

Instructions for authors

Scope of *Biomolecular Research Reports*

Biomolecular Research Reports (BRR) aim to stimulate and promote original and interdisciplinary research by actively engaging the research community through timely and relevant publications.

BRR will publish three types of articles.

- **Perspectives & Commentaries.** These articles will provide insightful analyses of developments in a specific biomolecular research area. Contributions may also present global views or a potential paradigm shift in a specific or broad research area. The Editorial Board will invite authors for submissions to this category.
- **Reviews** will present concise appraisal and synthesis of the latest developments on a specific research topic. Authors are expected to have relevant research expertise on the review topic evidenced by publications track record or active research programme in the field.
- **Research Papers** will present findings from original work with writing styles and formats that emphasise rationale, design, findings, and implications. Priority will be placed on soundness of scientific methods as reflected in the design of experiments, reproducibility and balanced interpretation of data. The goal is not to select papers for publication based on their perceived current scientific impact

We invite submissions to the Commentaries & Perspectives, Reviews, and Research Papers sections of the journal across a wide range of research fields with elements of the biomolecular sciences as the subject of investigation or as research tools in related areas. These include but not limited to biochemistry, biophysics, molecular biology, biotechnology, microbiology, biomedical sciences, chemical biology, pharmacology, natural product chemistry, environmental chemistry, and forensic biosciences. The Editorial Board are particularly interested in contributions that incorporate an interdisciplinary approach to experimental science.

Editorial Policies

Authors should familiarize themselves with the Editorial Policies for *Biomolecular Research Reports* before submitting their paper. These policies spell out the rights and responsibilities that authors agree to when submitting and publishing their papers, although some of these apply only to authors of original research papers. These are set out below as instructions for authors in each of the three categories of articles as well as the General Guidelines that apply to all sections.

Instruction for Authors: Perspectives & Commentaries articles

Scope

The **Perspectives & Commentaries sections** of *Biomolecular Research Reports* feature short, lively articles that present the author's opinion and insights regarding current research or other topics of interest to scientists. The Editors invite most Perspectives & Commentaries content, but we welcome unsolicited articles as well as suggestions for topics and authors.

The articles will fall within the research areas outlined above.

Perspectives discuss one or a cluster of recently published papers or a current research topic of high interest in which an author's perspective sheds an incisive light on key findings in research. These articles typically have one or two authors whose task is to inform our interdisciplinary readership about exciting scientific developments in the author's area of expertise. Other appropriate topics include discussions of methods, books, or meeting highlights. Perspectives are usually between 2000 and 4000 words total (including abstract, main text, references and figure legends). They should have a short concise title, an abstract of 50 words or less, no more than 35 references, and 1 or 2 figures (with figure legends) or tables.

Commentaries present in-depth analysis of current issues such as policy, funding, regulatory, educational, and legislative issues, new institutes, careers etc. Commentaries should not exceed 3000 words total (including abstract, main text, references and figure legends). They should have a short pithy title, an abstract of 50 words or less, no more than 35 references, and 1 or 2 figures (with figure legends) or tables.

Writing your Perspectives & Commentaries Article

Format Perspectives & Commentaries articles should be concise. Commentary, and Perspective articles have an upper limit of 3,000, and 4,000 words, respectively, and we recommend citing no more than 35 references. Because we want to make these articles visually engaging as well as informative, we include 1 or 2 figures in Commentaries & Perspectives articles.

Title Titles should be informative, thought-provoking, and inviting and should be no more than 100 characters in length (including spaces).

Authors and their affiliated institutions, linked by superscript numbers, should be listed beneath the title on the opening page of the manuscript.

Abstract Perspectives & Commentaries have a 2-to 4-sentence Abstract. Abstracts are important because they will be visible in PubMed and thus will lead readers to your articles. Please do not include citations or undefined abbreviations in the Abstract.

Body of text The ideal Perspective or Commentary begins with an introductory paragraph that immediately presents the issues under discussion in a way that captures the reader's interest. If the Perspective discusses a particular research paper, that paper should be mentioned in this first paragraph. The introduction should be general enough to orient the reader not familiar with the specifics of the field being discussed. Here, and throughout the article, the author should avoid the jargon and specialist terms of his or her field or system. Our aim here is to encourage interdisciplinary thinking and to this end the article should be accessible to a non-specialist. If the language of specialists is necessary, define terms for the general reader. The body of the text should, in the limited space available, develop the discussion in a clear, declarative manner. The editors seek writing that avoids the passive tense, tangled constructions, and needless detail. Avoid tangents that interrupt the flow of the text. Section headings can be used when necessary but should be short and succinct (no more than 30 characters). The final paragraph should draw the piece to a concise conclusion, without simply restating the text. It should be a conclusion and not a summary. Tell the reader about future prospects and implications. What are the unanswered questions? Where is the field going?

Figure The figure should be designed to succinctly summarise the subject in an engaging manner accessible to a non-specialist.

