

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2024

SCOPE

Open Life Sciences is an international peer-reviewed open-access journal that publishes original research, reviews and news in all areas of life sciences. Our central goal is to provide a hub for researchers working across all species to present their discoveries, and to be a forum for the discussion of the important issues in the field. The journal accommodates a variety of exposition styles and formats to help scientists with diverse backgrounds interact.

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Unpublished material

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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.

Peer Review process

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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.

All submissions must be made via online submission system Editorial Manager. In case of problems, please contact the Managing Editor of this journal (Izabela.Zarczynska@degruyter.com).

Publication Formats

Open Life Sciences considers submissions of:

- **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 Article** – A shorter form of a Review Article intended for a brief analysis of a focused topic on advances in the field. It discusses recent experimental research, highlights recent developments in fast-moving areas, and suggests areas that require additional research.

- **Communication** – 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.

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 - MS Word – standard DOCUMENT (.DOC)
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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.

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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

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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. 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.

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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.

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We suggest the title should be informative, specific to the project, yet concise (75 characters or fewer). 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). Please also provide a brief "running title" of not more than 50 characters.

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
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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. 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.

References

References should be listed and numbered in the order that they appear in the text. In the text, citations should be indicated by the reference number in brackets [1]. Multiple citations should be separated by commas [1, 2]. 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 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. 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

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).

Formatting and Typesetting

All pages must be numbered consecutively. The whole text (including legends, footnotes, and references) should be formatted double-spaced with no hyphenation and automatic word-wrap (no hard returns within paragraphs). Please type your text consistently, e.g. take care to distinguish between '1' (one), 'I' (capital I) and 'l' (lower-case L) and '0' (zero) and 'O' (capital O), etc. Manuscript pages should have line numbers. The font size should be no smaller than 12 points.

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Symbols and abbreviations

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This section should describe recognition of personal assistance: 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.

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