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## [ABOUT THE JOURNAL](#)

### [Aims and Scope](#)

The *BJC* is one of the most cited general cancer journals, it is committed to publishing cutting edge discovery, translational and clinical cancer research. The *BJC* aims to provide a global platform to disseminate important research within the broad spectrum of oncology. The journal publishes within the following six subject categories:

- Clinical Studies
- Translational Therapeutics
- Molecular Diagnostics
- Genetics and Genomics
- Cellular and Molecular Biology
- Epidemiology

The *BJC* is published in association with [Cancer Research UK](#), the world's leading independent cancer charity dedicated to saving lives through research.

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## ARTICLE TYPE SPECIFICATION

Article Description	Abstract	Word limit	Tables/ Figures	References
<p><b>Article</b> (<i>Please see preparation of articles below for further details</i>) Research describing novel findings that are of broad interest to cancer researchers and/or oncologists. Systematic Reviews, Meta-analyses and Clinical Trials are classified as Articles. These are peer reviewed.</p>	Structured abstract that includes the headings: Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions, Clinical Trial Registration (if appropriate); max 200 words	5,000 words (excluding abstract, references and figure legends)	Max of 6	Typically max 60
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- Abstract
- Background
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Additional Information
- References
- Figure legends
- Tables
- Figures

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**Preprint:** Cheng, D.K., Oni, R.E., Park, Y., Thalappillil, J.S., Ting, H.-c., Prasad, N. *et al.* Oncogenic KRAS engages an RSK1/NF1 complex in pancreatic cancer. bioRxiv, Preprint posted online 14 September 2020,  
<https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.09.14.295394> (2020).

**Meeting Abstract** Collinson, M., Mason, E., Farrin, A., Ashley, L., Richards, S., Brunt, G. *et al.* Cancer Together with other Chronic Health conditions (CATCH): understanding population characteristics and healthcare resource use in general practice. *Br. J Cancer* **121** (Suppl 1): S1 (abstract 87) (2019)

**Correspondence:** Milano, G., Gal, J. Comment on: “Exploring the best treatment options for BRAF-mutant metastatic colon cancer”. *Br J Cancer* **122**, 1724–1725 (2020)

**Complete book:** Atkinson, K., Champlin, R., Ritz, J., Fibbe, W., Ljungman, P., Brenner, M.K. (eds). Clinical Bone Marrow and Blood Stem Cell Transplantation, 3rd edn. (Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, UK, 2004).

**Chapter in book:** Coccia, P.F. Hematopoietic cell transplantation for osteopetrosis. In: Blume KG, Forman SJ, Appelbaum FR (eds). Thomas' Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation, 3rd edn. (Blackwell Publishing Ltd: Malden, MA, USA, 2004) pp 1443–1454.

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To qualify as a contributing author, each person must meet **ALL** the following criteria:

1. Conceived and/or designed the work that led to the submission, acquired data, and/or played an important role in interpreting the results.
2. Drafted or revised the manuscript.
3. Approved the final version.
4. Agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved

Contributions by individuals who made direct contributions to the work but do not meet all of the above criteria should be noted in the Acknowledgements section of the manuscript. Medical writers and industry employees can be contributors. Their roles, affiliations, and potential conflicts of interest should be included in the author list or noted in the Acknowledgements and/or Authorship section.

The primary affiliation for each author should be the institution where the majority of their work was done. If an author has subsequently moved, the current address may also be stated.

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It is the corresponding author’s responsibility to ensure that the author list is correct at the point of first submission. Requests to change the authorship (such as to include or exclude an author, change an author's name or contribution) must be accompanied by a completed Authorship Change Form, which is available from the [Editorial Office](#). New authors must also confirm that they fully comply with the journal's authorship requirements.

Requests for addition or removal of authors as a result of authorship disputes (after acceptance) are honoured after formal notification by the institute or independent body and/or when there is agreement between all authors. Changes to the authorship will not be allowed once the manuscript has been accepted for publication.

### Communication

#### Correspondence with the Journal

The corresponding author is solely responsible for communicating with the journal and with managing communication between co-authors. It is this author's responsibility to inform all co-authors of any matters arising and to ensure such matters are dealt with promptly. Before submission, the corresponding author must ensure that all authors are included in the author list, its order agreed upon by all authors, and that all are aware that the manuscript was submitted.

