

e-Polymers Instructions for Authors

(last update: December 2023)

AIMS AND SCOPE

The aim of *e-Polymers* is to publish original Research Articles, Rapid Communications, Review Articles and Mini-Reviews related to pure and applied polymer science. This includes synthetic methodologies, characterization and processing techniques for polymer materials. Reports on applications of polymers in all areas are especially welcome. The accepted articles are published online in ongoing way.

e-Polymers is an Open Access journal which has Article Processing Charges (APC) – $\mathbf{\mathfrak{C}}$ **1500**. For more information, please read *Article Processing Charges* document available in the supplementary information section on the journal homepage.

EDITORIAL POLICY

e-Polymers is a peer reviewed Open Access journal and publishes in all areas of polymer chemistry, physics, and engineering.

Each manuscript must be accompanied by a cover letter containing a strong statement describing the novelty and importance of the work submitted. The authors should give the names and e-mail addresses of up to three potential reviewers. Authors may also indicate names of reviewers whom they wish to be excluded from reviewing their manuscripts.

Submission of a manuscript to *e-Polymers* implies that the work described has not been published before, except in the form of an abstract, thesis or lecture and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. It is the responsibility of the corresponding author to ensure that all authors see and approve the manuscript before its submission to *e-Polymers*.

Authorship is restricted to those who have made a significant contribution to the conceptual design of the study, the execution of the study, the data analysis or the writing of the manuscript.

The authors must describe safeguards to meet standards of **ethical conduct of research**. Where applicable, authors must confirm in the Materials and methods section that they have complied with the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki regarding ethical conduct of research involving human subjects and/or animals.

The list of authors cannot be changed after the original submission without the permission of the *e-Polymers* Editorial Office.

Conflict of interest for a given manuscript exists when a participant in the peer review and publication process – author, reviewer, and editor – has ties to activities that could inappropriately influence his/her judgment, regardless of whether judgment is, in fact, affected. Financial relationships with industry (for example, employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, expert testimony), either directly or through immediate family, are usually considered the most important conflicts of interest. However, conflicts can occur for other reasons, such as personal relationships, academic competition, and intellectual passion.

When authors submit a manuscript, they are responsible for recognizing and disclosing financial and/or other conflicts of interest that might bias their work. Any financial support for and financial or personal connections related to the work have to be clearly disclosed in the manuscript. If no specified acknowledgement is given, the Publishers assume that no conflicts of interests exist.

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ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

e-Polymers 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. <u>Please limit the display items in your manuscript (figures and tables) to 6-10 for a Research Article and Rapid Communication</u>. Review Articles can contain more display items. All submitted manuscripts must be written in English language.

Manuscripts submitted under multiple authorship are reviewed on the assumption that all listed authors concur in the submission and are responsible for its content. The corresponding author is responsible for informing the coauthors of the manuscript status throughout the submission, review, and production process.

Manuscripts should be submitted in electronic form to our online submission, peer review and production system at http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/epolymers. In case of problems, please contact the Managing Editor of this journal (epolymers.editorial@degruyter.com).

Review of manuscripts and speed of publication

The Editors reserve the right to decline the submitted manuscript without review, if the studies reported are not sufficiently novel or important to merit publication in the journal. Manuscripts deemed unsuitable (insufficient originality or of limited interest to the target audience) are returned to the author(s) without review.

Manuscripts that are consistent with the journal scope are reviewed by peer(s) selected by the Editors. Decisions are reached as fast as possible. When manuscripts are accepted subject to revision, the revised manuscript should be returned within approx. two months. It is the aim of the journal to publish papers promptly online as soon as they have been finally processed.

Publication formats

e-Polymers considers submissions of:

- Research Article The default format for reporting research results.
- Review Article It is 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.
- <u>Mini-Review</u> Shorter type of review articles.
- Rapid 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.
- Erratum.

Electronic formats allowed

We accept submission of text, tables and figures as separate files, but we encourage you to submit all items as one composite Word file. If you prefer to submit individual files, please use the following guidelines:

Text files have to be submitted as Word documents.

- Tables should be submitted as Word file. 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 or GIF. Other option is to include graphics files in the manuscript file (please see Manuscript template available on the journal website). 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. All pages must be numbered consecutively. Manuscript pages should have line numbers.

