

Electronic ISSN: 2223-7704

Print ISSN: 2223-7690

General information: <https://www.springer.com/journal/40544>

Submit online: <https://mc03.manuscriptcentral.com/friction>

Editor-in-Chief: Jianbin Luo

Friction is a peer-reviewed international journal that is co-published by Tsinghua University Press and Springer. The high-quality articles of theoretical and experimental research works related to the friction, lubrication, and wear will be given priorities for publication. Original research papers and review articles on all aspects of tribology are welcome. *Friction* would like to invite all of the specialists to submit their articles. The effort of the Editorial Board will be ensuring the journal to publish novel researches that advance the field, and will provide authors with a productive, fair, and timely review experience.

Instructions for Authors

[1 Manuscript Submission](#)

[2 Manuscript Preparation](#)

[3 Detailed Formatting Instructions](#)

[4 Review Process](#)

[5 After Acceptance](#)

[6 Ethical Responsibilities of Authors](#)

[7 Authorship Principles](#)

[8 Compliance with Ethical Standards](#)

[9 Competing Interests](#)

1 Manuscript Submission

Legal requirements

Submission of a manuscript to *Friction* implies: that the work described has not been published before in any format including in languages other than English; that is not under consideration for publication anywhere else; that its submission and publication has been approved by all co-authors, if any, as well as by the responsible authorities at the institute where the work has been carried out. The publisher will not be held legally responsible should there be any claims for compensation.

Permission

Authors wishing to include figures, tables, or texts that have already been published elsewhere (including the authors' own previous papers) are required to obtain permission from the copyright owner (the publisher of the journal, not the authors of the paper) and to state clearly in the figure/table caption or other appropriate locations in the manuscript that such permission has been obtained. For example: Reproduced with permission from Ref. [XX], © Copyright-holder Copyright-year. Any content received without such evidence will be assumed to originate from the authors. It is the authors' responsibility to retain an electronic or hardcopy of the permission.

Online Submission

Authors must submit their manuscripts online via the *Friction* ScholarOne Manuscripts™ website at: <https://mc03.manuscriptcentral.com/friction>. When submitting your manuscript, please make sure that the following items have been prepared as carefully as possible according to this Instruction:

- Cover letter.
- Manuscript containing title page, abstract and keywords, and main body.
- Author biography and graphical abstract.

2 Manuscript Preparation

Language

The Journal's language is English. Either British English or American English spelling and terminology may be used, but the system chosen should be followed consistently throughout the manuscript. We request that the language is corrected before submission. Submissions with unsatisfactory English writing will be returned without review.

Length of manuscripts

There are no strict limits on the number of published pages for both research and review articles. Nevertheless, authors are asked to make the manuscript as concise as possible and to limit to less than 40 manuscript pages.

Text formatting

For submission in Microsoft Word, use a normal, plain font (e.g., 12 point Times New Roman), double space line, and one column for text. Use the automatic page numbering function to number the pages. Do not use field functions. Use tab stops or other commands for indents, not the space bar. Use the table function, not spreadsheets, to make tables. Use the equation editor or MathType for equations. Note: If you use Word 2007, do not create the equations with the default equation editor but use MathType instead.

3 Detailed Formatting Instructions

Please follow this order to type the manuscript: title page, abstract, keywords, main text (including tables and figures), appendix (if necessary), acknowledgements, declaration of competing interest,

references, author biography and graphical abstract, and electronic supplementary material (if necessary).

Title page. The title page should contain: (i) a concise and informative title; (ii) the name(s) of the author(s); (iii) the affiliation(s) and address(es) of the author(s); and (iv) the E-mail address(es) of the author(s).

Abstract. A concise and factual abstract not exceeding 250 words must be provided with each manuscript. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results, and major conclusions. No footnotes, references, figures, or tables may appear in the abstract.

Keywords. Please provide 4 to 6 keywords which can be used for indexing purposes.

Heading/section levels (numbered). For regular research papers and review articles, please use the decimal system of headings. Please divide your manuscript into clearly defined and numbered sections and subsections. Sections should be numbered 1, 2, etc. (The abstract is not included in section numbering). Subsections should be numbered 1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2 ...), 1.2, etc. Use this numbering also for internal cross-referencing: do not just refer to "the text". Each section and subsection should be given a brief heading and each heading should appear on its own separate line. For short papers, no section levels are needed.

