



## AAPS PHARMSCITECH INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

### SCOPE

*AAPS PharmSciTech*, an official journal of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, publishes papers that focus on the research, development, and evaluation of pharmaceutical dosage forms and delivery systems. Innovative in its content and practices, *AAPS PharmSciTech*, an online-only journal, uses technologically driven tools and methods by which the scientific community can more efficiently disseminate their research. *AAPS PharmSciTech* publishes themes, organized by guest editors, which are focused on particular areas of current interest to our field. *AAPS PharmSciTech* publishes eight issues per year.

### ACCEPTED ARTICLE SPECIFICATIONS

*AAPS PharmSciTech* publishes the following article types:

Article Type	Abstract requirements* (Text abstract and Graphical abstract)	Word Count**	Description	Supplementary Materials	Tables/Figures Combined (maximum)	References (minimum)
Original Research Article	Yes / Yes	6,000	Contain innovative, hypothesis-driven research that is supported by sound experimental design, methodology, and data interpretation.	Yes	10	50
Review Article	Yes / Yes	7,000	Usually by invitation and organized into themes, report on recent advances in pharmaceutical research. Unsolicited reviews are considered only if they are authored by investigators who have demonstrated expertise in the relevant areas.	Yes	10	100
Mini-Review	Yes / Yes	5,000	Discuss a more narrowly focused topic of recent research. Unsolicited reviews are considered only if they are authored by investigators who have demonstrated	Yes	6	75

			expertise in the relevant areas.			
White Paper	Yes / Yes (Text Abstract only)	5,000	<p>Authoritative articles that have been coauthored by a wide panel of experts who are associated with an AAPS-affiliated group, such as a programming committee for a workshop/symposium, a community, or an ad hoc group formed to examine the current state of a particular issue in pharmaceutical science. A White Paper should include evaluation of state-of-the-art subject matter and make consensus policy recommendations for future consideration to the relevant scientific community. The authorship should ideally be composed of the essential stakeholders pertaining to the issue at hand, including representatives from academia, industry, and government. White Papers adhere to the <a href="#">“AAPS Guideline for Review of Opinions and Summary Reports.”</a></p>	Yes	10	30
Editorial	Optional / Optional	5,000	<p>Usually published by invitation only. These articles contain topical issues of public and scientific interest. Unsolicited editorials are considered only if they are authored by investigators who have demonstrated expertise in the relevant areas.</p>	Yes	10	5 (depending on scope of Editorial)
Commentary	Yes / Yes (text abstract only)	5,000	<p>Usually published by invitation only. These articles are opinion pieces, not related to</p>	Yes	10	5 (depending on scope of Commentary)

			any prior publications in the journal. Can be full-length. Unsolicited commentaries are considered only if they are authored by investigators who have demonstrated expertise in the relevant areas.			
Letter to the Editor	Optional / Optional		A brief and vetted note which directly addresses or criticizes a previous publication in <i>AAPS PharmSciTech</i> .	No	5	5 (depending on scope of Letter to the Editor)
Meeting Report	Yes / Yes (text abstract only)	5,000	Provide readers with summaries of AAPS or AAPS-affiliated meetings, including consensus views. When a meeting report purports to be a Consensus Report or White Paper, authors should review and adhere to the <a href="#">“AAPS Guideline for Review of Opinions and Summary Reports.”</a>	Yes	10	30 (depending on scope of Meeting Report)
Brief Technical Note	Yes / Yes (text abstract only)	1,200	Normally more limited in scope than Original Research Articles; must be of high quality, general interest, and sufficient importance to warrant publication.	Yes	6	40
Rapid Communication	Yes / Yes (text abstract only)	1,200	Provide a venue for fast-breaking research updates. The justification for rapid communication should be stated in the cover letter during submission.	Yes	6	30

Regulatory Note	Optional / Optional	1,200	Provide a summary of regulatory decisions made and the scientific rationale regarding a drug product or a class of drug products. Regulatory notes are considered only if they are authored by	Yes	6	5 (depending on scope of Regulatory Note)
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			investigators who have demonstrated expertise in the relevant areas.			
Correction				Correction requests should be sent to the editorial office with the proposed correction text. See below for our correction policies.		

