

Guidelines for authors

Writing and formatting

Title

The title should be concise, omitting terms that are implicit and, where possible, be a statement of the main result or conclusion presented in the manuscript.

Abbreviations should be avoided within the title.

Witty and creative titles are welcome, but only if relevant and within measure. Consider if a title meant to be thought-provoking might be misinterpreted as offensive or alarming. In extreme cases, the editorial office may veto a title and propose an alternative. Authors should avoid:

- titles that are a mere question without giving the answer
- unambitious titles, for example starting with 'Towards,' 'A description of,' 'A characterization of' or 'Preliminary study on'
- vague titles, for example starting with 'Role of', 'Link between', or 'Effect of' that do not specify the role, link, or effect
- including terms that are out of place, for example the taxonomic affiliation apart from species name.

Abstract

As a primary goal, the abstract should make the general significance and conceptual advance of the work clearly accessible to a broad readership. The abstract should be no longer than a single paragraph and should be structured, for example, according to the [IMRAD format](#). For the specific structure of the abstract, authors should follow the requirements of the article type or journal to which they're submitting. Minimize the use of abbreviations and do not cite references, figures or tables. For clinical trial articles, please include the unique identifier and the URL of the publicly accessible website on which the trial is registered.

Manuscript length

Frontiers encourages the authors to closely follow the article word count lengths given in the 'Article types' page of the journals. The manuscript length includes only the main body of the text, footnotes, and all citations within it, and excludes the abstract, section titles, figure and table captions, funding statement, acknowledgments, and references in the bibliography. Please indicate the number of words and the number of figures and tables included in your manuscript on the first page.

Sections

The manuscript is organized by headings and subheadings. The section headings should be those appropriate for your field and the research itself. You may insert up to 5 heading levels into your manuscript (i.e 3.2.2.1.2 Heading Title).

For Original Research articles, it is recommended to organize your manuscript in the following sections or their equivalents for your field.

Introduction Succinct, with no subheadings.

Materials and methods This section may be divided by subheadings and should contain sufficient detail so that when read in conjunction with cited references, all procedures can be repeated. For experiments reporting results on animal or human subject research, an ethics approval statement should be included in this section (for further information, see the 'Bioethics' section of our [policies and publication ethics](#).)

Results This section may be divided by subheadings. Footnotes should not be used and must be transferred to the main text.

Discussion This section may be divided by subheadings. Discussions should cover the key findings of the study: discuss any prior research related to the subject to place the novelty of the discovery in the appropriate context, discuss the potential shortcomings and limitations on their interpretations, discuss their integration into the current understanding of the problem and how this advances the current views, speculate on the future direction of the research, and freely postulate theories that could be tested in the future.

For further information, please check the descriptions defined in the journal's 'Article types' page, in the 'For authors' menu on every journal page.

Templates

If working with Word please use our [Word templates](#). If you wish to submit your article as LaTeX, we recommend our [LaTeX templates](#). For LaTeX files, please ensure all relevant manuscript files are uploaded: .tex file, PDF, and .bib file (if the bibliography is not already included in the .tex file).

During the [interactive review](#), authors are encouraged to upload versions using track changes. Editors and reviewers can only download the PDF file of the submitted manuscript.

Language editing

Frontiers requires manuscripts submitted to meet international English language standards to be considered for publication.

For authors who would like their manuscript to receive language editing or proofreading to improve the clarity of the manuscript and help highlight their

research, Frontiers recommends the language-editing services provided by the following external partners.

Note that sending your manuscript for language editing does not imply or guarantee that it will be accepted for publication by a Frontiers journal. Editorial decisions on the scientific content of a manuscript are independent of whether it has received language editing or proofreading by these partner services or other services.

Editage We recommend the language-editing service provided by our external partner Editage to authors who believe their manuscripts would benefit from professional editing. These services may be particularly useful for researchers for whom English is not the primary language. They can help to improve the grammar, syntax, and flow of your manuscript prior to submission. Frontiers' authors will receive a 10% discount using this link: editage.com/frontiers.

