DESCRIPTION

Computational and Structural Biotechnology Journal (CSBJ) is an online journal publishing research articles and reviews after full peer review. All articles are published, without barriers to access, immediately upon acceptance. The journal places a strong emphasis on functional and mechanistic understanding of how molecular components in a biological process work together through the application of computational methods. Structural data may provide such insights, but they are not a pre-requisite for publication in the journal. Specific areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

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INTRODUCTION

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Review articles deal with topics of high current interest in any area of biotechnology. Rather than an assembly of detailed information with a complete literature survey, a critically selected treatment of the material is desired; unsolved problems and possible developments should also be discussed. The first section of the Review (Introduction), should primarily introduce the nonspecialist to the subject in a clear way. A Review should conclude with a section entitled Summary and Outlook, in which the achievements of and new challenges for the subject are presented succinctly.

**Length:** A Review should not be of more than 75000 characters, including footnotes, literature citations, tables, and legends. If a longer article is planned, the agreement of the editor should be sought as early as possible.

**MINIREVIEWS**
A Minireview (up to 35000 characters) should present current topics in a concise review style. Minireviews offer the flexibility to treat topics at a time, and in a suitable manner, when a Review would still be premature or inappropriate.

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In Highlights very important new results of original research should be described, in general by a third person, with a view to instruct and to highlight their significance. The results should be presented clearly, but as succinctly as possible, without the comprehensive details required for an original article. Highlights should include only essential formulas and figures as well as not more than 15 references. A Highlight should not be longer than three pages (up to 12000 characters).

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**Length**: The maximal length of a Communication, inclusive of all literature citations, footnotes, and tables, is 15000 characters; formulas and figures may be added. Longer Communications will be accepted only if their quality warrants special consideration and a written justification of their length is provided. Details that are of importance to the referees and to specialists, but not to most of the readers, should be submitted as Supporting Information. Copies of cited publications not yet available publicly should be submitted along with the manuscript. Unpublished results and lectures should only be cited for exceptional reasons. The identity and purity of all new compounds must be fully characterized by appropriate analytical methods (NMR spectroscopy, X-ray crystal structure analysis, elemental analysis, etc). These data should be given in the Supporting Information in the event that they exceed the scope of the experimental section. Manuscripts containing animal experiments must include a statement that permission was obtained from the relevant national or local authorities. The institutional committees that have approved the experiments must be identified and the accreditation number of the laboratory or of the investigator given where applicable. If no such rules or permissions are in place in the country where the experiments were performed, then this must also be clearly stated. Manuscripts with experiments with human subjects or tissue samples from human subjects must contain a disclaimer in the Experimental Section to state that informed, signed consent was obtained from either the patient or next of kin. A Communication returned to the author for revision should be returned to the editorial office within three weeks. If more time is needed the editor must be informed. Communications should not be divided into sections. However, experimental details or methods should be summarized concisely under the heading Experimental Section or Methods. The first paragraph of a Communication should be formulated as an introduction that provides the nonspecialist reader with a general idea of the state of the art of the field and allows the importance of the results to be put into perspective. In the final paragraph the results should be summarized succinctly and one sentence should be devoted to their significance and if appropriate to the next challenges.

**SOFTWARE, WEBSERVER AND DATABASE ARTICLES**
Software articles, Web server articles and Database Articles should provide an indispensable resource for the experimental practitioner seeking awareness of the disparate sources of data and analytical tools of computational biology. Large-scale instrumentation and computerisation is reducing the time that needs to be spent in the laboratory. Instead, the rate-limiting step is the analysis and interpretation of data. An essential criterion for the publication of papers is that they provide practical
guidance to the users of bioinformatics software and databases. Another prerequisite for publication is that the results described in the paper must be reproducible when peer reviewers or editors choose to run the software on the deposited dataset using the parameters provided. Enhancements to existing published open source software will only be considered if those enhancements bring exceptional new capabilities.

SOFTWARE, WEBSERVER AND DATABASE REVIEWS
Software and Database Reviews are expected to be broad and to cover a variety of approaches to a specified biological problem or research area.

METHODS ARTICLES
Methods articles should report novel techniques or significant advances in existing techniques that are relevant to CSBJ's core subject areas. These should be highly significant and useful, and contain an example of utility. New applications of existing technologies are discouraged.

BOOK REVIEWS
An informative Book Review should provide answers to the following questions: Has the area of research covered in the book been the focus of recent research efforts, or does the book provide a fresh look at an already established area? Does the book have other merits, or is it unnecessary? Are the many aspects of the book's topic appropriately weighted? What benefits does the book offer to different types of readers?

MEETING REVIEWS
A Meeting Review should deal with the following questions: Why is the presented field of research currently of particular interest? How has it developed over the past few years? What are the most important unanswered questions? Which contributions were the highlights of the conference? Among the answers given to the most important questions of the field, is there one that represents the "biggest leap forward"? Have any new research topics arisen? Are there any (new) prospects in the application of developments in the field?

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:
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