



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

January 14, 2026

CAIRIBU ARCTICS COMMUNITY FORUM

PREPRINTS IN UROLOGY RESEARCH: TO USE OR NOT TO USE



ARCTICS COMMUNITY FORUM

FEAT: NICOLE DE NISCO, PHD, SIMON HAYWARD, PHD

A recording of this and prior CAIRIBU ARCTICS Community forums is available on the CAIRIBU YouTube channel [HERE](#)

GOAL: Demystify open science principles and provide practical guidance on preprints

Summary

Introduction to Preprints

Overview

- [Dr. Nicole De Nisco](#) (UT Dallas) described preprints as complete drafts of scientific documents before peer review.
- Preprints may be shared before or at the same time as submission to a research journal.
- Preprints have DOIs, are often indexed on NCBI, and can be cited
- Preprints are useful for timely dissemination of research, open science practices, and rapid retrieval of information.
- **There is a need for increased caution when using preprints** as they have not undergone peer review.

Benefits and Challenges of Preprints

Benefits

- **Dr. De Nisco** discussed how preprints give creators a chance for increased visibility, faster dissemination, and feedback from the research community.
- For users, preprints allow for timely access to research in emergency response, an opportunity to participate in open science, and rapid retrieval of information.

Challenges

- Preprints have potential for misinformation and can be unimpactful on tenure processes.
- [Dr. Simon Hayward \(Endeavor Health\)](#) shared his late adoption of preprints and his initial concerns about compromising the ability to submit papers (which have since subsided).
- Preprints are a way for authors to stake a claim on their research. **Authors may wish to opt for journals that offer scoop protection to shield from competitors.**

Publishing Preprints

Preprint Servers and Journal Specific Preprints

- There are various preprint servers, e.g., Bio Archive, Chem Archive, and Med Archive (field-specific repositories).
- Journals like Springer Nature and Wiley offer preprint options as part of the submission process.
- **Drs. Hayward & De Nisco** agreed: general repositories are more beneficial - they do not limit submission options to specific journals.

Preprints as they Relate to NIH Grants

- Preprints may be claimed as products by NIH-funded investigators when filing NIH-award required reports.
- Preprints may be included in NIH biosketches; creators may cite preliminary data from preprints within their grant.
- Per an NIH program officer: **neither publications in journals nor preprints can satisfy data management and sharing plan requirements**. Submission of all data to a public repository is required, e.g., GitHub.

Preprints Licensing and Copyright Issues

- **Dr. De Nisco** suggested using a license that does not allow for reuse and encouraged attendees to visit an in-depth [NIH training](#) providing more information on preprint licensing and copyright.

Preprints as Science Communication

Public Trust

- A participant raised concerns about **erosion of trust in science** and potential harm of discrepancies between preprints and peer-reviewed manuscripts. Some may interpret changes from preprint to publication as deceptive vs. part of rigorous peer review.
- Further discussion identified a larger issue with communicating science to the public. The NIH has tried to mitigate this by adding a disclaimer that preprints in PubMed are not peer-reviewed; whether the public understands this is unclear.

Preprints as Posters and Mechanisms for Feedback

- Preprints are like posters shared at conferences - interim data is shared, feedback and collaboration is encouraged.
- **Dr. Hayward** shared his experience with editors inviting submissions to journals based on preprints.
- However, it may be challenging to get preprints noticed, even with social media.