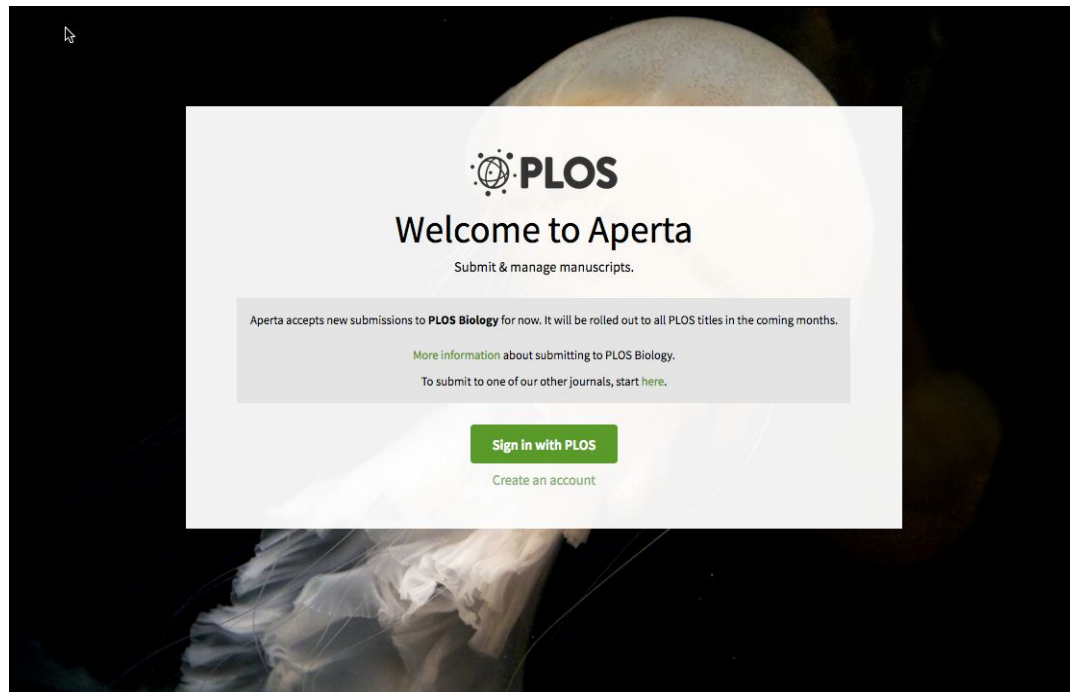


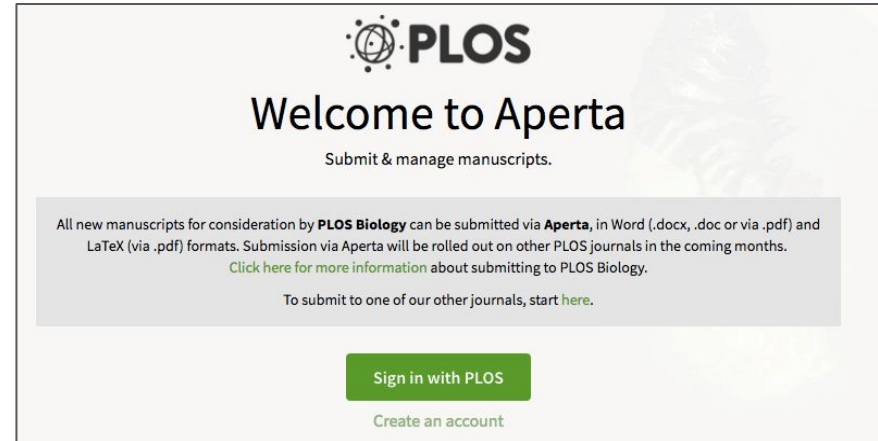
Dear Author,

Welcome to Aperta™, our  
manuscript submission platform  
for *PLOS Biology*.

