

A Sampling of Journals' Policies on Media Coverage of Meeting Presentations

(Collected by Cassandra Willyard for *The Open Notebook*, November 2017)

Journal	Policy	Link
<i>Nature</i>	<p><i>Nature</i> does not wish to hinder communication between scientists. For that reason, different embargo guidelines apply to work that has been discussed at a conference or displayed on a preprint server and picked up by the media as a result. (Neither conference presentations nor posting on recognized preprint servers constitute prior publication.)</p> <p>Our guidelines for authors and potential authors in such circumstances are clear-cut in principle: communicate with other researchers as much as you wish, but do not encourage premature publication by discussion with the press (beyond a formal presentation, if at a conference).</p> <p>This advice may jar with those (including most researchers and all journalists) who see the freedom of information as a good thing. But it embodies a longer-term view: that publication in a peer-reviewed journal is the appropriate culmination of any piece of original research, and an essential prerequisite for public discussion.</p>	<p>http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/policy/embargo.html</p>
<i>Science</i>	<p>We generally encourage presentation of original results prior to publication at scientific meetings. Nevertheless, press coverage and presentation at scientific conferences can sometimes affect consideration of papers at <i>Science</i>. For example, reporting the main findings of a paper in the mass media can compromise the novelty of the work and thus its appropriateness for <i>Science</i>. Therefore, authors should feel free to present their data at scientific meetings but should not overtly seek media attention or give copies of the figures or data from their manuscript to any reporter. If a reporter attends an author's session at a meeting and writes a story based only on the presentation, such coverage will not affect <i>Science's</i> consideration of the author's paper.</p>	<p>http://www.sciencemag.org/authors/science-editorial-policies</p>

<p><i>PLOS</i></p>	<p>Authors and potential authors are encouraged to discuss their work with colleagues (for example, in the context of formal presentations at a conference) and this embargo policy is intended to have no adverse effect on such discourse. However, scientists should be cautious about discussing their unpublished work with the media to ensure that the work is not reported on ahead of publication. Taking this precaution will allow the work to receive maximum attention once the peer-reviewed article is publicly available in a PLOS journal. Regardless, prior publicity in the media will not affect decisions to publish work in a PLOS journal.</p>	<p>https://www.plos.org/embargo-policy</p>
<p><i>PNAS</i></p>	<p>PNAS policy is that a summary of work in a review, a perspective, a commentary, a newspaper or magazine article, or wherever does not constitute prior publication. Our guiding principle is that journals should interfere minimally in such exchanges; authors themselves should dictate the dissemination of their own work.</p>	<p>http://www.pnas.org/content/96/8/4215.full.pdf</p>
<p><i>JAMA</i></p>	<p>Presentation of research findings during, or publication of an abstract for, a bona fide scientific or clinical meeting does not preclude consideration of the study for publication in <i>JAMA</i>. Authors who present information contained in a manuscript that is under consideration by <i>JAMA</i> during scientific or clinical meetings should not distribute complete reports (ie, copies of manuscripts) or full data presented as tables and figures to conference attendees or journalists. Publication of abstracts in print and online conference proceedings, as well as posting of slides or videos from the scientific presentation on the meeting Web site, is acceptable. However, for manuscripts under consideration by <i>JAMA</i>, publication of full reports in proceedings or online, issuing detailed news releases reporting the results of the study, or participation in formal news conferences will jeopardize chances for publication of the submitted manuscript in <i>JAMA</i>. In contrast, news media reports based on coverage that occurs during the usual course of a standard presentation of a scientific or clinical paper does not preempt a manuscript from consideration for publication. However, authors presenting papers at such meetings are advised to refrain from providing additional information to reporters beyond that covered during the course of their presentation and exchange with meeting attendees.</p>	<p>https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/182634</p>

<p><i>NEJM</i></p>	<p>Authors are expected to refrain from discussion of their research with reporters before publication except during the embargoed access period noted above.</p> <p>An exception is made if an author is presenting research at a medical meeting. Responding to media inquiries at the meeting, or during the week following the meeting, will not jeopardize publication. We ask that authors not discuss the fact that the research has been submitted or accepted for publication in the <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i>.</p> <p>Meeting organizers may promote an author's presentation in a press release, plan a press conference, publish the abstract in a meeting proceedings, and/or post the presentation on their website. The <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i> should not be mentioned.</p>	<p>http://www.nejm.org/page/author-center/embargo</p>
<p><i>Lancet</i></p>	<p>Presentation of data at a scientific meeting, as a poster, abstract, orally, on a CD, or as an abstract on the web, or on a pre-print server does not conflict with submission to The Lancet.</p>	<p>http://download.tlancet.com/pb/assets/raw/Lancet/authors/lancet-information-for-authors.pdf</p>
<p><i>Cell</i></p>	<p>Authors are welcome to present and discuss material intended for publication with Cell Press at scientific meetings; however, we do require that they refrain from discussing the findings with members of the press beyond those included in the formal presentation. In addition, we encourage meeting organizers to contact our editorial office in advance of a meeting if they have any questions regarding this policy. Any questions or issues regarding prepublication publicity should be directed to Press Officer Joseph Caputo (jcaputo@cell.com).</p>	<p>http://www.cell.com/cell/authors</p>