

Format requirements for IJBCB articles

For each article type, IJBCB has its own requirements regarding the article format. Please ensure you follow the exact guidelines (included below) for the specific article type you are submitting.

The journal publishes the following article types:

[Regular research articles](#)

no invitation required, up to 5,000 words

[Full-length Reviews](#)

upon invitation, 5,000 – 7,000 words

[In Focus short surveys](#)

upon invitation, up to 2,000 words

[*Cells in Focus*](#)

[*Medicine in Focus*](#)

[*Molecules in Focus*](#)

[*Organelles in Focus*](#)

[*Signalling Networks in Focus*](#)

Word counts are exclusive of references.

For more information regarding the peer review process applicable to the various article types, please refer to the journal's Peer Review Policy statement (please [**click here**](#))

Regular research articles

In addition to an abstract and a reference list regular research articles should contain the following sections: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusions, Acknowledgements and a Reference List. The abstract should not exceed 250 words. In addition to a regular abstract, a graphical abstract is strongly encouraged. Optionally, the author may submit a brief bulleted list of 'Highlights' which will be published under the abstract.

Introduction

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

Materials and Methods

Provide sufficient details to allow the work to be reproduced. Methods already published should be indicated by a reference. Only relevant modifications should be described.

Results

Results should be clear and concise.

Discussion

This section should highlight the significance and novelty of the presented results. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

References

These should be listed in alphabetical order. Please go to the main Guide for Authors for all the details and examples of reference format.

Revisions

Authors are asked to submit their first revision within 60 days. For any subsequent revisions, 30 days are allowed.

Full-length Reviews

General. All Full-length Reviews are by invitation and are commissioned by the Reviews Editor. Invited authors are recognised experts who are active researchers in their field. All reviews are peer-reviewed by Editorial Board member and one to two external reviewers according to the peer-review policies of IJBCB. In general two Full-length Reviews are published in each regular issue of IJBCB. Authors who contribute a Review in this series cannot be re-invited for at least two years after publication.

Scope and Purpose. The intent of the Full-length Reviews Articles section of IJBCB is to highlight major developments in modern biochemistry and cell biology and their relevance to physiology and medicine. Each Review serves as a vehicle to bring a balanced, rigorous, and accurate appraisal of current knowledge in the area to the broad readership of IJBCB. In surveying the area, open questions, anomalies and directions for future research may be highlighted, such that the Review provides a stimulus for further research.

Format Requirements

Length. The guideline is 5,000-7,000 words excluding references. Prospective authors should consult with the Reviews Editor if they think that a shorter - or somewhat longer - format is more appropriate for the topic of their Review.

Title page. The title page should include a running title (maximum 50 characters), list of 5 keywords, the address and email address of the corresponding author, and a list of any abbreviations used in the Review.

Abstract: 250 words maximum. The Abstract should include a clear statement of the scope and purpose of the Review. It should also indicate the context of the topic within the areas of cell biology and biochemistry and its physiological and/or medical relevance.

Introductory section. Each Review should begin with a short Introductory section that provides a background that will make the topic area accessible to non-specialists. Any specific terms or nomenclature essential to understanding the area and the topics to be critically discussed in the main part of the review should be introduced. A historical perspective, or inclusion of a diagram or table, may be appropriate.

The main part of the Review. Use of subheadings to define the main points of the Review is required. Subheadings should be made clear using uppercase, bold and italics. Within each major section, any subsection may be given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line. Acronyms should not be used in subheadings. The overall presentation should be clear and succinct without repetition. Figures and tables should be brought in as necessary to make current knowledge coherent and accessible,

and to assist the clarity and effectiveness of the presentation. All statements of current knowledge should be supported by appropriated citation of the literature. Literature citations should be balanced and unbiased and accurately reflect ongoing research in the area. While one of the purposes of a Review is to discuss with rigor the current uncertainties, ideas, and questions, the text should clearly distinguish experimentally-based knowledge from ideas and speculations. Extended, unsupported lines of speculation are discouraged. The Review should survey current knowledge from published literature, in the public domain (e.g., extracted from public sequence databases), or already in press: it is not appropriate for authors to describe unpublished experiments from their laboratories.

