

## **Job Advert – Editor-in-Chief**

The Guarantors of Brain are seeking a new Editor-in-Chief of their journal, Brain Communications. Tara Spire-Jones, who has edited the journal since its launch in 2019 will now be stepping down in 2026, and we are seeking to appoint a successor.

### **Job Description**

**Job title:** Editor-in-Chief – Brain Communications

**Accountable to:** Guarantors of Brain

**Responsible for:** Associate Editors and Editorial Board

**Appointment:** the incumbent Editor-in-Chief would take over responsibility of the journal from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026. They would serve a contracted 7-year term, renewable for a maximum of one additional 3-year term.

**Time commitment:** estimated to be 5-10 hours per week.

**Remuneration:** The Editor-in-Chief receives a stipend (currently £16,000 per annum) plus within-UK travel expenses to allow engagements relevant to the role.

### **Overview of the Journal**

Brain Communications is a fully open-access journal which publishes high-quality preclinical and clinical studies related to neurological or psychiatric disease or maintaining brain/nervous system health and resilience. The journal aims to be a force for good in the translational neuroscience field by facilitating a high standard of rigor and transparency and promoting career development of neuroscientists. *Brain Communications* offers an author-friendly publication model encompassing flexible article lengths, as well as an efficient transfer process from our sister journal *Brain*.

[Brain Communications' Associate Editors](#) are recruited and appointed based on their expertise in the field. The editorial team ensures the journal publishes high-quality content, operates ethically, and provides a welcoming publishing outlet for authors from all backgrounds and at all career stages. *Brain Communications* has an outstanding outreach program for researchers at earlier career stages, including a [Reviewer Academy](#) and an [Observers Programme](#).

### **Overview of the Editor-in-Chief position**

The Editor-in-Chief is supported by a team of associate editors, led by a Scientific Editor.

The main duties of the Editor-in-Chief include:

- To maintain a board of associate and advisory editors with expertise covering a wide range of clinical and translational neuroscience research.
- With the editorial board, handle peer reviews of papers, select peer reviewers, make decisions about acceptance based on peer review and editorial expertise.
- Recruit, train, and lead a scientific editor team to help ensure all published papers meet the standards for scientific rigour of the journal.

- Act as a board of management member and charitable trustee for the Guarantors of Brain representing the journal on the board and reporting on journal activities to the board (4 meetings per year, London).
- Maintain a strong relationship with the editorial team at *Brain* to facilitate transfers of manuscripts between journals (attend *Brain* editorial board meetings or provide written updates to the board).
- With the editorial board and board of management, develop strategic initiatives that further the missions of the journal.
- Endeavour to ensure that all papers comply with the committee on publication ethics (COPE) guidelines and deal with any research or publication misconduct issues that arise.
- Represent the journal at external meetings and raise the profile of the journal in the community.
- Attend and chair all editorial board meetings (2 per year)
- Write or commission editorials for each issue (currently 6 per year).
- Work with the publishing partner Oxford University Press to ensure smooth, timely running of the journal with appropriate promotion to the field.
- Deal with manuscripts and communication with authors, reviewers, the editorial team, and the publisher promptly to keep manuscript processing times as low as possible.

### Personal Specification

The position requires the following knowledge, skills and experience:

- The Editor should be a leader in the field of neuroscience or academic neurology/psychiatry willing to use their influence to promote the goals of the journal.
- Substantial and recent experience in managing or conducting research of international quality.
- A strong record of contributing to the review and editing of published material in the field.
- Experience in editorial boards highly desirable.
- Excellent organisational skills, including an ability to work to tight deadlines and manage multiple competing priorities

### Application Process

Candidates should send a current curriculum vitae and a covering letter that sets out their personal vision for the future of the *Brain Communications* journal, and strategies to increase readership and reputation of the journal. The selection committee would be keen to know the applicant's approach to maintaining the quality, accuracy and fairness of the review process, and a positive culture within the journal.

Informal enquiries to the existing Editor-in-Chief Tara Spires-Jones are encouraged by appointment via [Laura.Thomas@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Laura.Thomas@ed.ac.uk).

Applications from suitably qualified and experienced candidates are invited by email attachment to [mb970@medschl.cam.ac.uk](mailto:mb970@medschl.cam.ac.uk) by 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Interviews are planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025 in London.