DESCRIPTION

Gynecologic Oncology, an international journal, is devoted to the publication of clinical and investigative articles that concern tumors of the female reproductive tract. Investigations relating to the etiology, diagnosis, and treatment of female cancers, as well as research from any of the disciplines related to this field of interest, are published.

Research Areas Include:
- Cell and molecular biology
- Chemotherapy
- Cytology
- Endocrinology
- Epidemiology
- Genetics
- Gynecologic surgery
- Immunology
- Pathology
- Radiotherapy

Narrative review articles, survey articles, case reports, case series, letters to the editor regarding previously published manuscripts and other short communications can be submitted to this journal’s open access companion title, Gynecologic Oncology Reports.

Gynecologic Oncology and Gynecologic Oncology Reports encourage submission of manuscripts that help understand, address or aim to eliminate health disparities, differences in health status, or access to healthcare based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, or social determinants of health.

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

Current Contents - Clinical Medicine
PubMed/Medline
Index to Scientific Reviews
Science Citation Index
Scopus
PubMed/Medline
EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief
David Cohn, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Columbus, Ohio, United States of America

Deputy Editors
Wendy R. Brewster, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, United States of America
Warner Huh, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama, United States of America
Susan C. Modesitt, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America
Seiko Diane Yamada, The University of Chicago Medicine, Chicago, Illinois, United States of America

Associate Editors
Sean Dowdy, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science, Rochester, Minnesota, United States of America
John Farley, St Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Phoenix, Arizona, United States of America
David Gaffney, The University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, United States of America
Paola Gehrig, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, United States of America
Dineo Khabele, Washington University in St Louis School of Medicine, Saint Louis, Missouri, United States of America
Ursula Matulonis, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America
Amanda Nickles Fader, Johns Hopkins Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, United States of America
Jose Alejandro Rauh-Hain, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas, United States of America

Statistical Consultants
Masha Kocherginsky, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois, United States of America
Elizabeth Thomas Bartom, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, United States of America

Social Media Editor
Gregg Nelson, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Editorial Board
Giovanni Aletti, Milan, Italy
Angeles Alvarez Secord, Durham, North Carolina, United States of America
Glaucio Baiocchi, São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
Anna Beavis, Baltimore, Maryland, United States of America
Stephanie Blank, New York, New York, United States of America
Marcela del Carmen, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America
Suk-Joon Chang, Suwon, South Korea
Dana M. Chase, Los Angeles, California, United States of America
Lee-May Chen, San Francisco, California, United States of America
Christina Chu, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States of America
Megan Clarke, Rockville, Maryland, United States of America
Ben Davidson, Oslo, Norway
Linda Duska, Charlottesville, Virginia, United States of America
Ramez N. Eskander, La Jolla, California, United States of America
Christina Fotopoulou, London, United Kingdom
Gretchen Glaser, Rochester, Minnesota, United States of America
Walter Gotlieb, Montréal, Quebec, Canada
Matthew Harkenrider, Maywood, Illinois, United States of America
Diane Harper, Ann Arbor, Michigan, United States of America
Philipp Harter, Essen, Germany
Laura Havrilesky, Durham, North Carolina, United States of America
Jeffrey Hines, Farmington, Connecticut, United States of America
Neil Horowitz, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America
Yu Kang, Shanghai, China
Chyong-Huey Lai, Taoyuan, ROC, Taiwan
Hung-Cheng Lai, Taipei, ROC, Taiwan
Charles A. Leath, III, Birmingham, Alabama, United States of America
Jonathan Ledermann, London, United Kingdom
Mario Leitao, Jr., New York, New York, United States of America
Bradley J. Monk, Phoenix, Arizona, United States of America
David O'Malley, Columbus, Ohio, United States of America
Alexander Olawayi, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States of America
Ritu Salani, Los Angeles, California, United States of America
Alberto Selman, Santiago, Chile
Ana I. Tergas, Duarte, California, United States of America
Krishnansu S. Tewari, Orange, California, United States of America
Shitanshu Uppal, Ann Arbor, Michigan, United States of America
Akila Viswanathan, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America
Shannon Westin, Houston, Texas, United States of America
Vanna Zanagnolo, Milano, Italy

Editor Emeritus
Beth Y. Karlan, University of California Los Angeles, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Los Angeles, California, United States of America
GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

Your Paper Your Way
We now differentiate between the requirements for new and revised submissions. You may choose to submit your manuscript as a single Word or PDF file to be used in the refereeing process. Only when your paper is at the revision stage, will you be requested to put your paper in to a 'correct format' for acceptance and provide the items required for the publication of your article.
To find out more, please visit the Preparation section below.

