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**Research Reports** describe the results of original research of exceptional importance. Each research article is published with a brief, author-written Significance Statement that describes the significance of the work. Unsolicited research reports are welcome.

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All articles are evaluated solely on their scientific merit by peers, not by professional staff editors. A three-tier review process for research reports includes an Editorial Board member from one of the 31 NAS disciplines, an NAS Member Editor, and independent peer reviewers. NAS Member Editors are professional scientists and active researchers. A full list of Editorial Board members and their disciplines is included in our [masthead](#).

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**Direct Submission.** The standard mode of transmitting manuscripts is [Direct Submission](#). Direct Submissions account for more than 75% of papers published in PNAS and do not need to be sponsored by an NAS member. The Editorial Board screens all incoming submissions and may reject manuscripts without further review, or review and reject manuscripts that do not meet PNAS standards. More than 50% of Direct Submissions are declined by the Editorial Board without additional review, which takes less than 2 weeks on average. For papers that are sent on to an editor and reviewers, the average time to receive a decision is 41 days. If accepted, authors have their papers published online as soon as 4–5 weeks after acceptance. Authors must recommend three appropriate Editorial Board members, three NAS members who are expert in the paper's scientific area, and five qualified reviewers. The Board may choose someone who is or is not on that list or may reject the paper without further review. Authors are encouraged to indicate in their cover letter why their suggested editors are qualified to handle the paper. A directory of PNAS Member Editors and their research interests is available within the submission process and at [nrc88.nas.edu/pnas\\_search](http://nrc88.nas.edu/pnas_search). The editor may obtain reviews of the paper from at least two qualified reviewers, each from a different institution and not from the authors' institutions. The PNAS Office will invite the reviewers, secure the reviews, forward them to the editor, and secure any revisions and subsequent reviews. The name of the editor must remain anonymous to the author until the paper is accepted. Direct Submissions are published as "Edited by" the responsible editor and have an identifying footnote.

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