

Translational Research

Supports open access

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About the journal

Aims and scope

The Journal of Laboratory and Clinical Medicine

In Association with Renji Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine

Translational Research delivers original investigations in the broad fields of laboratory, clinical, and public health research. Published monthly since 1915, it keeps readers up-to-date on significant biomedical research from all subspecialties of medicine. Interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary in scope, it aims to expedite the translation of scientific discovery into new or improved standards of care and promotes a wide-ranging exchange between basic, preclinical, clinical, epidemiologic, and health outcomes research. It encourages [submission](#) of studies describing preclinical research with potential for application to human disease, and studies describing research obtained from preliminary human experimentation with potential to refine the understanding of biological principles underpinning human disease. Also encouraged are studies describing public health research with potential for application to the clinic, disease prevention, or healthcare policy.

Translational Research is published in Association with Renji Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine.

Article types

Original research articles. Submission of original empirical research in all fields of medicine is strongly encouraged; there is no maximum word limit.

Reviews. Review articles are welcomed for both state-of-the-art comprehensive reviews, directed at research scientists in specific fields, and more general informative reviews, directed at the broader community of clinical investigators. Originality is critical in order to contribute to the medical literature, and the perspective should be fresh and the synthesis unique. Authors of reviews should realize that the Journal is multidisciplinary and that reviews for such a journal require appropriate interpretive material. Clarity of presentation is a major criterion for acceptance.

Letters to the Editor. Letters to the Editor commenting on published articles may be submitted. These comments should be directed at confirming the results (from a different approach), extending the original report, or refuting results or the authors' interpretation. Maximum length is 1000 words; maximum number of references is 15. The

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Peer review

This journal follows a single anonymized review process. Your submission will initially be assessed by our editors to determine suitability for publication in this journal. If your submission is deemed suitable, it will typically be sent to be reviewed by a minimum of two reviewers for an independent expert assessment of the scientific quality. The decision as to whether your article is accepted or rejected will be made by our editors.

Read more about [peer review](#).

Our editors are not involved in making decisions about papers which:

- they have written themselves.
- have been written by family members or colleagues.
- relate to products or services in which they have an interest.

Any such submissions will be subject to the journal's usual procedures and peer review will be handled independently of the editor involved and their research group. Read more about [editor duties](#).

Authors may submit a formal appeal request to the editorial decision, provided it meets all the requirements and follows the procedure outlined in Elsevier's [Appeal Policy](#). Only one appeal per submission will be considered and the appeal decision will be final.

Special issues and article collections

The peer review process for special issues and article collections follows the same process as outlined above for regular submissions, except, a guest editor may send the submissions out to the reviewers and may recommend a decision to the journal editor. The journal editor oversees the peer review process of all special issues and article collections to ensure the high standards of publishing ethics and responsiveness are respected and is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles.

Open access

We refer you to our [open access information page](#) to learn about open access options for this journal.

Ethics and policies

Ethics in publishing

Authors must follow ethical guidelines stated in Elsevier's [Publishing Ethics Policy](#).

Submission declaration

When authors submit an article to an Elsevier journal it is implied that:

- the work described has not been published previously except in the form of a preprint, an abstract, a published lecture, academic thesis or registered report. See our policy on [multiple, redundant or concurrent publication](#).
- the article is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

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- If accepted, the article will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically, without the written consent of the copyright-holder.

To verify compliance with our journal publishing policies, we may check your manuscript with our screening tools.

Authorship

All authors should have made substantial contributions to all of the following:

1. The conception and design of the study, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data
2. Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content.
3. Final approval of the version to be submitted.

All authors are accountable for all aspects of the work, to ensure that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Authors should appoint a single corresponding author to communicate with the journal during the editorial process. This individual submits the manuscript and all required documentation to the journal, and serves as the primary contact between the journal and the co-authors. Only the corresponding author's affiliation will be used to determine eligibility for a publishing agreement, and possible discounts related to it. Affiliations of other co-authors are not relevant for eligibility.

Changes to authorship

The editors of this journal generally will not consider changes to authorship once a manuscript has been submitted. It is important that authors carefully consider the authorship list and order of authors and provide a definitive author list at submission.

