

Information for Authors

Scope and policy of the Journal

Biological Chemistry (*Biol. Chem.*) provides rapid publication for reports on molecular studies of exceptional biological interest. The Journal publishes full length papers, short communications, reviews and minireviews. Reviews are published by invitation only, but suggestions to the Editor-in-Chief are welcome.

Submission of a manuscript to *Biological Chemistry* implies that the work described has not been published before and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. It is the corresponding author's responsibility to ensure that all authors see the manuscript and approve of its submission for publication. Once the manuscript is accepted, it must not be published elsewhere without the consent of the copyright holders.

Submission of manuscripts

Manuscripts must be submitted online at the following URL:

<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/bc>

Submitting authors must provide an ORCID number for successful login. Furthermore, all authors are requested to register only with institutional e-mail addresses, and refrain from using private e-mail addresses. Together with the electronic manuscript files, for each manuscript a cover letter must be submitted which contains a brief statement by the authors as to the element of novelty upon which they base their request for publication in *Biol Chem*. Please address the cover letter to:

Biological Chemistry Editorial Office
attn. Dr. Douglas Thomas
De Gruyter GmbH
Genthiner Str. 13
D-10785 Berlin
Germany

For online submission it is mandatory to suggest possible reviewers for the peer reviewing process. Please indicate the names and address details (including e-mail address) of at least four potential referees who are not editors or members of the Editorial Board of the Journal.

Review of manuscripts and speed of publication

Papers will be independently reviewed by at least two referees selected by the Editors of *Biological Chemistry*. On the average, decisions will be reached within approx. four weeks of submission. When papers are accepted subject to revision, revision is allowed only once. The revised manuscript must be submitted within two months of the authors' notification of conditional acceptance. It is the aim of the Journal to publish papers in an online-only ('Just Accepted') format within seven working days after the acceptance notification.

'Fast Track' manuscript processing option

A so-called 'Fast Track' manuscript processing option is available for authors of *Biological Chemistry*. This schedule involves accelerated handling and peer reviewing of submitted manuscripts. Fast Track articles are also published online in manuscript format within approx. 4 working days after acceptance with DOI for immediate citability. The shortened processing time allows the journal to make outstanding research results promptly available to the scientific community. Authors who wish to apply for Fast Track processing should clearly state this in their mandatory cover letter to the Editor. Processing of submitted manuscripts in the Fast Track mode is subject to approval by the responsible Executive Editor or Editor-in-Chief. Authors will be notified by e-mail shortly after manuscript submission whether their manuscript will be processed via the Fast Track route.

Preparation of manuscripts

Manuscripts must be written in clear and concise English and should be regarded as final texts. No changes may be made at the proof state other than correction of printer's errors.

General format and length

Manuscripts (including table legends, figure legends and references) should be typed double-spaced with font size 12 letters. Pages should be numbered (with the title page as 1) and have margins of 2.5 cm (1 inch) on all sides. Footnotes in the text should be avoided; parentheses should be used instead. Full-length papers and reviews should occupy no more than eight printed pages, short communications and minireviews should not exceed five printed pages. Each full page of printed text corresponds to approximately 900 words. Please allow sufficient space for tables and illustrations within the page limit. Note that full review articles must contain a sufficient number of Figures/Tables to aid comprehensibility of the content. Full research articles should not contain more than 7 Tables or figures; short communications have a maximum of 3 tables or figures. Further tables and/or figures may be published as online-only supplementary materials.

Sections

Full-length papers should be organized into Title page, Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Results, Discussion, Materials and methods, Acknowledgments, References, tables and figure legends.

Short communications should be subdivided into an Abstract, Keywords, and a single section of main text without headings. Experimental procedures should be described in legends to figures or footnotes to tables. Acknowledgments and References should be presented as in full-length papers.

Title page

The Title page should include (a) a short and informative full article title (series titles are not accepted); (b) names of all authors (with one forename in full for each author), followed by their affiliations (department, institution, city with postcode, country); (c) the mailing address, fax and phone number and e-mail address of the corresponding author; (d) a running title of 50 characters or less. If there is more than one institution involved in the work, authors' names should be linked by superscript consecutive numbers to the appropriate institutions. If required, small superscript letters should be used to indicate present addresses.

