DESCRIPTION

Academic Radiology publishes original reports of clinical and laboratory investigations in diagnostic imaging, the diagnostic use of radioactive isotopes, computed tomography, positron emission tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, ultrasound, digital subtraction angiography, and related techniques. Brief technical reports describing original observations, techniques, and instrumental developments; state-of-the-art reports on clinical issues, new technology and other topics of current medical importance; book reviews; scientific studies and opinions on radiologic education and letters to the Editor are also included.

IMPACT FACTOR

2016: 2.128 © Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Reports 2017

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

Current Contents/Clinical Medicine
MEDLINE®
EMBASE
Research Alert
Scisearch
Excerpta Medica
Scopus

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief:
N. Reed Dunnick, MD, Fred Jenner Hodges Professor and Chair, Department of Radiology, University of Michigan, 1500 East Medical Center Drive, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-5030

Executive Associate Editor For information Systems
Ronald Arenson, MD
Executive Deputy Editor for Education
Richard B. Gunderman, MD, PhD

Deputy Editors:
Abraham H. Dachman, MD
Robert H. Brown, MD, MPH
Ruth Carlos, MD, MS
Jannette Collins, MD, MEd
Paul Cronin, MD, MS
Heike Daldrup-Link, MD, PhD
Chaitanya R. Divgi, MD
Clifford J. Eskey, MD, PhD
Katherine Evers, MD
Jeff Geschwind, MD
Garry Gold, MD
John Gomori, MD
David Gur, PhD
Ethan Halpern, MD
Hirotu Hatabu, MD
Nobuhiko Hata, PhD
Hero Kamel Hussain, MB, ChB
Andrew Karellas, PhD
Elia A. Kazerooni, MD
Aine M. Kelly, MD, MS
J. Bruce Kneeland, MD
Friedrich Knollman, MD, PhD
Heinz U. Lemke, PhD
Robert Lenkinski, PhD
Walter Lesley, MD
King C.P. Li, MD
Mahadevappa Mahesh, MS, PhD
Robert F. Mattrey, MD
Reubin S. Mezrich, MD, PhD
Mark Mullins, MD, PhD
David P. Naidich, MD
Nancy Obuchowski, PhD
Sophie Paqueralt, PhD
Etta Pisano, MD
Martin G. Pomper, MD, PhD
Daniel A. Pryma, MD
Hans Ringertz, MD
Rahim Rizi, PhD
Catherine Roberts, MD
Brian Ross, PhD
U. Joseph Schoepf, MD
Michael Soulen, MD
Eric J. Stern, MD
Ron Summers, MD
Kenji Suzuki, PhD
Mahesh M. Thapa, MD
Henrik Thomsen, MD
Jamey P. Weichert, PhD
Jergen K. Willman, MD
Kelly H. Zou, PhD

Book Review Editor:
Alice S. Ha, MD

Editors Emeriti:
Edmund A. Franken, Jr., MD
Bruce J. Hillman, MD
Stanley Baum, MD

Editorial Executive Committee:
Stanley Baum, MD, Chair
Kimberly Applegate, MD
Ronald L. Arenson, MD
GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

Academic Radiology, the official journal of the Association of University Radiologists, the Society of Chairs of Academic Radiology Departments, the Association of Program Directors in Radiology, the American Alliance of Academic Chief Residents in Radiology, the Alliance of Medical Student Educators in Radiology, the Radiology Research Alliance, the Radiology Alliance for Health Services Research, and the Alliance of Clinician-Educators in Radiology, is a monthly publication devoted to contributions pertinent to academic radiology and the radiological sciences.

Submission checklist

You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

Ensure that the following items are present:

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:

• E-mail address
• Full postal address

All necessary files have been uploaded:

Manuscript:

• Include keywords
• All figures (include relevant captions)
• All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
• Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
• Figure and table legends should be included in the main manuscript file as a list, placed after the references (and not attached to figures and tables).
• Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print

Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files (where applicable)

Supplemental files (where applicable)

Further considerations

• Manuscript has been 'spell checked' and 'grammar checked'
• All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text, and vice versa
• Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)
• A competing interests statement is provided, even if the authors have no competing interests to declare
• Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
• Referee suggestions and contact details provided, based on journal requirements

For further information, visit our Support Center.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Ethics in publishing

Please see our information pages on Ethics in publishing and Ethical guidelines for journal publication.