The Charlesworth Group We recommend the Charlesworth Group's author services, with a long-standing track record in language editing and proofreading. This is a third-party service for which Frontiers' authors will receive a 10% discount using this link: www.cwauthors.com/frontiers.

Frontiers推荐您使用在英语语言编辑和校对领域具有悠久历史和良好口碑的查尔斯沃思作者服务。此项服务由第三方为您提供，Frontiers中国作者通过此链接提交稿件时可获得10%的特别优惠: www.cwauthors.com.cn/frontiers

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Language style

The default language style at Frontiers is American English. If you prefer your article to be formatted in British English, please specify this on the first page of your manuscript. For any questions regarding style, Frontiers recommends authors to consult the [Chicago Manual of Style](#).

Inclusive language

Frontiers is an inclusive publisher and we ask that all submissions are in line with our inclusive language policy. When preparing your manuscript for submission, take a mindful approach towards personal biases and a concerted effort to limit their influence. Authors should remove any suggestion or implication of superiority or inferiority of one person over another based on age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, disability, religion, or socio-economic class. We ask authors to use inclusive language practices and awareness of diversity, equity, and inclusion into their research and keep it at the forefront during the composition of their findings.

External guidance that may be useful is available at C4DISC's [Guidelines on Inclusive Language and Images in Scholarly Communication](#).

Furthermore, when drafting your work, please take into account the following considerations

In general, seek to avoid:

- language that could be deemed insulting, profane, or derogatory.
- descriptors that identify personal attributes such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, disability, or health conditions, where they are not critically relevant to the discussion.
- any form of language that suggests a particular culture or group as the default or standard.

And where feasible:

- proactively ask individuals or groups how they would prefer to be referenced.
- adhere to the SAGER guidelines for reference to sex and gender in research.

Remember, the language we use can influence perceptions, evoke emotions, and shape perspectives. Let's work together to nurture an inclusive, respectful, and empowering discourse in science.

Search engine optimization

There are a few simple ways to maximize your article's discoverability and search results.

- Include a few of your article's keywords in the title of the article
- Do not use long article titles
- Pick 5-8 keywords using a mix of generic and more specific terms on the article subject(s)
- Use the maximum amount of keywords in the first two sentences of the abstract
- Use some of the keywords in level 1 headings

Alt text

As part of our commitment to make science open for all, we are dedicated to accessibility in our publications. One way you can make your manuscript more accessible is by including alternative text (alt text) with all figures or images.

What is alt text?

Alt text is a short visual description of the contents of an image. Alt text is not the same as a caption, as it provides a description of the entire image. It is included in the manuscript alongside the image, but in the background, not visible on the page.

Good alt text will be specific, concise, and not overly descriptive. It should include any essential text or data that appears on the image and would be lost if a user couldn't see it.

See Harvard University's guide for more [tips on writing good alt text](#).

Why is alt text important?

It allows people using screen reading technology to clearly understand the contents of an image, therefore making your manuscript more accessible for readers with visual impairments. This is also useful for anyone else who can't view the image - if it doesn't load quickly, for instance .

Alt text can also provide better descriptions to search engine crawlers, helping with article discoverability and indexing.

For more support, our partner [AuthorMate offers an alt-text writing service](#).

Guidelines for artificial intelligence

These guidelines cover acceptable uses of generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models (ChatGPT, Jasper) and text-to-image generators (DALL-E 2, Midjourney, Stable Diffusion) in the writing or editing of manuscripts submitted to Frontiers.

Use of AI to create written or visual content

Authors should not list a generative AI technology as a co-author or author of any submitted manuscript. Generative AI technologies cannot be held accountable for all aspects of a manuscript and consequently do not meet the criteria required for authorship.

If the author of a submitted manuscript has used written or visual content produced by or edited using a generative AI technology, this use must follow all Frontiers guidelines and policies. Specifically, the author is responsible for checking the factual accuracy of any content created by the generative AI technology. This includes, but is not limited to, any quotes, citations or references. Figures produced by or edited using a generative AI technology must be checked to ensure they accurately reflect the data presented in the manuscript. Authors must also check that any written or visual content produced by or edited using a generative AI technology is free from plagiarism.

