



2013 Progress Report

# frontiers

An incredible year of **community-driven growth**





*Kamila Markram*  
CEO of Frontiers

**I**n November 2014, we will celebrate our 7<sup>th</sup> birthday and I'm thrilled by the many achievements we have reached together. As of today, we have published almost 20 000 articles, are growing at a rate of almost 100% per year and several of our journals are already at the top of their subject categories. For example, *Frontiers in Psychology*, launched in 2010, has become the **largest** psychology journal worldwide. *Frontiers in Immunology*, *Frontiers in Physiology* and *Frontiers in Plant Science* are all the largest open-access journals in their respective categories.

Between 2013 and early 2014, we expanded our open-access "Frontiers in" journal series into 16 new fields. Frontiers currently spans **28** fields, **300** specialties with over **40 000** leading scientists and clinicians on the editorial boards. We also set a new record in yearly publications, which now stands at almost **7 500** articles published in 2013, making Frontiers

one of the **5 largest** open-access publishers (out of approximately 3 000).

The other remarkable event in 2013 was our **partnership** with Nature Publishing Group, which has further enhanced Frontiers' standing and prestige in the academic publishing world.

Combining NPG's established brand of world-renowned prestige and more than 130 years in publishing with Frontiers' transformative solutions to publish, share and boost impact, opened up a wealth of opportunities to lead the change in how science is published and communicated.

Our mission has not changed since our founding days in 2007, when we, as scientists, decided to take publishing into our own hands.

Frontiers stands for Open Science and builds online tools to publish, share and boost the impact of your research. We keep

working with you to build a publishing platform focused on academic communities and your needs. We keep taking your feedback into account to build a simpler, faster and more efficient publishing system, and a peer review that is **rigorous**, but also **fair, constructive** and **transparent**. We build online metrics to give immediate feedback on the impact of your research. We work to make your work more accessible to researchers in other disciplines and to the more general audience. We take open access to a new level by feeding your articles into the Frontiers Research Network to disseminate them to the right people and boost your reach and **impact**.

Frontiers is taking off at unprecedented speed and developing into one of the most successful endeavours in the scholarly publishing landscape. Thanks to all of you who were part of this **incredible year of community-driven growth**. It's an honour to take this journey with you.

Lausanne, April 2014

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Kamila Markram".

*“Frontiers represents  
the future for science  
communication”*

*Michael Merzenich  
University of California, San Francisco*

# 2013 Frontiers milestones



# Embracing academic communities

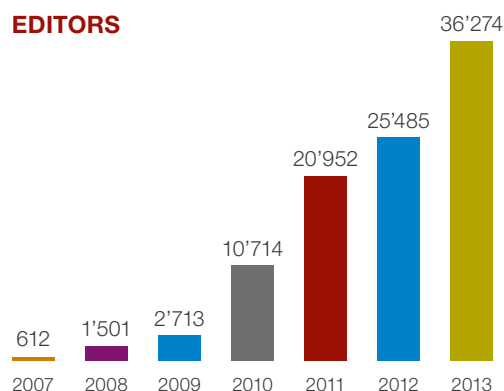
At Frontiers, our approach to publishing is community driven. It involves first understanding niche communities within a field, and then building a Field Journal embracing these **communities' needs**. We carefully subdivide each field into numerous Specialty Sections, thus framing an entire subject area through its communities.

In order to ensure the highest standards

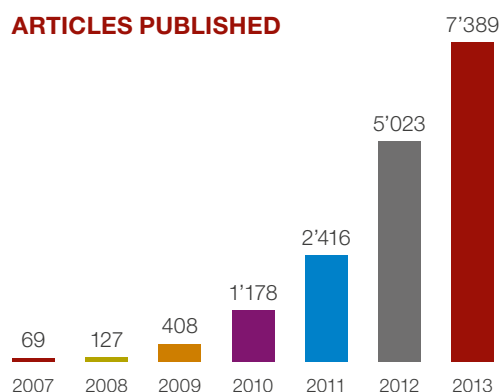
for our journals, we take great care - and great pride - in our editorial boards and only appoint the **leading** researchers and clinicians from each academic community.

Since research is increasingly multi-disciplinary, our platform is designed to facilitate **synergies** across neighboring research areas by allowing **shared** Specialty Sections amongst fields.