\*Abstracts should be unstructured and should not exceed 250 words. Systematic reviews accompanied by PRISMA checklists are exceptions; these can contain structured abstracts.

\*\*Word count only includes the text abstract and full text.

## TERMS OF MANUSCRIPT CONSIDERATION

### ***AAPS Journals Ethics Policy***

The AAPS Journal and AAPS PharmSciTech, in conjunction with Springer Nature, have developed an integrated ethics policy to guide decision-making across the journals. The document is based on the recommendations on publication ethics policies for medical journals published by the [World Association of Medical Editors](#) (WAME), subscribed to by more than 1,000 journals.

Authors are required to review and adhere to the [AAPS Journals Ethics Policy](#) in full prior to submitting manuscripts to The AAPS Journal. Excerpts from the Policy are outlined below.

### ***Full Disclosure***

During the manuscript submission process, all authors will be required to confirm that the manuscript has not been previously published in any language anywhere and that it is not under simultaneous consideration by another journal. The policy regarding compound disclosure centers on the data presented. If specific data relating to the study compound are reported, then the journal requires identification so that reviewers and readers can judge, based on general principles, whether the data are plausible and internally consistent, and to potentially allow future examination and/or validation of the results and conclusions reported. If however a library of compounds is used to generate correlations, such as in QSAR when the scope and diversity of the compounds are described, then it is possible that the specific chemical compositions of the compounds need not be identified, subject to the discretion of the reviewers and the editor.

### ***Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)***

Large Language Models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT, do not currently satisfy our [authorship criteria](#). Notably an attribution of authorship carries with it accountability for the work, which cannot be effectively applied to LLMs. **Use of an LLM should be properly documented in the Methods section (and if a Methods section is not available, in a suitable alternative part) of the manuscript.** The use of an LLM (or other AI-tool) for "AI assisted copy editing" purposes does not need to be declared. In this context, we define the term "AI assisted copy editing" as AI-assisted improvements to human-generated texts for readability and style, and to ensure that the texts are free of errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation and tone. These AI-assisted improvements may include wording and formatting changes to the texts, but do not include generative editorial work and autonomous content creation. In all cases, there must be human accountability for the final version of the text and agreement from the authors that the edits reflect their original work.

For information regarding Generative AI Images, please visit [Springer Nature's policy](#) page.

## SUBMISSION CHECKLIST, SUBMISSION, AND MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

### Submission Checklist

Authors can use the below for a Submission Checklist. All submissions should be formatted in the following order. **Several components of the manuscript must be submitted as individual files within Editorial Manager; these files are marked as \*\*.**

For further information on each, see the descriptions in the sections immediately below.

1. Cover Letter (mandatory; author's must convey information to the editorial office and Editor)\*\*
2. Article File\*\* (mandatory; lines must be continually numbered throughout)
  - a. Title page\*\* (mandatory)
  - b. Abstract (See "Accepted Article Specifications," above, for directions)
  - c. Introduction
  - d. Materials and Methods
  - e. Results
  - f. Discussion
  - g. Conclusion
  - h. References (listed by number, in order of appearance)
  - i. Acknowledgements
  - j. Funding statement (mandatory)
  - k. Conflict of Interest section (mandatory)
  - l. Author contributions for all authors (mandatory)
  - m. Figure legends (Figures should be uploaded as separate attachments; authors must obtain permission for any figures/graphics that are not original)
3. Tables
4. Figures\*\*
5. Supplemental material\*\*
6. Other files: Reporting guidelines
7. ORCID numbers for all authors (must be included on Title Page for each author)
8. Social media handles (optional)

\*\* These components must be submitted as individual files within Editorial Manager.

### Submission

Submissions to *AAPS PharmSciTech* should be done via the journal's [submission portal here](#). Please visit that webpage for author tutorials, login options, contacts for the helpdesk, and information on resetting your password, etc.

### Manuscript Preparation: General Notes and Description of Each Section

#### General Notes

It is important that papers are prepared in the general editorial style of the journal. Please note:

- You must include **continuous line numbers** in the manuscript body file.
- Acceptable file formats include .doc, .docx, LaTeX, and .rtf.
  - A note on LaTeX: If using, please use [Springer's LaTeX macro package](#) and choose the formatting option "smalltextended". The submission should include the original source (including all style files and figures) and a PDF version of the compiled output.
- Use abbreviations sparingly and define them at the first insertion in the text. Define all abbreviations used in tables within the table footnotes.