Final section. The Review should end with a short section of "Conclusions" or "Future prospects", in which the main new concepts and conclusions that are emerging on the basis of the current knowledge surveyed in the Review are brought together, along with any major open questions and future prospects or directions. The purpose of this section is to make a definite summary and to articulate ongoing or new questions: repetition with the main part of the Review is to be avoided.

Figures and Tables. The use of figures and tables is expected. Figures must conform to the Journal guidelines for preparation of illustrations. Dense information, (e.g., the sites of expression of a protein as compiled from multiple publications), can be communicated most effectively in a Table. Colour figure are reproduced free of charge in the print edition for all commissioned reviews. All colour figures are reproduced free of charge in the web edition. No formal limit is set on the total numbers of figures and tables that can be included with a Full-length Review, but the complete article (text, figures, tables and reference list) should not take up more than 10 printed pages of the Journal.

Revisions

Authors are asked to submit their first revision within 40 days. For any subsequent revisions, 30 days are allowed.

In Focus short surveys

General. The main aim of the "In Focus series is to present concisely new or controversial developments in the specific research area. These short reviews are intended to provide a useful general reference for researchers. The figures should be of the highest professional quality that could be used in advanced teaching scenarios. To ensure coverage of key areas and aid accessibility, authors should follow exact guidelines on article format, as indicated below for each In Focus series. In addition, the article should meet the following general requirements:

The abstract should contain up to 150 words. Acronyms should not be used in the abstract.

Below the abstract, the author should provide a bulleted list of key 'facts' about the discussed cell, molecule, signalling network, disease or organelle.

The reference list should contain maximum of 30 references, including up to 3 reviews and remaining original articles.

Each article should contain 2 figures. Each figure should have a caption summarizing the main points conveyed by the figure.

The abstract should be followed by a list of 3-4 keywords.

Revisions. Authors are asked to submit their first revision within 40 days. Any subsequent revisions should be submitted within 30 days.

Cells in Focus

In addition to an abstract (maximum 150 words) and a reference list (maximum 30), the Cells in Focus articles should contain the following sections:

Cell Facts

Cell facts are a set of bulleted key and interesting facts about the cell, listed below the abstracts (similar to 'Research Highlights'), e.g.

Osteoblasts are the cells responsible for bone formation.

Osteoblasts indirectly control levels of bone resorption.

Osteoblasts play a key role in the pathophysiology of osteoporosis and the resulting fractures, which constitute a major public health burden in developed countries.

Introduction

Set the background by giving the name(s) of the cell, its main morphological features and details of its discovery if appropriate.

Cell origin and plasticity

This section details the ontogeny of the cell and differentiation pathways. If appropriate, the capacity of the cell to de-differentiate is described.

Functions

Give details of specialised cell functions, with the emphasis on recent discoveries. A clear diagram highlighting key functions should also be included and referred to in this section.

Associated pathologies

Outline known pathologies associated with the cell in focus. Include history of discovery if appropriate. Review current therapies directed at cell functions and discuss their successes and limitations. Any new approaches to therapy emanating from recent research should be highlighted. This paragraph may be as provocative as you see fit.

Figures can be for example one scanning electron micrograph of the cell and a diagram illustrating differentiation pathways or summarizing cell functions.

Medicine in Focus

The Medicine in Focus series provides concise information on the pathogenesis of a specific disease. The articles focus on the underlying biochemistry and cell biology of the disease processes. New developments are highlighted as well as any possible therapeutic applications resulting from these studies. In addition to an abstract (maximum 150 words) and a reference list (maximum 30), the Medicine in Focus articles should contain the following sections:

Title

Both the title and the abstract of a Medicine in Focus article should start with the name of the disease. If you wish to highlight in the title a particular theme covered, this can be done with a short phrase after a semi-colon, e.g. Sepsis: cell signalling as a target for new therapy.