If the author of a submitted manuscript has used written or visual content produced by or edited using a generative AI technology, such use must be acknowledged in

the acknowledgements section of the manuscript and the methods section if applicable. This explanation must list the name, version, model, and source of the generative AI technology. We encourage authors to upload all input prompts provided to a generative AI technology and outputs received from a generative AI technology in the supplementary files for the manuscript.

The entire document should be single-spaced and must contain page and line numbers in order to facilitate the review process. The manuscript should be written using either Word or LaTeX. See above for templates.

Abbreviations and nomenclature

The use of abbreviations should be kept to a minimum. Non-standard abbreviations should be avoided unless they appear at least four times, and must be defined upon first use in the main text. Consider also giving a list of non-standard abbreviations at the end, immediately before the acknowledgments.

Equations should be inserted in editable format from the equation editor.

Italicize gene symbols and use the approved gene nomenclature where it is available. For human genes, please refer to the HUGO Gene Nomenclature Committee ([HGNC](#)). New symbols for human genes should be submitted to the HGNC [here](#). Common alternative gene aliases may also be reported, but should not be used alone in place of the HGNC symbol. Nomenclature committees for other species are listed [here](#). Protein products are not italicized.

We encourage the use of Standard International Units in all manuscripts.

Chemical compounds and biomolecules should be referred to using systematic nomenclature, preferably using the recommendations by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).

Astronomical objects should be referred to using the nomenclature given by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) provided [here](#).

Life Science Identifiers (LSIDs) for ZOOBANK registered names or nomenclatural acts should be listed in the manuscript before the keywords. An LSID is represented as a uniform resource name (URN) with the following format:
urn:lsid:<Authority>:<Namespace>:<ObjectID>[:<Version>]

For more information on LSIDs please see the 'Code' section of our [policies and publication ethics](#).

References

Preparing and formatting references

Submissions to Frontiers must be grounded in relevant and up to date peer-reviewed, academic research, and this should be reflected in the accompanying reference lists.

Authors are welcome to use online referencing tools in preparation of their manuscript. Some useful resources include [RefMe](#), [Zotero](#), and [Mendeley](#).

- The citation of non-academic and non-peer-reviewed sources (e.g. blog posts, website content), as well as anonymous sources or commercial websites should be avoided or kept to a minimum
- Authors should avoid citing content that is not directly relevant to the scope of the article and the journal
- Reference lists should reflect the current status of knowledge in the field, avoid bias, and not include a high proportion of citations to the same authors or sources, school of thought, etc.
- The length of the reference list should be appropriate depending on the article type, covering the relevant literature through sufficient referencing
- Authors should ensure that references are accurate, that all links are accessible, and that the citations/references adhere to the reference styles outlined below

Frontiers' journals use one of two reference styles, either Harvard (author-date) or Vancouver (numbered). Please check our [help center](#) to find the correct style for the journal to which you are submitting.

- All citations in the text, figures or tables must be in the reference list and vice-versa
- The names of the first six authors followed by et al. and the DOI (when available) should be provided
- Given names of authors should be abbreviated to initials (e.g., Smith, J., Lewis, C.S., etc.)
- The reference list should only include articles that are published or accepted
- Unpublished data, submitted manuscripts, or personal communications should be cited within the text only, for article types that allow such inclusions
- For accepted but unpublished works use 'in press' instead of page numbers
- Data sets that have been deposited to an online repository should be included in the reference list. Include the version and unique identifier when available
- Personal communications should be documented by a letter of permission
- Website URLs should be included as footnotes
- Any inclusion of verbatim text must be contained in quotation marks and clearly reference the original source
- Preprints can be cited as long as a DOI or archive URL is available, and the citation clearly mentions that the contribution is a preprint. If a peer-reviewed journal publication for the same preprint exists, the official journal publication is the preferred source. See the preprints section for each reference style below for more information.

