DESCRIPTION

The mission of Advances in Radiation Oncology is to provide original clinical research aimed at improving the lives of people living with cancer and other diseases treated with radiation therapy. The purpose of Advances is to provide information for clinicians who use radiation therapy by publishing:

Clinical trial reports and reanalyses. Basic science original reports. Manuscripts examining health services research, comparative and cost effectiveness research, and systematic reviews. Case reports documenting unusual problems and solutions. High quality multi and single institutional series, as well as other novel retrospective hypothesis generating series. Timely critical reviews on important topics in radiation oncology, such as side effects. Articles reporting the natural history of disease and patterns of failure, particularly as they relate to treatment volume delineation. Articles on safety and quality in radiation therapy. Essays on clinical experience. Articles on practice transformation in radiation oncology, in particular: Aspects of health policy that may impact the future practice of radiation oncology. How information technology, such as data analytics and systems innovations, will change radiation oncology practice. Articles on imaging as they relate to radiation therapy treatment.

Advances is the sister publication of the International Journal of Radiation Oncology • Biology • Physics and Practical Radiation Oncology. As such, Advances aims to complement the research in those two journals.

Advances is a gold open access journal, so authors, readers and patients have free access to all articles. All work published by this journal is thoroughly peer reviewed by the editorial board and expert reviewers in radiation oncology. Authors retain copyright of their articles and reuse is governed under a Creative Commons license so that readers can freely and easily share information. Click here to learn more about the types of articles sought by the editorial team.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief
Robert C. Miller, MD, MBA, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN and Jacksonville, FL

Senior Editors
Sharad Goyal, MD, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ
Kathleen M. Hintenlang, PhD, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, FL
Gregory Videtic, MD, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH
Advisory Board

W. Robert Lee, MD, MS, Duke University, Durham, NC
Anthony Zietman, MD, Harvard University/Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA

Associate Editors

Mohamed Abazeed, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio, USA
Ross A. Abrams, MD, FASTRO, Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL, USA
Edouard Azzam, PhD, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, Newark, NJ
James Bonner, MD, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL
Luther Brady, MD, FASTRO, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA
Martin Bues, PhD, Mayo Clinic, Phoenix, AZ
Bhishamjit Chera, MD, UNC Hospitals Radiation Oncology Clinic, Chapel Hill, NC
Joseph Deasy, PhD, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
Roy Decker, MD, PhD, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT
Curtiland Deville, MD, Johns Hopkins Sibley Prostate Cancer Clinic, Baltimore, MD
Thomas J. Galloway, MD, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, PA
Laurie Gaspar, FASTRO, FACR, MD, MBA, University of Colorado Denver, Aurora, CO
Bradford Hoppe, MD, MPH, University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute, Jacksonville, FL
Isabel L. Jackson, PhD, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD
Sachin Jhawar, MD, Rutgers University Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Newark, NJ
Sameer Keole, MD, Mayo Clinic, Phoenix, AZ
Atif Khan, MD, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ
Sinae Kim, PhD, Rutgers University School of Public Health, Newark, NJ
Sunil Krishnan, MD, FACP, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
Stephen Lutz, MD, Blanchard Valley Health Systems, Blanchard, OH
Charles Mayo, PhD, FAAPM, University of Michigan Hospitals, Ann Arbor, MI
James Metz, MD, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Bruce Minsky, MD, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
Timur Mitin, MD, PhD, Oregon University of Health and Science, Portland, OR
Sabin Motwani, MD, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ
Benjamin Movsas, PhD, Henry Ford Health System, Detroit, MI
Atmaram Panandiker, MD, Scripps Proton Therapy Center, San Diego, CA
Narjes Rehan, MD, PhD, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, WA
Mack Roach III, MD, University of California, San Francisco, CA
James Robar, PhD, FCCPM, Dalhousie University School of Medicine, Halifax, NS, Canada
Clifford Robinson, MD, Washington University, St. Louis, MO
Dean Shumway, MD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
William Small Jr., MD, FACR, FASTRO, Stritch School of Medicine, Chicago, IL
Robert Staton, PhD, Orlando Health, Orlando, FL
Cullen Taniguchi, MD, PhD, University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
Joel Tepper, MD, University of North Carolina Lineberger, Chapel Hill, NC
Charles Thomas, MD, Oregon University of Health and Science, Portland, OR
Andy Trotti, MD, Lee Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL
Christina Tsien, MD, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO
David Yu, MD, Emory University Winship Cancer Institute, Atlanta, GA
Jennifer Yu, MD, PhD, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH
GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

Advances in Radiation Oncology is a wide-ranging open access journal publishing both full-length articles and brief reports. As the sister publication to the International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics and Practical Radiation Oncology, Advances aims to complement the research in those two journals.

