# Instructions for Authors

## *Brain Imaging and Behavior*

Authors are invited to submit their manuscripts using the Editorial Manager at *Brain Imaging and Behavior*.

### AIMS and SCOPE

*Brain Imaging and Behavior* is a bi-monthly, peer-reviewed journal that publishes innovative, clinically relevant research using neuroimaging approaches to enhance knowledge regarding mechanisms, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disorders of higher brain function including cognition, affect, and motivation. Priority is given to innovative reports describing applications of advanced magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and positron emission tomography (PET). Novel studies employing other neuroimaging methods may be considered on a case-by-case basis, especially if coupled with MRI or PET. Examples of particularly relevant types of studies include the use of brain imaging for identification of at-risk populations, diagnosis, and treatment planning, and for monitoring the effects of behavioral, pharmacological, and neurosurgical interventions. Novel research on individual differences in representation of normal functions will also be considered in the context of large well-powered studies. Studies bridging the higher cognitive and molecular levels of analysis are particularly welcome including, for example, research relating genetic polymorphisms and other biomarkers to brain structure, function, or treatment-induced changes. Studies that apply hypothesis-generating discovery science are useful for understanding big datasets, such as omics data, when applied within a conceptual or theoretical framework. These approaches are meant to reveal key aspects of biology and facilitate discoveries into disease mechanisms that may lead to mechanistic, hypothesis-driven research. Translational imaging studies in model systems will also be considered if directly relevant to human disorders and treatment. These examples are meant to be illustrative and not exclusive. The research published in this journal is expected to be of broad interest to researchers and clinicians in fields addressing brain-behavior relationships (e.g., neuropsychology, psychiatry, neurology, neurosurgery, radiology, rehabilitation, and cognitive neuroscience). The journal publishes original research, brief reports, systematic reviews, and letters to the editor.

### CATEGORIES OF ARTICLES

*Original Research Article*: Manuscript is limited to 3000 words, excluding the abstract, references, tables, and figure legends. The manuscript may contain up to 5 tables and figures. Online supplemental material may also be judiciously included without length restriction.

*Brief Reports*: Manuscript is limited to 1500 words, with no more than 1 figure, 1 table, and 15 references. Online supplemental material may also be included.

*Review Articles*: Reviews must be systematic, rigorous, and critical and address a topic of significant current interest. Manuscripts should be limited to 5000 words, excluding the abstract, references, tables, and figure legends. The manuscript may contain up to 5 tables and figures. Online supplemental material may also be judiciously included without length restriction.

*Letters to the Editor, Replies, and Editorial Commentaries:* These formats will be considered for brief discussion of topics of contemporary interest and should typically be limited to 1000 words or less. A few references and 1 figure or table may be permitted in support of key points. Online supplemental material is not expected for these categories but may be permitted at the Editor's discretion.

Word counts for the abstract and manuscript body (excluding the abstract, references, tables, and figure legends) should be provided on the Title page for all categories of articles. Please specify the article type.

Manuscripts may be declined without further review if the Editorial team determines that they do not fall within the scope and priorities of *Brain Imaging and Behavior*, have insufficient broad significance and novelty, or if they are too preliminary (e.g., small samples, underdeveloped or less than state-of-the-science methods, biased sampling, lack of key details, etc.). Manuscripts that are poorly written or require extensive editing for scientific English will also be declined.

## MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

### *Style, Format, and References*

*Brain Imaging and Behavior* uses APA Style that is based on the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Seventh Edition.

Manuscripts should be written in American English (e.g., Behavior rather than Behaviour, Center rather than Centre).

Authors should refrain from making extraordinary priority and novelty claims or using self-laudatory statements. Please see the editorial, "Not the first, not the best" (*Nat Hum Behav. 2021;* 5:175).

### *Technical Quality*

The organization of the material should be easy to follow, particularly when using subheadings. The scientific presentation should be straightforward, with a logical flow of information. For non-native English-speaking authors, the manuscript should be edited and proofread by a native English speaker or professional scientific editor.

If the English language in your manuscript would benefit from improvement in clarity or readability, you may wish to use one of the many English language-editing services available. Two such services are provided by Nature Research Editing Service and American Journal Experts. A discount may be available for authors submitting to *Brain Imaging and Behavior.*

All **Original Research articles** should include the following sections: **Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusions**. Authors may need to use subheadings within some sections for clarity.