Abstract and keywords

The second page of the manuscript should contain the Abstract and the Keywords. The Abstract should be a single paragraph of no more than 200 words (full-length paper or review) or 100 words (short communication or minireview) which must be comprehensible to readers before they have read the paper. The use of abbreviations and acronyms should be kept to an absolute minimum; abbreviated terms must be spelled out on first mention. Reference citations must not be given in Abstracts. Below the Abstract up to six Keywords, which are not part of the title, should be given in alphabetical order and separated by semicolons.

Acknowledgments

Acknowledgments should be placed at the end of the text. Names of funding organizations should be written in their entirety.

References

For citations authors are encouraged to rely as far as possible upon articles published in primary research journals.

Unpublished results and personal communications should be cited as such within the text; personal communications must be substantiated by a letter of permission. Meeting abstracts may not be cited.

Within the text references should be cited by author and date (Harvard style); et al. should be used if there are more than two authors. At the end of the text citations should be listed in alphabetical order and should contain complete titles. The number of references should not exceed 150 for reviews or 30 for minireviews. Detailed guidelines and examples for formatting the cited literature are given below.

Tables

Tables should be typed on separate pages and be numbered consecutively using Arabic numerals. If a table is exceptionally large it should be submitted as separate supplementary file. A short descriptive caption, column headings, and (if necessary) footnotes should make each table self-explanatory.

Illustrations

Electronic files containing illustrations should be provided in a generic graphics format (jpg, tif, png, eps). For reproduction, high-resolution (approx. 300 dpi and better) images are required. All figures will be reduced in size to fit, wherever possible, the width of a single column, i.e. 80 mm, or a double column, i.e. 168 mm, of text. Ideally, single column figures should be submitted with a width of 100 mm, double column figures with a width of 210 mm. Lettering of all figures within the article should be uniform in style (preferably a sans serif typeface) and of sufficient size (so that the final height will be approximately 2 mm). Upper-case letters A, B, C etc. should be used to identify individual parts of multi-part figures. All figures must be cited in the text in numerical order. Reference to figures is to be made as Figure 1 etc. in the text and captions.

For figures containing fitted images (for example gel pictures) authors are requested to submit the uncropped pictures as "Supplementary File for Review" (file designation for upload) in order to facilitate the peer reviewing process. The Editors reserve the right to stall the editorial processing if such material is missing but deemed necessary for a comprehensive evaluation of the work.

Color figures: Authors are encouraged to submit illustrations in color if necessary for their scientific content. Publication of color figures is provided free of charge both in online and print editions.

Line drawings: These should also be provided as high-resolution files. No additional artwork, redrawing or typesetting will be done by the publisher. Note the faint shading or stippling may be lost upon reproduction, heavy staining or stippling may appear black.

Figure legends: These should be placed at the very end of the manuscript text. All symbols and abbreviations used in the figures must be explained, except for standard abbreviations or others defined in the preceding text.

Important: in case you are using graphic material (photographs/drawings) for which neither of the authors holds the copyright, obtain written permission for using such material from the copyright holder prior to submission of the final manuscript version. It is the responsibility of the authors to obtain proper permission for the use of copyrighted material.

Nomenclature

With respect to biochemical terminology the Journal will follow the rules laid down by the IUPAC-IUB Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature, as given in *Biochemical Nomenclature and Related Documents*, published by the Biochemical Society, U.K. Enzyme names should be in accordance with the recommendations of the IUPAC-IUB Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature, 1978, as given in *Enzyme Nomenclature*, published by Academic Press, New York, 1992.

Genotypes should be given in italics, phenotypes should not be italicized. Nomenclature of bacterial genetics should follow Demerec et al. (1966), *Genetics* 54, 61–76.

Database submissions

All molecules described in a paper should be described in full. In the case of proteins these should include both gene name and species of origin, preferably accompanied by an Accession Number from a protein sequence database, for example UniProtKB (www.uniprot.org). Authors are encouraged to deposit their data in public, open access databases, formatted according to conventions of the relevant communities prior to manuscript submission, and cite database accession numbers provided in the manuscript. For example, microarray data should be deposited in either ArrayExpress (www.ebi.ac.uk/microarray-as/ae/) or GEO (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/), molecular interactions in an IMEx partner database (www.imexconsortium.org) such as IntAct (www.ebi.ac.uk/intact), and structural data in wwPDB (www.wwpdb.org/).

Abbreviations

The Journal accepts standard *Journal of Biological Chemistry* abbreviations. Uncommon abbreviations should be defined parenthetically within the text upon first appearance. A separate list of abbreviations should be avoided.