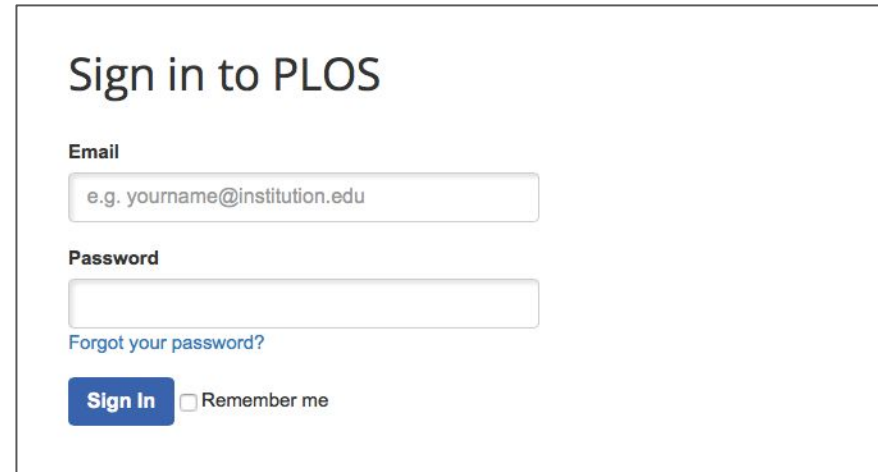


If you have used Aperta before or already have a PLOS account, click “Sign in with PLOS” and enter your credentials on the next page.

If you have forgotten your password, click “Forgot your password” on the sign-in page to have reset instructions emailed to you.



The screenshot shows the 'Welcome to Aperta' page. At the top left is the PLOS logo. The main heading is 'Welcome to Aperta' with the subtitle 'Submit & manage manuscripts.' Below this is a grey box containing text: 'All new manuscripts for consideration by PLOS Biology can be submitted via Aperta, in Word (.docx, .doc or via .pdf) and LaTeX (via .pdf) formats. Submission via Aperta will be rolled out on other PLOS journals in the coming months. Click here for more information about submitting to PLOS Biology. To submit to one of our other journals, start here.' At the bottom of the page are two buttons: 'Sign in with PLOS' (green) and 'Create an account' (grey).



The screenshot shows the 'Sign in to PLOS' form. The heading is 'Sign in to PLOS'. Below it are two input fields: 'Email' with a placeholder 'e.g. yourname@institution.edu' and 'Password'. A link 'Forgot your password?' is located below the password field. At the bottom, there is a blue 'Sign In' button and a checkbox labeled 'Remember me'.

If you are new to PLOS, you will need to set up your PLOS account before you can sign in to Aperta.

On the Aperta sign-in page, click “Create an account” and fill out the form with your preferred contact information and password.

**Email**

*Instructions for completing your registration will be sent to this email address.*

**First Name** **Last Name**

**Password** **Confirm Password**

*Must be 8 or more characters and contain at least one number and one non-number, e.g. 'op3N4cc355'*

By creating an account you agree to the [terms of use](#).

If you have difficulty creating an account please [contact us](#).

After you have completed the form, you will receive a confirmation email from plos.org with a link to verify your account.

**Important:** You must click the verification link in the confirmation email to complete your account registration. You will then be redirected to the sign-in page where you can now click “Sign in with PLOS” and enter your new credentials.



Thank you PLOS Documentation for registering with PLOS.

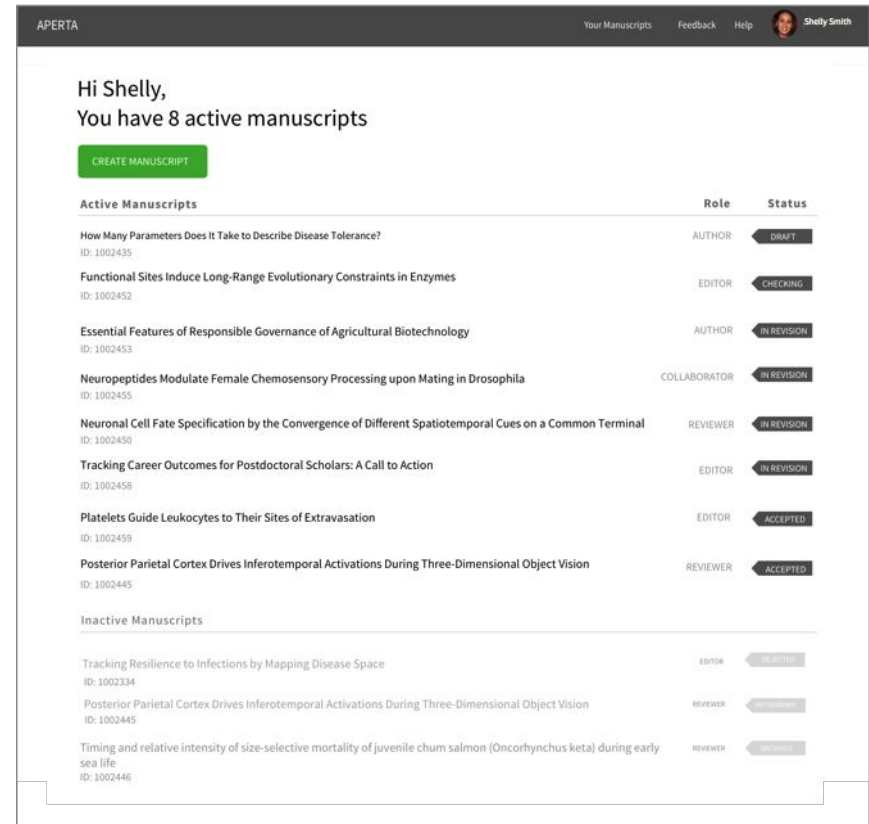
Please click the [verification link](#) to complete registration and activate your account.