Following the **Conclusions**, the paper should provide any **Acknowledgments**, as well as sections for **Author Contributions, Funding Sources, Compliance with Ethical Standards,** and **Conflict of Interest.**

**Figure legends, Tables, Appendices, References**, and **Figures** will be reported at the end, in that order.

### *Title Page*

The Title Page for the manuscript should be concise and informative. It provides the author's complete first and last name(s), middle initial if available, and affiliation(s), as well as the corresponding author's telephone numbers, fax number, and email address.

#### *Stipulations for Authorship*

All authors should meet ICMJE criteria for Defining the Role of Authors and Contributors. Other significant contributions that do not meet authorship requirements should be described in the "Acknowledgments" section of the manuscript.

First and corresponding authors **must** include their ORCID ID *before* proceeding with submission. All other contributing authors are strongly encouraged to include their ORCID ID *before* proceeding with submission. ORCID is a non-proprietary persistent unique digital identifier that distinguishes a researcher from all other researchers, across affiliations, disciplines, and borders.

To avoid problems later, make certain that all author names and affiliations are correct at the time of submission. After the initial submission, authorship changes are discouraged, unless clearly and demonstrably warranted. If a major revision is submitted and authors are added, removed, or reordered, the rationale must be clearly indicated on the **Springer Nature Change of Authorship Request Form** (available from Springer if necessary), and all authors, prior and newly proposed, must sign and date the form indicating their agreement. Original signatures are required. A detailed explanation must be provided regarding the role of the deleted or newly added authors and the reason for any changes in author order. Changes are subject to approval by the Editor-in-Chief of the journal and will only be considered if full details are provided. After a paper is accepted no authorship changes of any type are permitted.

### *Abstract*

The abstract should be between 150 to 250 words and contain no abbreviations or references. It should provide sufficient information to effectively summarize the manuscript. Sample and N's should be specified in the abstract. Abstracts are usually expected to briefly include the goal or

statement of the problem, relevant background, hypotheses (as appropriate), sample analyzed, methods, limitations, implications, and any other discussion. Letters to the editor and editorial commentaries do not include abstracts.

### *Keywords*

List 3 to 5 keywords that are relevant to the research topic. Effective keywords provide a concise summary of the paper.

### *Abbreviations*

Abbreviations should not be used in the title or abstract and should be limited to essential use only in the text.

### *Introduction*

The introduction builds a rationale for the paper by establishing the context and significance of the research being conducted. It provides a focused, up-to-date, and scholarly review of the relevant literature that is strongly related to the research question and effectively summarizes the present understanding of the problem.

A purpose statement is provided that clearly defines the specific research problem being addressed in the report (generally for the purpose of filling a gap in the research) and is usually accompanied by a hypothesis or set of questions.

Motivations related to potential clinical implications for diagnosis, treatment, or mechanistic understanding of a health-related process that may be affected by the outcome of the research may be appropriate to mention in the introduction.

The introduction briefly mentions the methodological approach used to examine the problem and highlights the potential outcomes of the paper, focusing especially on any novel or innovative aspects that may have the potential to move the field forward.

Review articles and meta-analyses should follow the PRISMA guidelines (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses), see Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines. For further information on evidence synthesis, see the editorial, "The value of evidence synthesis" (*Nature Human Behaviour*. 2021; 5:539).

### *Methods*

*Study Design:*

The study design should be methodologically rigorous and appropriate to the research question. All instrumentation and software used for data acquisition, preprocessing, and analysis of imaging, behavioral, biomarker, genetic or other data must be appropriate to the task, reliable, and well-described. Any replication data, available and/or analyzed, should be reported, as well as any factors that may produce a confound or a source of bias.

All study participants, including samples, cohorts, or model systems, should be sufficiently described, and characterized in the method section. Inclusion/exclusion criteria must be defined in sufficient detail, and a rationale for the chosen sample size should be provided. For imaging studies, priority consideration will be given to well-powered samples that typically include 25 or more scans per group and appropriate controls. As power is dependent of expected effect size(s) and signal to noise properties of reported measurements, there is no absolute sample size requirement. The study N should be well justified. Inclusion of independent replication samples is strongly encouraged whenever possible, and those studies will be given priority considering the well-known need for greater reproducibility in biomedical research.

For additional information on sample size in neuroimaging studies see "Sample size evolution in neuroimaging research: An evaluation of highly-cited studies (1990-2012) and of latest practices (2017-2018) in high-impact journals" (Szucs D, Ioannidis JP., Neuroimage. 2020; 221:117164).