- Use the metric system for all measurements. Express metric abbreviations in lowercase letters without periods (cm, mL, sec). Define all symbols used in equations and formulas. When symbols are used extensively, the authors may include a list of all symbols in a table.
- Numbers should be reported to reflect the precision of the instrumentation utilized. Calculated numbers, such as means and standard deviations, should be expressed to no more than one significant digit beyond the precision of the instrument. **Normally, numerical data reported to more than 3 significant figures should be justified. The precision of the variability (e.g., standard deviation) should not exceed that of the reported mean value.**
- Use SI units throughout.
- Commas should be used to separate thousands.
- Footnotes should be avoided. When their use is absolutely necessary, footnotes should be numbered consecutively using Arabic numerals and should be typed at the bottom of the page to which they refer. Place a line above the footnote, so that it is set off from the text. Use the appropriate superscript numeral for citation in the text.

### **Cover Letter**

Cover letters must include:

- A statement regarding whether or not animal and/or human experiments were conducted.
- Article submission number if the article was previously submitted.
- Any other information that will help the editor in her/his decision.
- For REVIEW PAPERS being submitted, the following questions must be answered in the cover letter:
  1. Explain the relevance of the content of your review paper for AAPS readership.
  2. Describe the originality and the timeliness of the review (Why is it needed?)
  3. Give a detailed summary of the specific expertise and publication track record of each author as directly related to the scope of the review (Why is each author an expert?)
  4. List three (3) exemplary research publications of each author that are directly related to the content of the review.

### **Title Page with Keywords**

The most informative and effective Titles are less than ~15 words and less than ~ 60 characters (with spaces), meaning the simpler the better. The strongest Titles use declarative or interrogative language with a verb that communicates action. The Title Page should contain the manuscript title, the list of authors and their affiliations, including the full postal address, institutional email address, and ORCID number. For the designated corresponding author, their full postal address, telephone number, ORCID number, and institutional email address must be stated.

Please also include keywords. The journal will publish no more than five keywords. However, to ensure that your manuscript is easily searchable in PubMed and other repositories, be sure to include any relevant keywords in the title or abstract of your manuscript.

#### **INSTITUTIONAL EMAIL ADDRESSES: (NOW MANDATORY)**

All authors are now required to provide institutional email addresses for verification purposes. If your paper is accepted and you prefer not to have your institutional email address published, please indicate this in your COVER LETTER. We will respect your preference and withhold the address from publication.

#### **ORCID NUMBERS (NOW MANDATORY):**

All authors are required provide their ORCID numbers for verification purposes. Please provide them within your TITLE PAGE.

### **Graphical Abstract**

A graphic must be included with each manuscript for display in the table of contents (TOC) and the abstract. This graphic should capture the reader's attention and, in conjunction with the manuscript title, should give the reader a quick visual impression of the essence of the manuscript without providing specific results.

## **Abstract and Introduction**

Graphical abstracts in addition to text abstracts are now mandatory for most article types (check “Accepted Article Specifications” table above that describes the requirements for graphical abstracts). The graphical abstract must be included with the original submission as an image. Please refer to the “Accepted Article Specifications” table above for abstract requirements per article type.

The Introduction should be a separate section and should assume that the reader is knowledgeable in the field and should therefore be brief; it should include a historical review where desirable. It should also include the study objective or hypothesis. The Introduction should cite at least 25 references that provide background and context.

## **Materials and Methods**

This section should contain sufficient detail such that all experimental procedures can be reproduced and include references. Methods that have been published in detail elsewhere should not be described in detail. Authors should provide the name of the manufacturer and their location for any specifically named equipment and instruments, and all drugs should be identified by their pharmaceutical names, with their trade name, if relevant, in parentheses following, at first use. Please carefully read the “Editorial Policies” section for links to information about animal handling, informed consent, and IRB approval.

