

Instructions for Authors

EFFECTIVE May 2024

Scope

Biomolecular Concepts is a peer-reviewed, open access journal fostering the integration of different fields of biology, including cellular and molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, epigenetics, neurosciences, and developmental biology. The journal publishes reviews, short conceptual overviews and research papers on a wide range of topics. The reviews should cover the latest results in the corresponding research areas. The research articles should report novel results of broad significance, ranging from the role of single molecules to the organization of cellular networks and entire organisms.

Editorial Policy

Unpublished material

Submission of a manuscript implies that the work described is not copyrighted, published or submitted elsewhere, except in abstract form. The corresponding author should ensure that all authors approve the manuscript before its submission.

Conflict of interest

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Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study. All those who have made significant contributions should be listed as co-authors. Where there are others who have participated in certain substantive aspects of the research project, they should be named in an Acknowledgement section. For more details the role of authors please see <https://www.degruyter.com/publishing/for-authors/for-journal-authors/role-of-authors>.

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suggestion, and the final selection of reviewers is exclusively the Editor's decision. The final decision of acceptance is made by the Editors-in-Chiefs of the journal.

Data sharing policy

Effective June 2020, the journal requires authors to follow [Data Sharing Policy](#). Research data should be made widely available to the research community in order to demonstrate the robustness and validity of the research presented in the journal, to encourage replication of the results, and to provide the community with opportunities to learn. By publishing in the journal authors are required to provide a data availability statement (DAS) in their articles. Authors are encouraged to share their data but not required to. The decision to publish will not be affected by whether or not authors share their research data.

Scientific Misconduct

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Electronic Submission

Biomolecular Concepts encourages the submission of both substantial full-length bodies of work and shorter manuscripts that report novel findings. There are no specific length restrictions for the overall manuscript or individual sections; however, we urge the authors to present and discuss their findings in a concise and accessible manner. All submitted manuscripts must be written in English language. It is the Authors' responsibility to check the correctness of the language and style of their manuscript.

Manuscripts submitted under multiple authorship are reviewed on the assumption that all listed authors concur in the submission and are responsible for its content; they must have agreed to its publication and have given the corresponding author the authority to act on their behalf in all matters pertaining to publication. The corresponding author is responsible for informing the co-authors of the manuscript status throughout the submission, review, and production process.

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Publication Formats

Biomolecular Concepts considers submissions of original articles:

- **Research Article** – The default format for reporting research results. There is no length restriction.
- **Review Article** – Used to submit literature reviews on a topic of interest. The article should contain a broad, balanced and fair perspective of the topic, identifying trends and/or gaps in the literature or providing a

new synthesis of existing literature. Reviews should be scientifically sound and should describe the most relevant and recent contributions.

- **Mini-review** – Shorter type of review article
- **Communication/Editorial** – This format is intended for the presentation of brief observations that do not warrant full-length papers. An empirical report resulting from analysis of collected data to address one or more research questions and/or hypotheses.

Electronic Formats Allowed

We accept submission of text, tables and figures as separate files or as a composite file. For your initial submission, we recommend you upload your entire manuscript, including tables and figures, as a single PDF file. If you are invited to submit a revised manuscript, please provide us with individual files: an editable text and publication-quality figures.

Text files can be submitted in the following formats:

- MS Word – standard document (.doc, .docx)
- Rich Format Text (.rtf)
- PDF (not applicable for accepted manuscripts)
- Tables should be submitted as MS Word or PDF (not applicable for re-submitted or accepted manuscripts, see below). Please note that a straight Excel file is not an acceptable format.
- Graphics files can be submitted in any of the following graphic formats: EPS; BMP; JPG; TIFF; GIF or PDF. Please note that PowerPoint files are not accepted.

Post-acceptance, text files of the revised manuscript and tables are required for use in the production. Authors should clearly indicate the location(s) of tables and figures in the text if these elements are given separately or at the end of the manuscript. If this information is not provided to the editorial office, we will assume that they should be left at the end of the text.

First-Time Submission of Manuscripts

It is important that authors include a cover letter with their manuscript. Please explain why you consider your manuscript to be suitable for publication in *Biomolecular Concepts*, why your paper will inspire the other members of your field, and how will it drive academic discussion forward.

The cover letter should explicitly state that the manuscript (or one with substantially the same content, by any of the authors) has not been previously published in any language anywhere and that it is not under simultaneous consideration or in press by another journal. If related work has been submitted, then we may require a preprint to be made available. Reviewers will be asked to comment on the overlap between the related submissions.

Manuscripts that have been previously rejected, or withdrawn after being returned for modification, may be resubmitted if the major criticisms have been addressed. The cover letter must state that the manuscript is a resubmission, and the former manuscript number should be provided.

To ensure fair and objective decision-making, authors must declare any associations that pose a conflict of interest in connection with evaluated manuscripts. Authors may suggest up to two referees not to use, and in such cases additional justification should be provided in the cover letter. Authors are encouraged to recommend up to five reviewers who are not members of their institution(s) and have never been associated with them or their laboratory(ies); please provide contact information for suggested reviewers. The Editors reserve the right to select expert reviewers at their discretion.