Human and animal rights

If the work involves the use of human subjects, the author should ensure that the work described has been carried out in accordance with The Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki) for experiments involving humans; Uniform Requirements for manuscripts submitted to Biomedical journals. Authors should include a statement in the manuscript that informed consent was obtained for experimentation with human subjects. The privacy rights of human subjects must always be observed.
All animal experiments should comply with the **ARRIVE guidelines** and should be carried out in accordance with the U.K. Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, 1986 and associated guidelines, **EU Directive 2010/63/EU for animal experiments**, or the National Institutes of Health guide for the care and use of Laboratory animals (NIH Publications No. 8023, revised 1978) and the authors should clearly indicate in the manuscript that such guidelines have been followed.

**Declaration of interest**

All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential conflicts of interest include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. If there are no conflicts of interest then please state this: 'Conflicts of interest: none'. More information.

Author certify that the submitted article will not constitute "Redundant Publication". The Council of Science Editors defines redundant publication as "reporting (publishing or attempting to publish) substantially the same work more than once, without attribution of the original source(s): (CBE Views 1996;19(4):76-77). Characteristics of reports that are substantially similar include (a) "at least one of the authors must be common to all reports (if there are no common authors, it is more likely plagiarism than redundant publication)"; (b) "the subject or study populations are often the same or similar"; (c) "the methodology is typically identical or nearly so"; and (d) "the results and their interpretation generally vary little, if at all."

**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 or as an electronic preprint, see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' section of our ethics policy for more information), 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, your article may be checked by the originality detection service CrossCheck.

**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.

**Changes to authorship**

Authors are expected to consider carefully the list and order of authors before submitting their manuscript and provide the definitive list of authors at the time of the original submission. Any addition, deletion or rearrangement of author names in the authorship list should be made only before the manuscript has been accepted and only if approved by the journal Editor. To request such a change, the Editor must receive the following from the corresponding author: (a) the reason for the change in author list and (b) written confirmation (e-mail, letter) from all authors that they agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement. In the case of addition or removal of authors, this includes confirmation from the author being added or removed. Only in exceptional circumstances will the Editor consider the addition, deletion or rearrangement of authors after the manuscript has been accepted. While the Editor considers the request, publication of the manuscript will be suspended. If the manuscript has already been published in an online issue, any requests approved by the Editor will result in a corrigendum.

**Clinical trial results**

In line with the position of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, the journal will not consider results posted in the same clinical trials registry in which primary registration resides to be prior publication if the results posted are presented in the form of a brief structured (less than 500 words) abstract or table. However, divulging results in other circumstances (e.g., investors' meetings) is discouraged and may jeopardise consideration of the manuscript. Authors should fully disclose all posting in registries of results of the same or closely related work.
Reporting clinical trials
Randomized controlled trials should be presented according to the CONSORT guidelines. At manuscript submission, authors must provide the CONSORT checklist accompanied by a flow diagram that illustrates the progress of patients through the trial, including recruitment, enrollment, randomization, withdrawal and completion, and a detailed description of the randomization procedure. The CONSORT checklist and template flow diagram are available online.

Copyright
Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' (see more information on this). An e-mail will be sent to the corresponding author confirming receipt of the manuscript together with a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' form or a link to the online version of this agreement.

Subscribers may reproduce tables of contents or prepare lists of articles including abstracts for internal circulation within their institutions. Permission of the Publisher is required for resale or distribution outside the institution and for all other derivative works, including compilations and translations. If excerpts from other copyrighted works are included, the author(s) must obtain written permission from the copyright owners and credit the source(s) in the article. Elsevier has preprinted forms for use by authors in these cases.

Author rights
As an author you (or your employer or institution) have certain rights to reuse your work. More information.

Elsevier supports responsible sharing
Find out how you can share your research published in Elsevier journals.

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.

Funding body agreements and policies
Elsevier has established a number of agreements with funding bodies which allow authors to comply with their funder's open access policies. Some funding bodies will reimburse the author for the Open Access Publication Fee. Details of existing agreements are available online. After acceptance, open access papers will be published under a noncommercial license. For authors requiring a commercial CC BY license, you can apply after your manuscript is accepted for publication.

Open access
This journal offers authors a choice in publishing their research:

Subscription
- Articles are made available to subscribers as well as developing countries and patient groups through our universal access programs.
- No open access publication fee payable by authors.