Harvard reference style (author-date)

Many Frontiers journals use the Harvard referencing system; to find the correct reference style and resources for the journal you are submitting to, please visit our [help center](#). Reference examples are found below, for more examples of citing other documents and general questions regarding the Harvard reference style, please refer to the [Chicago Manual of Style](#).

- References should include the full last name and first name initials of the first six authors, followed by et al. and the year of publication in brackets.
- Alphabetical order is followed for the reference list.

Reference examples

Article in a print journal Sondheimer, N., and Lindquist, S. (2000). Rnq1: an epigenetic modifier of protein function in yeast. *Mol. Cell.* 5, 163-172.

Article in an online journal Tahimic, C.G.T., Wang, Y., Bikle, D.D. (2013). Anabolic effects of IGF-1 signaling on the skeleton. *Front. Endocrinol.* 4:6. doi: 10.3389/fendo.2013.00006

Article or chapter in a book Sorenson, P. W., and Caprio, J. C. (1998). "Chemoreception," in *The Physiology of Fishes*, ed. D. H. Evans (Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press), 375-405.

Book Cowan, W. M., Jessell, T. M., and Zipursky, S. L. (1997). *Molecular and Cellular Approaches to Neural Development*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Abstract Hendricks, J., Applebaum, R., and Kunkel, S. (2010). A world apart? Bridging the gap between theory and applied social gerontology. *Gerontologist* 50, 284-293. Abstract retrieved from Abstracts in Social Gerontology database. (Accession No. 50360869)

Website World Health Organization. (2018). E. coli. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/e-coli> [Accessed March 15, 2018].

Patent Marshall, S. P. (2000). Method and apparatus for eye tracking and monitoring pupil dilation to evaluate cognitive activity. U.S. Patent No 6,090,051. Washington, DC: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Data Perdiguero P, Venturas M, Cervera MT, Gil L, Collada C. Data from: Massive sequencing of *Ulms minor*'s transcriptome provides new molecular tools for a genus under the constant threat of Dutch elm disease. Dryad Digital Repository. (2015) <http://dx.doi.org/10.5061/dryad.ps837>

Theses and dissertations Smith, J. (2008) Post-structuralist discourse relative to phenomenological pursuits in the deconstructivist arena. [dissertation/master's thesis]. [Chicago (IL)]: University of Chicago

Preprint Smith, J. (2008). Title of the document. Preprint repository name [Preprint]. Available at: <https://persistent-url> (Accessed March 15, 2018).

Vancouver reference style (numbered)

Many Frontiers journals use the numbered referencing system; to find the correct reference style and resources for the journal you are submitting to, please visit our [help center](#).

Reference examples are found below, for more examples of citing other documents and general questions regarding the Vancouver reference style, please refer to [Citing Medicine](#).

In-text citations

- In-text citations in the Vancouver reference style should be numbered consecutively in order of appearance in the text and identified by Arabic numerals in parenthesis
- Use square brackets for physics and mathematics articles
- The abbreviation 'Ref' should not be used, e.g.: [e.g., (1)] should NOT read [e.g. Ref. (1)]
- Style for comparing a citation should follow the number format, e.g. [cf. (1)]. The same applies when using 'see', e.g. [see (46)]
- References should be numbered and listed chronologically, according to the order they appear in the text

Reference examples

Article in a print journal Sondheimer N, Lindquist S. Rnq1: an epigenetic modifier of protein function in yeast. *Mol Cell* (2000) 5:163-72.

Article in an online journal Tahimic CGT, Wang Y, Bikle DD. Anabolic effects of IGF-1 signaling on the skeleton. *Front Endocrinol* (2013) 4:6. doi: 10.3389/fendo.2013.00006

Article or chapter in a book Sorenson PW, Caprio JC. "Chemoreception". In: Evans DH, editor. *The Physiology of Fishes*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press (1998). p. 375-405.

Book Cowan WM, Jessell TM, Zipursky SL. *Molecular and Cellular Approaches to Neural Development*. New York: Oxford University Press (1997). 345 p.