Because physicians and researchers make decisions based on research extrapolation, diversity in research is highly encouraged. Whenever possible, research studies should reflect race, ethnicity, age, and gender of a population so that advances in clinical and biomedical research will be generalizable and provide the greatest understanding and benefit. For further information, please see the editorial, "Striving for Diversity in Research Studies" (Eric Rubin, N Engl J Med. 2021).

Any overlap with prior samples, cohorts, or publications (e.g., human participants, animals, MRI or PET scans, or activation tasks), whether full or partial, must be disclosed. If biological assays were analyzed, the samples should be authenticated, and any steps taken to ensure quality assurance should be reported.

> For **experimental or hypothesis-driven studies**, any pharmacological, behavioral, or other interventions or conditions should be fully described. The study design should have appropriate randomization, adhere to intent-to-treat principles, blinding, prospective evaluation, and the use of an appropriate control group. It is important for the experimental design to build in adequate power to detect a pre-specified effect size.
>
> For **observational studies**, including cohort or case control studies, the STROBE Reporting Guidelines should be followed.

Preclinical studies should follow the NIH *Principles and Guidelines for Reporting Preclinical Research*.

Clinical trials should report the clinical trial registration number (see ClinicalTrials.gov or other databases). For Phase II/III trials, the study should comply with the CONSORT statement and CONSORT checklist (which should be included).

Studies involving tumor markers should follow the REMARK reporting guidelines and checklist.

Studies involving animal models should report species, strain, sex and age, and these factors should be controlled where appropriate, see Reporting animal research: Explanation and elaboration for the ARRIVE guidelines 2.0.

*Specific Guidelines for Neuroimaging:*

Please see the detailed report and checklists developed by the **Organization for Human Brain Mapping (OHBM) Committee on Best Practices in Data Analysis and Sharing (COBIDAS)**, as well as the summary report "Best practices in data analysis and sharing in neuroimaging using MRI" (Nichols et al, *Nature Neuroscience* 2017; 20:299-303). Use of the highly detailed documentation checklists in the COBIDAS MRI report are strongly recommended to ensure that other researchers can independently replicate the study. Most of the guidelines also pertain to PET, SPECT, CT, and other imaging modalities.

For neuroimaging (e.g., MRI, PET, PET/CT, PET/MR), vendor information, hardware types, and sequences names, as well as any contrast determining parameters, should be reported. Imaging parameters, such as acquisition resolution and coverage/field-of-view, are essential for reproducibility. For example, echo time and repetition time should be reported for structural MRI, tracer details for PET, and contrast agent for MRI and CT if applicable.

Studies combining MRI or PET with MEG should follow current guidelines for MEG research reporting (e.g., "Good practice for conducting and reporting MEG research" Gross et al 2013; *NeuroImage* 65:349-363).

In general, state-of-the art technology should be used for all specific imaging modalities.

Fully documented and transparent digital image processing and enhancements are acceptable. Documentations of all processing steps must be included in the Methods section. Processed images must maintain a clear relationship between the original raw data and the resulting images. Results shown must be representative of the underlying data without loss of important characteristics that could lead to biased interpretation. The Editorial Office may request original versions of the data, images, and figures used to produce the final submitted figures to ensure that the original data is not misrepresented. Authors must agree to provide this information on request from the Editorial Office.

If software tools are used, software names and sources should be reported along with appropriate references for tools and commands being used. If in-house computing scripts are used, programming language and key functions, as well as code availability, should be described.

*Software Availability:*

If specialized computer software and programs, scripts or other codes were used to generate results in the manuscript, this should be described, along with key commands, scripts, and their options. A statement specifying the availability of the software and code should be included. All versions employed and any restrictions should be documented, using URLs, filenames, versions, and accession numbers, as appropriate.

*Statistical Analysis:*

Statistical Analyses should be placed at the end of the **Methods** section.

This section should describe how data is systematically evaluated in a rigorous manner using analytical methods most appropriate to the study design. The rationale for each statistical analysis should be clear, and the procedure should be reproducible and well-documented. The criteria used to determine statistical significance must be clearly defined. When reporting significant and non-significant *p-values,* use no more than 3 decimal places ($p = 0.001$, $p < 0.05$). Large-scale genome-wide imaging genetics or similar studies may report smaller *p-values* where appropriate. For additional information see the American Statistician Association (ASA) Statement on Statistical Significance and *P*-Values.

