



## The manuscript selection process at SCIENCE

Peter Stern, M.D., Ph.D.  
Senior Editor  
SCIENCE, Europe Office  
Clarendon House, Clarendon Road  
Cambridge CB2 8FH, United Kingdom  
pstern@science-int.co.uk

For many scientists the review process at SCIENCE is a bit like a black box. Someone submits a manuscript and about two weeks later receives either a rejection letter or a pre-edited version with referee comments attached. It is often difficult for people unfamiliar with the system to imagine how much has happened behind the scenes during this period of time and how much energy has been devoted to assure that the decision was as fair and unbiased as possible. With this talk I want to make the review process more transparent and want to give people guidelines of what might be considered an appropriate SCIENCE manuscript, i.e. a submission with a good chance of acceptance.