To create a new submission you only need the following:

- Manuscript file in DOC, DOCX, or PDF
- Figures
- Supporting information files
- Cover letter

For the initial submission you can choose to upload a PDF with embedded figures or provide a PDF or Word file with figures uploaded separately.

You don't need to add co-author details at this point.



The screenshot displays the APERTA user interface for Shelly Smith. The dashboard shows a greeting and a notification that there are 8 active manuscripts. A green button labeled "CREATE MANUSCRIPT" is visible. Below this, a table lists the active manuscripts with their titles, IDs, roles, and statuses.

Active Manuscripts	Role	Status
How Many Parameters Does It Take to Describe Disease Tolerance? ID: 1002435	AUTHOR	DRAFT
Functional Sites Induce Long-Range Evolutionary Constraints in Enzymes ID: 1002452	EDITOR	CHECKING
Essential Features of Responsible Governance of Agricultural Biotechnology ID: 1002453	AUTHOR	IN REVISION
Neuropeptides Modulate Female Chemosensory Processing upon Mating in Drosophila ID: 1002455	COLLABORATOR	IN REVISION
Neuronal Cell Fate Specification by the Convergence of Different Spatiotemporal Cues on a Common Terminal ID: 1002450	REVIEWER	IN REVISION
Tracking Career Outcomes for Postdoctoral Scholars: A Call to Action ID: 1002458	EDITOR	IN REVISION
Platelets Guide Leukocytes to Their Sites of Extravasation ID: 1002459	EDITOR	ACCEPTED
Posterior Parietal Cortex Drives Inferotemporal Activations During Three-Dimensional Object Vision ID: 1002445	REVIEWER	ACCEPTED

Below the active manuscripts, there is a section for "Inactive Manuscripts":

Inactive Manuscripts	Role	Status
Tracking Resilience to Infections by Mapping Disease Space ID: 1002334	EDITOR	RETRACTED
Posterior Parietal Cortex Drives Inferotemporal Activations During Three-Dimensional Object Vision ID: 1002445	REVIEWER	RETRACTED
Timing and relative intensity of size-selective mortality of juvenile chum salmon ( <i>Oncorhynchus keta</i> ) during early sea life ID: 1002446	REVIEWER	RETRACTED

Aperta is entirely web-based, so your manuscript is automatically converted for online display.

To the right of the manuscript, submission cards correspond to tasks you need to complete for submission.

The screenshot shows the APERTA web interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Your Manuscripts', 'Feedback', 'Help', and a user profile for 'Shelly Smith'. Below the navigation bar, the manuscript title is 'How Many Parameters Does It Take to Describe Disease Tolerance?' with authors 'Alexander Louie, Kyung Han Song, Alejandra Hotson, Ann Thomas Tate, David S. Schneider'. The abstract text is visible on the left. On the right side, there is a 'Submission Process' section with a 'Manuscript ID: pbio.1002435'. Below this, there are several 'Submission Cards' with checkboxes: 'Upload Manuscript' (checked), 'Cover Letter', 'Figures', 'Supporting Info', and 'Additional Information'. A green arrow points from the text 'Submission Cards' below to the 'Additional Information' card. Another green arrow points from the text 'Manuscript' below to the abstract text area.