Criteria and process for evaluation

Since Perspectives & Commentaries articles are mostly invited submissions, the assessments are conducted by members of the Editorial Board. We expect that authors will do their best to meet our criteria for Perspectives & Commentaries articles, but authors should be prepared for extensive editing, perhaps even rewriting, if the editors find it necessary. The editors will show authors the editorial changes, and authors will be asked to check the edited manuscripts and galleys before publication of the article.

Instruction for Authors: Review articles

Scope

Most Reviews for *Biomolecular Research Reports* are via editor invitation. Unsolicited Reviews are not precluded but are at the discretion of the Reviews Editor. Ideally, Reviews should be timely and balanced overviews that highlight recent advances in our understanding of the broad range of Biomolecular Sciences and their roles in health and disease.

The articles will fall within the research areas outlined above.

Writing your Review Article

Reviews should be 5,000 words or shorter (excluding references and notes and legends), with the precise length dictated by the requirements of the topic. There should be up to 6 display items (figures and tables). All Reviews should include: (1) Abstract, (2) Introduction, (3) Subsections, (4) Conclusions, and (5) References. Notes (Supplementary Materials may be permitted under certain circumstances; see the section below).

The manuscript should be assembled in the following order:

Title Titles should be informative, thought-provoking, and inviting and should be no more than 100 characters in length (including spaces).

Authors and their affiliated institutions, linked by superscript numbers, should be listed beneath the title on the opening page of the manuscript.

Abstracts explain to the general reader the topics covered in the Review. Abstracts are important because they will be visible in PubMed and thus will lead readers to your articles. The Abstract is distinct from the main body of the text, and thus should not be the only source of background information critical to understanding the manuscript. Please do not include citations or undefined abbreviations in the Abstract. The preferred length of abstracts is 125 words or fewer, but a 300-word maximum is allowed for submission.

Keywords of up to five terms representing the main topic and content of the article should be provided.

Body of text This section should contain the bulk of your analysis, as described above.

List of Supplementary Materials List your Supplementary Materials items, if any, including titles for each of the supplementary figures, tables, videos, audio files, or other files.

Criteria and process for evaluation

All Reviews at *Biomolecular Research Reports* undergo peer review evaluation, even when solicited by the editors. This ensures parity between submissions and consistency of standards. They are assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

- 1. Current:** The Review should describe the current state of knowledge in the specific field and provide the reader with a balanced, up-to-date overview.
- 2. Technical Merit:** Conclusions and inferences made in the Review should be justified from the data cited or presented in that Review. Important discoveries in the field should be cited and placed in the context of work done by others, who should also be cited. Omission of research with conflicting data or viewpoints is not acceptable practice but should be included and discussed.
- 3. Intelligibility:** The Review should be written in a broadly accessible style. Readers from other disciplines should be able to learn from the article what has been firmly established and what are significant unresolved questions and obstacles to progress.

Instruction for Authors: Research articles

The **Original Research Article section** of *Biomolecular Research Reports* is dedicated to short papers that contain novel, original scientific work that has not been published previously. The articles will fall within the scope of research areas outlined above

Writing your Original Research Article

Format The length of the paper must not exceed 5000 words total (including abstract, main text, and figure legends). They should have a short concise title, an abstract of 300 words or less, and 1 to 4 figures (with figure legends) or tables.

Title Titles should be concise and informative of the content of the paper. It should be no more than 100 characters in length (including spaces).

Authors and their affiliated institutions, linked by superscript numbers, should be listed beneath the title on the opening page of the manuscript.

Abstract This should not exceed 250 words. It should contain a brief background and purpose of the study, highlight the main findings of the work and its potential implications. It should contain no references and no undefined abbreviations/acronyms.

Keywords Up to five keywords representing the main topic and content of the article.

Body of text Ideally, the Research Article should contain the following sections:

- 1) Introduction: this should provide an overview of the background of the work, a summary of the relevant existing literature and the aim and objectives of the study
- 2) Method: as appropriate, a thorough description of the materials, participants, instrumentation and experimental procedures should be provided
- 3) Results: this section should report the findings of the study including, when appropriate, results of statistical analysis either in the text or in tables/figures.
- 4) Discussion: this section should elaborate on the implications of the findings of the study in the context of the existing literature and should highlight, where appropriate, the limitations of the study.
- 5) Conclusions: this brief section should highlight the main implications of the work in the context of its field.

Criteria and process for evaluation

We expect that authors will do their best to meet our criteria for Original Research Articles, but authors should be prepared for extensive editing, perhaps even rewriting, if the editors find it necessary. The editors will show authors the editorial changes, and authors will be asked to check the edited manuscripts and galleys before publication of the article.

Instruction for Authors: General Guidelines for all sections

Instructions for the Submission of Text and Figures

Please submit your text and figures through the *Biomolecular Research Reports* Submission and Information Portal at <https://openjournals.ljmu.ac.uk/index.php/BRR/about/submissions>. It is not necessary to name your files in any particular way as our system will rename them upon submission.

