

## GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

Authors of reports of original research should provide a thorough description of their work and its results, followed by the objective discussion of the significance of the work. Underlying data should be represented accurately in the paper. A study should contain sufficient amount of details and references to allow others to replicate the research work. Fraudulent or knowingly inaccurate statements constitute unethical behaviour and are unacceptable. Reviews and professional publications should also be accurate and objective, and editorial opinions should be clearly identified as such.

Authors may be asked to provide the raw data in connection with a paper for editorial review, and should be prepared to provide public access to such data, if practicable, and should in any event be prepared to retain such data for a reasonable time after publication.

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Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the concept, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study. All those who have made significant contributions should be listed as co-authors. Where there are others who have participated in certain substantive aspects of the research project,

they should be acknowledged, or listed as contributors. The corresponding author should ensure that all appropriate co-authors and no inappropriate co-authors are included in the paper, and that all co-authors have seen and approved the final version of the paper, and have agreed to its submission for publication.

All authors should disclose in their manuscript any financial or other substantive conflict of interest that might be construed to influence the results or interpretation of their manuscript. All sources of financial support for the project should be disclosed. Examples of potential conflicts of interest which should be disclosed include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. Potential conflicts of interest should be disclosed at the earliest stage possible.

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Paper submission to the Editorial Board is considered equivalent to a declaration that the content of the paper has not been previously published and has not been submitted to another editorial board.

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Submission to this journal proceeds totally online, and you will be guided stepwise through the creation and uploading of your files. The system automatically converts your files to a single PDF file, which is used in the peer-review process.

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The text of the paper should be written in Times New Roman font, 12 points with single line spacing and paragraph indent 0.5 cm, the margin on both sides should be 2.5 cm. The paper should be limited to 7,500 words and should include: abstract, keywords, main text, references, tables and figures. The word equivalent for a table is 250 words. The contents of the paper should be appropriately divided into numbered sections and subsections.

### ***Figures and tables in the text***

Please ensure the figures and the tables included in the single file are placed next to the relevant text in the manuscript, rather than at the bottom or the top of the file. The corresponding caption should be placed directly below the figure or above the table.

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Figures should be of high quality — resolution of at least 300 dpi, format: TIF (preferred), JPG, EPS or WMF. Do not use frames around figures. Any descriptions found in drawings, photos, and tables should be in English, in Times New Roman font. They should be easily legible when the figure is reduced to a width of 84 mm. The colours on the charts should be contrasting.

Ensure that each illustration has a caption. A caption should comprise a brief title (**not** on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum, but explain all symbols and abbreviations used. In addition, a dot should be used as a decimal fraction separator in the drawings.

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Please submit tables as editable text and not as images. Tables can be placed either next to the relevant text in the article, or at the bottom, or the top of the file. Tables should be numbered consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text. The table notes should be placed below the table body. Tables should be used sparingly, and it is needed to ensure that the data presented in them do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the paper. Vertical rules and shading in table cells should be avoided.

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Please submit maths equations as editable text, and not as images. Present simple formulas in line with normal text where possible, and use the solidus (/) instead of a horizontal line for small fractional terms, e.g., X/Y. In principle, variables are to be presented in italics. Powers of e are often more conveniently denoted by exp. Number consecutively any equations that have to be displayed separately from the text (if referred to explicitly in the text).

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This journal operates a single blind review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor with respect to their suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision on acceptance or rejection of papers. The Editor's decision is final. If your paper is rejected, please do not resubmit a modified version of this paper, as it will not be considered for publication.

## ARTICLE STRUCTURE

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The title of the paper should be concise.

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Please clearly indicate the first name(s) and surname(s) of each author, and check that all names are accurately spelled. You can add your name in parentheses in your own script behind the English transliteration. Present the authors' affiliation addresses (where the actual work was done) below the names. Indicate all affiliations with a lower-case superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the e-mail address of each author.

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Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of reviewing and publication, also post-publication. This responsibility includes answering any future queries about Methodology and Materials. **Ensure that the e-mail address is given and that contact details are kept up to date by the corresponding author.**

#### *Abstract*

The abstract should consist of 120 to 150 words. It should briefly present the content of the paper, including information about the purpose and scope of the work, results and conclusions. The abstract should not refer to bibliography or equations, nor use unknown abbreviations.

#### *Keywords*

Immediately after the abstract, provide 3 to 7 keywords, and avoid general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, "and", "of"). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.

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Define abbreviations that are not standard in this field. They should be placed on the first page of the paper. Such abbreviations that are unavoidable in the abstract must be defined at their first mention there, as well as in the footnote. Ensure consistency of abbreviations throughout the article.

## ***Introduction***

The main part of the paper should be preceded by a short summary of the state of knowledge in the topics discussed.

State the objectives of the paper and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey, or a summary of the results.

The formulation of the problem should be presented in a clear and concise way.

## ***Materials and methods***

Provide sufficient details to allow the procedure to be reproduced by an independent researcher. Methods that are already published should be summarized, and indicated by a reference. If quoting directly from a previously published method, use quotation marks, and also cite the source. Any modifications to existing methods should also be described.

## ***Results***

Results should be clear and concise. The results of research should be presented in a synthetic manner, avoiding repetition, e.g., data presented in charts should not be given in a tabular form.

## ***Discussion***

This should explore the significance of the results, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

## ***Conclusions***

The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone, or form a subsection of a Discussion or Conclusions. They should be based on the research carried out.

## ***Acknowledgements***

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the paper before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

## ***Formatting of funding sources***

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

Funding: This paper was supported by the National Science Centre [grant numbers xxxx, yyyy]; and the Ministry of Education and Science [grant number aaaa].

It is not necessary to include detailed descriptions of the program or type of grants and awards. When funding is from a block grant, or other resources available to a university, college, or other research institution, submit the name of the institute or organization that provided the funding.

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

## References

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Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full. Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these references are included in the reference list, they should follow the standard reference style of the journal and should include a substitution of the publication date with either 'Unpublished results' or 'Personal communication'. Citation of a reference as 'in press' implies that the item has been accepted for publication.

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