Abstract

The abstract should start with the name of the disease and should outline current concepts of pathogenesis and then describe the novel ideas and themes developed in this review. The final sentence of the abstract should mention possible implications of these developments for new therapeutic approaches.

Introduction

Set the background by giving the name of the disease and key clinical features. Some history of discovery and/or epidemiology should be included.

Pathogenesis

Give details of current concepts in pathogenesis with information at the protein and gene level. Further sub-headings may well be appropriate for this section. A clear diagram or flow chart should be referred to in this section. Themes developed should be clearly outlined (diagram), such as 'Recent developments in...'

Therapy

This section should review current therapy, the targets of this and discuss its success and limitations. Any new approaches emanating from recent research should be highlighted. This paragraph may be as provocative as you see fit. A diagram highlighting key functions should also be included and referred to in this section.

Molecules in Focus

The Molecules in Focus series provides concise information on the molecules of contemporary scientific interest. These articles describe the structure and function of important molecules in biochemistry and cell biology, such as receptors, transporters and macromolecular protein assemblies. In most cases these will be recently discovered molecules for which there are rapid developments through molecules discovered some time ago. In addition to an abstract (maximum 150 words) and a reference list (maximum 30), the Molecules in Focus articles should contain the following sections:

Title

The title must start with the name of the molecule or molecule family. If you wish to highlight a particular theme covered, this can be done with a short phrase after a semi-colon, e.g. Radixin: Cytoskeletal adaptor and signalling protein. Of the two figures in the article, one should show the molecule's structure and one the molecule's function.

Introduction

Set the background by giving the name of the molecule (with synonyms), date and context of its discovery if available.

Structure

Give details with information at the protein and gene level. A clear diagram, professionally drawn should be referred to in this section.

Expression, activation and turnover

Outline pathways of synthesis and degradation and their control. Discuss sites of synthesis (i.e. cells involved) if known.

Biological function

If functions are uncertain, say so, but give current speculations. This paragraph may be as provocative as you see fit. A diagram highlighting key functions should also be included. If data on "knockouts" is available, it should be referred to in this section.

Possible medical and industrial applications

For this section, the author may change the title as appropriate. The section should detail pathologies or metabolic disorders associated with the molecule, matched, if appropriate, to a clinical manifestation with the biochemical defect. If the molecule has potential commercial/industrial uses this should be alluded to in this section.

Organelles in Focus

Articles in the Organelles in Focus series highlight new developments in biology, physiology, pathology and biotechnology of cellular organelles. Topics of particular interest are: organellar structure and dynamics, genetics and evolution, membrane biogenesis and turnover, functional regulation and inter-organelle cross-talk. The Organelles in Focus series features articles on mitochondria, autophagosomes, endosomes, the Golgi apparatus, endoplasmic reticulum, cytoskeleton, peroxisomes, nucleus, and lysosomes.

Title

The title should start with the name of the organelle(s) in capital letters followed, after a semi-colon, by the title of the article (e.g., MITOCHONDRIA: Sirtuin 1 promotes mitochondrial biogenesis during exercise-training). The title should highlight the molecular mechanisms investigated in the article, and possible links with physiology and pathology.

Abstract

We require a few introductory sentences on the biology of the organelle followed by a summary of the key themes and conclusions of the article. If there are possible implications for commercial exploitation or medical treatment this should be alluded to in the final sentence. The abstract should not exceed 150 words.

Organelle facts

To be listed below the abstract, as a bulleted list of six key facts about the organelle and the physiological aspects detailed in the article.