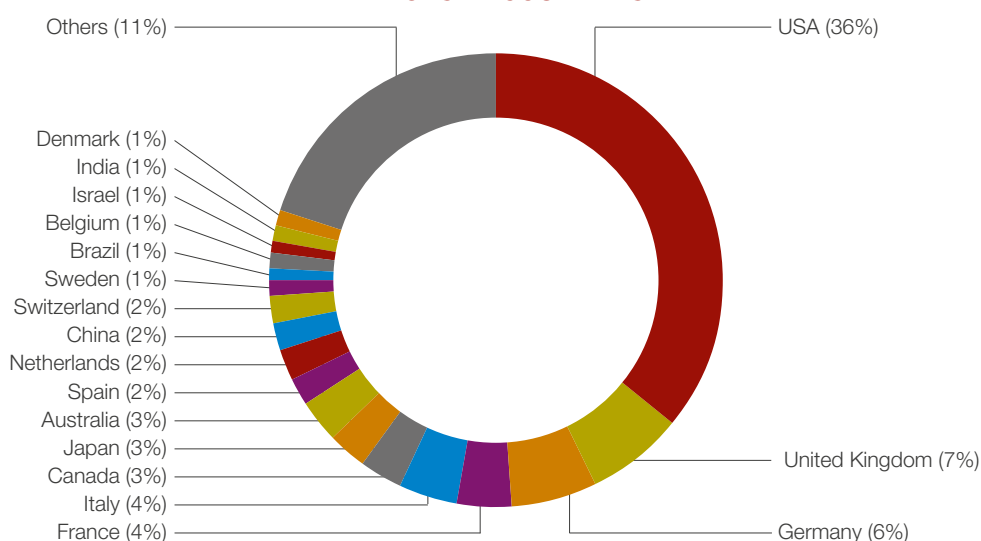
## EDITORS



## ARTICLES PUBLISHED



## EDITORS BY COUNTRIES



Editors among  
**top 5%**  
of researchers  
in the world

**40 000**  
high-profile editors

**28**  
fields in Science,  
Technology and Medicine

**300**  
communities

**140**  
countries

**20 000**  
articles published  
(as of April 2014)



# Field Journals are top players

In 2008, Frontiers pioneered the Field Journal concept in the field of Neuroscience and, within three years, had branched out to 11 other areas across medicine and science. Today, our 12 original Field Journals are among the most **established** in their subject areas, both in terms of size and citation levels. *Frontiers in Psychology*, became the world's largest journal in Psychology only 3 years after it was launched in 2010.

*Frontiers in Immunology*, *Frontiers in Physiology* and *Frontiers in Plant Science* are the largest

open-access journals in their respective categories.

In addition to these 12 established titles, 16 new Field Journals were launched between the end of 2012 and the beginning of 2014, now covering a total of 28 fields across 300 specialty sections. Our aim is to ensure that every community in all areas of natural, medical and social sciences can find an **open-access home** at Frontiers.