The policy of this journal around authorship changes:

- All authors must be listed in the manuscript and their details entered into the submission system. Changes can only be made prior to acceptance, and only if approved by the journal editor. This includes additions, deletion, or rearrangement of author names.
- Requests to change authorship must be made by the corresponding author using the [Authorship Change Request form](#). The corresponding author must provide the reason for the request to the journal editor with written confirmation from all authors, including any authors being added or removed, that they agree with the changes. Requests which do not comply with the instructions outlined in the form will not be considered.
- This journal does not allow authorship changes after acceptance. This includes additions, deletions, or the rearrangement of author names, including changes to the corresponding author.
- The review process may be paused while a change in authorship request is being considered.
- Change requests made by the authors without the [Authorship Change Request form](#) or editor approval may result in the rejection of the manuscript, or retraction if the article has already been published.

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- Employment
- Consultancies
- Stock ownership
- Honoraria
- Paid expert testimony
- Patent applications or registrations
- Grants or any other funding
- Affiliation with the journal as an Editor or Advisory Board Member

The [declarations tool](#) should always be completed.

Authors with a journal affiliation to declare should enter the following text under “Other Activities” within the [declarations tool](#) and should inform the journal and publisher prior to completing the submission process:

Given their role as [AUTHOR JOURNAL ROLE TITLE], [AUTHOR NAME] had no involvement in the peer-review of this article and has no access to information regarding its peer-review. Full responsibility for the editorial process for this article was delegated to another journal editor.

Editorial disclosure statements will be included as a footnote and/or in the declaration of competing interest section of the article.

Authors with no competing interests to declare should select the option "I have nothing to declare".

The resulting Word document containing your declaration should be uploaded at the "attach/upload files" step in the submission process. It is important that the Word document is saved in the .doc/.docx file format. Author signatures are not required.

Funding sources

Authors must disclose any funding sources who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article. The role of sponsors, if any, should be declared in relation to the study design, collection, analysis and interpretation of data, writing of the report and decision to submit the article for publication. If funding sources had no such involvement this should be stated in your submission.

List funding sources in this standard way to facilitate compliance to funder's requirements:

Funding: This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health [grant numbers xxxx, yyyy]; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA [grant number zzzz]; and the United States Institutes of Peace [grant number aaaa].

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If no funding has been provided for the research, it is recommended to include the following sentence:

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Declaration of generative AI use

Authors must declare the use of generative AI tools in the manuscript preparation process upon submission of the paper.

Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies (“AI tools”) have been rapidly adopted in research and scholarly publishing, offering significant benefits while requiring clear standards for responsible and transparent use.

Authors preparing a manuscript for this journal may use AI tools to support them. However, these tools must never be used as a substitute for human critical thinking, expertise and evaluation. AI tools may only be applied with human oversight and control.

Please read Elsevier’s detailed author policy on the use of AI tools, as stated in Elsevier’s [generative AI policies for journals](#).

Ultimately, authors are responsible and accountable for the contents of their work. This includes accountability for:

- Carefully reviewing and verifying the accuracy, comprehensiveness, and impartiality of all AI-generated output (including checking the sources, as AI-generated references can be incorrect or fabricated).
- Editing and adapting all material thoroughly to ensure the manuscript represents the author’s authentic and original contribution and reflects their own analysis, interpretation, insights and ideas.
- Ensuring accuracy and originality of any AI generated images and provide appropriate attribution where relevant.
- Ensuring the use of any tools or sources, AI-based or otherwise, is made clear and transparent to readers. If AI tools have been used, we require a disclosure statement upon submission; please see example below.
- Ensuring the manuscript is developed in a way that safeguards data privacy, intellectual property and other rights, by checking the terms and conditions of any AI tool that is used.

Finally, authors must not list or cite AI tools as an author or co-author on the manuscript since authorship implies responsibilities and tasks that can only be attributed to, and performed by, humans.

The use of AI tools in the manuscript preparation process must be declared by adding a statement at the end of the manuscript when the paper is first submitted. The statement will appear in the published work and should be placed in a new section before the references list. An example:

Title of new section: *Declaration of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the manuscript preparation process.*

Statement: *During the preparation of this work the author(s) used [NAME OF TOOL / SERVICE] in order to [REASON]. After*

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The declaration does not apply to the use of basic tools, such as tools used to check grammar, spelling and references. In addition, authors are not required to disclose the use of AI tools or features within specialist disability-related assistive technology, provided these are used solely for accessibility purposes.

If you have nothing to disclose, you do not need to add a statement.