Footnotes. Essential footnotes to the text should be numbered consecutively and placed at the bottom of the page to which they refer. Footnotes to the table should be indicated by superscript lower-case letters (or asterisks) and placed immediately below the table.

Formulae and symbols. Formulae, symbols, and all subscripts, superscripts, Greek letters, and other characters must be legible and carefully checked. Standard mathematical notation should be used. All symbols used in manuscript must be explained. If necessary, a list of symbols may be provided and placed before the Introduction section.

Equations. Numbering consecutively any equations that have to be displayed separately from the text (if referred to explicitly in the text), and referring the equation with Eq. (1), Eq. (2) ... in the text. For the simple formulae which appear in the line of normal text, please use solidus (/) instead of a horizontal line for small fractional terms, e.g., x/y . Powers of e are often more conveniently denoted by "exp". In principle, variables should be presented in italics.

Figures. All digital arts, including micrographs, line arts, and grayscale images, included in the manuscript should be supplied in a separate electronic file in TIFF, EPS, or JPEG format with a preferred resolution of 600 dpi relative to the final figure size. All figures should be numbered using Arab numerals (figure parts should be denoted by lowercase letters) and supplied with a figure caption. Please make sure that all elements found in the figure are identified in the caption. Figures should always be cited in text, such as Fig. 1, Fig. 2 ... in consecutive numerical order. Color figures will remain in color in both the printed version and the online version of the journal, at no cost. The authors are encouraged to use color figures in the submitted manuscript.

Tables. All tables should be numbered using Arab numerals and supplied with a table title which explains clearly and concisely the components of the table. Tables should not duplicate results presented elsewhere in the manuscript (for example, in figures). Tables should always be cited in the text, such as Table 1, Table 2 ... in consecutive numerical order.

Units. Please follow internationally accepted rules and conventions such as those defined by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). If other units are mentioned, please give their equivalent in supplementary information.

Abbreviations. Abbreviations should be used only if deemed absolutely necessary, and should be defined at first mention in the abstract and again in the main body of the text and used consistently thereafter.

Appendix. An appendix, if needed, is presented without numbers. If there are two or more appendices, they should be numbered consecutively. Equations in appendices should be designated differently from those in the main body of the manuscript, e.g., (A1), (A2), etc. In each appendix equations should be numbered separately.

Acknowledgements. Acknowledgements of people, grants, funds, etc., should be placed in a separate section before the References section. The name of funding organizations should be written in full. Do not include acknowledgements on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise.

Declaration of competing interest. Authors are required to disclose financial or non-financial interests that are directly or indirectly related to the work submitted for publication. Please refer to "Competing Interests" below for more information on how to complete this section. Please note: If no conflict exists and no ethics approval required, the authors should state:

Compliance with ethical standards

Declaration of competing interest The authors have no competing interests to declare that are relevant to the content of this article.

Ethical approval This study does not contain any studies with human or animal subjects performed by any of the authors.

Citations & references. Citations to the literature are cited by number in square brackets at appropriate locations (before a period, comma, etc.) in the text.

Examples:

(a) Two different models were proposed for the description of adhesion in contact, Johnson–Kendal–Roberts (JKR) model [1] and Derjaguin–Muller–Toporov (DMT) model [2].

(b) Metal nanoparticles as lubrication additives have been widely studied [3–6, 8].

(c) Similar phenomena on the friction were observed by Ruan and Bhushan [5, 7, 9].

The list of references should only include works that are cited in the text and that have been published or accepted for publication. Personal communications and unpublished works should only be mentioned in the text. Papers accepted for publication are cited as "in press" and their DOIs. Do not use footnotes or endnotes as a substitute for a reference list.

References are compiled in a numbered list in the order of their first citation in the text. Each numbered reference may contain only one literature citation. Please ensure references are given in the correct format, including titles of journal articles/book chapters with initial and final page numbers, in order to avoid delays in typesetting your article. The examples below illustrate different reference types.