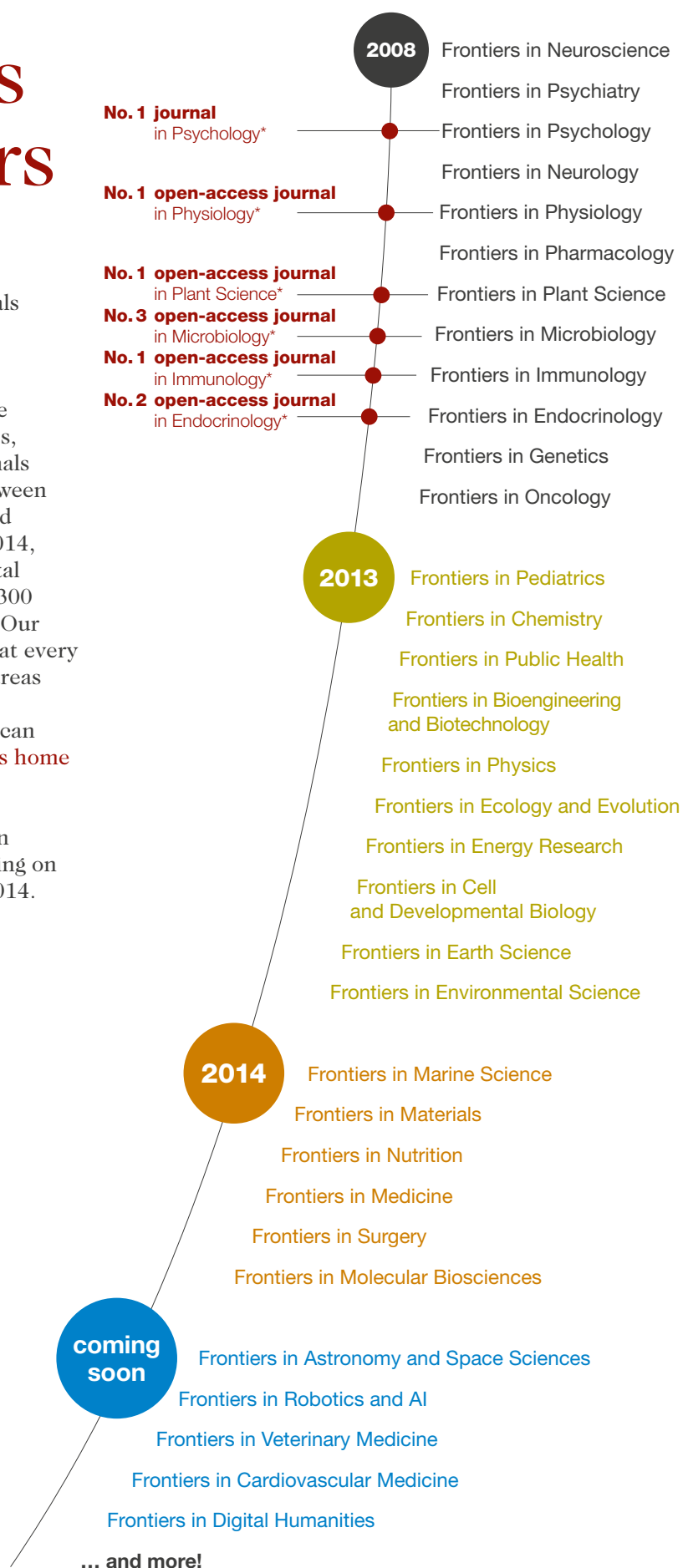
It is with this vision that we keep working on new launches in 2014.

## IMPACT FACTORS

Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience: **5.2**  
 Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience: **4.8**  
 Frontiers in Cellular Neuroscience: **4.5**  
 Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology: **coming July 2014!**  
 Frontiers in Computational Neuroscience: **2.5**  
 Frontiers in Human Neuroscience: **2.9**  
 Frontiers in Microbiology: **coming July 2014!**  
 Frontiers in Neural Circuits: **3.3**  
 Frontiers in Neuroanatomy: **4.1**  
 Frontiers in Plant Science: **coming July 2014!**  
 Frontiers in Psychology: **coming July 2014!**

\* compared to the journal listing of the 2012 Journal Citation Report for this subject category. Publication volume determined for 2013 with Scopus.

All journals are listed in PubMed and archives relevant for each subject area. All remaining 9 field journals launched before 2013 are under evaluation by Thomson Reuters for the release of an Impact Factor. Stay tuned!



# Building impact through peer review

*“The new review forum is exceptionally clear. I particularly like the level of detail of where the article is in the review process”*

*Cheryl Metcalf  
about version 2.0 of the Review Forum*

Improving peer review has always been a priority at Frontiers. Our peer review is engineered to be rigorous, yet at the same time collaborative, fair, efficient and transparent.

These guiding principles have been integrated into the most sophisticated online review platform, the

Frontiers Review Forum, which facilitates consensus by opening a direct dialogue among authors, reviewers and editors.

Our peer review is engineered to contribute to the quality of manuscripts, and the high numbers of citations, views and downloads

of Frontiers articles are a strong evidence of it. Frontiers journals consistently outrank some of the most established journals both in terms of citation levels and volume.

In 2013, we carried out substantial enhancements to our Review Forum. The 2.0 version of the

Review Forum is now even more user-friendly, intuitive and task-oriented, and was released as a beta version in December.

Feedback from hundreds of scientists has been enthusiastic and we are really excited to move this development forward in 2014!