**Study Compound(s) Disclosure:** Our policy regarding compound disclosure centers on the data presented. If specific data relating to the study compound are reported, then the Journal requires identification so that reviewers and readers can judge, based on general principles, whether the data are plausible and internally consistent, and to potentially allow future examination and/or validation of the results and conclusions reported. If, however, a library of compounds is used to generate correlations, such as in QSAR, then it is possible that the specific chemical compositions of the compounds need not be identified, subject to the discretion of the reviewers and the Editor. For this purpose, the journal can accept an OFFICIAL company compound/entity ID#; in such a case, some additional qualitative description of nature of the study entity should also be provided.

## **Results and Discussion**

**It is generally preferred not to combine the Results and Discussion sections.** The Results section should briefly present the experimental data in text, tables, or figures. Tables and figures should not be described extensively in the text. The Discussion should focus on the interpretation and the significance of the findings with concise objective comments that describe their relation to other work in the area. It should not repeat information in the results. The length of a well written Discussion section is typically ~ one-third of the entire paper (minus Conclusion and References), and the Discussion section will use support from at least 30 peer-reviewed literature citations to make relevant arguments about the original results presented in the paper.

## **Conclusions**

The conclusions section should highlight the main conclusion(s), stating the answer to the study objective. The Conclusions section should be a distinct section.

## **References**

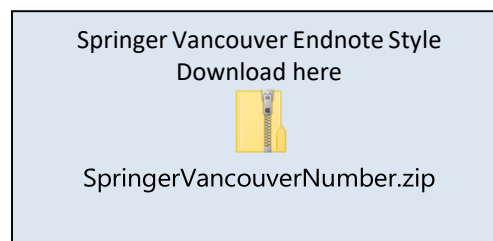
*AAPS PharmSciTech* requires each research manuscript to have at least 50 citations and each review paper to have at least 100 citations (at least 50 citations are required for mini-reviews), and the journal follows Vancouver style for references; specifically, the journal cites references in order of appearance in a “References” list. In the text, numbers should be in brackets parenthetically, e.g., “Several studies [1–4, 12]...”

Include all authors up to six. If there are more than six authors, list the first six followed by “et al.” Periodical abbreviations should follow those used by *Index Medicus*. Number all references cited in the text first; if additional references are cited in figure legends and tables, add them to the end of the reference list. If using Endnote, please choose the style Springer Vancouver Number (see inset).

Examples for references are below:

- Journal article

Revised July 2025



Smith JJ. The world of science. *Am J Sci.* 1999;36:234–5.

- Journal article with DOI (and with page numbers)

O'Mahony S, Rose SL, Chilvers AJ, Ballinger JR, Solanki CK, Barber RW, et al. Finding an optimal method for imaging lymphatic vessels of the upper limb. *Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging.* 2004;31:555–63. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00259-003-1399-3>.

- Article in electronic journal by DOI (no paginated version)

Slifka MK, Whitton JL. Clinical implications of dysregulated cytokine production. *Dig J Mol Med.* 2000. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s801090000086>.

- Journal article in a supplement

Frumin AM, Nussbaum J, Esposito M. Functional asplenia: demonstration of splenic activity by bone marrow scan. *Blood.* 1979;59 Suppl 1:26–32.

- Book chapter

Wyllie AH, Kerr JFR, Currie AR. Cell death: the significance of apoptosis. In: Bourne GH, Danielli JF, Jeon KW, editors. *International review of cytology.* London: Academic; 1980. p. 251–306.

- Online First chapter in a series (without a volume designation but with a DOI)

Saito Y, Hyuga H. Rate equation approaches to amplification of enantiomeric excess and chiral symmetry breaking. *Top Curr Chem.* 2007. [https://doi.org/10.1007/128\\_2006\\_108](https://doi.org/10.1007/128_2006_108).

- Book, authored

Blenkinsopp A, Paxton P. *Symptoms in the pharmacy: a guide to the management of common illness.* 3rd ed. Oxford: Blackwell Science; 1998.

- Online document

Doe J. Title of subordinate document. In: *The dictionary of substances and their effects.* Royal Society of Chemistry. 1999. [http://www.rsc.org/dose/title of subordinate document](http://www.rsc.org/dose/title%20of%20subordinate%20document). Accessed 15 Jan 1999.