INTRODUCTION
Gynecologic Oncology, an international journal, is devoted to the publication of clinical and investigative articles that concern tumors of the female reproductive tract. We welcome the submission of investigations relating to the etiology, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of female cancers, as well as research from any of the disciplines related to this field of interest. Research areas include: cell and molecular biology, chemotherapy, clinical trails, epidemiology, genetics, immunology and vaccines, 'omics', pathology and cytology, quality of life, radiation therapy, surgery, and translational research. All aspects of scholarship related to tumors of this region are welcome, with originality, quality, and clarity the chief criteria of acceptance.

Gynecologic Oncology and Gynecologic Oncology Reports encourage submission of manuscripts that help understand, address or aim to eliminate health disparities, differences in health status, or access to healthcare based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, or social determinants of health.

Types of articles
Research Paper: Full-length report of an original basic or clinical investigation.

Systematic Reviews and/or Meta-Analysis Articles: A comprehensive and scholarly review of the literature, which uses systematic searching techniques to identify, appraise and synthesize all relevant studies, relating to an important basic or clinical subject, accompanied by critical analysis and leading to reasonable conclusions.

Editorial: Commentary on an original article published in the same issue or an opinion or perspective on a specific topic.

Clinical Commentary: Offers perspective or opinion of clinical relevance.

Letters to the Editor: Letters should be no more than 1,000 words in length and do not contain an abstract or list of keywords and are limited to a maximum of 10 references.

Gynecologic Oncology Tumor Board: An in-depth discussion of a rare and/or difficult case. The Tumor Board presentation of the case should present a multi-disciplinary approach to the differential diagnosis, pathology (including molecular pathology), diagnostic testing and management, including a discussion of the decision-making regarding treatments and outcomes. Authors who wish to prepare a Gynecologic Oncology Tumor Board case must contact the Editorial Office (GYN@elsevier.com) in advance of preparation of the case to discuss their proposal with the Editors. Tumor board cases will have a maximum length of 5000 words, and are limited to 6 tables and/or figures and 60 references. A brief description of the case (limited to 50 words) is required.

Historical Perspective: Update and perspective on a seminal finding initially presented in an important paper that advanced the field of gynecologic oncology. Historical Perspective manuscripts should place the original paper in modern context and highlight the contributions that have been made to further or change the care and treatment of women's cancer. Authors who wish to prepare a Historical Perspective must contact the Editorial Office in advance to discuss their proposal with the Editors.

Mechanisms of Disease in Clinical Context: The goal for articles in this section is to present molecular or cellular mechanisms of action (e.g., a molecularly targeted drug) for gynecologic cancers and should be written for a clinical audience. It should cover the rationale, potential challenges, and translational potential for gynecologic cancers. Illustrations/figures are encouraged to convey a clear and effective message for the readers. Authors who wish to prepare a Mechanisms of Disease in Clinical Context...
paper must contact the Editorial Office (GYN@elsevier.com) in advance of preparation to discuss their proposal with the Editors. Mechanisms of Disease papers will have a maximum length of 3000 words, and are limited to 4 tables and/or figures and 50 references.

Please note that Gynecologic Oncology will no longer consider Surgical Film Submissions and Narrative Review articles for publication, they will however be considered for publication in the journal’s companion title, Gynecologic Oncology Reports. Gynecologic Oncology Reports is an open access journal and a fee is required for publication.

Please also note that we do not consider revised resubmissions of previously rejected papers.

Submission requirements
Please see here for submission requirements.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN
Ethics in publishing
Please see our information on Ethics in publishing.