Manuscript

Submission Cards

Complete each of the submission cards in any order you prefer. Aperta saves your work as you go, so you can stop and restart your submission at any point.

When you click “I am done with this task”, a green check mark appears and you can move to the next card. You can make edits to the cards any time before submission.

The screenshot displays a vertical list of submission tasks in a grey sidebar. The tasks are: 'Upload Manuscript', 'Cover Letter', 'Reviewer Recommendation', 'Supporting Info', and 'Additional Information'. Each task has a green checkmark icon to its left. A large, semi-transparent grey circle highlights the 'Reviewer Recommendation' task. Inside this circle, a green-bordered button with the text 'I am done with this task' is visible. The main content area of the page shows the 'Reviewer Recommendation' form, which includes a text input field and a link to 'general guidance'.

Attach your cover letter or type your comments to the editors directly in the card. The reviewers will not see this information.

Cover Letter

I am done with this task

To be of most use to editors, we suggest your letter could address the following questions:

- What is the scientific question you are addressing?
- What is the key finding that answers this question?
- What is the nature of the evidence you provide in support of your conclusion?
- What are the three most recently published articles that are relevant to this question?
- What significance do your results have for the field?
- What significance do your results have for the broader community (of biologists and/or the public)?
- What other novel findings do you present?
- Is there additional information that we should take into account?

Please note that your cover letter may also be seen by members of the Editorial Board. If you wish to request to exclude specific scientists from the evaluation process, you may do this using the Reviewer Candidates card, where you should also provide a reason for requesting exclusion. Competing interests can be declared using the Competing Interests card.

Please type or paste your cover letter into this text field, or attach a file below

ATTACH FILE



Insert figure captions in the manuscript text after the first citation of the figure.

For PDF submissions with embedded figures, simply click “I am done” to complete the Figures card.

If you upload files to the Figures card, name them sequentially starting with Fig1. In Word submissions, your figures will be inserted in the manuscript by the corresponding caption.

To reorder figures on the card, click the pencil icon and change the figure number. If a figure does not appear in the right place in your Word manuscript, make sure you also update the in-text citation and file name to match.

✔ Upload Manuscript

✔ Cover Letter

⊗ **Figures**

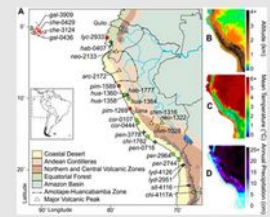
I am done with this task

Please confirm that your figures comply with our guidelines for preparation and have not been inappropriately manipulated. For information on image manipulation, please see our [general guidance](#) notes on image manipulation.

We recommend that you use the [PACE](#) tool to prepare your figures for submission according to our [figure requirements](#).

Yes - I confirm our figures comply with the guidelines.

Figure labels (e.g. Fig 1) are generated from file names and will automatically place figures above matching legends.



**Fig. 1**

**Fig1.tiff**

🔄 Replace

✎
🗑

ADD NEW FIGURES

⊗ **Supporting Info**

Use the Supporting Information card to upload multimedia files and any other supporting files to be published with the manuscript.

After you upload, an error message will prompt you to enter a number label and category for each file. Click the pencil icon to add the requested details.


Name and number your files beginning with S1, S2, etc. Provide full captions for each supporting information file at the end of your manuscript.


### Supporting Info


I am done with this task

For each Supporting Information file, include a legend at the end of your manuscript after any figures.

---

 S1\_Data.xlsx


 Please edit and complete the required fields.



### Supporting Info

I am done with this task

For each Supporting Information file, include a legend at the end of your manuscript after any figures.

