

Serving the community through impactful and inspiring reviews

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Received: September 16, 2026; Accepted: September 16, 2026; Published Online: September 17, 2026; <https://doi.org/10.59717/j.tirv.2026.100002>

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Citation: Chen X., Guo Y., Shen Z., et al. (2026). Serving the community through impactful and inspiring reviews. *The Innovation Reviews* 1:100002.

At the launch of *The Innovation Reviews*, we set forth an ambitious vision: "Connecting knowledge with reviews, shaping the future through innovation." Yet vision alone is not enough—it must be grounded in a clear standard of excellence and a genuine commitment to the community we serve. As the world's first all-discipline review journal, we are uniquely positioned to synthesize knowledge across every field of inquiry. That commitment is what we wish to articulate in this inaugural editorial.

WHAT MAKES AN IMPACTFUL REVIEW?

In an era of information overload, an impactful review article must never be a mere list of references or an uncritical digest of abstracts. At *The Innovation Reviews*, we believe that an inspiring review is a work of distillation and intellectual synthesis.

A great review should excel in signal extraction—cutting through the noise of proliferating data, not only summarizing what we know, but also pinpointing where the blind spots lie. It should demonstrate synthesis and mapping—by adopting a cross-disciplinary lens, it reweaves scattered findings into a coherent knowledge graph, revealing hidden connections between distant fields. Crucially, it must critically evaluate the robustness of underlying data and methodologies, thereby safeguarding and advancing research

integrity. And, most importantly, it should possess critical foresight—through rigorous analysis and balanced argument, it resolves controversies, inspires new hypotheses, and charts actionable directions for future research.

These are the core quality criteria we uphold for every submission. We seek reviews with high ambition, deep insight, and cross-cutting relevance—articles that become compasses on researchers' desks, standing the test of time and inspiring new directions of inquiry.

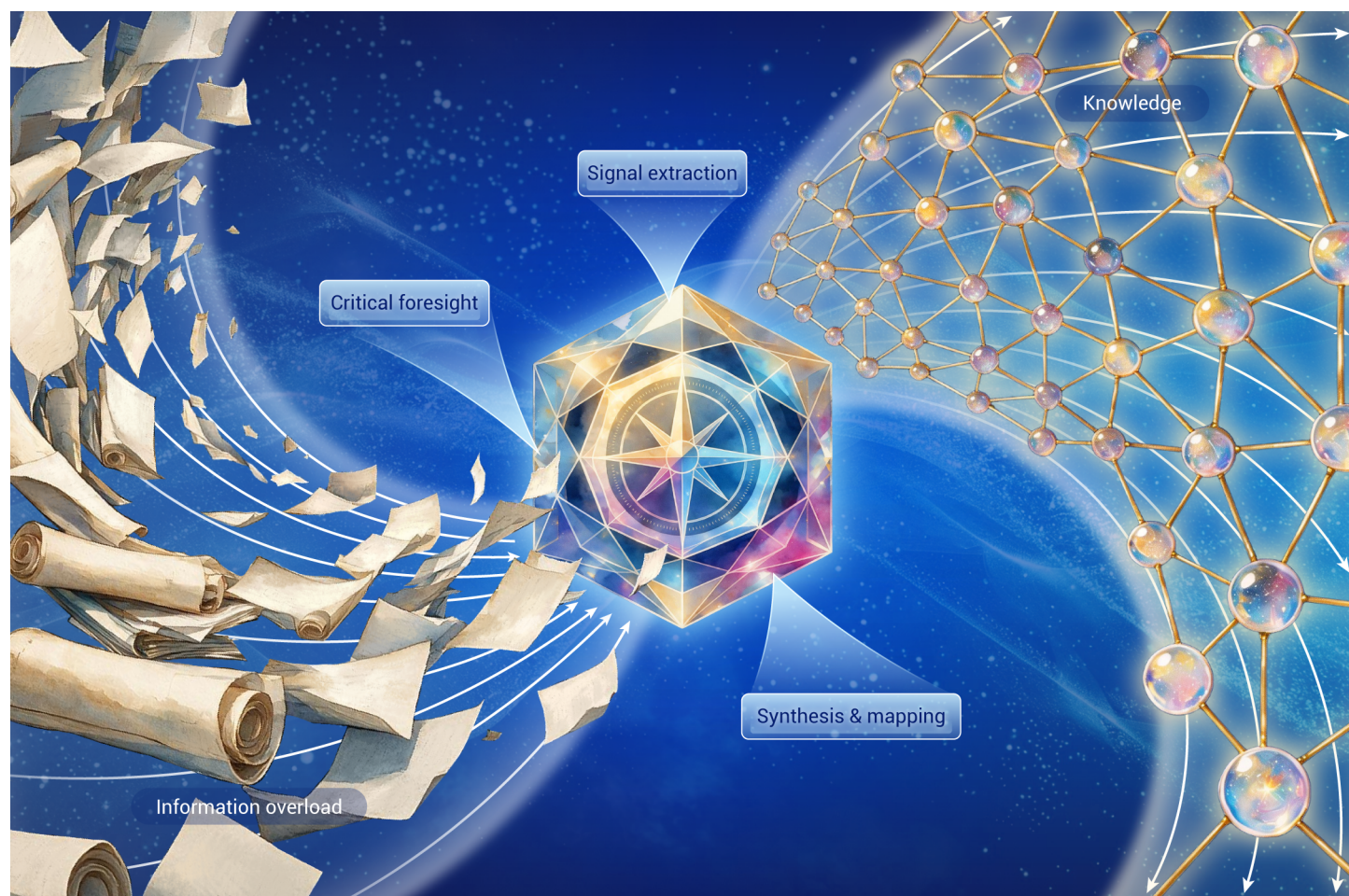
A DIVERSE COLUMN SYSTEM TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY