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 *e-Polymers*, why your paper will inspire the other members of your field, and how will it drive academic discussion forward.

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. If the decision is "Major Revision", authors need to return the revised manuscript within 45 days; if it is the decision is "Minor Revision", authors need to return the revised manuscript within 30 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.

Outline of the production processes

Once an article has been accepted for publication, the manuscript files are transferred into our production system to be language-edited and formatted. Language and technical editors reserve the privilege of editing manuscripts to conform with the stylistic conventions of the journal. Once the article has been typeset, PDF proofs are generated so that authors can approve all editing and layout.

PREPARATION OF MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscript template

To facilitate the preparation of your manuscript, please download the manuscript template from the <u>e-Polymers website</u> (available in section: Supplementary Materials).

Language

Manuscripts must be written in clear and concise English. Please have your text proofread by an English native speaker before you submit it for consideration.

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General format and length

Please do not insert footnotes in the text, use parentheses instead. *e-Polymers* 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. Please limit the display items in your manuscript (figures and tables) to 6-10 for a Research Article and Rapid Communication. Review Articles can contain more display items.

Article components

<u>Research Articles</u> should contain: Title page, Abstract, Keywords (up to 5), Introduction, Materials and methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusions, Author statements (explained below), List of non-standard abbreviations (*if applicable*), References, Graphical abstract (*optional*), List of figure captions, Figures, Tables with table captions, and Appendix (*optional*). For the proper preparation of your manuscript, please use the <u>Manuscript template</u>.

<u>Review Articles</u> and <u>Mini-Reviews</u> can be composed of more unique set of sections in the main text. Sections in Review Articles should be as follows: Title page, Abstract, Keywords (up to 5), the main text divided into proper sections and subsections, Author statements (explained below), List of non-standard abbreviations (*if applicable*), References, Graphical abstract (*optional*), List of figure captions, Figures, Tables with table captions, and Appendix (*optional*).

<u>Rapid Communications</u> should contain a single section of main text without headings (no division to Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion). The experimental section can be presented after the main text. Sections in Rapid Communications should be as follows: Title page, Abstract, Keywords (up to 5), a single section of main text without headings, Experimental details, Author statements (explained below), List of non-standard abbreviations (*if applicable*), References, Graphical abstract (*optional*), List of figure captions, Figures, Tables with table captions, and Appendix (*optional*).

<u>Author statements.</u> Each article has to contain the following statements: Acknowledgement – *if applicable*, Research funding – *obligatory*, Author contribution – *obligatory*, Conflict of interest – *obligatory*, Data availability statement – *if applicable*. All statements are explained below.

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 and concise (75 characters or fewer). Please bear in mind that a title which 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
- 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. 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.

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-established protocols should only be referenced. Describe new methods completely and give sources of unusual chemicals, equipment, strains etc. Studies presented should comply with our recommendations for distribution of materials and data (see below). In theoretical papers comprising the computational analyses, technical details (methods, models applied or newly developed) should be provided to enable the readers to reproduce the calculations.

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

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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.

Author statements

Acknowledgment (optional)

Recognition of personal assistance should be given in this section: 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 acknowledgment agrees to being so named.

Research funding (obligatory)

This section should describe sources of funding that have supported the work. If there is no research funding, please write: Authors state no funding involved.

Author contribution (obligatory)

Please include proper contribution categories for each author. Applicable categories are listed on this website: https://casrai.org/credit/. This section should be prepared according to the scheme presented in the Manuscript template.

Conflict of interest (obligatory)

To ensure fair and objective decision-making, authors must declare any associations that pose a conflict of interest (financial, personal or professional) in connection with evaluated manuscripts. Non-financial competing interests include a declaration of political, personal, religious, ideological, academic, and intellectual competing interests. Authors from pharmaceutical companies, or other commercial organizations that sponsor clinical trials, should declare these as competing interests on submission.