Clinical trial guidelines
We invite submission of all clinical trials, whether phase I, II, or III. For phase I trials, we especially encourage those of a novel substance for a novel indication, if there is a strong or unexpected beneficial or adverse response, or a novel mechanism of action. Systematic reviews of randomised trials also might warrant rapid peer review and publication. We encourage the registration of all interventional trials, whether early or late phase, in a primary register that participates in WHO’s International Clinical Trial Registry Platform. We also encourage full public disclosure of the minimum 20-item trial registration dataset at the time of registration and before recruitment of the first participant (http://www.who.int/ictrp/en/). The registry must be independent of for-profit interest. Reports of randomised trials must conform to revised CONSORT guidelines, and should be submitted with their protocols. All reports of clinical trials must include a summary of previous research findings, and explain how this trial contributes to the sum of knowledge. The relation between existing and new evidence should be shown by direct reference to an existing systematic review and meta-analysis; if neither exists, authors are encouraged to do their own, or to describe the qualitative association between their research and previous findings.
- Cluster randomised trials must be reported according to CONSORT extended guidelines.
- Randomised trials that report harms must be described according to extended CONSORT guidelines.
- Studies of diagnostic accuracy must be reported according to STARD guidelines.
- Systematic reviews must be written according to the Cochrane Collaboration guidelines.
- Observational studies (cohort, case-control, or cross-sectional designs) must be reported according to the STROBE statement.

Declaration of competing 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. Authors should complete the declaration of competing interest statement using this template and upload to the submission system at the Attach/Upload Files step. Note: Please do not convert the .docx template to another file type. Author signatures are not required. If there are no interests to declare, please choose the first option in the template. More information.

Role of medical writer or editor
If a medical writer or editor was involved in the creation of your manuscript, we need a signed statement from the corresponding author to include their name and information about funding of this person. This information should be added to the Acknowledgement section. We also require signed statements from any medical writers or editors declaring that they have given permission to be names as an author; or in the Acknowledgments section.

Declaration of generative AI in scientific writing
The below guidance only refers to the writing process, and not to the use of AI tools to analyse and draw insights from data as part of the research process.
Where authors use generative artificial intelligence (AI) and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process, authors should only use these technologies to improve readability and language. Applying the technology should be done with human oversight and control, and authors should carefully review and edit the result, as AI can generate authoritative-sounding output that can be incorrect, incomplete or biased. AI and AI-assisted technologies should not be listed as an author or co-author, or be cited as an author. Authorship implies responsibilities and tasks that can only be attributed to and performed by humans, as outlined in Elsevier’s AI policy for authors.

Authors should disclose in their manuscript the use of AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process by following the instructions below. A statement will appear in the published work. Please note that authors are ultimately responsible and accountable for the contents of the work.

**Disclosure instructions**

Authors must disclose the use of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process by adding a statement at the end of their manuscript in the core manuscript file, before the References list. The statement should be placed in a new section entitled 'Declaration of Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process'.

Statement: **During the preparation of this work the author(s) used [NAME TOOL / SERVICE] in order to [REASON]. After using this tool/service, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take(s) full responsibility for the content of the publication.**

This declaration does not apply to the use of basic tools for checking grammar, spelling, references etc. If there is nothing to disclose, there is no need to add a statement.

**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, a published lecture or academic thesis, see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' 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 compliance, your article may be checked by Crossref Similarity Check and other originality or duplicate checking software.

**Preprints**

Please note that preprints can be shared anywhere at any time, in line with Elsevier's sharing policy. Sharing your preprints e.g. on a preprint server will not count as prior publication (see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' for more information).

**Use of inclusive language**

Inclusive language acknowledges diversity, conveys respect to all people, is sensitive to differences, and promotes equal opportunities. Content should make no assumptions about the beliefs or commitments of any reader; contain nothing which might imply that one individual is superior to another on the grounds of age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, disability or health condition; and use inclusive language throughout. Authors should ensure that writing is free from bias, stereotypes, slang, reference to dominant culture and/or cultural assumptions. We advise to seek gender neutrality by using plural nouns ("clinicians, patients/clients") as default/wherever possible to avoid using "he, she," or "he/she." We recommend avoiding the use of descriptors that refer to personal attributes such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, disability or health condition unless they are relevant and valid. When coding terminology is used, we recommend to avoid offensive or exclusionary terms such as "master", "slave", "blacklist" and "whitelist". We suggest using alternatives that are more appropriate and (self-) explanatory such as "primary", "secondary", "blocklist" and "allowlist". These guidelines are meant as a point of reference to help identify appropriate language but are by no means exhaustive or definitive.