Advances is a gold open access journal, so authors, readers, and patients have free access to all articles. All work published by this journal is thoroughly peer reviewed by the editorial board and expert reviewers in radiation oncology. Authors retain copyright of their articles, and reuse is governed under a Creative Commons license so that readers can freely and easily share information.

How to Submit

Advances accepts submissions and correspondence electronically using the Elsevier Editorial System (http://ees.elsevier.com/advancesradonc), a Web-based system that enables authors to track their submissions online.

Authors must register with Advances’ electronic manuscript system. Those who have previously reviewed or submitted a manuscript for Advances or our sister journal, the International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics, may already be registered. Once the submission files are uploaded, the system automatically generates an electronic PDF proof used for reviewing. All correspondence, including editor decisions and requests for revisions, is conducted by e-mail through EES or advances@astro.org.

Article Types and Guidelines

Full Length Articles

Full length articles are typically 3000 to 6000 words in length, including references. If they are accepted after a thorough peer review process, the Article Publication Charge (APC) is $1500 for members of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) and $2000 for non-members. Click here for more information on joining ASTRO.

Scientific Articles

Original laboratory and clinical investigations related to radiation oncology, radiation biology, and medical physics. Submissions are thoroughly reviewed for scientific originality, significance, relevance, and priority, and the topics must be of broad interest to the journal's readers. Advances gives priority to high-priority manuscripts that report cutting-edge science and that promise to have a strong impact on clinical practice. Required elements: title page, summary, abstract, manuscript, references, figure captions if figures are present, uniform disclosure forms (1 for each author). Article limits: abstract (about 300 words), manuscript (about 3500-6000 words; word count includes abstract, text, and figure captions), references, tables and figures (up to 6 total, combined).

Critical Reviews

Critical reviews are documents from experts in the field that often synthesize the existing literature on a topic to update the readership on the latest developments in a specific area. Required elements: title page, abstract, manuscript, references, figure captions if figures are present, uniform disclosure forms (1 for each author). Article limits: abstract (300 words), manuscript (up to 6000 words; word count includes abstract, text, references, and figure captions), tables and figures (up to 10 total, combined).

Case Reports

Case reports are typically 1500 words in length, plus references (about 2000 words total). If they are accepted after a thorough peer review process, the Article Publication Charge (APC) is $750 for members of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) and $1000 for non-members. Click here for more information on joining ASTRO.

Teaching Cases

Advances in Radiation Oncology welcomes case reports with high-resolution images, preferably in color, including X rays or scans of characteristic or classic conditions relevant to radiation oncology, for consideration in the Teaching Case section. All identifying information of patients, such as names, dates of birth, dates of service, or patient identification codes must be removed. If the case report or the image includes individually identifiable health information, authors must comply with the applicable privacy laws and obtain a HIPAA-compliant patient authorization form. Required elements:
title page, manuscript, references, figure captions if figures are present, uniform disclosure forms (1 for each author). **Article limits:** manuscript (up to 2000 words including text, references, and figure captions), tables and figures (up to 6 total, combined).

**Short Communications**
Short Communications typically document a current controversy in oncology. They are typically 1500 words in length, plus references (about 2000 words total). If they are accepted after a thorough peer review process, the Article Publication Charge (APC) is $750 for members of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) and $1000 for non-members. Click here for more information on joining ASTRO.

**Brief Opinion**
Brief Opinion pieces are short articles that are commentary, analysis, or opinion pieces about a published article or other topic of special interest. **Required elements:** title page, manuscript, references, figure captions if figures are present, uniform disclosure forms (1 for each author). **Article limits:** manuscript (about 2000 words; word count includes main text and figure captions), tables and figures (up to six 6 total, combined).

**Research Letters**
Like Scientific Articles, Research Letters focus on original laboratory and clinical investigations. The difference is that Research Letters are often more preliminary in nature. **Required elements:** title page, abstract, summary, manuscript, references, figure captions if figures are present, uniform disclosure forms (1 for each author). **Article limits:** abstract (about 300 words), manuscript (about 2000 words total; word count includes text, references, and figure captions), tables and figures (6 total, combined).

