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## **Announcement: *Research Communications***

- From January 1992 the *Biochemical Journal* will include a new category of paper, the "Research Communication"; simultaneously, the publication of "Rapid Papers" will be discontinued. As with Rapid Papers, Research Communications will be short (maximum four printed pages) articles but, unlike Rapid Papers, where the only criterion for accelerated treatment is length, Research Communications will have to satisfy the additional criterion of "novelty and significance".
- It is intended that Research Communications should be a major feature of the journal; they will appear at the front of each issue (after the review), will be listed separately in the table of contents and will each carry the Research Communication imprint. Communication by fax between editorial office, reviewers and authors will be used extensively to ensure that the target of conveying a decision to authors within 2 weeks of receipt is achieved. Rapid publication after acceptance will be achieved by priority treatment at all stages of the publication process and by not sending proofs to authors.
- The editorial board emphasizes that there is no upper or lower limit to the length of regular articles ("Research Papers") in the *Biochemical Journal*, and in particular that it will continue to welcome the submission of short but non-urgent accounts of completed pieces of work for publication in this category. Such short articles are usually published faster than their longer counterparts.
- The *Biochemical Journal* invites you to submit Research Communications from mid-October 1991 onwards for publication in the early issues of 1992. The appropriate section of the 1992 *Instructions to Authors* appears below.

Research Communications in the *Biochemical Journal* are short papers bringing particularly novel and significant findings to the attention of the research community. It is intended that a decision on acceptance or rejection will be made within 2 weeks of receipt, and publication of accepted Communications will follow within 2 months. Research Communications will receive full but accelerated reviewing and the criteria of "novelty and significance" will be strictly enforced; Research Communications should not be seen as a path to accelerated publication of sound but non-urgent material. Authors must include in their letter of submission a *brief* statement of why they believe their Communication merits accelerated treatment, and should submit **four** copies of their article. Research Communications should be arranged in the usual style for a *Biochemical Journal* paper (summary, introduction, methods, results and discussion, with sufficient experimental detail to permit repetition of the work) and should not be longer than four printed pages of the journal [about 4000 words (24000 characters) of uninterrupted text, including references, but this number should be decreased to allow for the space taken up by figures and tables]. Research Communications may be submitted by fax (unless they contain half-tone figures); in any case, provision of a fax number in the covering letter will enable the decision and any queries to be communicated to authors as quickly as possible.

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