**QUICK CHECKLIST**

**MAIN DOCUMENT**

**General layout guidelines:**

- **Fonts:** Bookman Old Style, 8 pt. font size. For main text, Gotham Book, 7 pt. font size for table titles and footnotes and figure legends. Italic font style is restricted to genes and Latin terms (except for abbreviations such as e.g., et al.). Do not use bold face within text.

- **Numbers:** Written out in words up to ten and unless they are used as a unit of measurement or when used at the beginning of a sentence. This does not apply for figures and tables. Use decimal points, not commas. Write symbols, mathematical signs and their respective value without spaces (e.g. n=1).

- **Language:** Write in concise English. Non-native speaking authors may contact the editorial office for advice on appropriate language editing service providers or use the service provided by ScholarOne Manuscripts during submission (English Language Editing Service).

- **Use of word processing software:** Save your file in the native format of the word processor used. Do not submit a PDF. You are strongly advised to use the ‘spell-check’ and ‘grammar-check’ functions to avoid unnecessary errors.

- **List of authors:** Include author names above the title, separated by comma. Use a full stop after middle name initials. Give affiliations for each author on the bottom of the first page without designators. Give the name of the corresponding author(s) on the bottom of the first page as well. Give an email address and telephone number only for the corresponding author. Equal contributing authors should read as follows: XXX and YYY contributed equally to this work. 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.

- **Title:** Write the title in down style (non-capitalized, except for the first word and any proper name).

- **Abstract:** Structure your abstract (if it is a requirement of submission, see table above), according to the respective article type.

- **Keywords:** Give keywords below the abstract (in alphabetical order, non-capitalized, separated by semicolon).

- **Heading- and subheadings:** Down style (see section “Title”). The hierarchy of the main text must be clearly recognizable.

- **Manufacturer details:** Are to be provided incl. city and country for reagents and apparatus reported in the manuscript (Use only USA and UK for United States and United Kingdom. For USA, sole use of the abbreviated state name is allowed). Use the correct symbol (e.g. ©, ®) and not the letters “TM” in superscript.
Abbreviations: Both in the abstract and in the main text, abbreviations are to be spelled out at first mention. Thereafter, only these abbreviations are to be used. It is not necessary to include a list of abbreviations.

Figures: Should have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi (halftone figures) and 1200 dpi (line drawings) and be of good contrast. Faint shading may be lost upon reproduction. When drawing bar graphs, use patterning instead of grayscale. Do not put boxes or borderlines around figures. Uppercase letters A, B, etc. should be used to identify parts of multi-part figures. Make sure all axes have been clearly labelled. Insert figures at the appropriate position within the article template. Additionally, upload the source files during manuscript submission.

In the text, part label figures are cited as:
- (Figure 1)
- (Figures 1, 3) - with space between comma and value
- (Figures 1-3) - closed-up

Part labels should be caps in both caption and citation. In the text, part label figures are cited as:
- (Figure 1A, C)
- (Figure 1A-C)

Legends of Figures should start on a new line (after the title). Part labels should be put in ( ).

Figure legends: Should not be embedded in the figure files themselves. Provide a short descriptive title and a legend (written on a new line) to make each figure self-explanatory. Explain all symbols used in a figure. Remember to use the same abbreviations as in the text body. Uppercase letters identifying parts of multi-part figures have to be included in parentheses.

Sources for figures are to be cited in parentheses after the caption (with permission from ref. [2]) or (modified with permission from ref. [2]).

Tables: Number tables consecutively using Arabic numerals. Provide a short descriptive title, column headings, and (if necessary) footnotes to make each table self-explanatory. In the footnote, refer to information within the table with superscript lowercase letters, and do not use special characters or numbers. Separate units with a comma and use parentheses or square brackets for additional measures (e.g., %, range, etc). Abbreviations must be explained in the footnote as well (separated by comma and semicolon). Remember to use the same abbreviations as in the main text.

In the text, part label tables are cited as:
- (Table 1)
- (Table 1, 3) - with space between comma and value
- (Table 1-3) - closed-up

Sources for tables are to be cited in parentheses after the caption (with permission from ref. [2]) or (modified with permission from ref. [2]).

Supplemental material: Within the text, supplemental material must be cited consecutively and be referred to as supplemental material (e.g. see Supplemental Material, Figure 1, or
Supplemental Figure 1). Please be aware, that our typesetting vendor does not edit supplemental material. Therefore, submit two versions of supplemental material, one with tracked changes and a clean version (if this is applicable).

- **Videos:** Authors are encouraged to submit videos accompanying the article as supplemental material.

- **Highlights:** Highlight bullet points (with En-dash) are allowed for all article types, should appear before the Acknowledgments (if present)/Author statements section.

- **Learning points:** Are allowed (with En-dash) for Case Reports, should be set before Acknowledgments (if present)/Author statements

- **Acknowledgements/Funding/Author contribution/Statements on ethical and legal considerations (see also Author Statements):** The Template for Ethical and Legal Declarations ([ENGLISH](#) or [SPANISH](#)) needs to be customized and uploaded as a separate file at the time of the original submission, and all other versions.