**Reporting sex- and gender-based analyses**

**Reporting guidance**

For research involving or pertaining to humans, animals or eukaryotic cells, investigators should integrate sex and gender-based analyses (SGBA) into their research design according to funder/sponsor requirements and best practices within a field. Authors should address the sex and/or gender dimensions of their research in their article. In cases where they cannot, they should discuss this
as a limitation to their research's generalizability. Importantly, authors should explicitly state what definitions of sex and/or gender they are applying to enhance the precision, rigor and reproducibility of their research and to avoid ambiguity or conflation of terms and the constructs to which they refer (see Definitions section below). Authors can refer to the Sex and Gender Equity in Research (SAGER) guidelines and the SAGER guidelines checklist. These offer systematic approaches to the use and editorial review of sex and gender information in study design, data analysis, outcome reporting and research interpretation - however, please note there is no single, universally agreed-upon set of guidelines for defining sex and gender.

**Definitions**

Sex generally refers to a set of biological attributes that are associated with physical and physiological features (e.g., chromosomal genotype, hormonal levels, internal and external anatomy). A binary sex categorization (male/female) is usually designated at birth ("sex assigned at birth"), most often based solely on the visible external anatomy of a newborn. Gender generally refers to socially constructed roles, behaviors, and identities of women, men and gender-diverse people that occur in a historical and cultural context and may vary across societies and over time. Gender influences how people view themselves and each other, how they behave and interact and how power is distributed in society. Sex and gender are often incorrectly portrayed as binary (female/male or woman/man) and unchanging whereas these constructs actually exist along a spectrum and include additional sex categorizations and gender identities such as people who are intersex/have differences of sex development (DSD) or identify as non-binary. Moreover, the terms "sex" and "gender" can be ambiguous—thus it is important for authors to define the manner in which they are used. In addition to this definition guidance and the SAGER guidelines, the resources on this page offer further insight around sex and gender in research studies.

Please include an Author Contribution section within your manuscript source file, above the references. This should include each author's contribution to the manuscript.

**Author contributions**

For transparency, we require corresponding authors to provide co-author contributions to the manuscript using the relevant CRediT roles. The CRediT taxonomy includes 14 different roles describing each contributor's specific contribution to the scholarly output. The roles are: Conceptualization; Data curation; Formal analysis; Funding acquisition; Investigation; Methodology; Project administration; Resources; Software; Supervision; Validation; Visualization; Roles/Writing - original draft; and Writing - review & editing. Note that not all roles may apply to every manuscript, and authors may have contributed through multiple roles. More details and an example.

**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.

**Article transfer service**

This journal uses the Elsevier Article Transfer Service to find the best home for your manuscript. This means that if an editor feels your manuscript is more suitable for an alternative journal, you might be asked to consider transferring the manuscript to such a journal. The recommendation might be provided by a Journal Editor, a dedicated Scientific Managing Editor, a tool assisted recommendation, or a combination. If you agree, your manuscript will be transferred, though you will have the opportunity to make changes to the manuscript before the submission is complete. Please note that your manuscript will be independently reviewed by the new journal. More information.
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.

For gold open access articles: Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'License Agreement' (more information). Permitted third party reuse of gold 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
As an author you (or your employer or institution) retain certain rights; for details you are referred to: https://www.elsevier.com/authorsrights

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 paper for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement then this should be stated. Please see https://www.elsevier.com/funding.

Open access
Please visit our Open Access page for more information.

Language services
Authors who require information about language editing and copyediting services pre- and post-submission please visit https://www.elsevier.com/languagepolishing or our customer support site at service.elsevier.com for more information. Please write your text in good English (American or British usage is accepted, but not a mixture of these).

Please note Elsevier neither endorses nor takes responsibility for any products, goods or services offered by outside vendors through our services or in any advertising. For more information please refer to our Terms & Conditions: https://www.elsevier.com/termsandconditions

Submission
Submission to this journal proceeds totally online. Use the following guidelines to prepare your article. Via the homepage of this journal (https://www.elsevier.com/journals) you will be guided stepwise through the creation and uploading of the various files. The system automatically converts source files to a single Adobe Acrobat PDF version of the article, which is used in the peer-review process. Please note that even though manuscript source files are converted to PDF at submission for the review process, these source files are needed for further processing after acceptance. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor’s decision and requests for revision, takes place by e-mail and via the author's homepage, removing the need for a hard-copy paper trail.