Please note: to protect authors' rights and the confidentiality of their research, this journal does not currently allow academic editors and reviewers to upload an unpublished manuscript into a generative AI tool, as is stated in Elsevier's [generative AI policies for journals](#). However, AI tools may be used in a supportive capacity by editors and reviewers to improve structure and language of the review report or editorial decision letter or to conduct a background literature search. Elsevier is actively evaluating compliant AI tools and may revise this policy in the future.

Preprints

Preprint sharing

Authors may share preprints in line with Elsevier's [article sharing policy](#). Sharing preprints, such as on a preprint server, will not count as prior publication.

We advise you to read our policy on [multiple, redundant or concurrent publication](#).

Use of inclusive language

Inclusive language acknowledges diversity, conveys respect to all people, is sensitive to differences, and promotes equal opportunities. Authors should ensure their work uses inclusive language throughout and contains nothing which might imply one individual is superior to another on the grounds of:

- age
- gender
- race
- ethnicity
- culture
- sexual orientation
- disability or health condition

We recommend avoiding the use of descriptors about personal attributes unless they are relevant and valid. Write for gender neutrality with the use of plural nouns ("clinicians, patients/clients") as default. Wherever possible, avoid using "he, she," or "he/she."

No assumptions should be made about the beliefs of readers and writing should be free from bias, stereotypes, slang, reference to dominant culture and/or cultural assumptions.

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Reporting sex- and gender-based analyses

There is no single, universally agreed-upon set of guidelines for defining sex and gender. We offer the following guidance:

- Sex and gender-based analyses (SGBA) should be integrated into research design when research involves or pertains to humans, animals or eukaryotic cells. This should be done in accordance with any requirements set by funders or sponsors and best practices within a field.
- Sex and/or gender dimensions of the research should be addressed within the article or declared as a limitation to the generalizability of the research.
- Definitions of sex and/or gender applied should be explicitly stated to enhance the precision, rigor and reproducibility of the research and to avoid ambiguity or conflation of terms and the constructs to which they refer.

We advise you to read the [Sex and Gender Equity in Research \(SAGER\) guidelines](#) and the [SAGER checklist](#) (PDF) on the EASE website, which offer systematic approaches to the use of sex and gender information in study design, data analysis, outcome reporting and research interpretation.

For further information we suggest reading the rationale behind and recommended [use of the SAGER guidelines](#).

Definitions of sex and/or gender

We ask authors to define how sex and gender have been used in their research and publication. Some guidance:

- Sex generally refers to a set of biological attributes that are associated with physical and physiological features such as chromosomal genotype, hormonal levels, internal and external anatomy. A binary sex categorization (male/female) is usually designated at birth ("sex assigned at birth") and is in most cases based solely on the visible external anatomy of a newborn. In reality, sex categorizations include people who are intersex/have differences of sex development (DSD).
- Gender generally refers to socially constructed roles, behaviors and identities of women, men and gender-diverse people that occur in a historical and cultural context and may vary across societies and over time. Gender influences how people view themselves and each other, how they behave and interact and how power is distributed in society.

Depending on the focus of a paper, sex and/or gender may or may not be relevant to the content of the paper. We recognize that beliefs, attitudes, and laws relating to sex and gender may vary. These articles do not attempt to dictate author beliefs but rather require that, where relevant to an author's research or paper, the author must provide clear explanations of how the paper and research define and use sex and gender.

Jurisdictional claims

Elsevier respects the decisions taken by its authors as to how they choose to designate territories and identify their affiliations in their published content. Elsevier's policy is to take a neutral position with respect to territorial disputes or jurisdictional claims, including, but not limited to, maps and institutional affiliations. For journals that Elsevier publishes on behalf of a third party owner, the owner may set its own policy on these issues.

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define study areas and do not necessarily depict accepted national boundaries". During the review process, Elsevier's editors may request authors to change maps if these guidelines are not followed.

- Institutional affiliations: Authors should use either the full, standard title of their institution or the standard abbreviation of the institutional name so that the institutional name can be independently verified for research integrity purposes.

Clinical Trials

This journal follows the [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors \(ICMJE\) clinical trials registration guidelines](#).

Registration

Clinical trials must be registered in a public trials registry. Purely observational studies, in which the assignment of the medical intervention is not at the discretion of the investigator, do not require registration.

Some important points:

- Trials must be registered at or before the onset of patient enrolment.
- The clinical trial registration number must be included in the manuscript, preferably at the end of the article abstract.
- A clinical trial is defined as any research study that prospectively assigns human participants, or groups of humans, to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects of health outcomes.
- Health-related interventions include any intervention used to modify a biomedical or health-related outcome such as drugs, surgical procedures, devices, behavioral treatments, dietary interventions, and process-of-care changes.
- Health outcomes include any biomedical or health-related measures obtained in patients or participants, including pharmacokinetic measures and adverse events.