If there is no conflict of interest, please write: Authors state no conflict of

interest. Data availability statement (should be include if applicable)

In accordance with our data sharing policy, the final manuscript that reports results derived from research data must include a Data Availability Statement (DAS). The provision of a DAS will be verified as a condition of publication. The DAS should include information on where data supporting the results reported in the article can be found, including, where applicable, hyperlinks to publicly archived datasets analysed or generated during the study. Where research data are not publicly available, this must be stated in the manuscript along with any conditions for accessing the data.

For details, please see the file "Author Statements" in the Supplementary Materials section on the *e-Polymers* website.

<u>Other statements</u> (e.g., Informed consent, Authorization for the use of human subjects, Authorization for the use of experimental animals) should be elaborated in the methodological section of your manuscript.

Reference style

References should be listed and numbered in the order they appear in the text. In the text, citations should be indicated by the reference number in round brackets (1). Multiple citations within a single set of brackets should be separated by commas (1,2). In case there are more than three sequential citations, they should be given as a range (1-4). In the references all authors must be included; et al. is not accepted. Do not use italic font in the reference section.

Reference examples

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. Completeness of references is the responsibility of the authors.

References to <u>personal communications</u>, <u>patent applications and patents pending</u>, <u>computer software</u>, <u>databases</u>, <u>and websites</u> should be referred to as such only in the body of the text. These should be kept to a minimum. The examples are as follows:

- (J. Smith, personal communication),
- (J. Smith and P. Brown, presented at the 4th Symposium on Food Microbiology, Overton, IL, 13-15 June 1989),
- (J. C. Odell, April 1970, Process for batch culturing, U.S. patent 484,363,770),
- (J. Smith, 20 June 1999, Australian Patent Office),
- ... from the GenBank database (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Genbank/index.html),
- ... using ABC software (version 2.2; Department of Microbiology, State University, http://www.stu.micro).

<u>Published or accepted ('in press') manuscripts, books and book chapters, theses, as well as unpublished materials and preprints</u> 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 Clarivate Analytics should be used (https://images.webofknowledge.com/images/help/WOS/A abrvjt.html).

Please use the following 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(4):284-7. doi:10.1157 2002-x34742847.
- 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. doi.10.18.x548689553.
- Ellingsen AE, Wilhelmsen I. Sykdomsangst blant medisin- og jusstudenter. Tidsskr Nor Laegeforen. 2002;122(8):785-7. Norwegian.
- Mansharamani M, Chilton BS. The reproductive importance of P-type ATPases. Mol Cell Endocrinol. 2002;188(1-2):22-5. Corrected and republished from: Mol Cell Endocrinol. 2001;183(1-2):123-6.

<u>Unpublished material/forthcoming and preprints</u>

• 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.

- Alvarez R. Near optimal neural network estimator for spectral x-ray photon counting data with pileup. arXiv:1702.01006v1 [Preprint]. 2017 [cited 2017 Feb 9]: [11 p.]. Available from: https://arxiv.org/abs/1702.01006
- Bar DZ, Atkatsh K, Tavarez U, Erdos MR, Gruenbaum Y, Collins FS. Biotinylation by antibody recognition- A novel method for proximity labeling. BioRxiv 069187 [Preprint]. 2016 [cited 2017 Jan 12]. Available from: https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/069187v1

Electronic journal articles

Abood S. Quality improvement initiative in nursing homes: the ANA acts in an advisory role.
 Am J Nurs [Internet]. 2002 Jun [cited 2002 Aug 12];102(6):[about 1 p.]. Available from: https://ovidsp.tx.ovid.com/ Subscription required.

Books and book chapters

- Murray PR, Rosenthal KS, Kobayashi GS, Pfaller MA. Medical microbiology. 4th ed. St. Louis: Mosby; 2002.
- Gilstrap LC 3rd, Cunningham FG, VanDorsten JP, editors. Operative obstetrics. 2nd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill; 2002.
- Meltzer PS, Kallioniemi A, Trent JM. Chromosome alterations in human solid tumors. In: Vogelstein B, Kinzler KW, editors. The genetic basis of human cancer. New York: McGraw-Hill; 2002. p. 93-113.

Theses

 Borkowski MM. Infant sleep and feeding: a telephone survey of Hispanic Americans [dissertation]. Mount Pleasant (MI): Central Michigan University; 2002.

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.