S1\_Data.xlsx  Replace File

\* S1 \* Data

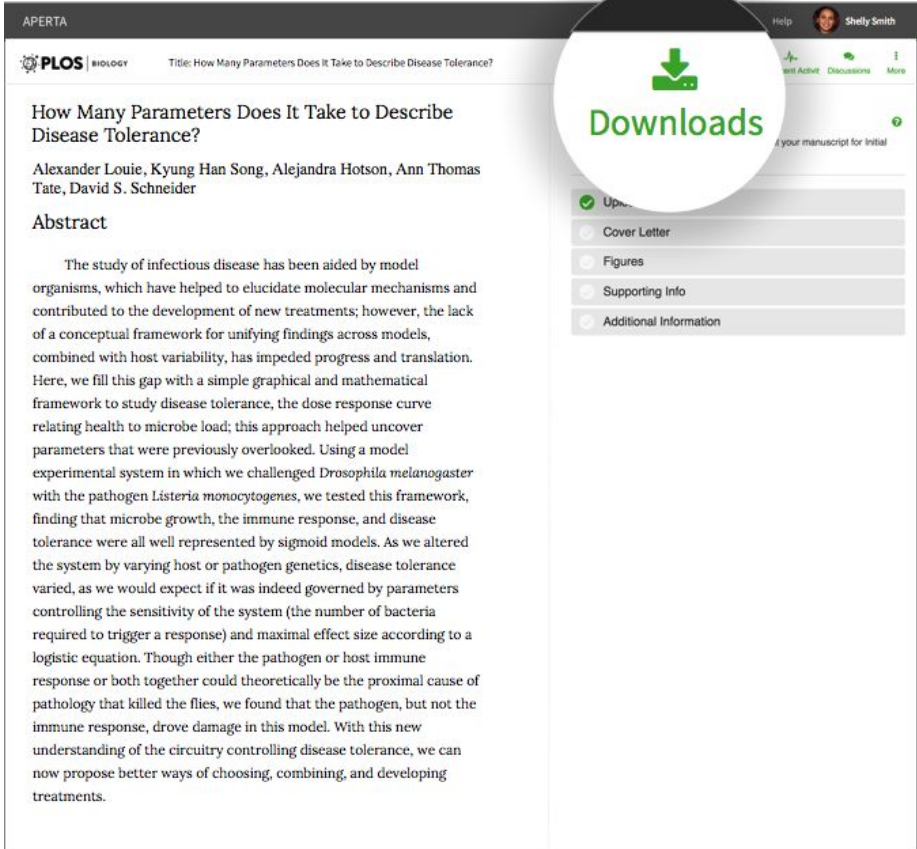
For publication

Cancel

Use the Downloads tool to access current and prior versions of your manuscript file.

Microsoft Word submissions are downloadable in PDF with figures embedded. PDF submissions will download as submitted with any separate figure or supporting information files appended at the end.

Editors and reviewers will be able to view your submission in the Aperta interface and to download these files.



The screenshot displays the Aperta interface for a manuscript titled "How Many Parameters Does It Take to Describe Disease Tolerance?". The page includes the PLOS logo, the author list (Alexander Louie, Kyung Han Song, Alejandra Hotson, Ann Thomas Tate, David S. Schneider), and an abstract section. A circular overlay with a green download icon and the text "Downloads" is positioned over the right side of the page. Below the overlay, a list of download options is visible, including "Cover Letter", "Figures", "Supporting Info", and "Additional Information". The user's name, Shelly Smith, is visible in the top right corner of the interface.

Once you complete all submission cards, a Submit button appears. You can make edits to the submission cards at any time before submitting your manuscript.

Click the Submit button to finalize the submission and send it to the journal office.

**PLOS Biology Submission Process** ?

Your manuscript is ready for Initial Submission.