Results

Authors are required to disclose all posting in registries of results of the same or closely related work. Editors will not consider results to be a prior publication if they have already been posted in the same clinical trials registry in which primary registration resides, as long as the results are presented in the form of a brief structured abstract (fewer than 500 words) or table.

Disclosing results in other circumstances, such as in an investors' meeting, for example, is discouraged and may jeopardize consideration of your manuscript by this journal.

Reporting

Authors are encouraged to follow CONSORT guidelines when presenting randomized controlled trials, and provide the CONSORT checklist at manuscript submission, with an accompanying flow diagram illustrating the progress of

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- Read the [CONSORT guidelines](#).

- Follow the [CONSORT checklist](#).

Delayed publication

If you need to delay the publication of your article for any reason, please contact the editorial office of the journal or our [Journal Article Publishing Support Center](#) at the earliest possible opportunity. While we will try to ensure that your article is not published before a certain date if you make your request on a timely basis, we cannot guarantee this. Please also note that once the agreed period of delay has expired the article may be published at any time thereafter.

Withdrawal, correction or retraction

For questions about article withdrawal, correction, or retraction, please consult Elsevier's [Article Correction, Retraction and Removal Policy](#).

Writing and formatting

File format

We ask you to provide editable source files for your entire submission (including figures, tables and text graphics). Some guidelines:

- Save files in an editable format, using the extension .doc/.docx for Word files and .tex for LaTeX files. A PDF is not an acceptable source file.
- Format Word files in a single-column layout. Double-column formatting is only permitted for LaTeX submissions.
- Remove any strikethrough and underlined text from your manuscript, unless it has scientific significance related to your article.
- Use spell-check and grammar-check functions to avoid errors.

We advise you to read our [Step-by-step guide to publishing with Elsevier](#).

Title page

You are required to include the following details in the title page information:

- Article title. Article titles should be concise and informative. Please avoid abbreviations and formulae, where possible, unless they are established and widely understood, e.g. DNA.
- Author names. Provide the given name(s) and family name(s) of each author. The order of authors should match the order in the submission system. Carefully check that all names are accurately spelled. If needed, you can add your name between parentheses in your own script after the English transliteration.
- Affiliations, referring to where the work was carried out, below the author names. Indicate affiliations using a lower-case superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the corresponding address. Ensure that you provide the full name and postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the email address of each author.

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details of your corresponding author are kept up to date during the submission and publication process.

- Present/permanent address. If an author has moved since the work described in your article was carried out, or the author was visiting during that time, a "present address" (or "permanent address") can be indicated by a footnote to the author's name. The address where the author carried out the work must be retained as their main affiliation address. Use superscript Arabic numerals for such footnotes.

Abstract

You are required to provide a concise and factual abstract which does not exceed 250 words. The abstract should briefly state the purpose of your research, principal results and major conclusions. Some guidelines:

- Abstracts must be able to stand alone as abstracts are often presented separately from the article.
- Avoid references. If any are essential to include, ensure that you cite the author(s) and year(s).
- Avoid non-standard or uncommon abbreviations. If any are essential to include, ensure they are defined within your abstract at first mention.

Keywords

You are required to provide 1 to 7 keywords for indexing purposes. Keywords should be written in English. Please try to avoid keywords consisting of multiple words (using "and" or "of").

We recommend that you only use abbreviations in keywords if they are firmly established in the field.

Tables

Tables must be submitted as editable text, not as images. Some guidelines:

- Place tables next to the relevant text or on a separate page(s) at the end of your article.
- Cite all tables in the manuscript text.
- Number tables consecutively according to their appearance in the text.
- Please provide captions along with the tables.
- Place any table notes below the table body.
- Avoid vertical rules and shading within table cells.

We recommend that you use tables sparingly, ensuring that any data presented in tables is not duplicating results described elsewhere in the article.

Figures, images and artwork

Figures, images, diagrams and other graphical media (artwork) must be supplied as separate files along with the manuscript, in line with these [artwork and media instructions](#). Some excerpts:

When submitting artwork:

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- Submit each image as a separate file using a logical naming convention for your files (for example, Figure_1, Figure_2 etc).
- Text graphics may be embedded in the text at the appropriate position. If you are working with LaTeX, text graphics may also be embedded in the file.

