

# Neuroscience Bulletin Submission Guidelines

Neuroscience Bulletin (NB), the official journal of the Chinese Neuroscience Society, is published monthly by Center for Excellence in Brain Science and Intelligence Technology (CEBSIT), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Springer. Neuroscience Bulletin aims to publish advances in the field of neuroscience and promote the exchange of scientific ideas within the community. The journal publishes original papers on various topics in neuroscience. Neuroscience Bulletin welcomes research contributions on molecular, cellular, or developmental neuroscience and neural circuits using multidisciplinary approaches and functional strategies.

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## Types of Papers

Neuroscience Bulletin considers manuscripts of the following types:

- ✧ [Original Article](#)
- ✧ [Review](#)
- ✧ [Insight](#)
- ✧ [Method](#)
- ✧ [Protocol](#)
- ✧ [Letter to the Editor](#)
- ✧ [Research Highlight](#)

All other types of articles including Correspondence are also being considered upon enquiry. The article type should be specified in the author's cover letter.

Please note that NB intends to publish high quality research articles as a major part of the journal. Short reports and articles of other formats are only considered if the research work provides a major scientific breakthrough. The number of these other articles is limited in every issue.

### Original Article

An original article contains original research materials and presents compelling data on conceptual advances in any area of neuroscience. The total character count of all sections of the main text (including references and figure legends but excluding supplemental data) should not exceed 80,000, including spaces. Up to 8 figures and/or tables are allowed for the entire manuscript. The minimum requirement of a submitted research article is 5,000 words excluding the references and at least 6 display items (figures and tables).

The submitted manuscript should be a substantial novel research study in all aspects of neuroscience, organizing a complete story with complex mechanisms elucidated using multiple techniques or approaches. It should provide mechanistic insights into a particular aspect of neuroscience field. NB also welcomes clinical research investigating the pathogenesis or diagnostic markers of a disease. Please note that for clinical trials, an Informed Consent should be provided as supplemental material and stated in the main text. NB no longer accepts clinical research that lack insightful mechanistic implications. References are limited to 100.

### Review

Authoritative reviews contribute greatly to our journal and we are interested in comprehensive articles well written to describe the cutting-edge development in any field of neuroscience for a general audience. The authors are expected to cover controversies in the field and propose their own viewpoints in an unbiased and justifiable way. In particular, the scope of the review should not be dominated by the authors' own work. Reviews are usually 5,000 to 8,000 words

in length (including an abstract of no more than 150 words, excluding the reference and title) and 3-6 schematic illustrations are strongly encouraged. Reviews are often contributed by research pioneers in the field and solicited by the editors. The authors are encouraged to submit [a letter of inquiry](#) before the submission.

## Insight

For an Insight, the article should contain discussion on recent primary research literature similarly as Review. But the main text of an Insight is shorter (no more than 2,000 words, excluding the reference and title) and focuses on a narrower scope. It is possible that in an Insight authors advocate a position over a controversial issue or a speculative hypothesis. One schematic illustration is allowed to make the Insight more comprehensive. References are limited to 20.

## Method

NB welcomes Method article on novel experimental techniques in any field of basic neuroscience. The Method can be written in the Research Article format, yet the content should follow the criteria described below. The description of the method must be accompanied by its validation, its application to an important biological question, and results illustrating its performance in comparison to available approaches. The manuscript will be judged on its novelty, general interest, through assessments of methodological performance and comprehensive technical descriptions that facilitate immediate application. The detailed step-by-step procedure must be described in the form of flow charts for readers to comprehend easily. Additional annotation for key procedures and special treatments will be encouraged. In addition, please note that NB no longer accepts Method on neurosurgery pathway, surgical techniques, or any other clinical related technical studies.

## Protocol

Neuroscience Bulletin welcomes the protocol paper that is a format for step-by-step descriptions of procedures that can be followed immediately by other researchers. A protocol paper should contain sufficient information describing the experimental details including reagents, equipment, timing, data analysis and interpretation, and necessary instructions throughout each step of an experiment. A discussion of the protocol must be included to state the advantages and limitations of the current technique. A protocol paper should include the following parts: Abstract, Keywords, Background, Procedures, Results, Discussion, Material, reagents and equipment (including software), Declaration, References, and Supplementary information (including experimental videos is encouraged).