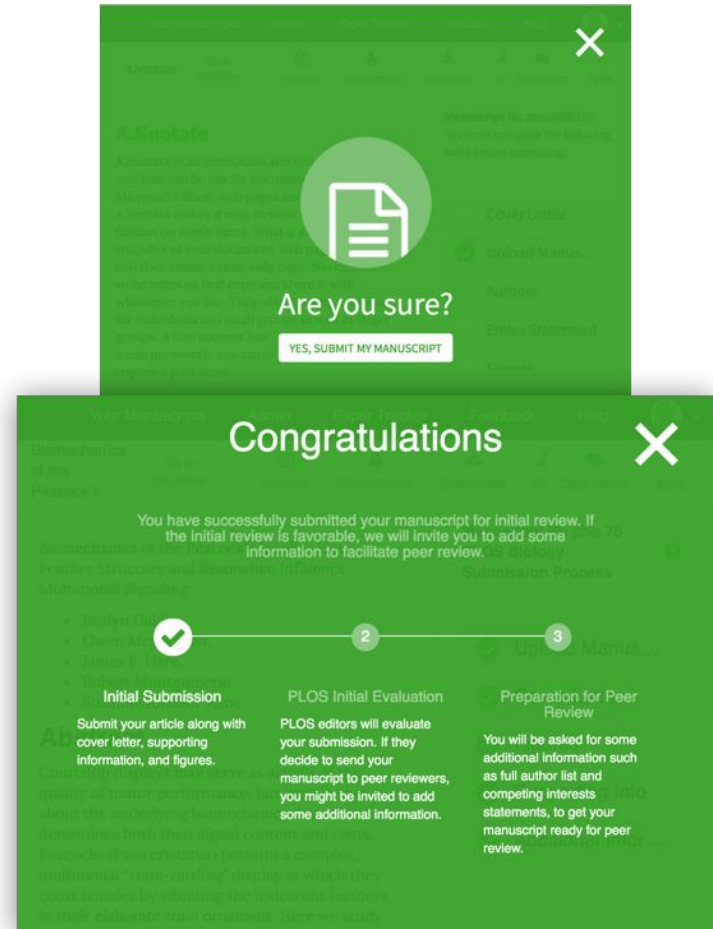
SUBMIT

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- ✓ Upload Manuscript
- ✓ Cover Letter
- ✓ Figures
- ✓ Supporting Info
- ✓ Additional Information

You are done with your submission!

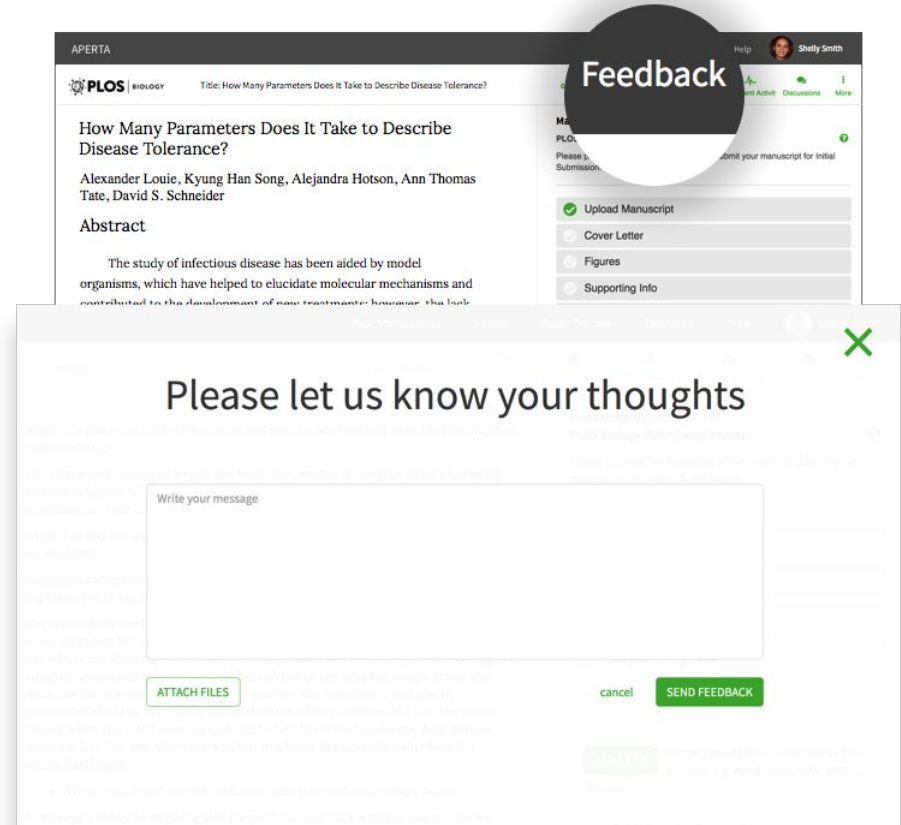
If the editors decide to send your manuscript out for peer review, you will receive an email asking you for additional information.



Make sure to check the [PLOS Biology policies](#) so you are ready to return to Aperta and provide:

- The full author list with contributions and competing interest statements for each author.
- A data availability statement.
- An ethics statement if relevant.
- A disclosure of funding sources.

Aperta is in active development, so please send us feedback on your experience at any point using Aperta's feedback link. You can also email your suggestions and input to [apertasupport@plos.org](mailto:apertasupport@plos.org).



If you have more questions, check the [complete author guide](#).