Abstract Christensen S, Oppacher F. An analysis of Koza's computational effort statistic for genetic programming. In: Foster JA, editor. *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.

Website World Health Organization. *E. coli* (2018). <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/e-coli> [Accessed March 15, 2018].

Patent Pagedas AC, inventor; Ancel Surgical R&D Inc., assignee. Flexible Endoscopic Grasping and Cutting Device and Positioning Tool Assembly. United States patent US 20020103498 (2002).

Data Perdiguero P, Venturas M, Cervera MT, Gil L, Collada C. Data from: Massive sequencing of Ulms minor's transcriptome provides new molecular tools for a genus under the constant threat of Dutch elm disease. Dryad Digital Repository. (2015) <http://dx.doi.org/10.5061/dryad.ps837>

Theses and dissertations

Smith, J. (2008) Post-structuralist discourse relative to phenomenological pursuits in the deconstructivist arena. [dissertation/master's thesis]. [Chicago (IL)]: University of Chicago

Preprint Smith, J. Title of the document. Preprint repository name [Preprint] (2008). Available at: <https://persistent-url> (Accessed March 15, 2018).

Citation of retracted articles

Authors are responsible for ensuring the integrity of the references they cite, including verifying whether any article they intend to cite has been retracted. Citing retracted articles can undermine the credibility of your manuscript and should only occur where it is essential for the context of your discussion.

Guidelines for citing retracted articles:

1. **Verification:** Authors are responsible for checking the status of all cited works before submission. Lists of retracted articles can often be found in databases such as PubMed and the Retraction Watch database. Authors can check the version of the record which is expected to include a visible notice of retraction.
2. **Disclosure:** If it is necessary to cite a retracted article, authors must clearly indicate the retraction status in the reference list.
3. **Justification:** Authors are encouraged to discuss the reasons for citing the retracted article in the manuscript, explaining its relevance and the implications of its retracted status on the discussion.

Adhering to these guidelines is considered best practice as it helps maintain the scientific integrity of the published literature and ensures that all references within the manuscript contribute validly to the scholarly discourse. Ensuring the accuracy and transparency of citations protects authors from inadvertently perpetuating misinformation and supports the overall trustworthiness of research publications.

Acknowledgments

This is a short text to acknowledge the contributions of specific colleagues, institutions, or agencies that aided the efforts of the authors. Should the content of the manuscript have previously appeared online, such as in a thesis or preprint, this should be mentioned here, in addition to listing the source within the reference list.

Acknowledgements are designed to recognize individuals directly involved in the research. We request that authors avoid personal expressions of gratitude toward figures or entities unrelated or indirectly related to the production of the manuscript. While such acknowledgements are understood to be significant to the authors, they are considered indirectly involved in the research unless they pertain to specific research activities. It remains the responsibility of the authors to ensure that these guidelines are adhered to in the final publication.

Preparing figures, tables, and images

Figures, tables, and images: rights and permissions

All figures, tables, and images will be published under a Creative Commons [CC-BY license](#), and permission must be obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including re-published/adapted/modified/partial figures and images from the internet). It is the responsibility of the authors to acquire the licenses, follow any citation instructions requested by third-party rights holders, and cover any supplementary charges.

For additional information, please see the 'Image manipulation' section of our [policies and publication ethics](#).

Figure requirements and style guidelines

Frontiers requires figures to be submitted individually, in the same order as they are referred to in the manuscript; the figures will then be automatically embedded at the end of the submitted manuscript. Kindly ensure that each figure is mentioned in the text and in numerical order.

For figures with more than one panel, panels should be clearly indicated using labels (A), (B), (C), (D), etc. However, do not embed the part labels over any part of the image, these labels will be replaced during typesetting according to Frontiers' journal style. For graphs, there must be a self-explanatory label (including units) along each axis.

For LaTeX files, figures should be included in the provided PDF. In case of acceptance, our production office might require high-resolution files of the figures included in the manuscript in EPS, JPEG or TIF/TIFF format.