Submission of Revised Articles

Resubmitted manuscripts should be accompanied by a letter outlining a point-by-point response to Editor's and reviewers' comments and detailing the changes made to the manuscript. A copy of the original manuscript should be included for comparison if the Editor requests one. If it is the first revision, authors need to return the revised manuscript within 28 days; if it is the second revision, authors need to return the revised manuscript within 14 days. Additional time for resubmission must be requested in advance. If the above-mentioned deadlines are not met, the manuscript will be treated as a new submission.

For resubmitted manuscripts, please provide us with an editable text and publication-quality figures. Supply any figures as separate high-resolution, print-ready digital versions. In addition to the editorial remarks, authors are asked to take care that they have prepared the revised version according to the Journal's style.

Organization of the Manuscript

We draw particular attention to the importance of carefully preparing the title, keywords and abstract, as these elements are indicators of the manuscript content in bibliographic databases and search engines.

Title

We suggest the title should be informative, specific to the project, yet concise (75 characters or fewer). If a long title is necessary, please prepare an optional short title. Please bear in mind that a title that is comprehensible to a broad academic audience and readers outside your field will attract a wider readership. Avoid specialist abbreviations and non-standard acronyms. Titles should not be presented in title case (words should not be capitalized).

Authors, Affiliations, Addresses

In the cover letter, provide the first names (or initials – if used), middle names (or initials – if used), and surnames for all authors. Affiliations should include:

- Department
- University or organization
- City
- Postal code
- State/province (if applicable)
- Country

One of the authors should be designated as the corresponding author to whom inquiries regarding the paper should be directed. It is the corresponding author's responsibility to ensure that the author list and the summary of the author contributions to the study are accurate and complete.

Abstract

The abstract should not exceed 200 words. The abstract should give a summary of the content of the paper. Mention the main findings without going into methodological detail and summarize briefly the most important items of the paper. The abstract should not contain literature citations, allusions to the tables, figures or illustrations. All nonstandard symbols and abbreviations should be defined. In combination with the title and keywords, an abstract is an indicator of the content of the paper. Because the abstract will be published separately by abstracting services, it must be complete and understandable without reference to the text.

Keywords

List keywords for the work presented (maximum of 5), separated by commas. We suggest that keywords do not replicate those used in the title.

Structure of a paper

Research papers and surveys should follow a strict structure. Generally, a standard scientific paper is divided into:

- **introduction:** present the subject of your paper clearly, indicate the scope of the subject, present the goals of your paper and finally the organization of your paper;
- **main text:** present all important elements of your scientific message; in case of research articles this part should be divided into materials and methods, results, and discussion sections;
- **conclusion:** summarize your paper.
- **author statements:** this section should describe:
 - any funding information (if applicable), including the role of the study sponsor(s), if any, in study design, collection, analysis, and interpretation of data, writing the paper and decision to submit it for publication;
 - author contributions (mandatory);
 - conflict of interest (mandatory);
 - informed consent (if applicable);
 - ethical approval (if applicable);
 - data availability statement (mandatory)

Introduction

The introduction should put the focus of the manuscript into a broader context and should supply sufficient background information to allow the reader to understand and evaluate the results without referring to previous publications on the topic. As you compose the introduction, think of readers who are not experts in this field. Include a brief review of the key literature – use only those references required to provide the most salient background rather than an exhaustive review of the topic. Relevant controversies or disagreements in the field should be mentioned so that a non-expert reader can delve into these issues further. The introduction should conclude with a brief statement of the rationale for the study, the hypothesis that was addressed or the overall purpose of the experiments reported and should provide a comment about whether that aim was achieved.

Methods

This section should include sufficient technical information to enable the experiments to be reproduced. Protocols for new methods or significant modifications to existing methods should be included, while previously published or well-

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Results

This section should provide statistical analyses of all of the experiments that are required to support the conclusions of the paper. Reserve extensive interpretation of the results for the Discussion section. Details of experiments that are peripheral to the main thrust of the article and that detract from the focus of the article should not be included. Present the results as concisely as possible in text, table(s), or figure(s) (see below). Avoid extensive use of graphs to present data that might be more concisely presented in the text or tables. Graphs illustrating methods commonly used need not be shown except in unusual circumstances. Limit photographs to those that are absolutely necessary to show the experimental findings. Number figures and tables in the order in which they are cited in the text, and be sure to cite all figures and tables. Styles and fonts should match those in the main body of the article. Large datasets, including raw data, should be submitted as supplementary material. The section may be divided into subsections, each with a concise subheading.

Discussion

The Discussion should provide an interpretation of the results in relation to previously published work and to the experimental system used. It should not contain extensive repetition of the Results or reiteration of the Introduction. This section should spell out the major conclusions of the work along with some explanation or speculation on the significance of these conclusions. The discussion should be concise and tightly argued.