**Letters to the Editor**
Letters to the editor remark on work published in *Advances in Radiation Oncology* and participate in discussion with the authors. Authors of the original work will usually be invited to respond to these comments before publication. **Required elements:** title page, manuscript, references, figure caption if figure is present, uniform disclosure forms (1 for each author). **Article limits:** manuscript (about 400 words; word count includes text and figure caption), references, table or figure (1 table or figure).

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

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

*Advances* maintains a zero-tolerance policy when addressing allegations of plagiarism, duplicate publication (self-publication), data falsification, and scientific misconduct. Articles will be retracted if ethics violations are substantiated. Plagiarism is defined by the World Association for Medical Editors (WAME) as the "use of others' published and unpublished ideas or words (or other intellectual property) without attribution or permission, and presenting them as new and original rather than derived from an existing source." *Advances* participates in the CrossCheck/iThenticate program to investigate incidents of possible plagiarism.

**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.

**Studies Involving Biomarkers**
*Advances* requires that authors reporting on biomarker studies must adhere to REMARK criteria as listed in their guidelines. Reports that are predictive of therapeutic outcome or the natural history of disease are desired. Highest priority will be given to articles that are likely to have direct
clinical applications and are definitive based on size of cohort, methodological approach, statistical analysis, multivariate analysis, reproducibility, and patient follow-up. Biomarker studies of interest to *Advances* include or are based on and accompanied by supporting mechanistic biological data; if prospective, are definitive in size and statistical power; if retrospective, include a validation study; are predictive and estimate response or survival in advance of therapy and have potential application in clinical practice; contain thorough specimen collection data (see REMARK), assay validation, and statistical rigor; and describe a unique cohort with results that directly impact clinical practice. (For rare cancer types, it is recognized that small cohorts will be analyzed.) Reference link: [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16106022](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16106022)

**Guidelines for reporting preclinical research**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) held a workshop in June 2014 with the Nature Publishing Group and Science on the issue of reproducibility and rigor of research findings, with journal editors representing over 30 basic/preclinical science journals in which NIH-funded investigators have most often published. The workshop focused on identifying the common opportunities in the scientific publishing arena to enhance rigor and further support research that is reproducible, robust, and transparent. The journal editors came to consensus on a set of principles to facilitate these goals. *Advances* editorial board have chosen to uphold the high standards for preclinical research reporting established by the workshop, and we attach the summarized recommendations here. Please pay particular attention to these before submission.

**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. See also [https://www.elsevier.com/conflictofinterest](https://www.elsevier.com/conflictofinterest). Further information and an example of a Conflict of Interest form can be found at: [http://service.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/286/supporthub/publishing](http://service.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/286/supporthub/publishing). *Advances* adheres to the policy on conflict of interest promulgated by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), which states, in part, that "to prevent ambiguity, authors must state explicitly whether potential conflicts do or do not exist." (See Conflict of Interest Notification.) All authors are required to include an ICMJE form with submission, available for free download at [http://www.icmje.org/](http://www.icmje.org/). Authors also must state their disclosures on the title page of the manuscript. If there are not disclosures, authors must say, "Conflict of interest: none."

**Submission declaration**

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 [https://www.elsevier.com/sharingpolicy](https://www.elsevier.com/sharingpolicy)), 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 including electronically in the same form, in English or in any other language, without the written consent of the copyright holder.

**Contributors**

Each author is required to declare his or her individual contribution to the article: all authors must have materially participated in the research and/or article preparation, so roles for all authors should be described. The statement that all authors have approved the final article should be true and included in the disclosure.

**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.

Registration of clinical trials
Registration in a public trials registry is a condition for publication of clinical trials in this journal in accordance with International Committee of Medical Journal Editors recommendations. Trials must register at or before the onset of patient enrolment. The clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract of the article. A clinical trial is defined as any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects of health outcomes. Health-related interventions include any intervention used to modify a biomedical or health-related outcome (for example drugs, surgical procedures, devices, behavioural treatments, dietary interventions, and process-of-care changes). Health outcomes include any biomedical or health-related measures obtained in patients or participants, including pharmacokinetic measures and adverse events. Purely observational studies (those in which the assignment of the medical intervention is not at the discretion of the investigator) will not require registration.

Copyright
Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete an 'Exclusive License Agreement' (see more information on this). Permitted third party reuse of open access articles is determined by the author's choice of user license.

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.

Open Access
This is an open access journal: all articles will be immediately and permanently free for everyone to read and download. To provide open access, this journal has an open access fee (also known as an article publishing charge APC) which needs to be paid by the authors or on their behalf (e.g., by their research funder or institution). Permitted third-party (re)use is defined by the following Creative Commons user licenses (see https://www.elsevier.com/openaccesslicenses):

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.