Conference paper

Christensen S, Oppacher F. An analysis of Koza's computational effort statistic for genetic programming. In: Foster JA, Lutton E, Miller J, Ryan C, Tettamanzi AG, editors. Genetic programming. EuroGP 2002: Proceedings of the 5th European Conference on Genetic Programming; 2002 Apr 3-5; Kinsdale, Ireland. Berlin: Springer; 2002. p. 182-91.

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).

Figures

Lettering in all figures within the article should be uniform in style, preferably a sans serif typeface, and of sufficient size, so that it is readable at the final size of approximately 2 mm. Line drawings and photographs must be of high quality. Please note that faint shading may be lost upon reproduction. Lowercase letters a, b, c, etc. should be used to identify parts of multi -part figures. Cite all figures in the text in a numerical order. Indicate the approximate position of each figure. Refer to figures in the text as Figure 1, etc. Use Figure 1, etc. in the figure legends. The number of figures should not exceed ten.

Authors may use photographs, schemes, diagrams, line graphs and bar charts to illustrate their findings. Photomicrographs should include a scaled bar and indicate the size. We remind authors that it is not acceptable scientific conduct to modify any separate element within an image (adjustments of the entire image in brightness, contrast and color balance are justified only if they do not misrepresent the original, observed data). Authors are encouraged to submit

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illustrations in color if necessary for their scientific content. Publication of color figures is provided free of charge.

Figure legends

Provide a short descriptive title, and (if necessary) footnotes to make each figure self-explanatory on separate pages. Explain all symbols used in the figures. Remember to use the same abbreviations as in the body-text.

Tables and Table captions

Submit tables on separate pages and number them consecutively using Arabic numerals. Provide a short descriptive title, column headings, and (if necessary) footnotes to make each table self-explanatory. Refer to tables in the text as Table 1, etc. Use Table 1, etc. in the table legends. Please indicate in the manuscript the approximate position of each table. Citations should be indicated using the same style as outlined above.

Tables must include enough information to warrant table format and should be used only where information cannot be presented in the text. Tables should be typed as text, using either 'tabs' or a table editor for layout; please do not use graphics software to create tables. Tables occupying more than one printed page should be avoided, if possible; larger tables can be published as an appendix. Do not use picture elements, text boxes, tabs, or returns in tables. Tables that contain artwork, chemical structures, or shading must be submitted as illustrations.

Graphical abstract

An eye-catching graphic for the Graphical abstract (e.g., 5 cm wide and 5 cm high) should be provided at the end of each manuscript along with a max. 30 words text different from the abstract. This text should show the attraction points of your work.

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 'I' (lower-case L) and '0' (zero) and '0' (capital O), etc. Manuscript pages should have line numbers. The font size should be no smaller than 12 points.

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. Do not create symbols as graphics or use special fonts that are external to your word processing program; use the "insert symbol" function. Indicate paragraph lead-ins in bold type and italicize any words that should appear in italics. All Latin names should be italicized, including species names and common structures such as: et al.; in vivo; in vitro; ex vivo; in silico; etc.; de novo; a priori; ab initio; vice versa; in situ; ad hoc; sensustricto; i.e., ca. /circa; n.b./nota bene. Decimal multiples or submultiples of units are indicated by the use of prefixes. There should be a single space between most units and the corresponding number; the only exceptions are: 1%, 1%0, 1°C, 1°, 1', 1".

Equations

Equations – both mathematical as well as chemical – should be numbered consecutively in parentheses at the end of the line. Structural formulae must be presented clearly and unambiguously. Symbols of physical quantities should be drawn in italics and those of units in

upright characters. For the sake of clarity, products of units should be written with multiplication points. The recommendations of the IUPAC should be followed regarding nomenclature and terminology. The Experimental part should describe experiments only. It should enable the reader to repeat the work. The source and purity of all relevant compounds should be mentioned. Methods used for sample preparation ought to be described. Compounds should be characterized by chemical analyses and physical data.