Language

The journal is published in English. Make sure that your manuscript is clearly and grammatically written. It is the Authors' responsibility to ensure the language of their manuscript is correct. This should be preferably done prior to submission and we recommend the verification of the language with a native speaker. The mathematical content should be understandable and should not cause any confusion to the readers, including the referees.

General rules for writing:

- use simple and declarative sentences, avoid long sentences, in which the meaning may be lost by complicated construction;
- use correct and established nomenclature whenever possible;
- make your argumentation complete; use commonly understood terms; define all nonstandard symbols and abbreviations when you introduce them;
- explain all acronyms and abbreviations when they first appear in the text;
- use all units consistently throughout the article;
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Footnotes/Endnotes

We encourage authors to restrict the use of footnotes. If necessary, please make endnotes rather than footnotes. A footnote/endnote may include:

- the designation of the corresponding author of the paper;
- the current address of an author (if different from that shown in the affiliation);
- traditional footnote content.

Information concerning research grant support should appear in a separate Acknowledgements section at the end of the paper, not in a footnote. Acknowledgements of the assistance of colleagues or similar notes of appreciation should also appear in the Acknowledgements section, not in footnotes.

Acknowledgments

This section should describe sources of funding that have supported the work. Please also describe the role of the study sponsor(s), if any, in study design, collection, analysis, and interpretation of data, writing the paper and decision to submit it for publication. Recognition of personal assistance should be given as a separate paragraph: people who contributed to the work, but do not fit the criteria for authors should be listed along with their contributions. You must ensure that anyone named in the acknowledgments agrees to being so named.

References

Because all references will be linked electronically to the papers they cite, proper formatting of the references is crucial. A complete reference should give the reader enough information to find the relevant article. Please pay particular attention to spelling, capitalization and punctuation.

In the text, citations should be indicated by the reference number in brackets [1]. Multiple citations within a single set of brackets should be separated by commas [1, 5]. Where there are more than three sequential citations, they should be given as a range [1-4]. References in figure captions and tables should be listed after the references in the text.

Published or accepted (“in press”) manuscripts, books and book chapters, and theses should be included in the reference list. References to published meeting abstracts should be kept to a minimum. For all references, list the first six authors; add “et al.” if there are additional authors. **Please use the Vancouver/ICMJE style for the reference list.** Standard abbreviations of journal names according to the style used for MEDLINE should be used. Please use the following style for the reference list: https://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html.

References to unpublished or submitted work, unpublished conference presentations, personal communications, patent applications and patents pending, computer software, databases, and websites should be referred to as such only in the body of the text. These should be kept to a minimum.

Please use the Vancouver/ICMJE style for the reference list.

Published Papers

Halpern SD, Ubel PA, Caplan AL. Solid-organ transplantation in HIV-infected patients. N Engl J Med. 2002;347:284-7.

If there are more than six authors, list the first six authors, followed by et al.

Rose ME, Huerbin MB, Melick J, Marion DW, Palmer AM, Schiding JK, et al. Regulation of interstitial excitatory amino acid concentrations after cortical contusion injury. Brain Res. 2002;935(1-2):40-6.

Accepted Papers

Tian D, Araki H, Stahl E, Bergelson J, Kreitman M. Signature of balancing selection in Arabidopsis. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. Forthcoming 2002

Electronic Journal Articles

Dionne MS, Schneider DS. Screening the immune system. Genome Biol. 2002; <http://genomebiology.com/2002/3/4/reviews/1010>

Books and book chapters

Sambrook J, Russell D.W., Molecular cloning - a laboratory manual. 3rd ed. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press. Cold Spring Harbor; 2001.

Theses

Agutter A. J. (1995). Analysis of sigma factors in S. aureus (PhD thesis). Edinburgh: Edinburgh University.

Conference proceedings

Harnden P, Joffe JK, Jones WG, editors. Germ cell tumours V. Proceedings of the 5th Germ Cell Tumour Conference; 2001 Sep 13-15; Leeds, UK. New York: Springer; 2002.

Newspaper articles

Tynan T. Medical improvements lower homicide rate: study sees drop in assault rate. The Washington Post. 2002 Aug 12;Sect. A:2 (col. 4).

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Footnotes and endnotes should be avoided. Allowable footnotes/endnotes may include: the designation of the corresponding author of the paper, the current address of an author (if different from that shown in the affiliation), abbreviations and acronyms.

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Authors may use photographs, schemes, diagrams, line graphs and bar charts to illustrate their findings, Figures should be suitable for onscreen viewing and desktop printing. High resolution images should be provided on request or on manuscript acceptance. The figures and their lettering should be clear and easy to read.

We remind the authors that it is not acceptable scientific conduct to modify any separate element within an image. Figures should be numbered consecutively using Arabic numerals and referred to in the text by number. Each figure legend should have a concise title and should provide enough information so that the figure is understandable without frequent reference to the text.

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The use of special symbols, abbreviations, and acronyms is permitted so long as they are defined upon first mention in the article.

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