Protocols are usually commissioned by the editorial office, and authors are welcome to submit suggestions for a protocol via Pre-submission Enquiries to [nsb@ion.ac.cn](mailto:nsb@ion.ac.cn). The Pre-submission Enquiry must include the following parts:

- Title
- Abstract
- Previous publication(s) list by the authors using this protocol

## Letter to the Editor

The Letter to the Editor reports a short but exciting finding in a particular field of neuroscience with high quality and of broad interest. The letter should be brief yet concise, and no specific subsections are required. No Materials and

Methods section is needed, but any technical information which the authors think is important should be submitted as supplementary materials. For Letter to the Editor, the total words count should not exceed 2,500 and the display items should be limited to 2. References are limited to 15. No abstract and subsections are needed.

### Research Highlight

The Research Highlight describes exciting research advances based on one breakthrough recently published. It highlights the main results of the research, emphasizes the significance, and provides further discussion or commentary on the topic. Research Highlight is up to 1,500 words in length with no more than 10 references and one or two figures. No abstract and subsections are needed.

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## Manuscript Submission

### Submission

Submission of a manuscript implies: that the work described has not been published before; that it is not under consideration for publication anywhere else; that its publication has been approved by all co-authors, if any, as well as by the responsible authorities – tacitly or explicitly – at the institute where the work has been carried out. The journal/publisher will not be held legally responsible should there be any claims for compensation.

### Permission

Authors wishing to include figures, tables, or text passages that have already been published elsewhere are required to obtain permission from the copyright owner(s) for both the print and online format and to include evidence that such permission has been granted when submitting their papers. Any material received without such evidence will be assumed to originate from the authors.

### Online Submission

Manuscripts should be submitted through our online submission system, ScholarOne Manuscripts, at: <http://mc03.manuscriptcentral.com/nsb> or <http://www.neurosci.cn>.

#### **Notice for Online Submission:**

You need to CREATE your own account (USER ID and PASSWORD) the first time you use this system. Then LOG ON to the server using your USER ID and PASSWORD and submit your manuscript according to the instructions provided. If you forget your USER ID or PASSWORD, please use the PASSWORD HELP, and enter your e-mail address to receive an e-mail with your account information.

If you cannot access the online system or have any problems with online submission, please contact the Editorial Office at [nsb@sibs.ac.cn](mailto:nsb@sibs.ac.cn).

## Author Statement

The submitted manuscript should be accompanied by a signed “[Neuroscience Bulletin Author Statement Form](#)” stating that all the work is original, has not been published previously, and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. The corresponding author responsible for the originality, legality and validity of the work must sign the form. Authors are expected to adhere to Authorship principles and good authorship practices to which prospective.

## Layout

Authors can refer to a recent issue of [Neuroscience Bulletin](#) to view the general layout. The entire manuscript text should be double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman font. All pages should be numbered consecutively. Abbreviations should be kept to a minimum. All abbreviations should be accompanied by their full names on their first appearance in the text, in parentheses. All quantities and units should be expressed according to international standards, and SI units must be used throughout.

When an Arabic number precedes an SI unit, the unit symbol should be used rather than its full name, such as 2 s (two seconds), 2 min (2 minutes), 2 h (two hours), and 2 d (two days). Symbols are not followed by a period (e.g., min, not min.). Gene symbols should be italicized; protein products of the loci are not italicized. Nonstandard abbreviations should be defined when first used in the text. The use of abbreviations should be kept to a minimum. Manuscripts must be written in clear and concise English and be intelligible to a broad readership. Prior to submission, authors may benefit from having their manuscript reviewed for clarity by colleagues and/or by using one of the many English language-editing services.

## Source Files

The manuscript file types acceptable for online submission are Word, WordPerfect, and TXT. For Figure submission, we accept JPEG, TIFF, and AI files. Required items differ for each article type and are specified during the submission process.

Please ensure you provide all relevant editable source files at every submission and revision. Failing to submit a complete set of editable source files will result in your article not being considered for review.

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# Manuscript Preparation

## Title Page

The title page should include the following information.

### Title

A full title that is short, informative, and does not contain abbreviations. A running title of less than 50 characters

including spaces should also be listed.

### Author information

- The name(s) of the author(s)
- The affiliation(s) of the author(s), *i.e.* institution, (department), city, (state), country
- The complete address for correspondence with postal code, as well as email, and phone and fax numbers
- A clear indication and an active e-mail address of the corresponding author
- If available, the 16-digit ORCID of the author(s); Authors are recommended to use their [ORCID](#) ID when submitting an article for consideration or acquire an [ORCID](#) ID via the submission process.

If address information is provided with the affiliation(s) it will also be published.