- Online database

Healthwise Knowledgebase. *US Pharmacopeia,* Rockville. 1998. <http://www.healthwise.org>. Accessed 21 Sept 1998.

- Supplementary material/private homepage

Doe J. Title of supplementary material. 2000. <http://www.privatehomepage.com>. Accessed 22 Feb 2000.

- University site

Doe, J.: Title of preprint. <http://www.uniheidelberg.de/mydata.html> (1999). Accessed 25 Dec 1999.

- Preprint

Babichev, S. A., Ries, J. & Lvovsky, A. I. Quantum scissors: teleportation of single-mode optical states by means of a nonlocal single photon. Preprint at <http://arxiv.org/abs/quant-ph/0208066> (2002).

Note: Personal communications should simply be referred to in the text (“Brown et al., personal communication”); the authors must obtain permission from the individual concerned to quote their unpublished work.

### **Acknowledgements**

This section is optional and is for special thanks or dedications. Work done by a contributor or medical writer that does not qualify them for authorship, but which warrants acknowledgement, should be noted here. Funding information does not belong in this section, but instead in the “Funding” section below. Acknowledgements will be published as part of the article.

### **Funding Statement**

The Funding section is mandatory. Authors must declare sources of study funding including sponsorship (e.g., university, charity, commercial organization) and sources of material (e.g., novel drugs) not available commercially. See the “Editorial Policy” section for further information. The Funding Statement will be published as part of the

article.

### **Conflict of Interest Statement**

This section is also mandatory; in this section, authors must disclose their particular financial relationships to the work described. This information will be published as part of the paper. See the “Editorial Policy” section for further information.

### **Author Contributions (CRediT author statement)**

The corresponding author is responsible for ensuring that the descriptions are accurate and agreed by all authors. A statement outlining each author’s contribution(s)/role(s) is mandatory. CRediT statements must be provided during the submission process and include Conceptualization, Methodology, Validation, Formal analysis, Investigation, Resources, Data curation, Writing – Original Draft, Writing – Review and Editing, Visualization, Supervision, Project administration, and Funding acquisition.

In order to meet requirements of authorship, each author must have contributed to at least one of the aspects below. The [ICMJE](#) and *AAPS PharmSciTech* considers authorship to be based on the following four criteria:

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; and
- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and
- Final approval of the version to be published; and
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Additional information can be found under “Editorial Policies > Authorship.” As per ICMJE best practice, information provided in this section is the responsibility of the authors. This Author Contributions section will be published as part of the article.

### **Tables**

Tables must be created in Microsoft Word table format. Tables should be numbered (with Roman numerals) and referred to by number in the text. Center the title above the table, and type explanatory footnotes (indicated by superscript lowercase letters) below the table. Data must be placed in separate cells of the table to prevent text and numbers from shifting when the table is converted for publication online. Empty cells may be inserted to create spacing. Each table should be self-explanatory.

Please note: It is the author’s responsibility to ensure they have obtained permission for the use of tables or figures which they do not expressly own. For more information, visit [here](#) (Artwork > Permissions).

### **Figures**

Figures should be uploaded individually upon submission and not included in the manuscript body.

Color is free in all versions of the article. For full specifications on Figures and Artwork, please visit the below links:

- [Electronic figure submission](#)
- [Line Art](#)
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- [Combination Art](#)
- [Color Art](#)
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- [Figure Captions](#)
- [Figure Placement and Size](#)
- [Important: Figure Permissions](#)

## Supplementary Files

Supplementary information is material directly relevant to the conclusion of an article that cannot be included in the printed version owing to space or format constraints. It is posted on the journal's website and linked to the article when the article is published. It may consist of data files, graphics, movies, or extensive tables.

Please visit the below for further information on supplementary information:

- [Submission](#)
- [Audio, Video, and Animations](#)
- [Text and Presentations](#)
- [Spreadsheets](#)
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## Other Files: Reporting Guidelines

The relevant [EQUATOR Network reporting guidelines](#) should be followed, depending on the type of study. For example, all randomized controlled trials submitted for publication should include a completed [Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials \(CONSORT\) flow chart as a figure, and a completed CONSORT checklist](#) as a Supplementary file.

