

FEBS *Letters*

Guide for Authors

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INTRODUCTION

FEBS Letters is a world-renowned journal for rapid publication of short reports describing novel and specific biological or biochemical functions. Bringing together important developments in molecular biosciences, *FEBS Letters* provides an international forum for Research Letters, Reviews, Hypotheses, Commentaries and Communications. *FEBS Letters* articles typically report or discuss novel findings, which appeal to a broad readership, and provide molecular mechanistic insight. *FEBS Letters* is published by Wiley on behalf of the *Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS)*.

Aims, scope and subject coverage

Papers should be short but complete and essentially final reports. The subject area of *FEBS Letters* is broad. Articles can be classified under the following categories: Bioenergetics; Biophysics; Cell fate determination (cell cycle, cell differentiation, cell death); Chemical Biology; Computational Biology (genomics, proteomics, bioinformatics); Cytoskeleton; Development; Enzymology; Evolution; Genome organization and stability; Glycobiology; Immunology; Membrane Biology (membrane trafficking, vesicles, organelles); Metabolism; Microbiology; Molecular basis of disease; Neuroscience; Plant Biology; Protein Chemistry; Protein Homeostasis; Redox Biology; Regulation of gene expression; RNA Biology; Signal Transduction; Structural Biology; Synthetic Biology; Systems Biology; and Virology.

As a general policy, *FEBS Letters* does not consider preliminary or fragmentary observations, cloning and sequencing of cDNA or genes that have previously been reported for other species, conventionally achieved expression or crystallization of proteins, description of the effect of a drug or reagent without elucidation of a detailed molecular mechanism, correlative studies or negative observations. Moreover, methodological papers are considered for publication only when they are truly novel and significant, and interesting to a broad readership.

Fast-Track Publication

FEBS Letters offers expedited handling of manuscripts that have been rejected with reviews from highly ranked journals. The submission should enclose reviews, comments from the editor, and the final decision letter. You will receive a decision from the handling Editor or the Editorial Office within a few days of submitting your manuscript.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Policy and ethics

The work described in your article must have been carried out in accordance with *The Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki)* for experiments involving humans <http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html>, *EU Directive 2010/63/EU* for animal experiments http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/legislation_en.htm,

Uniform Requirements for manuscripts submitted to Biomedical journals <http://www.icmje.org>. This must be stated at an appropriate point in the article.

FEBS Letters adheres to international standards of ethics in publishing. Data manipulation, inappropriate image processing, plagiarism, and any sort of scientific fraud are not tolerated and will be investigated. The journal will take action where misconduct is suspected, along the lines of the general principles outlined in Guidelines on Good Publication Practice, produced by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). The Guidelines are available from the COPE website (www.publicationethics.org).

Conflict of interest

All authors are requested to disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest including any financial, personal or other relationships with other people or organizations within three years of beginning the submitted work that could inappropriately influence, or be perceived to influence, their work.

Submission declaration and verification

Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it 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 originality, articles are routinely checked by the originality detection software *iThenticate*.

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.

Author Contributions

Detailed information about the specific contributions of every author should be provided. Please list all authors with their initials.

Example of Author Contributions statement:

AB and DJ conceived and supervised the study; AB and KL designed experiments; KL, DG and DGN performed experiments; AG provided new tools and reagents; KG developed new software and performed simulation studies; KL and DGN analysed data; KL, AB and DJ wrote the manuscript; KL and AB made manuscript revisions.

Role of the funding source

You are requested to identify who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article and to briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; and in the decision to submit the article for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement then this should be stated.

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The author charge for article sponsorship is 2,200 USD. This charge is necessary to offset publishing costs: from managing article submission and peer review, to typesetting, tagging and indexing of articles, hosting articles on dedicated servers, supporting sales and marketing costs to ensure global dissemination via [Wiley Online Library](#), and permanently preserving the published journal article. See more on open access and *OnlineOpen* below.

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FEBS Letters complies with all funder open access requirements – including those of the Wellcome Trust, the Research Councils UK and the NIH. Please see here for our funding policy finder.

MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

Manuscript preparation is crucial for the success of your article. Along with evaluating the novelty and technical quality of your results, the editor and reviewers judge your manuscript based on language, overall clarity and intelligibility. Poorly and sloppily written articles, as well as spelling and grammatical mistakes, may ultimately lead to the rejection of your article, even though the scientific quality would warrant publication.

It is important that the files are saved in the native format of the word processor used. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

Article Formats

Research Letters

Research Letters are short articles reporting primary research. They should be self-explanatory and conclusive. Please refer to “Article Structure” for guidelines on how to write a Research Letter.

Reviews

Reviews should be topical and of interest not only to specialists in the field but also to the general reader. Reviews do not have a word limit. We encourage authors to cite all primary literature in the review, as there is no limit to the references either. Prior to submitting a Review, authors should contact the *Editorial Office* at febs.letters@bzh.uni-heidelberg.de, providing a title, abstract and key references of the article to be considered, as well as full names and affiliations of all authors.

Hypotheses

Hypotheses should present novel ideas or new interpretations of established observations, but should be based on sound, novel data and avoid excessive speculation. Hypotheses must be of general interest. Prior to submitting a Hypothesis, authors should contact the *Editorial Office* at febs.letters@bzh.uni-heidelberg.de, providing a title, abstract and key references of the article to be considered, as well as full names and affiliations of all authors.

Communications

Communications are short, peer-reviewed articles that expand or comment on previously published papers. Communications should contain new experimental data that provide a novel perspective to previously published results, possibly indicating caveats and discrepancies, or offering alternative interpretations. Prior discussion with the authors of the primary publication would be desirable. The results of such a correspondence may be included to the submission in the cover letter.

Commentaries

Commentaries are invited contributions that discuss and contextualise recently published research.

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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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When submitting a revision, authors are asked to upload the revised manuscript text, tables and figures, each as independent source files. Ideally, the figures should be uploaded as separate print-quality files in PDF, TIFF or EPS format. A point-by-point response to the Reviewers' comments must be uploaded online.

Article structure (Research Letters)

Title Page and Abstract

Title

The title should be a maximum of 150 characters (including spaces). *FEBS Letters* reserves the right to edit titles for length and clarity.

Author names and affiliations

The full names and affiliations should be provided for all authors. The corresponding author should also provide a full postal address, telephone and fax number (including country code), and an e-mail address.

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The abstract should be a maximum of 120 words (180 for reviews). The abstract should state the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. Avoid non-standard or uncommon abbreviations and formulae where possible. *FEBS Letters* reserves the right to edit abstracts for length and clarity.

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Abbreviations

Define non-standard or uncommon abbreviations.

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The length of the submitted manuscript should not exceed 4000 words, excluding figure legends, tables, and references. Editors will accept longer papers only when there are compelling reasons to do so. Ideally, the manuscript text should be divided in the following sections:

Introduction

Materials and Methods

Results¹

Discussion¹

Acknowledgements

References

Figure legends

References

The number and length of references is not limited. *FEBS Letters* strongly encourages citation of primary literature in favour of reviews where appropriate.

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¹ the Results and Discussion can be combined in one section followed by a Conclusion

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Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text. Place footnotes to tables below the table body and indicate them with superscript lowercase letters.

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File sizes must be as small as possible, so that they can be downloaded quickly, so please submit supporting information as PDFs where possible. When not possible, accepted formats are

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AUTHOR ENQUIRIES

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