For authors that are (temporarily) unaffiliated we will only capture their city and country of residence, not their e-mail address unless specifically requested.

Large Language Models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT, do not currently satisfy our authorship criteria. Notably an attribution of authorship carries with its 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.

### Abstract

The Abstract should be a single paragraph of no more than 150 words. It should summarize key research findings in the manuscript using concise English. It should also be comprehensible to readers before they have read the paper. Abbreviations should be avoided (as for the title). Reference citations within the Abstract are not permitted.

### Keywords

The authors should provide 3 to 8 keywords separated by semicolons.

### Main Text

#### • Introduction

This section should provide a concise yet comprehensive summary of the background for the project. An extensive review of the literature is usually not appropriate, and the text should be succinct with no subheadings. Citation of the primary literature is required where appropriate.

#### • Materials and Methods

Sufficient experimental details are required in this section and all experiments involving human participants must be conducted in accordance with principles of the [Declaration of Helsinki](#) and approved by the institutional ethics committee. When experimental animals are used, this section must guarantee that the experiments were conducted in accordance with national legislation and associated guidelines and that the procedures were approved by the institutional animal care committee. Full details of any anesthetic or analgesic dose and route of administration must be given. Methods for statistical analyses and any non-standard techniques should be described and justified.

#### • Results

Results should be written in clear and concise language. Figures should be used to summarize or illustrate the important findings. Quantitative results illustrated by graphs or tables are encouraged. Subheadings are required in

this section.

- **Discussion**

The discussion should deal with the interpretation of the results, accompanied by an assessment of their significance. A repeated description of the results should be avoided, and any potential implications of the results should be stated in this section.

- **Acknowledgements**

Acknowledgements should be placed at the end of the text and state the contributions of both individuals and supporting institutions. They should be as brief as courtesy allows. Grant numbers are permissible.

- **Declarations**

Declarations section should include:

- **Competing Interests**

The journal requires authors to declare all competing interests in relation to their work. All submitted manuscripts must include a 'competing interests' section at the end of the manuscript listing all competing interests (financial and non-financial). Where authors have no competing interests, the statement should read "The author(s) declare(s) that they have no competing interests". The Editor may ask for further information relating to competing interests.

Editors and reviewers are also required to declare any competing interests and may be excluded from the peer review process if a competing interest exists.

- **Authors' Contribution and Agreement**

An Author Agreement is a statement to certify that all authors have seen and approved the final version of the manuscript being submitted. They warrant that the article is the authors' original work, hasn't received prior publication and isn't under consideration for publication elsewhere.

- **Ethics Approval**

The ethics approval may be included in the description of Materials and Methods.

Research involving human participants, human material, or human data, must have been performed in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and must have been approved by an appropriate ethics committee. A statement detailing this, including the name of the ethics committee and the reference number where appropriate, must appear in all manuscripts reporting such research. If a study has been granted an exemption from requiring ethics approval, this should also be detailed in the manuscript (including the name of the ethics committee that granted the exemption). Further information and documentation to support this should be made available to the Editor on request. Manuscripts may be rejected if the Editor considers that the research has not been carried out within an appropriate ethical framework. In rare cases, the Editor may contact the ethics committee for further information.

If a study has not been granted ethics committee approval prior to commencing, retrospective ethics approval usually cannot be obtained, and it may not be possible to consider the manuscript for peer review. The decision on whether to proceed to peer review in such cases is at the Editor's discretion.

- **Data, Material and/or Code Availability**

A submission to the journal implies that materials described in the manuscript, including all relevant raw data, will be freely available to any researcher wishing to use them for non-commercial purposes, without breaching participant confidentiality.

Data availability statements can take one of the following forms (or a combination of more than one if required for multiple datasets):

1. The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available in the [NAME] repository, [PERSISTENT WEB LINK TO DATASETS]
  2. The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.
  3. All data generated or analysed during this study are included in this published article [and its supplementary information files].
  4. The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are not publicly available due [REASON(S) WHY DATA ARE NOT PUBLIC] but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.].
  5. Data sharing not applicable to this article as no datasets were generated or analysed during the current study.
  6. The data that support the findings of this study are available from [THIRD PARTY NAME] but restrictions apply to the availability of these data, which were used under licence for the current study, and so are not publicly available. Data are however available from the authors upon reasonable request and with permission of [THIRD PARTY NAME].
- **Consent to Participate** (if applicable)
  - **Consent for Publication** (if applicable)

## References

Place citations as numbers in superscript in the text and follow the style below. “Unpublished data”, “electronic material” or “personal communications” should not be used as references, although written communications may be inserted in the text (in parentheses). Articles in press can be cited with the explicit permission of corresponding author of the study. Authors are responsible for ensuring that the literature is accurately cited and discussed. The titles of journals should be abbreviated according to the “List of Journals Indexed” in Index Medicus. List all the authors up to six, but if the number exceeds six, add “*et al.*”.