## Review principles

COLLABORATIVE  
FAIR  
RIGOROUS  
EFFICIENT  
TRANSPARENT

## 84 days

from submission  
to acceptance

## 15 days

from acceptance  
to publication

## 1000 views

in the first month  
following publication

*“Instead of rejecting a paper a priori, we want to help the scientific community to improve a paper. It's scientists helping other scientists to make things better - together”*

*Idan Segev  
about the philosophy of peer review at Frontiers*

- **80%** of authors think the Frontiers peer review is a significant improvement over traditional peer review
- **Over 90%** of authors think the collaborative Frontiers peer review helped them improve their paper
- **Over 90%** of authors would submit again
- **95%** of authors were happy with the level of support received by Frontiers staff in publishing their paper
- **Over 90%** of authors and reviewers rated our interactive Review Forum as good or excellent
- **85%** of reviewers think the level of detail of the Frontiers questionnaires helped them focus on the most important aspects of the papers they reviewed

# Building impact through networking technologies

The Frontiers Research Network is a fast growing community of more than **140 000** of the world's leading researchers from **all** fields of **academia**.

Frontiers is the first to fully integrate open-access publishing with the latest networking technology, taking publishing to the next level.

The mission of the network is simple: increase the reach of articles and disseminate them to the right people, and ultimately, boost the **impact** of our authors, editors and academic users.

The benefits for authors are compelling: since its launch in 2012, the Frontiers Research

Network has been proven to increase the visibility of researchers' profiles by **70%** and that of their articles by **30%**.

Combining networking with open-access publishing stays true to our mission: make research papers freely available to the world and increase their impact.

## “Scientific studies

**demonstrate that the number of connections to high-profile contacts on social networks translates into better career performance for science innovators,,**

P. A. Gloor et al.,  
Int. J. Organ.Des. Eng. **3**, 67–85; 2013

**70%**  
**increase**  
profile views

**30%**  
**increase**  
article views

**140 000**  
active users

**5 000**  
new monthly users

**5 000**  
connected institutions

*“Research networking in Frontiers helps disseminate your work”*

*Leon Cooper  
Nobel Laureate in Physics*

*“The information revolution demands a serious rethinking of scientific publishing and Frontiers is an excellent answer to this demand”*

*Alex Hansen  
Norwegian University of Science and Technology*

# Science for kids

Frontiers is now also available for kids. Our new journal *Frontiers for Young Minds* brings the excitement of scientific discoveries to kids - **reviewed by kids!**

*Frontiers for Young Minds* is a real peer-reviewed scientific journal, in which young scientists-to-be (aged 8 - 15) become involved in the review process. It is the first time in scholarly publishing that a journal connects bright kids in a hands-on experience with the world's leading researchers.

Launched at the Society for Neuroscience meeting in November 2013, the journal stems from the never-ending passion of our long-time **Chief Editor Bob Knight** for bringing science to kids.

The response has been truly overwhelming and heart-warming and more fields will follow in 2014 after the success of the neuroscience "pilot" project. Frontiers for Young Minds has immediately captured the imagination of thousands of scientists, parents, mentors, teachers and - of course - kids! [kids.frontiersin.org](http://kids.frontiersin.org)

*"The best sci-publishing launch in decades"*

Noah Gray  
Editor, *Nature Magazine*

86

kid reviewers

79

mentoring scientists

37

articles published

21

research areas  
in Neuroscience





# Partnering with Nature Publishing Group

In February 2013, Nature Publishing Group and Frontiers formed a strategic **partnership**, to advance the global **Open Science** movement.

Nature Publishing Group recognized Frontiers' transformative solutions to open-access publishing, peer review and impact metrics. Combining these strengths with Nature's world-renowned reputation of excellence and long history in academic publishing opened up many new opportunities to advance our combined mission to serve scholars better and to lead the change in the landscape of science communication.

The partnership brings new opportunities to increase the **visibility** of our articles, create cross links between the two publishers and strengthen the **public outreach** of Frontiers overall.

For example: the 2013, 4<sup>th</sup> of July issue of Nature magazine had a specially-dedicated cover that opened up to display a Frontiers full-page infographic. This was a first in the 130-year-long history of Nature!