Open access
- Articles are freely available to both subscribers and the wider public with permitted reuse.
- An open access publication fee is payable by authors or on their behalf, e.g. by their research funder or institution.

Regardless of how you choose to publish your article, the journal will apply the same peer review criteria and acceptance standards.

For open access articles, permitted third party (re)use is defined by the following Creative Commons user licenses:

Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND)
For non-commercial purposes, lets others distribute and copy the article, and to include in a collective work (such as an anthology), as long as they credit the author(s) and provided they do not alter or modify the article.
The open access publication fee for this journal is **USD 2750**, excluding taxes. Learn more about Elsevier's pricing policy: [http://www.elsevier.com/openaccesspricing](http://www.elsevier.com/openaccesspricing).

**Green open access**
Authors can share their research in a variety of different ways and Elsevier has a number of green open access options available. We recommend authors see our green open access page for further information. Authors who feel their English language manuscript may require editing to eliminate possible grammatical or spelling errors and to conform to correct scientific English may wish to use the English Language Editing service available from Elsevier's WebShop. *Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary* and *Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (10th edition) should be used as standard references. Style should be patterned after the *American Medical Association Manual of Style* (16th edition)

**Informed consent and patient details**
Studies on patients or volunteers require ethics committee approval and informed consent, which should be documented in the paper. Appropriate consents, permissions and releases must be obtained where an author wishes to include case details or other personal information or images of patients and any other individuals in an Elsevier publication. Written consents must be retained by the author and copies of the consents or evidence that such consents have been obtained must be provided to Elsevier on request. For more information, please review the Elsevier Policy on the Use of Images or Personal Information of Patients or other Individuals. Unless you have written permission from the patient (or, where applicable, the next of kin), the personal details of any patient included in any part of the article and in any supplementary materials (including all illustrations and videos) must be removed before submission.

**Submission**
Our online submission system guides you stepwise through the process of entering your article details and uploading your files. The system converts your article files to a single PDF file used in the peer-review process. Editable files (e.g., Word, LaTeX) are required to typeset your article for final publication. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, is sent by e-mail.

Experiments on human subjects should be carried out in accordance with ethical standards of their institution and with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 1983.

**Submit your article**
Please submit your article via [http://ees.elsevier.com/arad/](http://ees.elsevier.com/arad/).

**PREPARATION**

**Double-blind review**
This journal uses double-blind review, which means that both the reviewer and author name(s) are not allowed to be revealed to one another for a manuscript under review. The identities of the authors are concealed from the reviewers, and vice versa. For more information please refer to [http://www.elsevier.com/reviewers/peer-review](http://www.elsevier.com/reviewers/peer-review). To facilitate this, please include the following separately:

*Title page (with author details)*: This should include the title, authors' names and affiliations, and a complete address for the corresponding author including telephone and e-mail address.

*Blinded manuscript (no author details)*: The main body of the paper (including the references, figures, and tables) should not include any identifying information, such as the authors' names or affiliations.
Use of word processing software

It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. The text should be in single-column format. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the word processor's options to justify text or to hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. When preparing tables, if you are using a table grid, use only one grid for each individual table and not a grid for each row. If no grid is used, use tabs, not spaces, to align columns. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier). Note that source files of figures, tables and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed your figures in the text. See also the section on Electronic artwork.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

LaTeX

Files can be submitted in LaTeX format, provided that they are prepared in accordance with the Elsevier LaTeX package. Because LaTeX files must be converted for the Journal production process, authors whose articles are accepted are urged to check their article proofs carefully. If the LaTeX file is suitable, proofs will be produced without rekeying the text. The article should preferably be written using Elsevier's document class 'elsarticle', or alternatively any of the other recognized classes and formats supported in Elsevier's electronic submissions system, for further information visit our Support Center. The Elsevier 'elsarticle' LaTeX style file package (including detailed instructions for LaTeX preparation) can be obtained from the Quickguide: https://www.elsevier.com/latex. It consists of the file: elsarticle.cls, complete user documentation for the class file, bibliographic style files in various styles, and template files for a quick start.