Journal style

[1] Battal T, Bain C D, Weiss M, Darton R C. Surfactant adsorption and Marangoni flow in liquid jets: Experiments. *J Colloid Interface Sci* **263**(1): 250–260 (2003)

Book style

[2] Bowden F P, Tabor D. *Friction and Lubrication of Solids*. Oxford (UK): Oxford University Press, 1950.

Chapter in book style

[3] Compton K G. Seawater tests. In: *Handbook on Corrosion Testing and Evaluation*. Ailor W H, Ed. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1971: 507–514.

Report and proceeding style

[4] Bassani R, Ciulli E, Manfredi E, Manconi S, Polacco A, Pugliese G. Experimental study on wear and fracture in aeronautical gear transmissions. In: Proceedings of the 8th Biennial Conference on Engineering Systems Design and Analysis, Turin, Italy, 2006: 979–986.

Patent style

[5] Lenz J R. Compact tribology tester. U.S. Patent 6 817 223, Nov. 2004.

Thesis style

[6] Qian L M. Studies on preparation and nano-tribological properties of ordered films. Ph.D. Thesis. Beijing (China): Tsinghua University, 1999.

Web style

[7] Information on <http://www.brycoat.com/>, 2008.

Article by DOI style

[8] Slifka M K, Whitton J L. Clinical implications of dysregulated cytokine production. *J Mol Med* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s001090000086> (2000).

Non-English publication style

[9] Jia W, Zhang Q, Bai Z, Ma S, Yao D, Wang Y. Progress on manufacturing techniques of shaped charge liners. *Rare Metal Mater Eng* **36**(9): 1511–1516 (2007) (in Chinese)

Standard

[10] US-ASTM. ASTM D974-2014 Standard test method for acid and base number by color-indicator titration. ASTM, 2014.

If Electronic Supplementary Material (ESM) is submitted, it will be published as received from the author in the online version only. ESM may consist of: (i) information that cannot be printed: animations, video clips, sound recordings; (ii) information that is more convenient in electronic form: sequences, spectral data, etc.; (iii) large amounts of original data, e.g., additional tables, illustrations, etc. If supplying any ESM, the text must make specific mention of the material as a citation, similar to that of figures and tables (e.g., Fig. S1 in the ESM). Besides, a paragraph should be added before the “References” section (e.g., Electronic Supplementary Material: Supplementary material (add a brief description) is available in the online version of this article).

4 Review Process

The Journal follows a single-blind reviewing procedure. The benefit of single-blind peer review is that it is the traditional model of peer review that many reviewers are comfortable with, and it facilitates a dispassionate critique of a manuscript.

- After submission, manuscript will be checked by the handling editor. At this stage, a decision of "Reject without review" would be made if the submission does not meet the guidelines set out in this document. In principle, the authors may re-submit the manuscript after carefully revising according to the guidelines.
- Articles are automatically checked for text overlap. Those with high overlap scores are scrutinized by the handling editor and may be rejected without further review.
- Editor-in-Chief or a handling editor assigned, has sole discretion on whether to send the article for peer review or reject it without further review. Unsolicited articles are evaluated by fit with the mission statement of the Journal, perceived quality and novelty of the work, potential interest to the Journal's readership, the standard of presentation (including the standard of technical written English and the quality of figures).
- Around four referees will be invited for peer review. When a submission has at least two (or one in exceptional cases) useable reports, the editor will use the referees' comments to decide whether to accept the manuscript for publication, return it for revision, or reject it.
- Infrequently, after several rounds of invitations to peer reviewers, a submission will receive no reports. In these cases, the submission may be rejected at the editor's discretion.
- Except in the cases of academic malpractice, only the corresponding author may request to withdraw a submission that is under consideration.
- Resubmission of a rejected manuscript is possible only with the explicit permission of the handling editor.

5 After Acceptance

Article publishing agreement

Depending on the ownership of the Journal and its policies, you will either grant the Publisher an exclusive licence to publish the article or will be asked to transfer copyright of the article to the Publisher.

