



# frontiers Research Topics

Spotlight your research field  
and maximize your impact

[frontiersin.org/ResearchTopics](https://frontiersin.org/ResearchTopics)



# What is a Research Topic

A Frontiers Research Topic is a collection of peer-reviewed articles on a well-defined subject of research. Research Topics are unique in that they are managed by leading scientists and clinicians using our tailor-built platform, designed to simplify logistics while stimulating teamwork. Our technology defines new communities around cutting-edge subjects of research and makes the content highly discoverable, thus optimizing the impact for both the published articles and their authors.

Frontiers Research Topics have been phenomenally successful across all fields of science and medicine. **Over 6'000 editors and 70'000 authors** have contributed, and Research Topic articles have received more than 32 million article views and downloads.



“What’s special about Frontiers is that it is really designed for scientists to have a publishing medium for them”

Alex Thomson  
University College London

## NUMBERS

(Data as of October 2014)



25K

Research Topics  
organized



6K

Researchers edited  
a Research Topic



70K

Contributing authors



90K

Social media shares  
Research Topic pages



14M

Profile views  
on editors and authors



32M

Views on dedicated  
Research Topic pages



35M

Views and downloads  
Research Topic articles

# At a glance

- 1 Full integration into **Loop**, our **research network** for scientists and scholars.
- 2 Freely downloadable **ebooks** of the entire article collection.
- 3 **Overview section**: provides the title, scope and objectives in one place.
- 4 **Articles tab**: highlights published articles, abstract and impact summary.
- 5 **Contributors tab**: features authors and topic editors for maximum discoverability and impact.
- 6 **Discussion Forum** around this Research Topic and its articles.
- 7 **Powerful impact metrics** on the Research Topic and its articles, including views, downloads, social media buzz, geographic and demographic info.
- 8 **Online academic profiles** for editors and authors.
- 9 **Article impact metrics** including views, downloads, citations, social media shares, social buzz via Altmetric, geographic and demographic info.

The screenshot shows the Frontiers Research Topic page for "Human health and disease in a microbial world". The page layout includes a top navigation bar with the Frontiers logo, search bar, and user profile. The main content area features a large circular image of a microbial world, a title, and a "Research Topic" label. Below the title are buttons for "Download Ebook PDF" and "Download Ebook EPUB". A tabbed interface shows "Overview", "Articles" (13), "Authors" (58), "Impact", and "Comments". A large "VIEWS" counter displays "66,700". The "Overview" section includes "About this Research Topic" with a summary of the topic and a "+ Show more" link. Below this is the "Recent Articles" section, featuring a highlighted article titled "Functional Metagenomic Investigations of the Human Intestinal Microbiota" by Aimee Marguerite Moore, Christian Munck, Morten Otto Alexander Sommer, and Gautam Dantas. The article includes a "Perspective" section, publication date (17 October 2011), DOI (10.3389/fmicb.2011.00188), and impact metrics (5,370 views, 457 shares, Altmetric 1). The right sidebar contains "Topic Editors" (Alain Stintzi and Peter J Turnbaugh), "Submission Deadlines" (Submission closed), and "Participating Journals" (Frontiers in Microbiology).

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# Ways to participate

## AS AN EDITOR

Frontiers offers Topic Editors a customized IT platform where you and your colleagues can host a Research Topic and take the lead in your own area of research. As a Topic Editor of a Research Topic you act as the handling editor for submitted manuscripts. It is like developing your very own mini-journal devoted entirely to your area of research.

We will help you take the lead in showcasing your research area with all the editorial tasks - sending out the call for participation; managing manuscript submissions as well as following up with reviewers and authors. We will maximize the readership of your Topic and allow you to track its impact in real-time. Should your Research Topic reach 10 articles we will be able to publish a dedicated ebook including an introductory editorial written by you.

## AS AN AUTHOR

Author participation of Frontiers Research Topics is fully open, and we encourage submissions that provide a strong interdisciplinary flavour to the collections. Authors may first submit an abstract to obtain some editorial feedback concerning the suitability of the contribution; if accepted, the authors can look forward to a spectrum of advantages of publishing in a Frontiers Research Topic. Specifically, they enter the spotlight, joining a group of experts of their field;

- benefit from the Frontiers peer-review system (fast, collaborative and transparent);
- retain copyright by publishing under the terms of the CC-BY license;
- provide their colleagues worldwide immediate and unrestricted access to the work;
- qualify for discounts on publication fees at Frontiers;
- track readership statistics with our article-level metrics.

## Have an idea for a Research Topic?

The launch and management  
of a Research Topic is easy and free.

Please contact us at:

**[researchtopics@frontiersin.org](mailto:researchtopics@frontiersin.org)**  
**[frontiersin.org/researchtopics](https://frontiersin.org/researchtopics)**



# How to organize a Research Topic

To lead a Research Topic, Frontiers requires that one of the Topic Editors be a well-established expert in his or her field. Less senior researchers are welcome to join the editorial team — in fact, the Research Topic offers an excellent opportunity for younger researchers to raise their profiles as community leader.

Once your Topic is accepted by one of Frontiers Chief Editors, you become the handling editor of the collection, with full access to our award-winning publishing platform. With the support of our editorial office in Lausanne, you will be guided in the process of sending out a

call for participation, evaluating abstracts and overseeing the peer-review process. The dynamic is similar to that of a small conference or workshop.

Once on track, you will see how the specially designed web environment will drive discussion and maximise readership of the Topic's contributions, which you can follow with our industry-leading article-level metrics. When your project closes, the contributions are published as an e-book, complete with introductory editorial and ISBN, lending a distinct monographic quality to the collection that further drives discoverability and impact.

## RESEARCH TOPIC TIMELINE *(estimated time)*



TOPIC EDITOR RESPONSIBILITIES



**IDENTIFYING**  
potential  
contributors



**EVALUATING**  
abstract  
proposals



**OVERSEEING**  
the peer-review  
process

EDITORIAL SUPPORT WITH



**CALL**  
for participation



**MANUSCRIPT**  
management



**FOLLOWING UP**  
with reviewers  
and authors



**FEEDBACK**  
from Chief Editors



**ASSOCIATE**  
**EDITOR**  
assignment



**COMPANY**  
**SPONSORSHIP**  
contact

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- Book Review
- General Commentary
- Letter to the Editor

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- CPC
- Evaluation
- Case Report

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**1150**

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- Method Article
- Review Article
- Technology Report

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