Abbreviations

Please keep abbreviations to a minimum. In addition to abbreviations for Systeme International d'Unités (SI) units of measurement, other common units (e.g., bp, kb, and Da), and chemical symbols for the elements, the following should be used without definition: DNA; cDNA; RNA; cRNA; RNase; DNase; rRNA; mRNA; tRNA; AMP, ADP, ATP, dAMP, ddATP, GTP, etc.; ATPase, dGTPase, etc.; NAD; NAD+; NADH; NADP; NADP+; poly(A), poly(dT), etc.; oligo(dT), etc.; UV; PFU; CFU; MIC; Tris; DEAE; EDTA; EGTA; HEPES; PCR; and AIDS. Abbreviations for cell lines (e.g., HeLa) as well as viruses (e.g., HIV-1, JC virus, BK virus) also need not be defined. Nonstandard abbreviations should not be used unless they appear at least three times in the text. List all non-standard abbreviations, acronyms and symbols in alphabetical order, along with their expanded form, at the end of the text. Define them as well upon first use in the text.

Nomenclature

We strongly recommend the use of correct and established nomenclature wherever possible. Always report numerical data (length, weight, and volume) in the appropriate SI units. Please refer to International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) recommendations available for standard metric units. For these units and for molarity, use the prefixes (p = 10-12, n = 10-9, μ = 10-6, m = 10-3, c = 10-2, d = 10-1, h = 102, k = 103, M = 106, G = 109, etc.). The unit 'billion' (109 in America, 1012 in Europe) is ambiguous and should be avoided. Use μ g/ml or μ g/g in place of the ambiguous ppm. When fractions are used to express units, it is preferable to use whole units, such as 'g' or 'min', in the denominator instead of fractional or multiple units, such as μ g or 10 min (for example 'pmol/min' is preferable to 'nmol/100 min', and ' μ mol/g' is preferable to 'nmol/ μ g'). It is also preferable that an unambiguous form such as exponential notation be used; for example, ' μ mol g-1 min-1' is preferable to ' μ mol/g/min'. Units of temperature are presented in degrees centigrade (i.e., 37°C).

The recognized authority for the names of chemical compounds is Chemical Abstracts. For guidelines to the use of biochemical terminology, consult Biochemical Nomenclature and Related Documents. Do not express molecular weight in Daltons: molecular weight is a unitless ratio; molecular mass is expressed in daltons. For enzymes, use the recommended name assigned by the Nomenclature Committee of the International Union of Biochemistry. Use the EC number when one has been assigned.

For genes, proteins, strains, clones etc. use the recommended name by consulting the appropriate genetic nomenclature database. Genes, mutations, genotypes, and alleles should be indicated in italics; protein products of the loci are not italicized. It is sometimes advisable to indicate the synonyms for the gene the first time it appears in the text. Gene prefixes such as those used for oncogenes or cellular localization should be shown in roman: v-fes, c-MYC, etc.

Supplementary material

We encourage authors to submit essential supplementary files that additionally support the authors' conclusions along with their manuscripts (the principal conclusions should be fully supported without referral to the supplemental material). Supplementary material will always remain associated with its article and is not subject to any modifications after publication. The

decision to publish the material with the article if it is accepted will be made by the Editor. Supplementary material has to be submitted as a DOC/DOCX file (if it contains text, figures, and/or tables) or other file formats (if it is a dataset, protocol, or multimedia). Material must be restricted to large or complex data sets or results that cannot be readily displayed because of space or technical limitations. Material that has been published previously is not acceptable for posting as supplemental material.

Supporting files should fall into one of the following categories:

- Dataset
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- Text
- Protocol
- Multimedia Audio/Video/Animations (AVI, MPEG, WAV, Quicktime, animated GIF or Flash)

If the software required for users to view/use the supplemental material is not embedded in the file, you are urged to use shareware or generally available/easily accessible programs. To prevent any misunderstandings, we request that authors submit a text file (instruction.txt) containing a brief instruction on how to use the files supplied. All supporting information should be referred to in the manuscript, with titles (and, if desired, legends) for all files listed under the heading 'Supplementary material'.

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will receive e-mail notification from the MPS Limited Company when a downloadable article PDF file is available and should return comments on the proofs within 48 hours of receipt.

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Manuscripts ready for publication are promptly posted online. The manuscripts are considered to be ready for publication when the final proofreading has been performed by authors, and all concerns have been resolved. Authors should notice that no changes can be made to the articles after online publication.

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