Captions

All artwork must have a caption. A caption should consist of a brief title (not displayed on the figure itself) and a description of the image. Keep the amount of text in any image to a minimum, though any symbol or abbreviation should be explained.

Read how to add captions to your submission [here](#).

Formats

When your artwork is finalized, "save as" or convert your electronic artwork to the formats listed below taking into account the given resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations:

- Vector drawings: Save as EPS or PDF files embedding the font or saving the text as "graphics."
- Color or grayscale photographs (halftones): Save as TIFF, JPG or PNG files using a minimum of 300 dpi (for single column width: min. 1063 pixels, full page width: 2244 pixels).
- Bitmapped line drawings: Save as TIFF, JPG or PNG files, using a minimum of 1000 dpi (for single column width: min. 3543 pixels, full page width: 7480 pixels).
- Combinations bitmapped line/halftones (color or grayscale): Save as TIFF, JPG or PNG files using a minimum of 500 dpi (for single column: min. 1772 pixels, full page width: 3740 pixels).

Please do not submit:

- Files that are too low in resolution.
- Artwork where text is disproportionately small compared to the image size, as text may become unreadable.
- Different images or graphs combined into one, as this affects accessibility

Color artwork

If you submit usable color figures with your accepted article, we will ensure that they appear in color online.

Please ensure that color images are accessible to all, including those with impaired color vision. Learn more about [color and web accessibility](#).

Generative AI and Figures, images and other artwork

Please read our policy on the use of generative AI and AI-assisted tools in figures, images and artwork, which can be found in Elsevier's [GenAI Policies for Journals](#). This policy states:

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- AI tools may be used to create data visualizations (such as plots, charts, graphs, or heatmaps) when the output is directly derived from underlying data using reproducible analytical, computational, or statistical methods.
- AI tools must not be used to create or alter images that represent primary observed or experimental data (such as western blots, microscopy images, histology images, or patient images) that were not directly obtained in the research. This includes adjustments to brightness, contrast, or color balance, which should only be done using established image processing software.
- This policy does not prevent the use of AI tools in formal research design or research methods (such as in AI-assisted imaging approaches used for collection and/or interpretation of the underlying research data or predictive modelling of clinical outcomes based on patient data).

Authors are responsible for ensuring the accuracy and originality of all images submitted for publication. If you used generative AI tools to create images in your manuscript, you should disclose this in each image caption as well as in the general Generative AI disclosure statement.

Supplementary material

We encourage the use of supplementary materials such as applications, images and sound clips to enhance research. Some guidelines:

- Supplementary material should be accurate and relevant to the research.
- Cite all supplementary files in the manuscript text.
- Submit all supplementary materials at the same time as your manuscript.
- Include a concise, descriptive caption for each supplementary file, describing its content.
- After submission supplementary files can only be added or replaced in the revision stage of the editorial process.
- Be aware that all supplementary materials provided will appear online in the exact same way as received. These files will not be checked, formatted or typeset by the production team.

Video

This journal accepts video material and animation sequences to support and enhance your scientific research. We encourage you to include links to video or animation files within articles. Some guidelines:

- When including video or animation file links within your article, refer to the video or animation content by adding a note in your text where the file should be placed.
- Clearly label files ensuring the given file name is directly related to the file content.
- Provide files in one of our [recommended file formats](#). Files should be within our preferred maximum file size of 150 MB per file, 1 GB in total.
- Provide "stills" for each of your files. These will be used as standard icons to personalize the link to your video data. You can choose any frame from your video or animation or make a separate image.

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We publish all video and animation files supplied in the electronic version of your article.

For more detailed instructions, we recommend that you read our guidelines on [submitting video content to be included in the body of an article](#).

Research data

We are committed to supporting the storage of, access to and discovery of research data, and our [research data policy](#) sets out the principles guiding how we work with the research community to support a more efficient and transparent research process.

Research data refers to the results of observations or experimentation that validate research findings, which may also include software, code, models, algorithms, protocols, methods and other useful materials related to the project.

Please read our guidelines on [sharing research data](#) for more information on depositing, sharing and using research data and other relevant research materials.

Research data deposit, citation and linking

For this journal, **Option B** instructions from our [research data guidelines](#) apply. This means that you are **encouraged** to:

- Deposit your research data in a relevant data repository.
- Cite and link to this dataset in your article.
- If this is not possible, make a statement explaining why research data cannot be shared.