Author photo and short CV

Authors of review articles may submit a portrait photograph and a short scientific CV (4-6 sentences, written in the 3rd person singular) of all authors of the manuscript. Please use the appropriate "file designation" terms for the CV text file(s) and author photograph(s) during online submission. This information will be published in the article after the references section.

Note: As per De Gruyter policy, no author list changes are permitted after acceptance of an article. The De Gruyter production team is instructed to enforce this policy during the production/proofing process.

Offprints/PDF files

The electronic files of typeset articles in Adobe Acrobat PDF format are provided free of charge to corresponding authors upon publication. Paper offprints can be ordered in addition; an offprint order form will be provided when uploading the proof corrections online.

Note for authors of NIH-funded research

De Gruyter Publishers acknowledge that the author of an NIH-funded article retains the right to provide a copy of the final manuscript to NIH upon acceptance for publication or thereafter, for public archiving in PubMed Central 12 months after publication in *Biol Chem*. Note that only the accepted author's version of the manuscript, but not the PDF file of the published article in journal layout, may be used for NIH archiving.

Please contact the Editorial Office if you have any further questions (Tel.: +49-30-26005-176; Fax: +49-30-26005-352; e-mail: biol.chem.editorial@degruyter.com). We will do our best to assist you.

Biological Chemistry Referencing Style

In-text citation		
	Direct citation	Indirect citation
Single author	Baker (2015)	(Baker 2015)
Two authors	Borgonovi and Burns (2015)	(Borgonovi and Burns 2015)
More than two authors	Martin et al. (2014)	(Martin et al. 2014)
Series of references	Zabal et al. (2014) and Mohadjer et al. (2013a)	Alphabetical order (Mohadjer et al. 2013a; Zabal et al. 2014).
Same author group with different years	Smith et al. (1995, 1997)	(Smith et al., 1995, 1997)
Same author (group) with same year	Lawrence and David (2009a,b)	(Lawrence and David 2009a,b)
Reference list		
Reference type	Example	
Reference list order	Alphabetical order	
1. Journal	Allis, C.D. and Jenuwein, T. (2016). The molecular hallmarks of epigenetic control. <i>Nat. Rev. Genet.</i> 17: 487–500.	
2. Journal with supplement	Dahlmann, B. (2007). Role of proteasomes in disease. <i>BMC Biochem.</i> 8 (Suppl. 1): S3.	
3. et al. usage (more than ten authors followed by et al.)	Porodko, A., Cirnski, A., Petrov, D., Raab, T., Paireder, M., Mayer, B., Maresch, D., Nika, L., Biniossek, M.L., Gallois, P., et al. (2018). The two cathepsin B-like proteases of <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> are closely related enzymes with discrete endopeptidase and carboxydipeptidase activities. <i>Biol. Chem.</i> 399: 1223–1235.	
4. Epub ahead of print	Yamauchi, K., Iwasaki, Shio., and Kawakami, Y. (2019). Redox equilibrium of serum apolipoprotein E3: a buffering effect of disulfide-linked complexes against oxidative stress on apolipoprotein E3-containing lipoproteins. <i>Bioscience Reports</i> , DOI: 10.1042/BSR20190184 (Epub ahead of print).	
5. Book/ monograph	Andreasen, N.C. (2001). <i>Brave new brain: conquering mental illness in the era of the genome</i> . Oxford University Press, Oxford.	
6. Edited book	Hauser, H., Wagner, R. (Eds.) (2014). <i>Animal Cell Biotechnology</i> . De Gruyter, Berlin.	
7. Edited book with chapter title	Schuchman, E.H. and Desnick, R.J. (2001). Niemann-Pick disease types A and B: Sphingomyelinase deficiencies. In: Scriver, C.R., Beaudet, A.L., Sly, W.S., Valle, D. (Eds.). <i>The Metabolic and Molecular Bases of Inherited Disease</i> . McGraw-Hill, New York, pp. 3589–3610.	
8. Electronic publication (Available at)	Cooper, G.M. (2000). <i>The Cell - A Molecular Approach</i> , 2nd edition. Sinauer Associates, Available at: < https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK9839 >.	
9. Thesis/ Dissertation	Radchenko, D. (2018). <i>Cellular signaling pathways in the filamentous fungus Sordaria macrospora: molecular genetic analysis of the STRIPAK-associated germinal center kinase SmKIN3 in developmental processes</i> , Ph.D. thesis. Bochum, Ruhr-University Bochum.	