Article structure

Original investigations and Education manuscripts should contain discrete Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, and Discussion sections and should not exceed 7000 words, (excluding references, tables, and figure legends) 50 references, 8 figures and 4 tables. Preliminary investigations, technical reports, Laboratory Investigations, Departmental Administration, Social and Economic Issues in Imaging, Current Topics in Medicine, New Developments in Medicine and Work in Progress should contain discrete Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, and Discussion sections and should not exceed 3000 words, (excluding references, tables, and figure legends) 30 references, 6 figures and 2 tables. The journal permits flexibility in the format of all other sections. However, Review articles and Special Reports should not exceed 10,000 words, (excluding references, tables, and figure legends) 125 references, 24 figures and 4 tables. Perspectives should not exceed 2500 words (excluding references, tables, and figure legends), 35 references and no figures or tables. Point/Counterpoint should not exceed 2500 words (excluding references, tables, and figure legends), 35 references and 8 figures and 1 table. Guest Editorials should not exceed 2000 words (excluding references, tables, and figure legends), references and no figures or tables. Letters to the Editor should not exceed 700 words (excluding references, tables, and figure legends), 8 references and no figures or tables. Manuscripts submitted for special or focused issues should follow the guidelines for the specific classification of the submissions (i.e. ORI or Review paper).

Rapid Communication

Original investigations, preliminary investigations, and technical reports should contain discrete Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, and Discussion sections and should not exceed 15 manuscript pages (excluding references, tables, and figure legends). The journal permits flexibility in the format of all other sections. Rapid Communications are shorter than Original Investigations and are timely and describe new techniques or observations that have the potential of having a major impact on the science of biomedical imaging. Authors must select "Rapid Communication" as the Article Type at time of submission via the Elsevier Editorial System. Only manuscripts with little to no revisions qualify for this submission type. Manuscripts not accepted as Rapid Communications can be expanded and re-submitted as regular Original Investigations. Rapid Communication submissions require the following manuscript format:

1. A limit of 4000 words, including the Abstract, Introduction, Material and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, and figure legends; 20 references; and 4 tables or figures.
2. All manuscript text and tables should be Word format.
3. Rapid Communication manuscripts must also be submitted with a concise summary page succinctly describing the type and novelty of the contribution and comparison to existing state-of-the-art techniques or observations. This summary page is not included in the word count.

**Subdivision - unnumbered sections**

Divide your article into clearly defined sections. Each subsection is given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line. Subsections should be used as much as possible when cross-referencing text: refer to the subsection by heading as opposed to simply 'the text'.

**Introduction**

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

**Material and methods**

Provide sufficient detail 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 should explore the significance of the results of the work, 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 Results and Discussion section.

**Appendices**

If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B.1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

**Essential title page information**

- **Title.** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
- **Author names and affiliations.** Please clearly indicate the given name(s) and family name(s) of each author and check that all names are accurately spelled. You can add your name between parentheses in your own script behind the English transliteration, e.g. "Y. Wang (###)". 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.
- **Corresponding author.** Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication. Ensure that the e-mail address is given and that contact details are kept up to date by the corresponding author.
- **Present/permanent address.** If an author has moved since the work described in the article was done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address' (or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author actually did the work must be retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes.

**Structured abstract**

A structured abstract, by means of appropriate headings, should provide the context or background for the research and should state its purpose, basic procedures (selection of study subjects or laboratory animals, observational and analytical methods), main findings (giving specific effect sizes and their statistical significance, if possible), and principal conclusions. It should emphasize new and important aspects of the study or observations.

Original investigations, preliminary investigations, and technical reports require a structured abstract as the second page of the manuscript. The abstract (of no more than 250 words) should be organized into four separate paragraphs titled **Rationale and Objectives, Materials and Methods, Results,** and **Conclusion.** Three to five Keywords that are suitable for indexing the manuscript should follow.
Abbreviations
Please submit a list of abbreviations used in your article, to appear in a callout box alongside the text. All abbreviations and acronyms must be defined at first mention in the text and should be used a minimum of three times throughout the article text. Write out the full term for each abbreviation, followed by its definition in parentheses. Abbreviations appearing in figures and in table text should be defined in their respective figure captions and table footnotes in alphabetical order.

Acknowledgements
Acknowledgments are to be uploaded as a separate submission item that will not be seen by the reviewers. Do not include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise in the text. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

Drug Names/Instrumentation Names
Scientific (generic) names of drugs should be used when first cited, followed by (in parentheses) the trade (proprietary) name and the manufacturer and location (city/state/country) of the product. In subsequent mention in the article, the generic name should be used. Names of instruments should be followed by the manufacturer's name and location (city/state/country) in parentheses. In subsequent mention, only the name of the instrument should be used. In subsequent mention in the article, the generic name should be used.