Any Post-Hoc analyses used to correct for multiple tests or comparisons must be described and referenced. Adjustments of *p-values* or critical thresholds based on post-hoc analyses must be clearly identified and explained.

Data exclusions should be justified and reported. The detection and classification of outliers, including any analytical methods used to address them, should be discussed.

***Results***

The results section of the manuscript summarizes the data and any statistical results that were calculated. It provides enough information to accurately evaluate the study findings and justify research claims, without providing interpretation.

Negative findings that do not support the original hypothesis should not be omitted, as these may provide potentially important information for other investigators.

The results section should be structured around the Tables and Figures or other illustrative material which make it easier for readers to quickly grasp the nature and meaning of the data. When these illustrations are presented, they must be discussed in the text body of the results section. The same data should not be presented in both a table and a figure, except in selected cases where it may be justifiable to include the other format as supplemental material.

***Discussion***

This section includes explains the significance of the findings in the context of what is already known about the research problem. Any new knowledge or insights, including any practical implications, such as clinical/translational findings, should be considered and appropriately discussed. Avoid overinterpretation or claims not supported by statistically significant data presented in the manuscript.

Limitations of the study design must be presented and considered when making interpretations and drawing conclusions. Potential sources of bias and/or confounds should be disclosed. Topics that are extraneous to the main research topic should be avoided, as they detract from the overall focus and readability of the paper.

Implications for clinical care, if any, including diagnosis and therapeutic development should be provided. Implications for future research including important unanswered questions should be discussed. What experiments or observations need to be performed to validate, extend, or refute the present findings?

### *Conclusions*

The Conclusions section briefly restates the central premise and summarizes the main point(s) of the study. This section should be a single short paragraph in length.

### *Acknowledgments*

The purpose of the Acknowledgment section is to thank those people who made significant contributions to the research paper but who did not meet requirements for authorship. This may include people who provided technical help (e.g., editing, proofreading, graphics), special equipment, materials, and/or resources. See ICMJE for guidelines.

### *Declarations*

All manuscripts must contain the following sections under the heading 'Declarations', to be placed before 'References'.

If any of the sections are not relevant to your manuscript, please include the heading and write 'Not applicable' for that section.

**Funding** (information that explains whether and by whom the research was supported)

**Conflicts of interest/Competing interests** (include appropriate disclosures)

**Ethics approval** (include appropriate approvals or waivers)

**Consent to participate** (include appropriate statements)

**Consent for publication** (include appropriate statements)

**Availability of data and material** (data transparency)

**Code availability** (software application or custom code)

### *Author Contributions*

Specify the contribution of each author by providing a one-sentence statement summarizing their contribution(s). An author may have more than one contribution. If there are more than a few authors, the following format (using author initials) is likely to be most appropriate:

Author contributions included conception and study design (ABC and DEF), data collection or acquisition (DEF, GHI and JKL), statistical analysis (DEF, JKL and MNO), interpretation of results (ABD, DEF, GHI and MNO), drafting the manuscript work or revising it critically for important intellectual content (ABC, DEF, GHI, JKL and MNO) and approval of final version to be published and agreement to be accountable for the integrity and accuracy of all aspects of the work (All authors).

### *Funding Sources*

All funding sources directly or indirectly supporting this research must be acknowledged, including grant numbers where appropriate.

### *Compliance with Ethical Standards*

This section should indicate whether appropriate Institutional Ethics Committee(s) have reviewed and approved the study protocol described in the manuscript. Specify the name of the committee and institution. Confirm that all study participants have provided written informed consent.

BIB does not typically permit patient photographs. However, if there is an important scientific reason to include patient photographs, the author must confirm that a consent to publish was obtained. In the highly unusual circumstance that unmasked photographs are required, signed consent forms must be forwarded to the Editorial Office and approved by the Editor-in-Chief.

For animal studies, this section should indicate compliance with the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Following the ARRIVE Guidelines for improving bioscience research reporting is suggested.

### *Conflict of Interest*

All authors must disclose any potential conflicts of interest, including any interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, that might be perceived as influencing an author's objectivity. A conflict of interest does not preclude publication in this journal.

Potential sources of conflict include but are not limited to patents, copyrights, royalties, stock ownership, membership on a company's board of directors, membership on a company's advisory board, and consultancy, travel support, or speaker's fees from a company. Disclosure does not imply that a financial relationship by a sponsoring organization is inappropriate.