To upload more than one figure at a time, save the figures (labeled in order of appearance in the manuscript) in a zip file and upload them as 'Supplementary Material Presentation.'

Please note that figures not in accordance with the guidelines will cause substantial delay during the production process.

Captions

Captions should be preceded by the appropriate label, for example 'Figure 1.' Figure captions should be placed at the end of the manuscript. Figure panels are referred to by bold capital letters in brackets: (A), (B), (C), (D), etc.

Image size and resolution requirements

Figures should be prepared with the PDF layout in mind. Individual figures should not be longer than one page and with a width that corresponds to 1 column (85 mm) or 2 columns (180 mm).

All images must have a resolution of 300 dpi at final size. Check the resolution of your figure by enlarging it to 150%. If the image appears blurry, jagged, or has a stair-stepped effect, the resolution is too low.

The text should be legible and of high quality. The smallest visible text should be no less than eight points in height when viewed at actual size.

Solid lines should not be broken up. Any lines in the graphic should be no smaller than two points wide.

Please note that saving a figure directly as an image file (JPEG, TIF) can greatly affect the resolution of your image. To avoid this, one option is to export the file as PDF, then convert into TIFF or EPS using a graphics software.

Format and color image mode

The following formats are accepted: TIF/TIFF (.tif/.tiff), JPEG (.jpg), and EPS (.eps) (upon acceptance). Images must be submitted in the color mode RGB.

Chemical structures

Chemical structures should be prepared using ChemDraw or a similar program. If working with ChemDraw please use our [ChemDraw template](#). If working with another program please follow the guidelines below.

- Drawing settings: chain angle, 120° bond spacing, 18% width; fixed length, 14.4 pt; bold width, 2.0 pt; line width, 0.6 pt; margin width, 1.6 pt; hash spacing, 2.5 pt. Scale 100% Atom Label settings: font, Arial; size, 8 pt
- Assign all chemical compounds a bold, Arabic numeral in the order in which the compounds are presented in the manuscript text.

Table requirements and style guidelines

Tables should be inserted at the end of the manuscript in an editable format. If you use a word processor, build your table in Word. If you use a LaTeX processor, build your table in LaTeX. An empty line should be left before and after the table.

Table captions must be placed immediately before the table. Captions should be preceded by the appropriate label, for example 'Table 1.' Please use only a single paragraph for the caption.

Kindly ensure that each table is mentioned in the text and in numerical order.

Please note that large tables covering several pages cannot be included in the final PDF for formatting reasons. These tables will be published as supplementary material.

Tables which are not according to the above guidelines will cause substantial delay during the production process.

Accessibility

Frontiers encourages authors to make the figures and visual elements of their articles accessible for the visually impaired. An effective use of color can help people with low visual acuity, or color blindness, understand all the content of an article.

These guidelines are easy to implement and are in accordance with the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines ([WCAG 2.1](#)), the standard for web accessibility best practices.

Ensure sufficient contrast between text and its background People who have low visual acuity or color blindness could find it difficult to read text with low contrast background color. Try using colors that provide maximum contrast.

WC3 recommends the following contrast ratio levels:

- Level AA, contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1
- Level AAA, contrast ratio of at least 7:1

You can verify the contrast ratio of your palette with these online ratio checkers:

- [WebAIM](#)
- [Color Safe](#)

Avoid using red or green indicators More than 99% of color-blind people have a red-green color vision deficiency.

Avoid using only color to communicate information Elements with complex information like charts and graphs can be hard to read when only color is used to distinguish the data. Try to use other visual aspects to communicate information, such as shape, labels, and size. Incorporating patterns into the shape fills also make differences clearer.

Preparing supplementary material

Selecting supplementary material

Data that are not of primary importance to the text, or which cannot be included in the article because they are too large or the current format does not permit it (such as videos, raw data traces, and PowerPoint presentations), can be uploaded as supplementary material during the submission procedure and will be displayed along with the published article. All supplementary files are deposited to figshare for permanent storage and receive a DOI.