Files for submission

Please submit a text-only file in .docx, .doc, or .rtf format and a single file in PDF format that contains the text, figure captions, references, and all tables. See below for instructions for electronic transmission of manuscripts and for details on preferred file types and file naming.

Text

Text files must be in Microsoft Word .docx format. Include text, as well as any figure captions, references and all tables, in this single text file. Use double spacing throughout the text, tables, figure legends, and references and notes. Electronic files should be formatted for A4. Technical terms should be defined. Symbols, abbreviations, and acronyms should be defined the first time they are used. All tables and figures should be cited in numerical order. For best results use Arial and Symbol fonts only.

Figures

Figures should illustrate the essential message of the article. It can be a drawing, graph, chart, table, or photograph. The point is to catch the eye while informing the reader. Figure legends should begin with a short, concise title (no more than 30 characters), include a brief description of the figure, and define all abbreviations (unless they are already defined in the text). Figures should be called out within the text. Figures should be numbered in the order of their citation in the text. They should be submitted as part of the online submission or, if necessary for large files only, on a CD. See below for detailed instructions on preparation of and preferred formats for your figures.

Our submission system can handle files up to 6 MB. Upon acceptance of the manuscript, please provide figures in the following formats (in descending order of preference).

- Illustrator EPS (Encapsulated Postscript) or AI (Adobe Illustrator)
- Photoshop PSD (Photoshop - with active text layers, do not flatten and do not rasterize text layers) PDF, TIF, PicT, JPG, GiF
- Files prepared in Corel Draw or Macromedia Freehand, which must be saved as EPS files
- PowerPoint PPT files

Tables

Tables should be included after the references and should supplement, not duplicate, the text. They should be called out within the text and numbered in the order of their citation in the text. The first sentence of the table legend should be a brief descriptive title. Every vertical column should have a heading, consisting of a title with the unit of measure in parentheses. Units should not change within a column. Centred headings of the body of the table can be used to break the entries into groups. Footnotes should contain information relevant to specific entries or parts of the table.

Supplementary Materials

Supplementary Materials (SM) can accommodate various types of auxiliary information of use to the reader, including material not presentable in a text format. We can host supplementary figures and legends, detailed materials and methods, detailed discussion, video files, audio files, original data files, and large data sets. All SM should be accompanied by a brief text description, similar to a caption. The first sentence of this caption should be a title, and the titles of the SM items should be listed immediately before the References section. The SM should not be essential to the general understanding of the research presented in the main text of the paper.

- *Units of measure* should be given in SI units.
- *Text and figures*. Supplementary Materials (supplementary tables and figures plus captions) should be prepared as a separate .docx file. Figures should be embedded in the file.
- *Video and audio files and other files types*. All other file types can be uploaded as Auxiliary Supplementary Materials on our submission site. Our system can handle files up to 6 MB.

References: These should be cited by consecutive numbers in the text and given in a full format (see Citation format, below).

Citation Style: Please use Vancouver reference style. Examples are shown below.

Article in Journal: Acker T., Fandrey J., Acker H. The good, the bad and the ugly in oxygen-sensing: ROS, cytochromes and prolyl-hydroxylases. *Cardiovascular Research*. 2006;71(2):195-207

Book Chapter: Hamblin MR. Covalent photosensitizer conjugates, part 2: Peptides, polymers, and small molecules for targeted photodynamic therapy. In: Hamblin MR, Mroz P, editors. *Advances in Photodynamic Therapy: Basic, Translational, and Clinical*. Boston: Artech House; 2008. p. 217-33

Book: Hermanson GT. *Bioconjugate techniques*. San Diego: Academic Press; 2008. xxvii+785p p.

Ethical Approval

Please include ethical approval/waiver when it applies.

Author Checklist

- Have you included an Abstract?
- Are all authors and their affiliations listed in the correct format and the corresponding author indicated?
- Have you included at least one figure or table or a figure sketch, idea, or concept?
- Have any of the figures been previously published?
- Have you included legends for all figures and tables?
- Are the references complete? Each citation should include the full article title, journal title, journal volume, year of publication, and first and last pages. Please include all authors (no *et al.*).

Submission Checklist

The following items are required for submission:

(1) Cover letter, containing:

- The title of the paper and a statement of its main points
- Any information needed to ensure a fair review process
- A statement that none of the material has been published or is under consideration elsewhere, including the Internet.
- Names, telephone, and e-mail addresses for all authors, including selection of one to be corresponding author
- Names, affiliations, and e-mail addresses of five potential referees.

(2) Written permission from any author who is not an author of your manuscript but whose work is cited as a personal communication or in press. Permission must allow distribution of in press manuscripts or relevant data to reviewers or any interested reader upon publication. A copy of an email is sufficient.

(3) Copies of any paper by you or your co-authors that is 'in press' or under consideration elsewhere that relates to the work submitted to *Biomolecular Research Reports*, or of any paper that is cited in your paper as 'in press'. These materials should be uploaded as Reference Material in the Supporting File section of our submission site.