Great ideas need fitting vehicles. To address the diverse needs of our global research community, we have designed a versatile column matrix that responds to specific scenarios:

Deep Review: For scholars seeking a systematic overview, we offer panoramic syntheses that map the evolution of a field and project its future trajectory.

Evidence Review: For decision-makers tackling complex debates, we provide rigorous meta-analyses and data-driven evaluations to settle disputes with objective evidence.

Express Review: For rapid learners who need to keep pace with frontiers, we capture breakthrough discoveries and emerging trends as soon as they



surface.

Methods Review: For practitioners in search of new tools, we deliver authoritative, step-by-step guides to cutting-edge techniques and cross-disciplinary methodologies.

Roadmap: For strategic planners, we outline long-term blueprints to address major global scientific challenges, integrating perspectives from multiple domains.

Perspective, Editorial, Commentary, Debating, Correspondence, and Out-of-the-Box: For explorers who thrive on intellectual curiosity, we encourage bold, even contrarian, viewpoints that challenge conventional wisdom and reframe unsolved problems.

Each column is curated with a specific audience in mind, ensuring that every reader finds not only information but also actionable insight.

HUMANIZING KNOWLEDGE

Science is driven by people, not just papers. Behind every discovery lies a story of curiosity, perseverance, and often serendipity. Therefore, alongside our rigorous academic content, we feature columns such as **News & Buzz**, **Legend**, and **iStory**. These sections honor the pioneers who have shaped the history of human inquiry, while giving voice to the personal journeys of contemporary researchers—their struggles, breakthroughs, and reflections. In doing so, we aspire to build a scholarly home that respects both logic and emotion, both data and narrative.

OUR COMMITMENTS TO YOU

In practice, we empower both authors and readers through two core commitments:

First, rigorous, constructive, and rapid peer review. Our editorial board comprises leading experts from around the world. We not only safeguard quality but also strive to add value through thoughtful, developmental feedback. Simultaneously, we leverage efficient workflows to ensure that excellent ideas reach the scientific community and the broader public without undue delay.

Second, full open access. We are firmly committed to removing barriers to knowledge. Every article we publish will be freely available to anyone, anywhere, immediately upon publication. This not only maximizes the visibility and broad impact of your work—it also fulfills our belief that science is a global public good.

As we set sail, we invite you to join us in this endeavor. Whether you are working at the forefront of a single discipline or wandering across uncharted boundaries, *The Innovation Reviews* is your platform to synthesize, critique, and inspire.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Yuming Guo, Karin Verspoor, and Xiaolong Chen are Editor-in-Chief of *The Innovation Reviews* and were blinded to reviewing or making final decisions on the manuscript. Peer review was handled independently of these members and their research groups. The other authors declare no conflicts of interest.