## Note about English Language Editing and Support

For editors and reviewers to accurately assess the work presented in your manuscript, authors need to ensure the English language is of sufficient quality to be understood. If authors need help with writing in English, they should consider:

- Asking a colleague who is a native English speaker to review the manuscript for clarity.
- Visiting the [English language tutorial](#) which covers the common mistakes when writing in English.
- Using a professional language editing service where editors will improve the English to ensure that their meaning is clear and identify problems that require your review. Two such services are provided by our affiliates [Nature Research Editing Service](#) and [American Journal Experts](#).

Please note that the use of a language editing service is not a requirement for publication in this journal and does not imply or guarantee that the article will be selected for peer review or accepted. If a manuscript is accepted, it will be checked by our copyeditors for spelling and formal style before publication, but major language editing will not be undertaken; thus, it is essential articles are of sufficient English quality prior to submission.

## EDITORIAL POLICIES

*AAPS PharmSciTech* is committed to maintaining high standards for the integrity of the published scientific record. The journal will investigate any instances of suspected scientific fraud, image manipulation, plagiarism, duplicate publication, undocumented sources of funding or conflicts of interest, and other cases that compromise research ethics or the journal's scientific integrity. We provide here quicklinks to each of our journal policies:

- [Editorial Policies](#)
- [Appeals and Complaints](#)
- [Authorship Principles](#)
- [Biosafety and Biosecurity](#)

- [Competing Interests](#)
- [Complementary and Alternative Medicine Standards for Research](#)
- [Corrections and Retractions](#)
- [Data Availability Statement](#) (See below for this journal's Research Data Policy specifically)
- [Ethical responsibilities of authors](#)
- [Informed Consent](#)
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- [Research involving animals, and their data or biological material\\*](#)
- [Research Involving Human Participants, their Data or Biological Material](#)
- [Research Involving Human Embryos](#)
- [Sex and Gender in Research \(SAGER Guidelines\)](#)
- [Utilization of plants, algae, fungi](#)

\* We recommend authors consult the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) [Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals \(2020\)](#), as a comprehensive resource for guidance on veterinary best practice for the anesthesia and euthanasia of animals.

## MyPublication and Copyright Transfer

Once the manuscript is assessed by the editorial team and following the review process, it may receive an accept decision. If that is the case, it will progress through Editorial Manager to the MyPublication portal, which guides the corresponding author through a workflow that enables the author to stay in communication with the publisher and complete a number of requisite tasks, including choice of color, offprints, open access, and deposition, among others. More information about the [MyPublication process can be found here](#). Shortly after completing the MyPublication questionnaire, the author will receive the article's proofs.

Also included in this process is a prompt for authors to sign a copyright transfer form. The Copyright Revision Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-533) requires that Authors transfer their copyrights to the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists in order to provide for the widest possible dissemination of professional and scientific literature. The corresponding author must sign the form on behalf of all authors. More information about this process and the terms available can be found in MyPublication via the prompts in the system.

## Research Data Policy

*AAPS PharmSciTech* adheres to Springer Nature's [Research Data Policy Type 1](#). The journal encourages authors, where possible and applicable, to deposit data that support the findings of their research in a public repository. Authors and editors who do not have a preferred repository should consult Springer Nature's list of repositories and research data policy.

- [List of Repositories](#)
- [Research Data FAQs](#)

General repositories, for all types of research data—such as figshare and Dryad—may also be used.

Datasets that are assigned digital object identifiers (DOIs) by a data repository may be cited in the reference list. Data citations should include the minimum information recommended by [DataCite](#): authors, title, publisher (repository name), identifier.

Springer Nature provides a research data policy support service for authors and editors. They can be contacted via the [Helpdesk](#), which provides advice on research data policy compliance and on finding research data repositories. It is independent of journal editorial offices, and it does not advise on specific manuscripts.

## Financial Interests and Transparency

*AAPS PharmSciTech* values full transparency, and expects authors to disclose funding for the research, the authors' financial relationships to the research, and to acknowledge any special thanks or support for those whose contributions were meaningful.