Examples:

- Mitochondria produce the vital energy in the form of ATP
- The mitochondrial compartment is organized as a dynamic network capable of fusion and fission.
- Mitochondrial diseases encompass a wide spectrum of neuromuscular disorders (>140 syndromes).
- Mitochondrial biogenesis requires the coordinated synthesis of proteins encoded by mtDNA and nuclear DNA.
- Mitochondrial biogenesis is altered in several metabolic diseases, such as type 2 diabetes, mitochondrial diseases and cancer.
- Exercise training, cold and caloric restriction stimulate mitochondrial biogenesis.

Introduction

In this section, authors should overview the key concepts of the article and highlight the article's importance for advancing the basic knowledge of the organelle biology and pathology.

Organelle function

This section presents the biological function of the organelle featured in the article (e.g. "Mitochondrial ATP synthesis" and "Mitochondrial calcium signalling"). This section should indicate the biochemical mechanisms involved in this function, present the main molecular players, and summarise the current theories and controversies associated with these mechanisms.

Cell Physiology

This section should describe the link between the organellar function (described above) and cell physiology (e.g., interaction between the cell cycle and mitochondrial dynamics).

Organelle Pathology

This section should outline the known pathologies associated with the featured organelle function, and discuss possible therapies.

Future Outlook

Indicate the information needed in basic science to better understand the biological processes described in the article and propose means to acquire this knowledge.

Signalling Networks in Focus

The Signalling Networks in Focus article should highlight new developments in signalling pathway biology, detailing the pathway's components and important cascades. The article should also cover the signalling network's function, molecules/inhibitors involved, cell and tissue type specificity, and associated pathologies. All authors should include a section presenting the signalling network described as a (putative) therapeutic target. In addition to an abstract (maximum 150 words) and a reference list (maximum 30), the Signalling Networks in Focus articles should contain the following sections:

Title

The title should start with the name of the signalling network and should highlight any recent discoveries, novel therapeutic potential associated with the given signalling pathway, or any potential targets in the pathway. This should be done with a short and possibly witty phrase after a semi-colon e.g. IGF signalling: From aging flies to dwarf mice.

Figures

Each article should have two figures of high quality. The first figure should typically show how the signalling pathway and how it fits into the wider scheme of cell signalling and cell function. As such it would likely illustrate a complete pathway from the cell surface to the nucleus showing possible effects on gene function. The second figure should focus in more detail on the specific network and the themes covered in the title. Both figures are intended as a teaching aid around which the rest of the detail can revolve and should visually flow from beginning to end.

Signalling Network Facts

To be listed below the abstract, as a set of bulleted key and interesting facts about the signalling network. The last bullet point should list important websites that give additional insight into crosstalks.

Examples:

- MAPK signalling pathways modulate IL-1 expression in human keratinocytes

- MAPKs directly control gene expression by phosphorylating transcription factors
- MAPKs are activated by phosphorylation on Thr and Tyr by dual-specificity MAP kinase kinases (MAPKK), which in turn are activated by Ser/Thr phosphorylation by MAP kinase kinase kinases
- Further insight into MAPK signalling can be found at <http://geo.nihs.go.jp/csndb/>

Introduction

Set the background by giving the name(s) of the signalling network, its main features and details of its discovery if appropriate.

Functions

Give details of specialised pathway functions, with the emphasis on recent discoveries. A clear diagram highlighting key functions should also be included and referred to in this section.

Cascades

Summarise the most crucial cascades or pathways within the network. This section should include recent advances in our understanding of the pathways and cascades and should be accompanied by a figure.

Key molecules

Discuss the key molecules, hormones, inhibitors and receptors that are important for the regulation of the signalling network, emphasising recent research.

Associated pathologies and therapeutic implications

Outline known pathologies associated with the signalling network. Include history of discovery if appropriate. Review current therapies directed at the network functions and discuss their successes and limitations. Any new approaches to therapy emanating from recent research should be highlighted. This paragraph may be as provocative as you see fit.