After acceptance for publication, proofs are e-mailed to this corresponding author who should circulate the proof to all co-authors and coordinate corrections among them. The corresponding author is responsible for the accuracy of all content in the proof, in particular that names of co-authors are present and correctly spelt, and that addresses and affiliations are current.

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Material submitted must not be discussed with the media. We reserve the right to halt the consideration or publication of a paper if this condition is broken. If a manuscript is particularly newsworthy, the press release will be sent to our list of journalists in advance of publication with an embargo that forbids any coverage of the manuscript, or the findings of the manuscript, until the time and date clearly stated. Authors whose papers are scheduled for publication may also arrange their own publicity (for instance through their institution's press offices), but they must strictly adhere to our press embargo and are advised to coordinate their own publicity with our press office ([press@nature.com](mailto:press@nature.com)).

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## Transparency and Ethics

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In the interests of transparency and to help readers form their own judgments of potential bias, authors must declare whether or not there are any competing financial and non-financial interests in relation to the work described. This information must be included in both their cover letter and in the Additional Information section of the manuscript. In cases where the authors declare a competing interest, a statement to that effect is published as part of the article. If no such conflict exists, the statement will simply read that the authors have nothing to disclose. For the purposes of this statement, competing interests can include any of the following:

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- A deep personal or religious conviction that may have affected what the author wrote and that readers should be aware of when reading the article.

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Examples of declarations are:

- **Competing interests.**  
The authors declare no competing interests.
- **Competing interests.**  
Dr Caron's work has been funded by the NIH. He has received compensation as a member of the scientific advisory board of Acadia Pharmaceutical and owns stock in the company. He also has consulted for Lundbeck and received compensation. Dr Rothman and Dr Jensen declare no potential competing interests.

Reviewers approached for assessment of submitted articles are also requested to declare conflicts of interest that may impede on their judgement of that article. This includes competing research in the same area that could be negatively affected by publication of the submitted article.

### [Studies involving humans and animals](#)

Research involving human subjects, human material, or human data must have been performed in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and must have been approved by an appropriate ethics committee. A statement detailing this, including the name of the ethics committee and the reference number where appropriate, must appear in all manuscripts reporting such research.

For experiments involving human subjects, authors must include with their submission a statement confirming that informed consent was obtained from all subjects.

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### [Clinical Trials](#)

As defined by the [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors](#) (ICMJE), a clinical trial is any research project that prospectively assigns human subjects to intervention and comparison groups to study the cause-and-effect relationship between a medical intervention and a health outcome. A medical intervention is any intervention used to modify a health outcome and includes, but is not limited to, drugs, surgical procedures, devices, behavioural treatments, and process-of-care changes. A trial must have at least one prospectively



assigned concurrent control or comparison group in order to trigger the requirement for registration. Non-randomised trials are not exempt from the registration requirement if they meet the above criteria.

All clinical trials must be registered in a public registry prior to submission and the trial registry number must be included in the manuscript and provided on submission. The *BJC* follows the trials registration policy of the ICMJE ([www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org)) and considers only trials that have been appropriately registered before submission, regardless of when the trial closed to enrolment. Acceptable registries must meet the following ICMJE requirements:

- Be publicly available, searchable, and open to all prospective registrants;
- Have a validation mechanism for registration data;
- Be managed by a not-for-profit organisation.

Examples of registries that meet these criteria include:

- [ClinicalTrials.gov](http://ClinicalTrials.gov): the registry sponsored by the United States National Library of Medicine;
- [ISCRTN registry](http://ISCRTN.org) (The International Standard Randomized Controlled Trial Number Registry);
- The [Cochrane Renal Group Registry](http://CochraneRenal.org);
- The [European Clinical Trials Database](http://EuropeanClinicalTrialsDatabase.org).

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#### Cell Line Authentication

If human cell lines are used, authors should include the following information in their manuscript:

- The source of the cell line, including when and from where it was obtained;
- whether the cell line has recently been authenticated and by what method; and
- whether the cell line has recently been tested for mycoplasma contamination.

Further information is available from [the International Cell Line Authentication Committee](http://theInternationalCellLineAuthenticationCommittee.org) (ICLAC). We recommend that authors check the [NCBI database](http://NCBI.org) for misidentification and contamination of human cell lines.