Language (usage and editing services)
Please write your text in good English (American or British usage is accepted, but not a mixture of these). 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.
**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) 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. Please submit your article via http://ees.elsevier.com/advancesradonc/.

**PREPARATION**

**Double Blind Review**

*Advances in Radiation Oncology* operates a double blind review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then sent to independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. For more information on the types of peer review, please visit: https://www.elsevier.com/reviewers/peer-review.

**Files for Submission**

EES accepts the following files for upload. Note that the title page, summary, blinded manuscript, and table files must be submitted as Word documents. Figure file requirements are detailed in the Artwork section below.

*Cover Letter*

You are welcome to include a letter addressing the Editor-in-Chief to introduce your manuscript or to explain things not conveyed elsewhere in the submission process.

*Title Page (With Author Details)*

This should include the title, the short title, authors’ names and affiliations, a complete address for the corresponding author including telephone and e-mail address, the conflict of interest statement, and the acknowledgments.

*Summary*

This brief description of the manuscript (≤75 words in length) should be included in its own separate file. The summary should be no more than 3 brief sentences in length, and it should simply state the problem, the methodology, and the conclusions. Data is unnecessary.

*Blinded Manuscript (No Author Details)*

The main body of the paper (including the abstract, references, and figure captions, if any) should not include any identifying information, such as the authors’ names or affiliations.

*Table Files (Blinded)*

Include all of the tables in one Word document with no identifying information.

*Figure Files (Blinded)*

Figures should be identified within the figure files themselves, in the file name, and in the description column in EES on upload. Each figure should be uploaded separately and should not contain any identifying information.

*Supplementary Material (Blinded)*

This material could be in the form of tables, figures, appendices, extraneous methods, data sets, and so on, and identifying author information should be excluded.
Uniform Disclosure Form
Each author is required to complete and include an International Committee of Medical Journal Editors uniform disclosure form with submission, available for free download at http://www.icmje.org/.

Editorial Decisions
Once the peer review process is complete, each manuscript will receive one of the following decisions: Decline: The manuscript was not selected for peer review. Reject: The manuscript was not selected for publication. Many factors contribute to acceptance, including but not limited to the importance of the research to the field of oncology, the originality of the work, the quality of the study, or the priority of the work to Advances in Radiation Oncology and its readership. Unacceptable/Major Revision: A number of issues were raised in peer review that need to be addressed for the manuscript to be reconsidered. If the author wishes to address the issues, the manuscript must be revised and resubmitted within two months of the decision. Acceptable/Minor Revision: The editors and reviewers found the manuscript potentially acceptable for publication provided minor adjustments are made. Such manuscripts must be revised and resubmitted within one month of the decision. Accept: The manuscript has been selected for publication. Additional information will be provided regarding the production process.

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, and line numbering should be turned off. 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, and so on. 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: https://www.elsevier.com/guidepublication). 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.

Article structure
Divide your article into clearly defined sections, listed below. Any subsection may be 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.”

Abstract
A brief, structured overview of the research conducted, including its purpose, the methods and materials used, the results, and the conclusions drawn.

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

Methods and Materials
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.
References
List the references in the order in which they appear in the text, making sure each reference cited is provided and vice versa.

Figure Captions
Include a caption for each figure. The caption should consist of a brief title (not on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Be sure to explain all symbols and abbreviations used within the figure.

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. (A1), Eq. (A2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A1; Fig. A1, etc.

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, yyyyy]; 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, using superscript Arabic numbers. Many word processors build footnotes into the text, and this feature may be used. Should this not be the case, indicate the position of footnotes in the text and present the footnotes themselves separately at the end of the article. Do not include footnotes in the Reference list. Footnotes in tables can include abbreviations, designated footnotes, and table legends, in that order, as needed. Designated footnotes take standard symbols (*, †, ‡, §, ‖, #, **, ††, and so on).

Artwork
Color artwork
Please make sure that artwork files are in an acceptable format (TIFF (or JPEG), EPS (or PDF) or MS Office 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 online (e.g., ScienceDirect and other sites). Further information on the preparation of electronic artwork.

Figure captions
Ensure that each illustration has a caption. Supply captions separately, 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.
Tables
Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text. Footnotes in tables can include definitions of abbreviations, designated footnotes, and table legends, in that order, as needed. Designated footnotes take standard symbols (*, †, ‡, §, ‖, ¶, #, **, ††, and so on). Place footnotes to tables below the table body. Avoid vertical rules. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in tables do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article.