Failure to disclose funding and any perceived financial interest is considered publication misconduct, and will result in remediating and/or serious action by the journal, guided by [COPE recommendations](#). When there is uncertainty about what should be listed, it is best to disclose all holdings or affiliations to ensure that there is no question about intent to withhold information. Authors should communicate with the editorial office if they have any questions.

Below, prospective *AAPS PharmSciTech* authors can find three distinct sections with the description of what belongs in each (also found in the Manuscript Preparation section, above):

- **Acknowledgements:** This section is optional and is for special thanks or dedications. Work done by a contributor or medical writer that does not qualify them for authorship, but which warrants acknowledgement, should be noted here. Funding information does not belong in this section, but instead in the "Funding" section below.
- **Funding Statement:** The Funding section is mandatory. Authors must declare sources of study funding including sponsorship (e.g., university, charity, commercial organization) and sources of material (e.g., novel

drugs) not available commercially. More information on this section [can be found here](#).

- **Conflict of Interest Statement:** This section is also mandatory; in this section, authors must disclose their particular financial relationships to the work described. This information will be published as part of the paper. They should include any of the following:
  - Research support (including salaries, equipment, supplies, reimbursement for attending symposia, and other expenses) by organizations that may gain or lose financially through this publication.
  - Employment: Recent (while engaged in the research project), present, or anticipated employment by any organization that may gain or lose financially through this publication.
  - Personal financial interests: Stocks or shares in companies that may gain or lose financially through publication.
  - Consultation fees or other forms of remuneration from organizations that may gain or lose financially from publication.
  - Patents or patent applications whose value may be affected by publication.

More information on the Conflict of Interest section [can be found here](#).

## Image Integrity and Standards

Images submitted with a manuscript for review should be minimally processed (for instance, to add arrows to a micrograph). Authors should retain their unprocessed data and metadata files, as editors may request them to aid in manuscript evaluation. If unprocessed data are unavailable, manuscript evaluation may be stalled until the issue is resolved. All digitized images submitted with the final revision of the manuscript must be of high quality and have resolutions of at least 300 dpi for color.

A certain degree of image processing is acceptable for publication (and for some experiments, fields, and techniques is unavoidable), but the final image must correctly represent the original data and conform to community standards. The guidelines below will aid in accurate data presentation at the image processing level; authors must also take care to exercise prudence during data acquisition, where misrepresentation must equally be avoided.

- Authors should list all image acquisition tools and image processing software packages used. Authors should document key image-gathering settings and processing manipulations in the Methods.
- Images gathered at different times or from different locations should not be combined into a single image, unless it is stated that the resultant image is a product of time-averaged data or a time-lapse sequence. If juxtaposing images is essential, the borders should be clearly demarcated in the figure and described in the legend.
- The use of touch-up tools, such as cloning and healing tools in Photoshop, or any feature that deliberately obscures manipulations, must be avoided.
- Processing (such as changing brightness and contrast) is appropriate **only when it is applied equally across the entire image and is applied equally to controls**. Contrast should not be adjusted so that data disappears. Excessive manipulations, such as processing to emphasize one region in the image at the expense of others (for example, through the use of a biased choice of threshold settings), is inappropriate, as is emphasizing experimental data relative to the control.

Further guidance can be found below on the following points:

- [Electrophoretic gels and blots](#)
- [Microscopy](#)
- [Useful editorials on the topic](#)

## Gene Nomenclature

Authors should use approved nomenclature for gene symbols and use symbols rather than italicized full names (e.g., TTN, not titin). Please consult the appropriate nomenclature databases for correct gene names and symbols. Approved human gene symbols are provided by HUGO Gene Nomenclature Committee (HGNC). Approved mouse symbols are provided by The Jackson Laboratory; see also <http://www.informatics.jax.org/mgihome/nomen>. For proposed gene names that are not already approved, please submit the gene symbols to the appropriate nomenclature committees as soon as possible, as these must be deposited and approved before publication of an article. Avoid listing multiple names of genes (or proteins) separated by a slash, as in "Oct4/Pou5f1," as this is ambiguous (it could mean a ratio, a complex, alternative names or different subunits). Use one name throughout and include the other at first mention: "Oct4 (also known as Pou5f1)."

## SELF-ARCHIVING AND OPEN ACCESS

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