Proof reading

The purpose of the proof is to check for typesetting errors and the completeness and accuracy of the text, tables, and figures. Substantial changes in content, e.g., new results, corrected values, title, and authorship, are not allowed without the approval of the Editor-in-Chief. After online publication, further changes can only be made in the form of an Erratum, which will be hyperlinked to the article.

Online first

The article will be published online after receipt of the corrected proofs. This is the official first publication citable with the DOI. After release of the printed version, the paper can also be cited by issue and page numbers.

6 Ethical Responsibilities of Authors

This journal is committed to upholding the integrity of the scientific record. As a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), the journal will follow the COPE guidelines on how to deal

with potential acts of misconduct.

Authors should refrain from misrepresenting research results which could damage the trust in the journal, the professionalism of scientific authorship, and ultimately the entire scientific endeavor. Maintaining integrity of the research and its presentation is helped by following the rules of good scientific practice, which include:

- The manuscript should not be submitted to more than one journal for simultaneous consideration.
- 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.

Important note: the journal may use software to screen for plagiarism.

- 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., Review, Short Communication, and Comment 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.

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.

If there is suspicion of misbehavior or alleged fraud the Journal and/or Publisher will carry out an investigation following COPE guidelines. If, after investigation, there are valid concerns, the author(s) concerned will be contacted under their given e-mail address and given an opportunity to address the issue. Depending on the situation, this may result in the Journal's and/or Publisher's implementation of the following measures, including, but not limited to:

- If the manuscript is still under consideration, it may be rejected and returned to the author.
- If the article has already been published online, depending on the nature and severity of the infraction:
 - an erratum/correction may be placed with the article,
 - an expression of concern may be placed with the article,
 - or in severe cases retraction of the article may occur.

The reason will be given in the published erratum/correction, expression of concern or retraction note. Please note that retraction means that the article is **maintained on the platform**, watermarked "retracted" and the explanation for the retraction is provided in a note linked to the watermarked article.

- The author's institution may be informed.
- A notice of suspected transgression of ethical standards in the peer review system may be included as part of the author's and article's bibliographic record.

Fundamental errors

Authors have an obligation to correct mistakes once they discover a significant error or inaccuracy in their published article. The author(s) is/are requested to contact the Journal and explain in what sense the error is impacting the article. A decision on how to correct the literature will depend on the nature of the error. This may be a correction or retraction. The retraction note should provide transparency which parts of the article are impacted by the error.

Suggesting/excluding reviewers

Authors are welcome to suggest suitable reviewers and/or request the exclusion of certain individuals when they submit their manuscripts. When suggesting reviewers, authors should make sure they are totally independent and not connected to the work in any way. It is strongly recommended to suggest a mix of reviewers from different countries and different institutions. When suggesting reviewers, the Corresponding Author must provide an institutional email address for each suggested reviewer, or, if this is not possible to include other means of verifying the identity such as a link to a personal homepage, a link to the publication record or a researcher or author ID in the submission letter. Please note that the Journal may not use the suggestions, but suggestions are appreciated and may help facilitate the peer review process.

7 Authorship Principles

These guidelines describe authorship principles and good authorship practices to which prospective authors should adhere to.

Authorship clarified

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.

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; and
- 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.

Disclosures and declarations

All authors are requested to include information regarding sources of funding, financial or non-financial interests, study-specific approval by the appropriate ethics committee for research involving humans and/or animals, informed consent if the research involved human participants, and a statement on welfare of animals if the research involved animals (as appropriate).

The decision whether such information should be included is not only dependent on the scope of the Journal, but also the scope of the article. Work submitted for publication may have implications for public health or general welfare and in those cases it is the responsibility of all authors to include the appropriate disclosures and declarations.

Data transparency

All authors are requested to make sure that all data and materials as well as software application or custom code support their published claims and comply with field standards. Please note that journals may have individual policies on (sharing) research data in concordance with disciplinary norms and expectations.

Role of the Corresponding Author

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:

- ensuring that all listed authors have approved the manuscript before submission, including the names and order of authors;
- managing all communication between the Journal and all co-authors, before and after publication;
- 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;
- making sure disclosures, declarations and transparency on data statements from all authors are included in the manuscript as appropriate (see above).

