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# IYNA Editing Guidelines

These are the guidelines provided to our editors. Keep them in mind while writing.

## General Guidelines:

1. All journal entries should not contain grammatical errors.
  2. All journal entries should reflect a high level of awareness of the subject discussed.
  3. **All assertions made that are not common knowledge (e.g. that the corpus callosum connects the cerebral hemispheres, that the typical adult human brain has between 80 and 100 billion neurons, etc.) should be properly cited in APA format. These citations should be made public such that readers can access them.**
  4. **A VERY IMPORTANT NOTE ON ACADEMIC HONESTY: IF A PIECE OF INFORMATION IS NOT 100% YOURS, IT MUST BE CITED! IF IT IS JUST A SENTENCE, CITE IT. IF IT IS JUST A PARAPHRASED SENTENCE, CITE IT. IT'S STILL NOT YOUR ORIGINAL WORK.**
  5. All images used within articles should be cited in the references, as well as with an in-line citation.
  6. All quotations taken should be used only in their intended context and with complete accuracy. Context should be provided in all articles to ensure that only the intended meaning is presented.
  7. No “clickbait” type headlines should be used, such as “Miracle Drug Found to Cure Alzheimer’s” to describe a study finding a new treatment or “Doctors Killing Patients” to begin a discussion on medically-assisted suicide, under any circumstances **unless** the situation genuinely warrants such a title.
  8. Remember that neither speed nor format excuses inaccuracy.
  9. Report and correct any mistakes you find after the journal’s publication promptly and effectively, explaining to the readers why the correction was made and its implications if applicable.
  10. Follow all guidelines on <http://www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp>, when applicable (I used this as inspiration for a few of the guidelines listed here).
  11. All articles must pass the [Finkbeiner test](#) when reporting on female researchers, scientists, doctors, or other neuroscientists. The articles **MUST NOT MENTION THE FOLLOWING** (See corollary in 13):
    - a. The fact that she’s a woman
    - b. Her husband’s job
    - c. Her child care arrangements
    - d. How she nurtures her underlings
    - e. How she was taken aback by the competitiveness in her field
    - f. How she’s such a role model for other women
    - g. How she’s the “first woman to...”
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12. For any other minority group member, similar protocols should be taken to ensure that the focus of the article is on neuroscience and gives the subject of the article the same dignity that other scientists get in the media.
  13. Use primary sources in all articles focused on science (Diseases, Studies, possibly New Tech) whenever possible. If an original study is available, be sure to use the full original study and not a paraphrasing or abstract.
  14. No unprofessional or immoral conduct of any type, even if not specifically outlined in the general guidelines, will be tolerated. Use common sense.

### **Specific Column Guidelines:**

#### **1. Neuroethics**

- a. All articles should demonstrate a thoroughly-reasoned approach to the subject matter
  - i. Both or all sides of arguments should be presented thoroughly, with reason and evidence, without any bias towards one side. Writers, regardless of their own position, must report on both sides (if one writer feels uncomfortable writing about a specific viewpoint, other writers can write the discussion of the opposition).
  - ii. Writers should include all nuances when necessary. Do not create a false dichotomy!
- b. No sweeping generalizations should be made UNLESS there is a VERY VERY convincing reason to do so (example of an acceptable case: School shootings are bad)
- c. No arguments should contain logical fallacies; to review common types, see <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/659/03/> or other websites.

#### **2. Research/New Study**

- a. All articles should describe recent discoveries (since 2010), preferably towards later dates if available, unless the article is describing a key milestone in neuroscience history (such as Broca's discoveries, Penfield's, Hodgkin and Huxley's, etc).
- b. If complicated terminology or jargon is used, articles should include definitions of key terms in accessible language at the end of the article just before the references section or within the article itself.
- c. All key figures and data should be included with an accurate interpretation provided to explain the data.

#### **3. Interview**

- a. The interviewee's exact words may not be changed, even for grammatical purposes.
  - b. All quotations must be taken in context with the precise questions asked included.
  - c. All questions should be relevant, precise, and clear. No questions about subjects outside of their work (e.g. family life) should be included (see rules a.9-a.11 for further instructions).
  - d. Interview entries should have a proper introduction of the interviewee including relevant education, achievements and research work.
  - e. A complete transcript of the interview should be available upon request.
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**4. Satire**

- a. No articles should make explicit criticisms of any person or refer to specific individuals in a negative light. This is not political satire.