If the authors have no conflict of interest to declare, they must also state this at submission. It is the responsibility of the corresponding author to review procedures and collect **Disclosure Forms** from all authors.

For more information on Compliance with Ethical Standards, Consent, and Conflict of Interest statements, see Springer Author Responsibilities and Ethics.

### *Research Data Policy and Data Availability Statements*

This journal operates a Type 3 research data policy. Authors publishing in this journal must provide a data availability statement as part of their articles. Authors are encouraged to share their data or other materials underpinning their study but are not required to do so. Editorial decisions on the acceptance and publication of submitted articles will not be affected by whether or not authors share their research data.

### *Data availability statements*

The journal requires authors to include a data availability statement as part of their article. If no data was generated or analyzed, a statement to that effect should be included.

For the purposes of the data availability statement, "data" refers to any of the materials or sources that were used as inputs to your study or were generated as outputs: they may

include text extracts or images, maps, archival documents, photographs, audio or film recordings, field notes, spreadsheets, interview notes, or other material.

The inclusion of a data availability statement will be verified as a condition of publication. Data availability statements should include information on where data associated with the article can be found including, where applicable, hyperlinks to publicly archived datasets analyzed or generated during the study.

Where research data are not publicly available, for instance when individual privacy could be compromised, this must be stated in the data availability statement along with any conditions for accessing the data. Data availability statements may take one of the following forms (or a combination of more than one if required for multiple types of research data):

| **Template** | **Example** |
|---|---|
| The dataset generated during and/or analyzed during the current study are available in the [NAME] repository, [PERSISTENT WEB LINK TO DATASETS] | "The datasets generated by the survey research during and/or analyzed during the current study are available in the Dataverse repository, https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/205YXZ."<br><br>Example from: https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-020-00552-5<br><br>"The Greek Hippocratic texts used in this study are available to the public under a Creative Commons license at A Digital Corpus for Graeco-Arabic Studies: https://www.graeco-arabic-studies.org/texts.html."<br><br>Example from: https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-020-0511-7 |
| The datasets generated during and/or analyzed during the current study are not publicly available due [REASON WHY DATA ARE NOT PUBLIC] but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request. | "The datasets generated and analyzed during the current study are not publicly available due the fact that they constitute an excerpt of research in progress but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request."<br><br>Example from: https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-020-00555-2 |
| The datasets generated during and/or analyzed during the current study are | "The data that support the findings of this study are |

| | |
|---|---|
| available from the corresponding author on reasonable request. | available from the corresponding author upon request."<br><br>Example from: https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-019-0803-3 |
| Data sharing not applicable to this article as no datasets were generated or analyzed during the current study. | "We do not analyze or generate any datasets, because our work proceeds within a theoretical and mathematical approach."<br><br>Example from: https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-020-0517-1 |
| All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article [and its supplementary information files]. | "The author confirms that all data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article."<br><br>Example from: https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-020-0527-z |
| 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 license 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]. | "The dataset generated during the current study is not publicly available as it contains proprietary information that the authors acquired through a license. Information on how to obtain it and reproduce the analysis is available from the corresponding author on request."<br>Example from: https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-020-0520-6<br><br>"The datasets analyzed during the current study are not publicly available due confidential company data by GoMetro but are available from GoMetro (@ email address) on reasonable request."<br>Example from: https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-020-0508-2 |

Please see Springer Nature's Research Data Policies for more examples of template data availability statements, which include examples of openly available and restricted access datasets.

***Data sharing***

The journal does not require that research data are shared in a repository, although authors are recommended to do so if possible.

In particular, the journal does not require public sharing of quantitative or qualitative data that could identify a research participant unless participants have consented to data release.

Additionally, the journal does not require public sharing of other sensitive data, such as the specific geographic locations.

If authors would like to share sensitive or personal data, recommended methods include:

- Deposition of research data in controlled access repositories
- Anonymization or deidentification of data before public sharing
- Only sharing metadata about the research data
- Stating the procedures for accessing your research data in your article and managing data access requests from other researchers

***Embargoes***

Embargoes on data sharing are permitted.

***Supplementary materials***

We encourage authors to ensure that their datasets are either deposited in publicly available repositories (where available and appropriate). Sharing research data as supplementary information files with a journal article is discouraged.

***Data repositories***

The preferred mechanism for sharing research data is via data repositories. Please see the Springer Nature Recommended Repositories list, or alternatively check https://repositoryfinder.datacite.org or http://re3data.org for help finding research data repositories.