Author contributions

In absence of specific instructions and in research fields where it is possible to describe discrete efforts, the Publisher recommends authors to include contribution statements in the work that

specifies the contribution of every author in order to promote transparency. These contributions should be listed at the separate title page.

Examples of such statement(s) are shown below:

- Free text:
All authors contributed to the study conception and design. Material preparation, data collection and analysis were performed by [full name], [full name] and [full name]. The first draft of the manuscript was written by [full name] and all authors commented on previous versions of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.
- Conceptualization: [full name], ...; Methodology: [full name], ...; Formal analysis and investigation: [full name], ...; Writing - original draft preparation: [full name, ...]; Writing - review and editing: [full name], ...; Funding acquisition: [full name], ...; Resources: [full name], ...; Supervision: [full name],...

For **review articles** where discrete statements are less applicable a statement should be included who had the idea for the article, who performed the literature search and data analysis, and who drafted and/or critically revised the work.

For articles that are based primarily on the **student's dissertation or thesis**, it is recommended that the student is usually listed as principal author.

Affiliation

The primary affiliation for each author should be the institution where the majority of their work was done. If an author has subsequently moved, the current address may additionally be stated. Addresses will not be updated or changed after publication of the article.

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. Please note that journals may have individual policies on adding and/or deleting authors during revision stage.

Author identification

Authors are recommended to use their ORCID ID when submitting an article for consideration or acquire an ORCID ID via the submission process.

Deceased or incapacitated authors

For cases in which a co-author dies or is incapacitated during the writing, submission, or peer-review process, and the co-authors feel it is appropriate to include the author, co-authors should obtain approval from a (legal) representative which could be a direct relative.

Authorship issues or disputes

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

Authors should treat all communication with the Journal as confidential which includes correspondence with direct representatives from the Journal such as Editors-in-Chief and/or Handling Editors and reviewers' reports unless explicit consent has been received to share information.

8 Compliance with Ethical Standards

To ensure objectivity and transparency in research and to ensure that accepted principles of ethical and professional conduct have been followed, authors should include information regarding sources of funding, potential conflicts of interest (financial or non-financial), informed consent if the research involved human participants, and a statement on welfare of animals if the research involved animals.

Authors should include the following statements (if applicable) in a separate section entitled "Compliance with Ethical Standards" when submitting a paper:

- Disclosure of potential conflicts of interest
- Research involving Human Participants and/or Animals
- Informed consent

Please note that standards could vary slightly per journal dependent on their peer review policies (i.e., single or double blind peer review) as well as per journal subject discipline. Before submitting your article, check the instructions following this section carefully.

The corresponding author should be prepared to collect documentation of compliance with ethical standards and send if requested during peer review or after publication.

The Editors reserve the right to reject manuscripts that do not comply with the above-mentioned guidelines. The author will be held responsible for false statements or failure to fulfill the above-mentioned guidelines.

9 Competing Interests

Authors are requested to disclose interests that are directly or indirectly related to the work submitted for publication. Interests within the last 3 years of beginning the work (conducting the research and preparing the work for submission) should be reported. Interests outside the 3-year time frame must be disclosed if they could reasonably be perceived as influencing the submitted work. Disclosure of interests provides a complete and transparent process and helps readers form their own judgments of potential bias. This is not meant to imply that a financial relationship with an organization that sponsored the research or compensation received for consultancy work is inappropriate.

Editorial Board Members and Editors are required to declare any competing interests and may be excluded from the peer review process if a competing interest exists. In addition, they should exclude themselves from handling manuscripts in cases where there is a competing interest. This may include – but is not limited to – having previously published with one or more of the authors, and sharing the same institution as one or more of the authors. Where an Editor or Editorial Board Member is on the author list they must declare this in the competing interests section on the submitted manuscript. If they are an author or have any other competing interest regarding a

specific manuscript, another Editor or member of the Editorial Board will be assigned to assume responsibility for overseeing peer review. These submissions are subject to the exact same review process as any other manuscript. Editorial Board Members are welcome to submit papers to the journal. These submissions are not given any priority over other manuscripts, and Editorial Board Member status has no bearing on editorial consideration.