Formatting of funding sources
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].

It is not necessary to include detailed descriptions on 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.

If no funding has been provided for the research, please include the following sentence:

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

Units
Follow internationally accepted rules and conventions: use the international system of units (SI). If other units are mentioned, please give their equivalent in SI.

Math formulae
Please submit math equations as editable text and not as images. Present simple formulae 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).

Embedded math equations
If you are submitting an article prepared with Microsoft Word containing embedded math equations then please read this (related support information).

Footnotes
Footnotes should be used sparingly. Number them consecutively throughout the article. Many word processors can build footnotes into the text, and this feature may be used. Otherwise, please indicate the position of footnotes in the text and list the footnotes themselves separately at the end of the article. Do not include footnotes in the Reference list.

Artwork
Electronic artwork
General points
• Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork.
• Preferred fonts: Arial (or Helvetica), Times New Roman (or Times), Symbol, Courier.
• Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text.
• Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
• Indicate per figure if it is a single, 1.5 or 2-column fitting image.
• For Word submissions only, you may still provide figures and their captions, and tables within a single file at the revision stage.
• Please note that individual figure files larger than 10 MB must be provided in separate source files. A detailed guide on electronic artwork is available on our website: http://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions.

You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.

**Formats**
Regardless of the application used, when your electronic artwork is finalized, please 'save as' or convert the images to one of the following formats (note the resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations given below):
- EPS: Vector drawings. Embed the font or save the text as 'graphics'.
- TIFF: Color or grayscale photographs (halftones): always use a minimum of 300 dpi.
- TIFF: Bitmapped line drawings: use a minimum of 1000 dpi.
- TIFF: Combinations bitmapped line/half-tone (color or grayscale): a minimum of 500 dpi is required.

**Please do not:**
- Supply files that are optimized for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); the resolution is too low.
- Supply files that are too low in resolution.
- Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content

**Color artwork**
Please make sure that artwork files are in an acceptable format (TIFF or EPS files) and with the correct resolution. If, together with your accepted article, you submit usable color figures then Elsevier will ensure, at no additional charge, that these figures will appear in color on the Web (e.g., ScienceDirect and other sites) regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in color in the printed version. **For color reproduction in print, you will receive information regarding the costs from Elsevier after receipt of your accepted article.** Please indicate your preference for color: in print or on the Web only. For further information on the preparation of electronic artwork, please see http://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions.

Please note: Because of technical complications that can arise by converting color figures to 'gray scale' (for the printed version should you not opt for color in print) please be prepared to submit in addition usable black and white versions of all the color illustrations, should your manuscript be accepted for publication.

**Illustration services**
Elsevier's WebShop offers Illustration Services to authors preparing to submit a manuscript but concerned about the quality of the images accompanying their article. Elsevier's expert illustrators can produce scientific, technical and medical-style images, as well as a full range of charts, tables and graphs. Image 'polishing' is also available, where our illustrators take your image(s) and improve them to a professional standard. Please visit the website to find out more.

**Figure captions**
Ensure that each illustration has a caption. Supply captions in the text as a list following the references, not attached to the figure. 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.

**Text graphics**
Text graphics may be embedded in the text at the appropriate position. If you are working with LaTeX and have such features embedded in the text, these can be left. See further under Electronic artwork.

**Tables**
Tables should be submitted in Word in separate files from the manuscript file. Tables submitted in .tif, .jpeg, .bmp, .pdf, or PowerPoint format are unacceptable for publication. Tables must be numbered and cited in the text in numerical order. Table titles should be placed above each of their respective tables. Please use *, †, ‡, etc., in the table text to indicate the corresponding table footnotes below the table. Each table should be typed on its own separate page. Previously published tables must be accompanied by written permission to reprint from the publisher and authors, with sources cited in the text.

**References**
Citation in Text
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. Citation of a reference as 'in press' implies that the item has been accepted for publication.

Reference links
Increased discoverability of research and high quality peer review are ensured by online links to the sources cited. In order to allow us to create links to abstracting and indexing services, such as Scopus, CrossRef and PubMed, please ensure that data provided in the references are correct. Please note that incorrect surnames, journal/book titles, publication year and pagination may prevent link creation. When copying references, please be careful as they may already contain errors. Use of the DOI is encouraged.