*“We can achieve more together, and more quickly, than either publisher could working alone”*

Steven Inchcoombe  
Managing Director, Nature Publishing Group

*“NPG and Frontiers’ passion is to meet the evolving needs of scientists to advance science. Together we can really change the way science is communicated”*

Kamila Markram  
CEO, Frontiers

*“It is the first time that Nature has entered a partnership with another organization, because we had never found another organization that shares Nature’s vision, passion, aspiration to help scientists be more successful”*

Annette Thomas  
CEO, Macmillan Publishers

# International media coverage

Frontiers is publishing cutting-edge research with strong societal relevance from leading scientists. Our articles are regularly featured in world-leading newspapers, TV and radio programs. This includes regular

media coverage from the BBC, CNN, NBC, The Guardian, Der Spiegel, Scientific American, New Scientist, Popular Science and many more.

We work to boost the impact of your research at all levels.

**25 million**  
views and downloads

**35 000**  
tweets

**36 000**  
followers on Facebook

**500**  
international news stories  
in 2013

**WIRED**

*“Wolves, like dogs, can learn from humans”*

*Frontiers in Psychology*  
12 September 2013

*“Fast-paced evolution in the Andes”*

*Frontiers in Genetics*  
7 November 2013

**The New York Times**

**SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN**

*“Psychopaths might have an impaired empathy circuit”*

*Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*  
19 December 2013

*“Yoga and the mind: can yoga reduce symptoms of major psychiatric disorders?”*

*Frontiers in Psychiatry*  
28 January 2013

**TIME**

**BBC**

*“Flowering plant origins pushed back 100 million years”*

*Frontiers in Plant Science*  
1 October 2013

# Research Topics: dig deeper with niche communities

Much of modern science is highly specialized and interdisciplinary by nature, and our goal at Frontiers is to make sure that the impact of every article and author is maximized even in this fragmented and fast-moving context.

Research Topics are collections of articles around

a cutting-edge research area organized by leading scientists and physicians. Frontiers' Research Topics provide a platform to unite the world's experts around a topic, stimulate **dialogue** and collaboration, publish cutting-edge research, **accelerate science** and demonstrate **leadership** in a field.

With almost **1 000** Topics initiated in 2013, Frontiers Research Topics are an integral part of publishing highly specialized and interdisciplinary research and will continue to play a central role in showcasing and promoting niche communities.

*“An excellent platform to combine different expertise from different areas”*

*Markus Geisler  
University of Freiburg*

*“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*

**110 000**

research topic contributors

**4 700**

research topic editors

**1 000**

research topics opened in 2013

**over  
200**

research topics available as free ebooks





# Your team at Frontiers

The success of Frontiers is based on the commitment of academic communities, and on the **stellar team** that, behind the scenes, helps promote the academic status of all our authors, editors, reviewers and scientific users. With headquarters in **Lausanne, Switzerland**

and staff in **London** and **Madrid**, the Frontiers team now counts over **140** bright and relentlessly dedicated colleagues, across **40** nationalities and experience in essentially **every area of academia**.

Haven't had a chance to meet us all yet? Here we are.

# 140

staff - and growing!

# 40

nationalities

# 3

locations

# lots of

dedication!





# 2014 here we come!

[www.frontiersin.org](http://www.frontiersin.org)



Swiss Federal Institute  
of Technology (EPFL)

Innovation Park  
Lausanne, Switzerland

Photo courtesy of Alain Herzog / EPFL

The growth of Frontiers in 2013 has transformed our organization into one of the largest and most reputable players in open-access publishing.

However, we will never forget the grass-roots origins of Frontiers, nor the conviction that scientific publication

identifies and strengthens communities. Building and promoting communities, making sure that your articles are read and your impact is boosted, is where our focus will remain in 2014.

Improving our software to review, publish and

disseminate articles efficiently, broadening our public outreach, showcasing the work published through our journals – right down to each individual article and Research Topic – this is the Frontiers mission.