It is a condition of publication that all manuscripts must be written in clear, grammatical English and be submitted to the Gynecologic Oncology Web site at https://www.editorialmanager.com/ygyno/default.aspx. Authors are requested to transmit the text and art of the manuscript in electronic form to this address. Each manuscript must also be
accompanied by a cover letter. (Please see Preparation of Manuscript below.) If you are unable to provide an electronic version, please contact the editorial office prior to submission by e-mail (gyn@elsevier.com).

Manuscripts are accepted for review with the understanding that no substantial portion of the study has been published or is under consideration for publication elsewhere and that its submission for publication has been approved by all of the authors and by the institution where the work was carried out. Authors must disclose prior presentation at a public scientific meeting as a footnote on the title page.

Manuscripts that do not meet the general criteria or standards for publication in *Gynecologic Oncology* will be immediately returned to the authors, without detailed review.

**CHECKLIST FOR AUTHORS**
Please follow this link for a detailed list of the submission requirements and how to structure your article: [Check List for Authors](#)

**Queries**
For questions about the editorial process (including the status of manuscripts under review) or for technical support on submissions, please visit our [Support Center](#).

**NEW SUBMISSIONS**
Submission to this journal proceeds totally online and you will be guided stepwise through the creation and uploading of your files. The system automatically converts your files to a single PDF file, which is used in the peer-review process.

As part of the Your Paper Your Way service, you may choose to submit your manuscript as a single file to be used in the refereeing process. This can be a PDF file or a Word document, in any format or layout that can be used by referees to evaluate your manuscript. It should contain high enough quality figures for refereeing. If you prefer to do so, you may still provide all or some of the source files at the initial submission. Please note that individual figure files larger than 10 MB must be uploaded separately.

**References**
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 article number or 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.

**Formatting requirements**
There are no strict formatting requirements but all manuscripts must contain the essential elements needed to convey your manuscript, for example Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Conclusions, Artwork and Tables with Captions.

If your article includes any Videos and/or other Supplementary material, this should be included in your initial submission for peer review purposes.

Divide the article into clearly defined sections.

**Line Numbering**
Please ensure your paper has consecutive line numbering? this is an essential peer review requirement.

**Figures and tables embedded in text**
Please ensure the figures and the tables included in the single file are placed next to the relevant text in the manuscript, rather than at the bottom or the top of the file. The corresponding caption should be placed directly below the figure or table.

**Peer review**
This journal operates a single anonymized review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two 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. Editors are not involved in decisions about papers which they have written themselves or have been written by family members or colleagues or which relate to products or services in which the editor has an
interest. Any such submission is subject to all of the journal's usual procedures, with peer review handled independently of the relevant editor and their research groups. More information on types of peer review.

**REVISED SUBMISSIONS**

*Use of word processing software*

Regardless of the file format of the original submission, at revision you must provide us with an editable file of the entire article. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier). 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.

**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 use full author names. Where the family name may be ambiguous (e.g., a double name), please indicate this clearly. 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 telephone and fax numbers (with country and area code) are provided in addition to the e-mail address and the complete postal address.
- **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.
- **Twitter Handle -** If you would like your Twitter handle to be included on your published paper, please provide it on your title page.

**Graphical abstract**

Although a graphical abstract is optional, its use is encouraged as it draws more attention to the online article. The graphical abstract should summarize the contents of the article in a concise, pictorial form designed to capture the attention of a wide readership. Graphical abstracts should be submitted as a separate file in the online submission system. Image size: Please provide an image with a minimum of 531 × 1328 pixels (h × w) or proportionally more. The image should be readable at a size of 5 × 13 cm using a regular screen resolution of 96 dpi. Preferred file types: TIFF, EPS, PDF or MS Office files. You can view Example Graphical Abstracts on our information site.

**Research Highlights**

Highlights are mandatory for this journal. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that convey the core findings of the article and should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 125 characters, including spaces, per bullet point).

**Footnotes**

Footnotes should be used sparingly. Number them consecutively throughout the article. 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.

**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.

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 (or PDF): Vector drawings. Embed the font or save the text as 'graphics'.
- TIFF (or JPG): Color or grayscale photographs (halftones): always use a minimum of 300 dpi.
- TIFF (or JPG): Bitmapped line drawings: use a minimum of 1000 dpi.
- TIFF (or JPG): Combinations bitmapped line/halftone (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.