Please note that an endnote reference style is provided for download via this [link](#).

References should be numbered consecutively using Arabic numerals in the order of appearance in the text, using the following style:

- [1] Koob GF, Sanna PP, Bloom FE. Neuroscience of addiction. *Neuron* 1998, 21: 467–476.
- [2] Ogg S, Paradis S, Gottlieb S, Patterson GI, Lee L, Tissenbaum HA, *et al.* The fork head transcription factor DAF-16 transduces insulin-like metabolic and longevity signals in *C. elegans*. *Nature* 1997, 389: 994–999.

Example of books and other monographs:

- [3] Paxinos G, Watson G. *The Rat Brain in Stereotaxic Coordinates*. 4th ed. San Diego: Academic Press, 1999: 96–101.

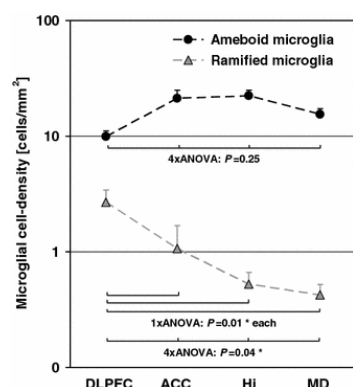


## Tables

- All tables are to be numbered using Arabic numerals.
- Tables should always be cited in text in consecutive numerical order.
- For each table, please supply a table caption (title) explaining the components of the table.
- Identify any previously published material by giving the original source in the form of a reference at the end of the table caption.
- Footnotes to tables should be indicated by superscript lower-case letters (or asterisks for significance values and other statistical data) and included beneath the table body.
- 

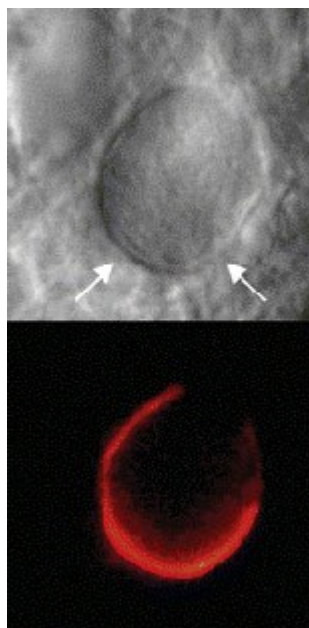
## Artwork and Illustrations Guidelines

- **Electronic Figure Submission**
- Supply all figures electronically.
- Indicate what graphics program was used to create the artwork.
- For vector graphics, the preferred format is EPS; for halftones, please use TIFF format (without layers unless otherwise required). Each figure is saved individually as a single file (not embedded in the text file).
- Vector graphics containing fonts must have the fonts embedded in the files.
- Name your figure files with "Fig" and the figure number, *e.g.*, Fig1.eps.
- **Line Art**



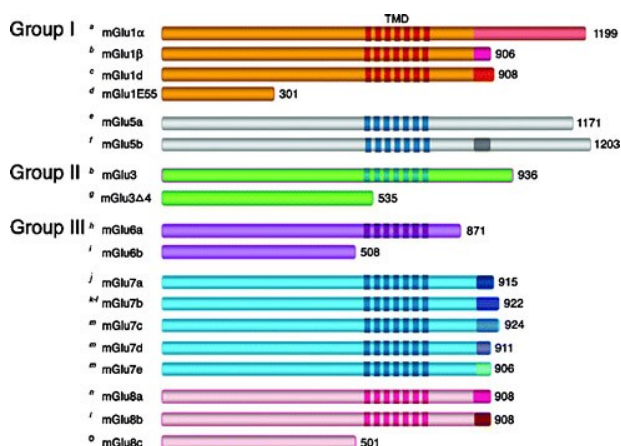
- Definition: Black and white graphic with no shading.
- Do not use faint lines and/or lettering and check that all lines and lettering within the figures are legible at final size.
- All lines should be at least 0.1 mm (0.3 pt) wide.
- Scanned line drawings and line drawings in bitmap format should have a minimum resolution of 1200 dpi.
- Vector graphics containing fonts must have the fonts embedded in the files.