**Acknowledgments:** (If applicable). If not applicable, remove.

**Research funding:** None declared.

**Author contributions:** All authors have accepted responsibility for the entire content of this manuscript and approved its submission.

**Competing interests:** Authors state no conflict of interest.

**Informed consent:** Informed consent was obtained from all individuals included in this study.

**OR Not applicable.**

**Ethical approval:** Research involving human subjects complied with all relevant national regulations, institutional policies and is in accordance with the tenets of the Helsinki Declaration (as revised in 2013), and has been approved by the authors’ Institutional Review Board (xxxx) or equivalent committee. (xxx-Nr.: xx/x).

**OR** Research involving animals complied with all relevant national regulations and institutional policies (xxxx) for the care and use of animals. (xxx-Nr.: xx/x).

**OR** The local Institutional Review Board deemed the study exempt from review.

**OR Not applicable.**

**Data Availability**

- The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available in the [NAME] repository, [PERSISTENT WEB LINK TO DATASETS]
- The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.
- Data sharing is not applicable to this article as no datasets were generated or analysed during the current study.
- All data generated or analysed during this study are included in this published article [and its supplementary information files].
- 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].

Statements will be automatically implemented before the reference section. Strictly adhere to the instructions and the wording of the template.

- **References:** References should be listed at the end of the manuscript. Adhere strictly to the reference style of the Journal (Vancouver; recommendations of the "International Committee of Medical Journals Editors"; found [here](#)).
All references mentioned in the reference list have to be cited in the text and vice versa. List and number the references consecutively in the order they appear in the text, including Tables and Figures. In the text, identify references by Arabic numerals in [parentheses]. Italic and boldface font type is not allowed in the reference section. List all authors; if the number is 7 or more, list the first 6 names followed by et al. Identify authors by last name first, followed by up to 2 initials, without periods, indicating the authors' first name. Only the first name of the title is capitalized, as well as proper names within the title. Journal names are abbreviated as indicated in PubMed and in the Web of Knowledge (NIH.Linkout.Journals: Web of Knowledge), without periods. After the abbreviated journal name, give the year of publication, followed by a semicolon, volume number (but no issue number), followed by a double colon, and the page numbers, with the last page number in shortened format. Meeting abstracts may be cited only if published in journals. Unpublished observations and personal communications are cited only in the text. Correct linking of the references depends on strict adherence to journal style.

Refer to the end of this document for detailed examples of references.

- **Equations**: Are to be numbered (Arabic numerals within parentheses in sequential order). In-text citation format: Eq. (1); Ranges: Eqs. (1)–(5); Eqs. (1) and (4). Simple maths should be converted into text.
- **Variables**: Greek lowercase: Roman; Greek uppercase: Roman; Single letter variables: Italics; Multi-letter variables: Roman preferred.
- **Units**: All units should be in Roman. Unit separation should be comma in table entries. Spaces should be presented between numbers and units (except for %). Units are to be expanded with numbers and units if beginning a sentence.
  - Degree Celsius; °C; should be spaced with non-breakable space.
  - The letter ‘l’ should be caps in all combinations of liter units (L/mL/dL/µL…….).
  - Molar ‘M’ should be caps. Units need not be repeated in value ranges.
  - P (referring to a population proportion) and p (to a sample proportion) are to be written in Roman. In table headers, ‘p’ should be written ‘p-Value’.
  - n (to population and sample size) are to be written in Roman.
  - Volume and weight units should be abbreviated as ‘vol’ and ‘wt’ in unit–value combinations.
  - The coefficient of determination (R²) is written in Roman with superscript 2.
  - Use periods for the non-SI units:
    - inches → in.
    - atomic → at.
    - number → no.
    - as these abbreviations could be confused with the words in, at, and no.
  - Centrifugation ‘g’ should be italics (either written with non-breakable space 1000 g or closed up with multiplication sign 1000×g).
  - Closed-up number and multiplication sign ‘x’ for magnifications.
Time unit abbreviations to be used: second – s; minute – min; hour – h; day – day/days; week – week/weeks; month – month/months; year – year/years.

- **Binominals**: Are written in italics.
- **Latin terms**: Should be italics but not in the Reference list (in vitro, in vivo, de novo, in situ, ad libitum...). Abbreviations of Latin terms should be Roman. (i.e., e.g., vs., et al...). 'Versus' should be written 'vs.' and in Roman font.


Genus and species should be written in full for the first occurrence in the Abstract and in the main body of the article as well as in the title and keywords. In succeeding occurrences, the genus name should be abbreviated to an initial (‘sp.’, ‘spp.’, ‘ssp.’, ‘var.’, ‘L.’, ‘subsp.’, etc. should be Roman).

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### Vancouver reference style

#### In-text citation

| Single reference | [1] |
| Series of references | [2, 8, 25] |
| Range of references | [5–12] |

**Citation order**

Sequential

**Issue numbers**

Not allowed

#### Reference list

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Reference type</th>
<th>Example</th>
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