections: Proposal and Guidelines for Potential Guest Editors

Special Collections are an important component of *Biomarker Insights*. They are an opportunity for the journal to cultivate a collection of articles around a specific topic, meeting/conference, or newsworthy development that falls within the scope of the journal. They should be organized by recognized experts in the area and attract articles of the highest quality.

Special Collections are highlighted on the homepage for increased visibility and in most cases receive their own dedicated marketing efforts.

Special Collections can be a continuously published section in a journal, or exist as a fixed set of articles. As the Guest Editor, you have the chance to shape the content, define the aims & scope of the collection, and collaborate with colleagues around a topic of particular interest to your personal research.

*Biomarker Insights* Aims and Scope

*Biomarker Insights* is an international, peer-reviewed, open access journal that aims to support those engaged in biomarker research. It provides the rapid communication of the latest advances in the identification of biomarkers, their application towards the discovery of new knowledge and its clinical application. The journal welcomes unsolicited article proposals. All articles are listed on PubMed and are freely available via PubMed Central.

The field of biomarkers in disease is a rapidly expanding area of exciting research. Advances in the identification of disease biomarkers, coupled with new technology platforms, offer state-of-the-art approaches to improve the diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of disease. Identifying those patients who respond either positively or adversely to innovative-targeted therapy is critical to ensure that drugs are used safely and effectively. Having effective biomarkers can be the difference between success and failure in the drug development pipeline.

The journal is addressed to both the scientific and medical communities and aims to accelerate the translation of biomarker research towards its clinical use and patient benefit. This is of especial relevance with the development of personalized medicine.

*Biomarker Insights* invites original research and review articles from across all the health sciences. Such an integrative multidisciplinary approach provides readers with the opportunity obtain up to date information from a wide array of topics in a single journal. Subjects covered include, but are not limited to:

- Identification of biomarkers (genetic, transcript, protein levels)
- Biomarker technology platforms
- Biomarker development and validation
• Biomarker pathway analysis
• Integration of biomarkers into mathematical models and algorithms
• Diagnostic biomarkers
• Predictive biomarkers
• Prognostic biomarkers
• Protein biomarkers
• Therapeutic biomarkers
• Metabolomic biomarkers
• Pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic biomarkers
• Biomarkers to monitor response to therapy
• Clinical validation of biomarkers
• Biomarkers to monitor and predict disease progression and response to therapy
• Clinical validation of biomarkers
• Integration of biomarkers into clinical practice guidelines and clinical decision support systems
• Identification and use of immunotherapeutic biomarkers as therapeutic targets
• Biomarkers in stem cell research
• MicroRNA biomarkers in cancer
• Companion biomarkers
• Theranostic biomarkers

This journal is open access, meaning anyone anywhere in the world can read, use, and cite the research, which leads to greater visibility and impact, and may encourage collaborations and faster developments in your field.

Preparing a Proposal

Proposals for Special Collections should be submitted by the Lead Guest Editor of the Special Collection at this link: https://sagapub.formstack.com/forms/bmi_guest_editor_proposal. You will be asked to provide the following:

• The proposed topic (you may choose a suggested topic or propose your own)
• Your name and current CV
• Proposed Aims and Scope, giving an overview of the Special Collection's intended focus and a list of the topics to be covered.
• Six succinct keywords that reflect the key themes of the collection
• A preferred timeline as set out in the timetable below.

Upon receipt of your proposal, the Special Collections Manager, Bobbie Harvey, will consult with the Editor-in-Chief and respond directly to confirm if the proposal is accepted and next steps.
Guest Editor’s responsibilities

- Recruit two to four additional Secondary Guest Editors
  - It is important to identify additional Secondary Guest Editors who are likely to be willing to accept the role and able to solicit the target of five papers. You may approach candidate Secondary Guest Editors directly if you wish, although journal staff can send emails on your behalf. A guide will be distributed to Secondary Guest Editors to make them aware of their role in the process and an email template is available from journal staff upon request
- Recruit at least 3-5 fee-paying manuscripts that are subsequently accepted for publication. Each additional Secondary Guest Editor will also be responsible for recruiting at least three additional fee-paying papers
  - The Special Collection Manager will be available to assist with tracking and other administrative support
- Ensure all recruited papers are submitted by authors within the agreed timeframe
- Jointly contribute a guest editorial with the Guest Editorial team once all papers have been accepted
- The journal’s Editor-in-Chief is responsible for determining manuscript’s suitability for publication following peer review, but may consult with the Guest Editors as necessary
  - The journal’s Editor-in-Chief will also review all submissions (even commissioned papers) prior to peer review and may desk-reject any that do not fit the scope of the journal or do not meet the journal’s standards for peer review
- Promote the journal at conferences and/or meetings, on social media, to colleagues, and wherever else it may be appropriate

Timeline

The recommended schedule below is intended to allow Guest Editors to manage their work in relation to existing commitments. The Special Collection should be completed within the following timeframe, approximately 6 months in total:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>Solicitation of additional Guest Editors (four to six)</td>
<td>Up to one month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>Solicitation of manuscripts (three to five per Guest Editor)</td>
<td>Up to two months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>Submission of manuscripts</td>
<td>Up to three months following solicitation</td>
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</tbody>
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**Total Timeline:** Six months after Stage One commences
Discount and waiver policy

Biomarker Insights is an open access journal and as such, authors will be asked to pay an Article Processing Charge (APC) should their manuscript be accepted for publication. The APC for special collections has been heavily discounted for a limited time to 50% off of the current listed APC.

Additional discounts and waivers are available:

- The Guest Editor(s) may write an editorial for the collection, with no fee
- The Guest Editor(s) may each contribute up to two of their own original research or review articles, with the first one receiving 50% off the APC, and the second at full price
- Review articles are highly encouraged and one review article (whether written by the Guest Editor(s) or by an invited author) will have the fee waived in full

SAGE participates in the Research4Life initiative and research contributions from countries on the eligibility list may receive further discounts and waivers.