Instruction for Authors

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.

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Unpublished material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
When authors submit a manuscript, they are responsible for recognizing and disclosing financial and/or other conflicts of interest that might bias their work and/or could inappropriately influence his/her judgment. If no specified acknowledgement is given, the Editors assume that no conflict of interest exists.

Copyright
All authors retain copyright, unless – due to their local circumstances – their work is not copyrighted. The non-commercial use of each article will be governed by the Creative Commons Attribution license. The corresponding author grants the journal exclusive license for commercial use of the article, by signing the License to Publish. Scanned copy of license should be sent to the journal, as soon as possible.

Authorship
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
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. The Editor seeks advice from experts in the appropriate field. Research articles and communications are refereed by a minimum of two reviewers, review papers by at least three. The journal uses double-blind peer review model. Authors are requested to suggest persons competent to review their manuscript. However, please note that this will be treated only as a suggestion, and the final selection of reviewers is exclusively the Editor’s decision. The final decision of acceptance is made by Managing Editor or, in case of conflict, by the Editor-in-Chief.

Scientific Misconduct
This journal publishes only original manuscripts that are not also published or going to be published elsewhere. Multiple submissions/publications, or redundant publications (re-packaging in different words of data already published by the same authors) will be rejected. If they are detected only after publication, the journal reserves the right to publish a Retraction Note. In each particular case Editors will follow COPE’s Code of Conduct and implement its advice.

Electronic Submission

Open Life Sciences 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; 1
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.

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 coauthors 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 (irmina.fortunato@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.

- Text files can be submitted in the following formats:
  - MS Word – standard DOCUMENT (.DOC)
  - RICH TEXT FORMAT (.RTF)
  - PDF (not applicable for re-submitted or accepted manuscripts, see below).
- 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 Open Life Sciences, 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. 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). 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
- 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.

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 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 following style for the reference list:

**Published Papers**


**Accepted Papers**


**Electronic Journal Articles**


**Books and book chapters**


**Theses**


**Conference proceedings**


**Newspaper articles**


**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 ‘O’ (zero) and ‘O’ (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.

**Symbols and abbreviations**

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

**Outline of the Production Process**

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.

**Immediate Publication**
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.