References
Citations in Text
Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). 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.

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.

References in a special issue
Please ensure that the words 'this issue' are added to any references in the list (and any citations in the text) to other articles in the same Special Issue.

Reference style
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: Davis JT, Allen HD, Powers JD, et al. Population requirements for capitation planning in pediatric cardiac surgery. Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med 1996;150:257-259. Champlin RER, Feig SA, Ho WG, et al. Bone marrow transplantation for acute lymphoblastic leukemia in remission: Importance of extramedullary involvement [Abstract]. Blood 1982;60 (Suppl 1):165a. Ringsven MK, Bond D. Gerontology and Leadership Skills for Nurses. 2nd ed. Albany, NY: Delmar Publishers; 1996. Phillips SJ, Whisnant JP. Hypertension and stroke. In: Laragh JH, Brenner BM, eds. Hypertension: Pathophysiology, Diagnosis, and Management. 2nd ed. New York,

Journal abbreviations source
Journal names should be abbreviated according to the List of Title Word Abbreviations.

Video
Elsevier accepts video material and animation sequences to support and enhance your scientific research. Authors who have video or animation files that they wish to submit with their article are strongly encouraged to include links to these within the body of the article. This can be done in the same way as a figure or table by referring to the video or animation content and noting in the body text where it should be placed. All submitted files should be properly labeled so that they directly relate to the video file's content. In order to ensure that your video or animation material is directly usable, please provide the files in one of our recommended file formats with a preferred maximum size of 150 MB in total. Any single file should not exceed 50 MB. Video and animation files supplied will be published online in the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including ScienceDirect. Please supply 'stills' with your files: you can choose any frame from the video or animation or make a separate image. These will be used instead of standard icons and will personalize the link to your video data. For more detailed instructions please visit our video instruction pages. Note: since video and animation cannot be embedded in the print version of the journal, please provide text for both the electronic and the print version for the portions of the article that refer to this content.

Supplementary material
Supplementary material such as applications, images and sound clips, can be published with your article to enhance it. Submitted supplementary items are published exactly as they are received (Excel or PowerPoint files will appear as such online). Please submit your material together with the article and supply a concise, descriptive caption for each supplementary file. If you wish to make changes to supplementary material during any stage of the process, please make sure to provide an updated file. Do not annotate any corrections on a previous version. Please switch off the 'Track Changes' option in Microsoft Office files as these will appear in the published version.

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.

Submission Checklist
The following list will be useful during the final checking of an article prior to sending it to the journal for review. Please consult this Guide for Authors for further details of any item.

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
• Phone number
All necessary files have been uploaded, and contain:
• Keywords
• All figure captions
• All tables (including title, description, footnotes)
Further considerations
• Manuscript has been checked for spelling and grammatical errors
• References are in the correct format for this journal
• 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)
Printed version of figures (if applicable) in color or black-and-white
• Indicate clearly whether or not color or black-and-white in print is required.
For any further information please visit our customer support site at http://support.elsevier.com.
AFTER ACCEPTANCE

Proofs
One set of page proofs (as PDF files) will be sent by e-mail to the corresponding author (if we do not have an e-mail address then paper proofs will be sent by post) or, a link will be provided in the e-mail so that authors can download the files themselves. Elsevier now provides authors with PDF proofs which can be annotated; for this you will need to download the free Adobe Reader, version 9 (or higher). Instructions on how to annotate PDF files will accompany the proofs (also given online). The exact system requirements are given at the Adobe site. If you do not wish to use the PDF annotations function, you may list the corrections (including replies to the Query Form) and return them to Elsevier in an e-mail. Please list your corrections quoting line number. If, for any reason, this is not possible, then mark the corrections and any other comments (including replies to the Query Form) on a printout of your proof and scan the pages and return via e-mail. 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. We will do everything possible to get your article published quickly and accurately. 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.

Offprints
The corresponding author will be notified and receive a link to the published version of the open access article on ScienceDirect. This link is in the form of an article DOI link which can be shared via email and social networks. For an extra charge, paper offprints can be ordered via the offprint order form which is sent once the article is accepted for publication. Both corresponding and co-authors may order offprints at any time via Elsevier’s Webshop. Authors requiring printed copies of multiple articles may use Elsevier Webshop’s 'Create Your Own Book' service to collate multiple articles within a single cover.

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