Data statement

To foster transparency, you are encouraged to state the availability of any data at submission.

Ensuring data is available may be a requirement of your funding body or institution. If your data is unavailable to access or unsuitable to post, you can state the reason why (e.g., your research data includes sensitive or confidential information such as patient data) during the submission process. This statement will appear with your published article on ScienceDirect.

Read more about the importance and benefits of providing a [data statement](#).

Data linking

Linking to the data underlying your work increases your exposure and may lead to new collaborations. It also provides readers with a better understanding of the described research.

If your research data has been made available in a data repository there are a number of ways your article can be linked directly to the dataset:

- Provide a link to your dataset when prompted during the online submission process.

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- You can also link relevant data or entities within the text of your article through the use of identifiers. Use the following format: Database: 12345 (e.g. TAIR: AT1G01020; CCDC: 734053; PDB: 1XFN).

Learn more about [linking research data and research articles in ScienceDirect](#).

Co-submission of related data, methods or protocols

You are encouraged to publish a description of your research data, methods, or protocols related to your regular article as a co-submission article in [Data in Brief](#) or [MethodsX](#).

This co-submission can be submitted at the same time as your regular manuscript submission to this journal. If both your regular and co-submitted manuscripts are accepted for publication, they will be linked together on ScienceDirect, thereby promoting research reproducibility, interoperability, and open science.

- Prepare a separate manuscript describing your research data, methods, or protocols using the **mandatory templates** from [Data in Brief](#) or in [MethodsX](#).
- Submit this co-submission alongside your regular manuscript as a separate submission item; on the **'Attach files'** page in Editorial Manager, after which it will be automatically forwarded to the *Data in Brief* or *MethodsX* and assigned an editor.
- For associated Article Processing Charge (APC) details, please visit:
 - [MethodsX](#)
 - [Data in Brief](#)

Please note: Due to the automated process of submitting to *Data in Brief* or *MethodsX*, only after acceptance will you be presented with a personalized OA Article Publishing Charge based on your individual context (your country, institutional affiliation, and any society membership for example).

Please visit [co-submission Researcher Support page](#) for more information on how to submit a co-submission.

Article structure

Article sections

Divide your manuscript into clearly defined sections covering all essential elements using headings.

Acknowledgements

Include any individuals who provided you with help during your research, such as help with language, writing or proof reading, in the acknowledgements section.

Acknowledgements should be placed in a separate section which appears directly before the reference list. Do not include acknowledgements on your title page, as a footnote to your title, or anywhere else in your article other than in the separate acknowledgements section.

Author contributions: CRediT

Corresponding authors are required to acknowledge co-author contributions using [CRediT \(Contributor Roles Taxonomy\)](#) roles:

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- Formal analysis
- Funding acquisition
- Investigation
- Methodology
- Project administration
- Resources
- Software
- Supervision
- Validation
- Visualization
- Writing – original draft
- Writing – review and editing

Not all CRediT roles will apply to every manuscript and some authors may contribute through multiple roles.

We advise you to read [more about CRediT](#) and [view an example of a CRediT author statement](#).

Appendices

We ask you to use the following format for appendices:

- Identify individual appendices within your article using the format: A, B, etc.
- Give separate numbering to formulae and equations within appendices using formats such as Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc. and in subsequent appendices, Eq. (B.1), Eq. (B. 2) etc. In a similar way, give separate numbering to tables and figures using formats such as Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

References

References within text

Any references cited within your article should also be present in your reference list and vice versa. Some guidelines:

- References cited in your abstract must be given in full.
- We recommend that you do not include unpublished results and personal communications in your reference list, though you may mention them in the text of your article.

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- References cited as "in press" imply that the item has been accepted for publication.

Linking to cited sources will increase the discoverability of your research. We encourage the use of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) as reference links, as they provide a permanent link to the electronic article referenced.

Before submission, check that all data provided in your reference list are correct, including any references which have been copied. Providing correct reference data allows us to link to abstracting and indexing services such as Scopus, Crossref and PubMed. Any incorrect surnames, journal or book titles, publication years or pagination within your references may prevent link creation.

Web references

When listing web references, as a minimum you should provide the full URL and the date when the reference was last accessed. Additional information (e.g. DOI, author names, dates or reference to a source publication) should also be provided, if known.

You can list web references separately under a new heading directly after your reference list or include them in your reference list.

Data references

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