## • Halftone Art



- Definition: Photographs, drawings, or paintings with fine shading, *etc.*
- If any magnification is used in the photographs, indicate this by using scale bars within the figures themselves.
- Halftones should have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi.

## • Combination Art



Definition: a combination of halftone and line art, *e.g.*, halftones containing line drawing, extensive lettering, color diagrams, *etc.*

Combination artwork should have a minimum resolution of 600 dpi.

## • Color Art

If black and white will be shown in the print version, make sure that the main information will still be visible. Many colors are not distinguishable from one another when converted to black and white. A simple way to check this is to make a xerographic copy to see if the necessary distinctions between the different colors are still apparent.

If the figures will be printed in black and white, do not refer to color in the captions.

Color illustrations should be submitted as RGB (8 bits per channel).

## • Figure Lettering

- To add lettering, Sans serif fonts as Helvetica or Arial shall be applied.
- Keep lettering consistently sized throughout your final-sized artwork, usually about 2–3 mm (8–12 pt).
- Variance of type size within an illustration should be minimal.
- Avoid effects such as shading, outline letters, *etc.*

- **Figure Numbering**

- All figures are to be numbered using Arabic numerals.
- Figures should always be cited in text in consecutive numerical order.
- Figure parts should be denoted by uppercase letters (A, B, C, *etc.*).
- If an appendix appears in your article and it contains one or more figures, continue the consecutive numbering of the main text. Do not number the appendix figures, "A1, A2, A3, *etc.*" Figures in online appendices [Supplementary Information (SI)] should, however, be numbered separately.

- **Figure Captions**

- Each figure should have a concise caption describing accurately what the figure depicts. Include the captions in the text file of the manuscript, not in the figure file.
- Figure captions begin with the term Fig. in bold type, followed by the figure number, also in bold type.
- No punctuation is to be included after the number, nor is any punctuation to be placed at the end of the caption.
- Identify all elements found in the figure in the figure caption; and use boxes, circles, *etc.*, as coordinate points in graphs.
- Identify previously published material by giving the original source in the form of a reference citation at the end of the figure caption.

- **Figure Placement and Size**

- Figures should be submitted within the body of the text. Only if the file size of the manuscript causes problems in uploading it, the large figures should be submitted separately from the text.
- When preparing your figures, size figures to fit in the column width.
- Figures must be submitted at the size they are to appear: 1 column (maximum width 8.5 cm), 1.5 columns (maximum width 11.6 cm) or 2 columns (maximum width 17.6 cm).

- **Permissions**

If you include figures that have already been published elsewhere, you must obtain permission from the copyright owner(s) for both the print and online format. Please be aware that some publishers do not grant electronic rights for free and that Springer or Neuroscience Bulletin will not be able to refund any costs that may have occurred to receive these permissions. In such cases, material from other sources should be used.

## Supplementary Information (SI)

Due to space or format constraints, authors may submit additional peer-reviewed materials as supplementary information. These include figures, movies, or tables posted on the journal's web site and available to the readers upon publication. Legends explaining these results should be included. Supplementary information should help the readers to understand the paper, yet without it the article should be complete and self-explanatory. Please refer to the supplementary items in the main text.

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## Authorship Principles

### Authorship Clarification

The Journal and Publisher assume all authors agreed with the content and that all gave explicit consent to submit and that they obtained consent from the responsible authorities at the institute/organization where the work has been carried out before the work is submitted.

The Publisher does not prescribe the kinds of contributions that warrant authorship. It is recommended that authors adhere to the guidelines for authorship that are applicable in their specific research field. In absence of specific guidelines, it is recommended to adhere to the following guidelines (Based on/adapted from: [ICMJE, Defining the Role of Authors and Contributors](#), [Transparency in authors' contributions and responsibilities to promote integrity in scientific publication](#), McNutt at all, PNAS February 27, 2018):

All authors whose names appear on the submission:

- 1) made substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data; or the creation of new software used in the work;
- 2) drafted the work or revised it critically for important intellectual content;
- 3) approved the version to be published;
- 4) agree 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.

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One author is assigned as Corresponding Author and acts on behalf of all co-authors and ensures that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately addressed. The Corresponding Author is responsible for the following requirements:

- 1) ensuring that all listed authors have approved the manuscript before submission, including the names and order of authors;
- 2) managing all communication between the Journal and all co-authors, before and after publication;\*
- 3) providing transparency on re-use of material and mention any unpublished material (for example manuscripts in press) included in the manuscript in a cover letter to the Editor;
- 4) making sure disclosures, declarations, and transparency on data statements from all authors are included in the manuscript as appropriate (see above).

