

Scientific American is open to pitches for news, features and Advances (front of book, [pitch memo here](#)). We will pass pitches to appropriate editors for review and often evaluate submissions together as a team.

What we generally look for in a health pitch:

What's New: For news, explainers, service stories and analysis pieces, we appreciate pitches that have strong news hooks, surprising discoveries, thought-provoking takeaways, and reporting that will push the discussion beyond previous reporting—whether through new research, unique framing, evidence-backed solutions or treatment, etc. There should be a clear top line or main subject of the story that's timely and relevant to a wide general audience. Think: new disease outbreak, cancer treatment, Alzheimer's test, supplement trend, dietary recommendation, environmental disaster, demographic or mortality report, vaccine development or policy change, reproductive healthcare case, major drug approval, new understanding of how the body/physiology works, etc. Health policy pitches should be less about the process or nuance of regulatory steps within agencies, and more about breaking down the health care implications for the public.

What's the Evidence: The bulk of a SciAm story should be spent digging into the new science, medicine or health research—the latest evidence and/or studies that have been peer-reviewed (with some exceptions). Tell us, in a pitch, what stage the research is in or how it was conducted (i.e. population study, computational models, preclinical trials, human clinical trials, etc.). Note that we rarely cover mouse research in health stories unless it's clearly connected to data in humans or it's very fundamental biological research. We consider preprints, conference proceedings and pharma company results on a case-by-case basis.

Who Are the Experts: Stories should have original reporting with multiple experts. Tell us who you plan to speak to for an independent and potentially critical perspective. We welcome stories that bring in patient experiences and voices. Please include researchers and other sources from groups that have been historically underrepresented in science and journalism, including, but not limited to, people marginalized by racism and/or sexism, and be sure to verify personal pronouns.

Unique to SciAm: We strongly suggest that before sending a pitch, authors conduct a very thorough search of any previously published related material on our website and other news outlets and show in a pitch how their idea is different or takes the story forward.