

16th September 2015

Dear Professor Faendrich

Thank you for submitting your Article entitled "Polymorphic hierarchy and zipper-like packing of light chain-derived amyloid fibrils" to Nature Chemistry, which we regret we are unable to publish.

We receive many more papers than we can publish, which means we must decline a substantial proportion of manuscripts without sending them to referees, so that they may be sent elsewhere without delay. Decisions of this kind are made by the editorial staff when it appears that papers, even when technically correct, are unlikely to succeed in the competition for limited space.

Among the considerations that arise at this stage are a manuscript's probable interest to the broad chemistry community, the pressure on space in the various sub-disciplines of chemical research covered by Nature Chemistry, and the likelihood that the manuscript would seem of great topical interest to those working in the same or related areas of chemistry.

Your study will certainly be of interest to other researchers working to determine the structure of amyloid fibrils. And your cryo-EM structure of a fibril formed from a fragment of immunoglobulin light chain is certainly notable. However, the focus of this article is on describing the 3D-structure of the fibrils, rather than reporting new chemical insight into either the self-assembly or chemical reactions of the fibril. And therefore we feel this article would find its natural audience in a journal with a more structural focus. Furthermore, you have recently published the structure of A β (1-42) fibrils obtained using similar techniques which we feel would also limit the interest of this article to our readership. We are, therefore, unable to conclude that this manuscript contains the sort of significant conceptual advance in chemical understanding that will be of immediate interest to a broad readership of researchers in the chemistry community.

I am sorry that we cannot respond more positively, and I hope that you will understand that our decision in no way reflects any doubts about the quality of the work reported. I hope that you will rapidly receive a more favourable response elsewhere.

Yours sincerely

Associate Editor
Nature Chemistry