\* The requirement of managing all communication between the journal and all co-authors during submission and proofing may be delegated to a Contact or Submitting Author. In this case, please make sure the Corresponding Author is clearly indicated in the manuscript.

### Changes to Authorship

Authors are strongly advised to ensure the correct author group, the Corresponding Author, and the order of authors at submission. **Changes of authorship by adding or deleting authors, and/or changes in Corresponding Author, and/or changes in the sequence of authors are not accepted after acceptance of a manuscript.**

Please note that author names will be published exactly as they appear on the accepted submission!

Please make sure that the names of all authors are present and correctly spelled, and that addresses and affiliations are current.

Adding and/or deleting authors at revision stage are generally not permitted, but in some cases, it may be warranted. Reasons for these changes in authorship should be explained. Approval of the change during revision is at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief.

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In the case of an authorship dispute during peer review or after acceptance and publication, the Journal will not be in a position to investigate or adjudicate. Authors will be asked to resolve the dispute themselves. If they are unable the Journal reserves the right to withdraw a manuscript from the editorial process or in case of a published paper raise the issue with the authors' institution(s) and abide by its guidelines.

## Confidentiality

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## Editorial Procedure

This journal follows a single-blind reviewing procedure.

This journal also published special/guest-edited issues. The peer review process for these articles is the same as the peer review process of the journal in general.

Additionally, if the guest editor(s) authors an article in their special issue, they will not handle the peer review process.

Upon peer-review, the authors may be asked to revise the manuscript. If the authors have substantial reasons to believe that their manuscript was treated unfairly, they may appeal for reconsideration. Revision should be completed within four (minor revision) or eight weeks (major revision). The authors should provide a cover letter and point-to-point responses addressing the reviewers' comments. The editor will notify the corresponding author upon acceptance of the manuscript. Accepted papers will be processed to advanced online publication as soon as possible.

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## After Acceptance

Upon acceptance, your article will be exported to Production to undergo typesetting. Once typesetting is complete,

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### Online First

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- The submitted work should be original and should not have been published elsewhere in any form or language (partially or in full) unless the new work concerns an expansion of previous work. (Please provide transparency on the re-use of material to avoid the concerns about text-recycling ('self-plagiarism').
- A single study should not be split up into several parts to increase the quantity of submissions and submitted to various journals or to one journal over time (i.e. 'salami-slicing/publishing').
- Concurrent or secondary publication is sometimes justifiable, provided certain conditions are met. Examples include: translations or a manuscript that is intended for a different group of readers.
- Results should be presented clearly, honestly, and without fabrication, falsification or inappropriate data manipulation (including image-based manipulation). Authors should adhere to discipline-specific rules for acquiring, selecting and processing data.
- No data, text, or theories by others are presented as if they were the author's own ('plagiarism'). Proper acknowledgements to other works must be given (this includes material that is closely copied (near verbatim), summarized and/or paraphrased), quotation marks (to indicate words taken from another source) are used for verbatim copying of material, and permissions secured for material that is copyrighted.
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- Authors should make sure they have permissions for the use of software, questionnaires/(web) surveys and scales in their studies (if appropriate).
- Research articles and non-research articles (e.g. Opinion, Review, and Commentary articles) must cite appropriate and relevant literature in support of the claims made. Excessive and inappropriate self-citation or coordinated efforts among several authors to collectively self-cite is strongly discouraged.
- Authors should avoid untrue statements about an entity (who can be an individual person or a company) or descriptions of their behavior or actions that could potentially be seen as personal attacks or allegations about that person.
- Research that may be misapplied to pose a threat to public health or national security should be clearly identified in the manuscript (e.g. dual use of research). Examples include creation of harmful consequences of biological agents or toxins, disruption of immunity of vaccines, unusual hazards in the use of chemicals, weaponization of research/technology (amongst others).

- Authors are strongly advised to ensure the author group, the Corresponding Author, and the order of authors are all correct at submission. Adding and/or deleting authors during the revision stages is generally not permitted, but in some cases may be warranted. Reasons for changes in authorship should be explained in detail. Please note that changes to authorship cannot be made after acceptance of a manuscript.

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Upon request authors should be prepared to send relevant documentation or data in order to verify the validity of the results presented. This could be in the form of raw data, samples, records, etc. Sensitive information in the form of confidential or proprietary data is excluded.

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