## Slide 2

A preprint is an version of a manuscript that is made public before formal peer review and publication in a journal.

You can upload this early version of your paper to a preprint server before you submit it to a journal. There are many preprint servers covering different research areas, including arXiv (pronounced “archive”) for physical sciences, SocArXiv for social sciences and bioRxiv for biology.

The key thing to remember is that preprints have not gone through a formal peer review process.

## Slide 3

It is entirely up to you and your co-authors whether you upload your paper as a preprint. In some disciplines, for example physics, astronomy and maths the use of preprints is very common. There are benefits to uploading your paper as a preprint:

* it enables you to establish an early claim to research findings and share your work openly. Other researchers can read and cite your work without having to wait for the lengthy journal publication process, ensuring that you receive credit at an early stage. This can be particularly important if you are researching a highly competitive or fast moving field.
* It can lead to new collaborations and community discussions. Posting your work as a preprint allows other researchers to offer feedback that may improve your manuscript before you submit it to a journal.
* Preprints can be cited in grant application and progress reports, with reviewers being able to read your work ahead of formal, peer reviewed publication.
* The authors generally retain copyright of the preprint, and can select a Creative Commons license to make it clear how the work can be reused.
* Preprint servers have version control, so you can update your preprint, and acknowledge that the paper has subsequently been submitted to, or accepted by, a specific journal.

The vast majority of journals are willing to publish papers that have been shared as preprints, although we recommend that you check the policy for your specific journal.

The University of Southampton, UKRI (UK Research & Innovation), Wellcome Trust and many other funders signed a [joint declaration](https://wellcome.org/press-release/sharing-research-data-and-findings-relevant-novel-coronavirus-ncov-outbreak) in 2020 which requires that in the context of a public health emergency of international concern, research findings are made available via preprint servers before journal publication, or via platforms that make papers openly accessible before peer review.

We have provided a couple of links in the slides that you can access from the transcript: [A Practical Guide to Preprints](https://zenodo.org/record/5600535), and a blog post on [How to gauge the credibility of preprints](https://www.researchsquare.com/blog/how-to-gauge-the-credibility-of-preprints).

## Slide 4

We have examples of University of Southampton authors sharing their work as preprints.

Emily Gwyer Findlay, an Associate Professor in Biomedical Sciences, posted a tweet in July 2023 saying: “I have put all of my lab’s papers up as preprints. It is more important for new PIs imo. Exposure early on; you get invites to conferences from it; funding bodies trust you can deliver; and I got a lot of interest in my first preprint so I put the metrics in the cover letter.”

We also have a researcher, [Manai Hosawi](https://twitter.com/manal_hosawi/status/1659980122659737600?s=20), who uploaded a [preprint](https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2023.05.19.541433v1) to bioRxiv based on their PhD work.