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#### Research Data Policy

An inherent principle of publication is that others should be able to replicate and build upon the authors' published claims. We strongly encourage that all datasets on which the conclusions of the paper rely should be available to readers. We encourage authors to ensure that their datasets are either deposited in publicly available repositories (where available and appropriate) or presented in the main manuscript or additional supporting files whenever possible. If a public repository does not exist, the information must be made available to Editors and referees at submission and to readers promptly upon request. Any restrictions on material availability or other relevant information must be disclosed in the manuscript's Methods section and should include details of how materials and information may be obtained.

Please see the journal's guidelines on Research Data policy [here](#).

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Papers reporting protein or DNA sequences and molecular structures will not be accepted without an accession number to [Genbank/EMBL/DDBJ](#), [SWISS-PROT](#), [Protein Databank](#), or other publicly available database in general use in the appropriate field, that gives free access to researchers from the date of publication.

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### Image Integrity and Standards

Images submitted with a manuscript for review should be minimally processed (for instance, to add arrows to a micrograph). Authors should retain their unprocessed data and metadata files, as editors may request them to aid in manuscript evaluation. If unprocessed data is unavailable, manuscript evaluation may be stalled until the issue is resolved.

A certain degree of image processing is acceptable for publication, but the final image must correctly represent the original data and conform to community standards. The guidelines below will aid in accurate data presentation at the image processing level:

- Authors should document all image acquisition tools, key image-gathering settings, image processing software packages and processing manipulations in the Methods section.
- Images gathered at different times or from different locations should not be combined into a single image, unless it is stated that the resultant image is a product of time-averaged data or a time-lapse sequence. If juxtaposing images is essential, the borders should be clearly demarcated in the figure and described in the legend.
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- Processing (such as changing brightness and contrast) is appropriate only when it is applied equally across the entire image and is applied equally to controls. Contrast should not be adjusted such that data disappears. Excessive manipulations, such as processing to emphasise one region in the image at the expense of others (for example, through the use of a biased choice of threshold settings), is inappropriate, as is emphasising experimental data relative to the control.

For **gels and blots**, positive and negative controls, as well as molecular size markers, should be included on each gel and blot – either in the main figure or an expanded data supplementary figure. The display of cropped gels and blots in the main paper is allowed if it improves the clarity and conciseness of the presentation. In such cases, the cropping must be mentioned in the figure legend.

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- Processing software should be named and manipulations indicated (such as type of deconvolution, three-dimensional reconstructions, surface and volume rendering, 'gamma changes', filtering, thresholding and projection).
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Manuscripts sent out for peer review are evaluated by at least two independent reviewers (often three or more). Authors are welcome to suggest independent reviewers to evaluate their manuscript. All recommendations are considered, but the choice of reviewers is at the Editor's discretion. To expedite the review process, only papers that seem most likely to meet editorial criteria are sent for external review. Papers judged by the Editors to be of insufficient general interest or otherwise inappropriate are rejected promptly without external review.

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- **Accept**, with or without editorial revisions.
- **Revise (Minor/Major revision)**, with the author addressing concerns raised by the reviewers before a final decision is reached.
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appropriately referenced within the main manuscript. Data and analyses of previously published as part of a doctoral thesis under an Open Access licence can be included with appropriate referencing.

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Falsification is the practice of altering research data with the intention of giving a false impression. This includes, but is not limited to, manipulating images, removing outliers or “inconvenient” results, or changing, adding or omitting data points. Fabrication is the practice of inventing data or results and recording and/or reporting them in the research record. Data falsification and fabrication call into question the integrity and credibility of data and the data record, and as such, they are among the most serious issues in scientific ethics.

Some minor manipulation of images is permitted to improve them for readability. Proper technical manipulation includes adjusting the contrast and/or brightness or colour balance if it is applied to the complete digital image (not parts of the image). The author should notify the Editor in the cover letter of any technical manipulation. Improper technical manipulation refers to obscuring, enhancing, deleting and/or introducing new elements into an image. See Image Integrity & Standards above for more details.

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Corrections to published articles should be requested by completing [this form](#) and submitting it to [the Editorial Office](#). All requests for corrections will be assessed by our Editors to see if they qualify based on the following two criteria:

1. if the error impacts the indexing of the article; and
2. if the error impacts the scientific integrity of the article.

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In cases where co-authors disagree about a correction or retraction, the Editors will take advice from independent peer reviewers and impose the appropriate measure, noting the dissenting author(s) in the text of the published version.

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