***Data citation***

The journal encourages authors to cite any publicly available research data in their reference list as well as the data availability statement. References to datasets (data citations) must include a persistent identifier (such as a DOIs, Handles, ARKs, or archival accession codes) where available.

Citations of datasets, when they appear in the reference list, should include the minimum information recommended by DataCite (Dataset Creator, Dataset Title, Publisher [repository], Publication Year, Identifier [e.g., DOI, Handle or ARK]) and should follow journal style.

For example: Álvaro Balaguer, “Not everything helps everyone the same: Relevance of Extracurricular Activities for Academic Achievement,” (2020) Zenodo, 10.5281/zenodo.3689261.

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***Researcher/author support***

Further information on research data sharing can be found on the Author Support portal.

***Figure legends, Tables, Appendices, References,*** and ***Figures*** will be reported at the end of the manuscript, in that order.

*Figure legends:*

Each figure legend should be listed on a separate page and numbered consecutively using Arabic numbers (i.e., Fig 1), as referred to in the text.

*Figures:*

- Figures should be submitted electronically in TIF, EPS, PDF, or JPG file format and be of high quality and in sufficient size and clarity to be reproduced.
- Reproduction in the journal requires TIF files (1200 dpi for line drawings and 300 dpi for color, or preferably greater). For black and white graphics, shading should not be used.
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- Particularly compelling figures may be selected as cover art for the journal

For useful information on preparing figures for publication, see AJE, Creating Effective Scientific Figures for Publication.

*Tables*:

Tables should be numbered consecutively using Arabic numbers as referred to in the text. Each table should be typed, double spaced, and placed on a separate sheet of paper. A brief title should be provided at the top of the table. Footnotes or other specific explanatory information should be placed beneath the table and include a key

to any annotations. Tables should not be overcrowded or have excessive wording. Horizontal lines, but not vertical lines should be used, as needed, to enhance clarity.

*Halftone Art*:

- Halftone art includes photographs, drawings, or paintings with fine shading, etc.
- Halftones should have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi, though 600 dpi or greater is preferred. TIFF format or MSOffice files are acceptable. Any magnification used in the photographs should be indicated by a scale bar within the figure itself.
- Combination halftone and line art (e.g., halftones containing line drawing, extensive lettering, or color diagrams, etc.) should have a minimum resolution of 600 dpi.

*References:*

The reference list should include only those works that are cited in the text and that have been published or accepted for publication. Permanently retrievable documents with DOI locators may be included as appropriate. Personal communications and unpublished works should be mentioned in the text only.

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## COVER LETTER (Required)

The cover letter provides an opportunity to highlight to the Journal Editor those aspects of the research that make it new and important. It explains why the research is relevant to the Journal and of interest to the readers.

*Cover Letter Structure:*

- Address the letter directly to the Editor.
- In the first line, include the manuscript title, the type of article (e.g., original research, brief report, review, etc.), and the name of the journal.
- In the second line, *confirm* that the paper has not been previously published and is not currently under consideration by another journal.
- Provide a 4-5 sentence paragraph that highlights the following:
    - Novel contributions relative to what is already known
    - Clinical implications, if any
    - Important implications for future research
    - Additional reasons why this research will be of interest to readers of *Brain Imaging and Behavior*
- Declare any conflicts of interest or confirm there are none.

## SUBMISSION CHECKLIST (Required)

Each manuscript submitted to *Brain Imaging and Behavior* **must** be accompanied by a completed Author Checklist.

The Author Checklist helps the author(s) evaluate the manuscript critically before submission. It may also be used by peer-reviewers and/or Editors to ensure that the submitted manuscript meets important journal requirements.

## THE REVIEW PROCESS

Manuscripts that meet the scope and priorities of the Journal are sent out for external peer review.

The review process generally includes two to three reviewers who are qualified to evaluate the scientific and biomedical merit of the work. Additional reviewers may be recruited if special expertise is required and in the case of highly divergent opinions.

Authors are asked to provide a list of **five or more** well-qualified reviewers. Authors may also request the exclusion of certain individuals as potential reviewers when submitting their manuscripts. When suggesting reviewers, authors should make sure they are non-conflicted (i.e., independent and not connected to the work under review in any way). For each recommendation, please provide the specific relevant area(s) of expertise, university affiliations, and a brief explanation of why each reviewer was recommended. Please note that the Journal may or may not use the author suggestions, but these are greatly appreciated and may help facilitate the peer review process.

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