Supplementary material is not typeset, so please ensure that all information is clearly presented without tracked changes/highlighted text/line numbers, and the appropriate caption is included in the file. To avoid discrepancies between the published article and the supplementary material, please do not add the title, author list, affiliations or correspondence in the supplementary files.

Appendices

Appendices are optional and can be used to present further detail on information included in the main body of the article, such as the derivation of an equation, short supplementary tables, or supplementary methods.

Appendices should be no more than one page long and count towards the overall manuscript length and word count. Appendix content **longer** than one page should be included in the supplementary material section instead.

File type requirements

The supplementary material can be uploaded as:

- data sheet (Word, Excel, CSV, CDX, FASTA, PDF or Zip files)
- presentation (PowerPoint, PDF or Zip files)
- image (CDX, EPS, JPEG, PDF, PNG or TIF/TIFF),
- table (Word, Excel, CSV or PDF)
- audio (MP3, WAV or WMA)
- video (AVI, DIVX, FLV, MOV, MP4, MPEG, MPG or WMV).

Technical requirements for supplementary images:

- 300 DPIs
- RGB color mode.

For supplementary material templates (LaTeX and Word), see our [supplementary material templates](#).

Submitting information

Choosing where to submit

Open access and copyright

All Frontiers' articles from July 2012 onwards are published with open access under the Creative Commons [CC-BY license](#) (the current version is CC-BY, version 4.0). This means that the author(s) retains copyright, but the content is free to download, distribute, and adapt for commercial or non-commercial purposes, given appropriate attribution to the original article.

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Registration with Frontiers

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For any co-author who would like their name on the article abstract page and PDF to be linked to a Frontiers profile on the [Loop network](#), please [register](#) before the final publication of the paper.

Article type

Frontiers requires authors to select the appropriate article type for their manuscript and to comply with the article type descriptions defined in the journal's 'Article types' page, which can be seen from the 'For authors' menu on every Frontiers journal page. Please pay close attention to the word count limits.

CrossMark policy

[CrossMark](#) is a multi-publisher initiative to provide a standard way for readers to locate the current version of a piece of content. By applying the CrossMark logo Frontiers is committed to maintaining the content it publishes and to alerting readers to changes if and when they occur. Clicking on the CrossMark logo will tell you the current status of a document and may also give you additional publication record information about the document.

Authors and affiliations

All names are listed together and separated by commas. Provide exact and correct author names as these will be indexed in official archives. Affiliations should be keyed to the author's name with superscript numbers and be listed as follows:

- Laboratory, Institute, Department, Organization, City, State abbreviation (only for United States, Canada, and Australia), and Country (without detailed address information such as city zip codes or street names).

Example: Max Maximus¹ ¹ Department of Excellence, International University of Science, New York, NY, United States.

Correspondence

The corresponding author(s) should be marked with an asterisk in the author list. Provide the exact contact email address of the corresponding author(s) in a separate section. Example: Max Maximus* maximus@iuscience.edu If any authors wish to include a change of address, list the present address(es) below the correspondence details using a unique superscript symbol keyed to the author(s) in the author list.

Equal contributions

The authors who have contributed equally should be marked with a symbol (†) in the author list of the doc/latex and pdf files of the manuscript uploaded at submission.

Please use the appropriate standard statement(s) to indicate equal contributions:

- **Equal contribution:** These authors contributed equally to this work
- **First authorship:** These authors share first authorship
- **Senior authorship:** These authors share senior authorship
- **Last authorship:** These authors share last authorship
- **Equal contribution and first authorship:** These authors contributed equally to this work and share first authorship
- **Equal contribution and senior authorship:** These authors contributed equally to this work and share senior authorship
- **Equal contribution and last authorship:** These authors contributed equally to this work and share last authorship

Example: Max Maximus ¹†, John Smith²† and Barbara Smith¹ †These authors contributed equally to this work and share first authorship

Consortium/group and collaborative authors

Consortium/group authorship should be listed in the manuscript with the other author(s).

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