# Meet our Chief Editors





												
Alexander Kokhanovsky	Alisdair Fernie	Alois C Knoll	Ambar Chakravarty	Andreas P M Weber	Andreas Teske	Andrew S Day	Angel Borja	Angelique Bordey	Anil K Seth	Anne B Chang	Anne Elizabeth Simon	Anne Zajicek
												
Axel A Brakhage	Axel Cleeremans	Barry D Jordan	Beatrice De Gelder	Bernhard Hommel	Bernhard Moser	Bimal Krishna Banik	Blanka Rogina	Bradley M. Tebo	Bretislav Friedrich	Brian Leyland-Jones	Bruce J West	Camilo R Gomez
												
Claus Vögele	Connie J Evashwick	Costas A Varotsos	Craig Michael Walsh	Crystal Mackall	Cunming Duan	Daiqin Li	Daniel Oro	Danilo Emilio De Rossi	David B Allison	David Samuel Ginley	David William Galbraith	Derek LeRoith
												
Elise Kohn	Elizabeth A. Kellogg	Ellis L Reinherz	Emilio Elizalde	Eric 'Pieter Achterberg	Eric Meffre	Eric Vivier	Eugene R Schnitzler	Evgeny Y. Tsymbal	Ewald Moser	Fabrice Clément	Farhad Islami	Farhad Ravandi
												
Gareth J Sanger	Gary Iwamoto	Gemma Casadesus	Geoffrey A Head	George E Billman	George J Christ	Gerald A Meininger	Gerard Apodaca	Giacomo Indiveri	Gianluca Castelnuevo	Gil Bernard Garnier	Giovanna Suzzi	Giovanni Addolorato
												
Guang-Ling Song	Guilherme J M Rosa	Hans Van Rostenberghe	Harald Von Boehmer	Harold W Goforth	Hauke R Heekeren	Heather Cunliffe	Hemant K Tiwari	Hendrik Poorter	Herman Waldmann	Hermann Wagner	Hiroaki Kitano	How-Ran Guo
												
Isabelle Peretz	J Alberto Neder	J. W. F. Valle	Jack C Roberts	Jacob N. Chung	Jacques Dumais	Jaime Kapitulnik	James Lloyd	James Mark Coticchia	Jan De Boer	Jan G Bjaalie	Jason W Osborne	Javier DeFelipe
												
Joav Merrick	Jochen C Meier	Joel C Bornstein	John R Battista	John Steven Torday	John T Fisher	John Wade	Jon H Kaas	Jonathan H Tobias	Jonathan P Zehr	Jordi Figuerola	Jorge Asconape	Jos WM Van Der Meer
												
Laura Ballerini	Lawrence Wechsler	Lera Boroditsky	Lisa Y Stein	Lorenza S Colzato	Lorenzo Pavesi	Louis R Caplan	Luis Gimeno	Luiz Pessoa	Maciej Andrzej Zwieniecki	Manuel Carreiras	Marc Strous	Marcel Zentner
												
Mary Beth Mudgett	Mary Cianfrocca	Masaru Katoh	Matthew W Fields	Matthias Hess	Maurizio Del Poeta	Michael E Symonds	Michael Heinrich	Michael J Schneck	Michael L Moritz	Michael Strupp	Michael Weller	Mihaly Hajos
												
Niels Birbaumer	Nils Yngve Lycke	Nuno Sousa	Olivier Feron	Oreste Acuto	Osama O Zaidat	P.K. Ramachandran Nair	Pamela J Hornby	Paola Patrignani	Paolo Bernardi	Paolo Boffetta	Paolo Montuschi	Paolo Pietro Bianchi
												
Philippe C. Baveye	Philippe De Witte	Philippe G Schyns	Philippe Lory	Pierre De Meyts	Pierre J Magistretti	Prosun Bhattacharya	Rafael Yuste	Rahn Kennedy Bailey	Raimond L Winslow	Raina Robeva	Ralf Jockers	Ranulfo Romo
												
Rodrigo Orlando Kuijjs	Roger Deal	Roger Stupp	Ronald M Bukowski	Ruben Coronel	Rudolf von Steiger	Russell A Poldrack	Rustam Aminov	S R Pandi-Perumal	Salvatore Salomone	Sam P De Visser	Samuel A Cushman	Scott A Huettel
												
Stephen Silberstein	Stephen V. Liu	Steve Suib	Steven Carl Huber	Steven H Zeisel	Steven L. Forman	Susan Swain	Susumu Ikehara	Sylvia Anton	Takao K. Hensch	Tanguy Seiwert	Théophile Godfraind	Thierry Le Chevalier
												
Vaughan G Macefield	Vishal Madaan	Wendy A Peer	Wendy Noble	William Cho	William J Brown	William James Hickey	Wolf Hervé Fridman	Wulf Rössler	Xavier Noel	Yisong Wang	Yousef Abu Kwak	Yue Hugh Guan





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