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## Christoph Schmitt: Expert in metabolic biology and diseases, biomedical research, editing a scientific journal

„Launched in 2019, Nature Metabolism is a scientific journal covering the full spectrum of metabolism research, from basic science studies to biomedical and translational research.“

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Foto: private

Christoph Schmitt  
Nature Metabolism is part of Springer Nature  
Microenterprise (up to 10 employees)  
Sector: Publishing  
Position: Chief Editor

Nature Metabolism publishes research papers: Research manuscripts are submitted to us for consideration, and if the work is of interest, we organise peer review and, ultimately, decide whether to publish the paper in our pages or not. Our editors must have at least a PhD to qualify for the position, although postdoctoral experience is often advantageous. The main criterion for the position is the ability to critically evaluate scientific content, so applicants must have in-depth scientific knowledge and research experience in a subject area that is relevant to the journal. There are over 40 Nature research journals, which means hundreds of PhD-trained scientists are currently working for Springer Nature.

We advertise vacancies in all the usual channels, especially on our own company platform: <https://www.nature.com/naturecareers>. We also use social media. Our Twitter account has over 35,000 followers: <https://twitter.com/NatMetabolism>

We regularly visit universities and research institutes to discuss ongoing research, and often give talks about publishing or careers in editorial.

When moving from academia to the private sector, the most difficult transition for me was to adapt from a lab to a desk job, which means you move around much less during the day. Also, in academic institutions, scientists live in sort of an „academic bubble“ as free thinkers, whereas in companies, there is typically a little less freedom to set your overall priorities and economic constraints are more relevant. It would be useful to get an understanding of how large companies work already during the PhD studies. Candidates need to consider economic conditions, not just scientific values. Large companies have substantial hierarchies that one might need to get used to. Projects can be cancelled or changed due to circumstances beyond your own control. It is good to prepare PhDs to work outside academia, as not all of them will stay in the research sector for the rest of their career.