A DOI can be used to cite and link to electronic articles where an article is in-press and full citation details are not yet known, but the article is available online. A DOI is guaranteed never to change, so you can use it as a permanent link to any electronic article. An example of a citation using DOI for an article not yet in an issue is: VanDecar J.C., Russo R.M., James D.E., Ambeh W.B., Franke M. (2003). Aseismic continuation of the Lesser Antilles slab beneath northeastern Venezuela. Journal of Geophysical Research, https://doi.org/10.1029/2001JB000884. Please note the format of such citations should be in the same style as all other references in the paper.

Web references
As a minimum, the full URL should be given and the date when the reference was last accessed. Any further information, if known (DOI, author names, dates, reference to a source publication, etc.), should also be given. Web references can be listed separately (e.g., after the reference list) under a different heading if desired, or can be included in the reference list.

Data references
This journal encourages you to cite underlying or relevant datasets in your manuscript by citing them in your text and including a data reference in your Reference List. Data references should include the following elements: author name(s), dataset title, data repository, version (where available), year, and global persistent identifier. Add [dataset] immediately before the reference so we can properly identify it as a data reference. The [dataset] identifier will not appear in your published article.

Reference formatting
There are no strict requirements on reference formatting at submission. References can be in any style or format as long as the style is consistent. Where applicable, author(s) name(s), journal title/book title, chapter title/article title, year of publication, volume number/book chapter and the pagination must be present. Use of DOI is highly encouraged. The reference style used by the journal will be applied to the accepted article by Elsevier at the proof stage. Note that missing data will be highlighted at proof stage for the author to correct. If you do wish to format the references yourself they should be arranged according to the following examples:

References must be cited in the text in numerical order. Unpublished data and personal communications (written or oral) are to be cited only in the text in parentheses (eg, Wallace PS, unpublished data, 1993).

Journal article

Book

Chapter in a book

Website

Journal abbreviations source
Journal names should be abbreviated according to the List of Title Word Abbreviations.
Supplementary data
Elsevier accepts electronic supplementary material to support and enhance your scientific research. Supplementary files offer the author additional possibilities to publish videos, supporting applications, high-resolution images, background datasets, sound clips and more. Supplementary files supplied will be published online alongside the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including ScienceDirect: http://www.sciencedirect.com. In order to ensure that your submitted material is directly usable, please provide the data in one of our recommended file formats. Authors should submit the material in electronic format together with the article and supply a concise and descriptive caption for each file. For more detailed instructions please visit our artwork instruction pages at http://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions.

AudioSlides
The journal encourages authors to create an AudioSlides presentation with their published article. AudioSlides are brief, webinar-style presentations that are shown next to the online article on ScienceDirect. This gives authors the opportunity to summarize their research in their own words and to help readers understand what the paper is about. More information and examples are available. Authors of this journal will automatically receive an invitation e-mail to create an AudioSlides presentation after acceptance of their paper.

AFTER ACCEPTANCE

Online proof correction
Corresponding authors will receive an e-mail with a link to our online proofing system, allowing annotation and correction of proofs online. The environment is similar to MS Word: in addition to editing text, you can also comment on figures/tables and answer questions from the Copy Editor. Web-based proofing provides a faster and less error-prone process by allowing you to directly type your corrections, eliminating the potential introduction of errors. If preferred, you can still choose to annotate and upload your edits on the PDF version. All instructions for proofing will be given in the e-mail we send to authors, including alternative methods to the online version and PDF.

We will do everything possible to get your article published quickly and accurately. Please use this proof only for checking the typesetting, editing, completeness and correctness of the text, tables and figures. Significant changes to the article as accepted for publication will only be considered at this stage with permission from the Editor. It is important to ensure that all corrections are sent back to us in one communication. Please check carefully before replying, as inclusion of any subsequent corrections cannot be guaranteed. Proofreading is solely your responsibility.

AUTHOR INQUIRIES
Visit the Elsevier Support Center to find the answers you need. Here you will find everything from Frequently Asked Questions to ways to get in touch.
You can also check the status of your submitted article or find out when your accepted article will be published.

© Copyright 2014 Elsevier | http://www.elsevier.com