Interests that should be considered and disclosed but are not limited to the following:

Funding: Research grants from funding agencies (please give the research funder and the grant number) and/or research support (including salaries, equipment, supplies, reimbursement for attending symposia, and other expenses) by organizations that may gain or lose financially through publication of this manuscript.

Employment: Recent (while engaged in the research project), present or anticipated employment by any organization that may gain or lose financially through publication of this manuscript. This includes multiple affiliations (if applicable).

Financial interests: Stocks or shares in companies (including holdings of spouse and/or children) that may gain or lose financially through publication of this manuscript; consultation fees or other forms of remuneration from organizations that may gain or lose financially; patents or patent applications whose value may be affected by publication of this manuscript.

It is difficult to specify a threshold at which a financial interest becomes significant, any such figure is necessarily arbitrary, so one possible practical guideline is the following: "Any undeclared financial interest that could embarrass the author were it to become publicly known after the work was published."

Non-financial interests: In addition, authors are requested to disclose interests that go beyond financial interests that could impart bias on the work submitted for publication such as professional interests, personal relationships or personal beliefs (amongst others). Examples include, but are not limited to: position on editorial board, advisory board or board of directors or other type of management relationships; writing and/or consulting for educational purposes; expert witness; mentoring relations; and so forth.

Primary research articles require a disclosure statement. Review articles present an expert synthesis of evidence and may be treated as an authoritative work on a subject. Review articles therefore require a disclosure statement. Other article types such as editorials, book reviews, comments (amongst others) may, dependent on their content, require a disclosure statement. If you are unclear whether your article type requires a disclosure statement, please contact the Editor-in-Chief.

Please note that, in addition to the above requirements, funding information (given that funding is a potential competing interest (as mentioned above)) needs to be disclosed upon submission of the manuscript in the peer review system. This information will automatically be added to the Record of CrossMark, however it is **not added** to the manuscript itself. Under 'summary of requirements' (see below) funding information should be included in the '**Declarations**' section.

Summary of requirements

The above should be summarized in a statement and placed in a 'Declarations' section before the reference list under a heading of 'Funding' and/or 'Competing interests'. Other declarations include Ethics approval, Consent, Data, Material and/or Code availability and Authors' contribution statements.

Please see the various examples of wording below and revise/customize the sample statements according to your own needs.

When all authors have the same (or no) conflicts and/or funding it is sufficient to use one blanket statement.

Examples of statements to be used when funding has been received:

- Partial financial support was received from [...]
- The research leading to these results received funding from [...] under Grant Agreement No[...].
- This study was funded by [...]
- This work was supported by [...] (Grant numbers [...] and [...])

Examples of statements to be used when there is no funding:

- The authors did not receive support from any organization for the submitted work.
- No funding was received to assist with the preparation of this manuscript.
- No funding was received for conducting this study.
- No funds, grants, or other support was received.

Examples of statements to be used when there are interests to declare:

- Financial interests: Author A has received research support from Company A. Author B has received a speaker honorarium from Company Wand owns stock in Company X. Author C is consultant to company Y.

Non-financial interests: Author C is an unpaid member of committee Z.

- Financial interests: The authors declare they have no financial interests.

Non-financial interests: Author A is on the board of directors of Y and receives no compensation as member of the board of directors.

- Financial interests: Author A received a speaking fee from Y for Z. Author B receives a salary from association X. X where s/he is the Executive Director.

Non-financial interests: none.

- Financial interests: Author A and B declare they have no financial interests. Author C has received speaker and consultant honoraria from Company M and Company N. Dr. C has received speaker honorarium and research funding from Company M and Company O. Author D has received travel support from Company O.

Non-financial interests: Author D has served on advisory boards for Company M, Company N and Company O.

Examples of statements to be used when authors have nothing to declare:

- The authors have no relevant financial or non-financial interests to disclose.
- The authors have no competing interests to declare that are relevant to the content of this article.
- All authors certify that they have no affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity with any financial interest or non-financial interest in the subject matter or materials discussed in this manuscript.
- The authors have no financial or proprietary interests in any material discussed in this article.

Authors are responsible for correctness of the statements provided in the manuscript. See also Authorship Principles. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to reject submissions that do not meet the guidelines described in this section.