Figure captions
Ensure that each illustration has a caption. 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.

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 highly encouraged.

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.

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.

Preprint references
Where a preprint has subsequently become available as a peer-reviewed publication, the formal publication should be used as the reference. If there are preprints that are central to your work or that cover crucial developments in the topic, but are not yet formally published, these may be referenced. Preprints should be clearly marked as such, for example by including the word preprint, or the name of the preprint server, as part of the reference. The preprint DOI should also be provided.

Reference management software
Most Elsevier journals have their reference template available in many of the most popular reference management software products. These include all products that support Citation Style Language styles, such as Mendeley. Using citation plug-ins from these products, authors only need to select the appropriate journal template when preparing their article, after which citations and bibliographies will be automatically formatted in the journal's style. If no template is yet available for this journal, please follow the format of the sample references and citations as shown in this Guide. If you use
reference management software, please ensure that you remove all field codes before submitting the electronic manuscript. More information on how to remove field codes from different reference management software.

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 article number or 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:

Reference style
Text: Indicate references by number(s) in square brackets in line with the text. The actual authors can be referred to, but the reference number(s) must always be given.
Example: '..... as demonstrated [3,6]. Barnaby and Jones [8] obtained a different result ....'
List: Number the references (numbers in square brackets) in the list in the order in which they appear in the text.
Examples:
Reference to a journal publication:
Reference to a journal publication with an article number:
Reference to a book:
Reference to a chapter in an edited book:
Reference to a website:
Reference to a dataset:
Reference to software:

Data visualization
Include interactive data visualizations in your publication and let your readers interact and engage more closely with your research. Follow the instructions here to find out about available data visualization options and how to include them with your article.

Research data
This journal encourages and enables you to share data that supports your research publication where appropriate, and enables you to interlink the data with your published articles. Research data refers to the results of observations or experimentation that validate research findings, which may also include software, code, models, algorithms, protocols, methods and other useful materials related to the project.

Below are a number of ways in which you can associate data with your article or make a statement about the availability of your data when submitting your manuscript. If you are sharing data in one of these ways, you are encouraged to cite the data in your manuscript and reference list. Please refer to the "References" section for more information about data citation. For more information on depositing, sharing and using research data and other relevant research materials, visit the research data page.
Data linking
If you have made your research data available in a data repository, you can link your article directly to the dataset. Elsevier collaborates with a number of repositories to link articles on ScienceDirect with relevant repositories, giving readers access to underlying data that gives them a better understanding of the research described.

There are different ways to link your datasets to your article. When available, you can directly link your dataset to your article by providing the relevant information in the submission system. For more information, visit the database linking page.

For supported data repositories a repository banner will automatically appear next to your published article on ScienceDirect.

In addition, you can link to relevant data or entities through identifiers within the text of your manuscript, using the following format: Database: xxxx (e.g., TAIR: AT1G01020; CCDC: 734053; PDB: 1XFN).

Research Elements
This journal enables you to publish research objects related to your original research – such as data, methods, protocols, software and hardware – as an additional paper in a Research Elements journal.

Research Elements is a suite of peer-reviewed, open access journals which make your research objects findable, accessible and reusable. Articles place research objects into context by providing detailed descriptions of objects and their application, and linking to the associated original research articles. Research Elements articles can be prepared by you, or by one of your collaborators.

During submission, you will be alerted to the opportunity to prepare and submit a manuscript to one of the Research Elements journals.

More information can be found on the Research Elements page.

Data statement
To foster transparency, we encourage you to state the availability of your data in your submission. This may be a requirement of your funding body or institution. If your data is unavailable to access or unsuitable to post, you will have the opportunity to indicate why during the submission process, for example by stating that the research data is confidential. The statement will appear with your published article on ScienceDirect. For more information, visit the Data Statement page.

Submission checklist
Please follow this link for a detailed list of the submission requirements and how to structure your article: Check List for Authors.

It is hoped that this list will be useful during the final checking of an article prior to sending it to the journal's Editor for review. Please consult this Guide for Authors for further details of any item.

Ensure that the following items are present:
One Author designated as corresponding Author:
• E-mail address
• Full postal address
• Telephone and fax numbers
All necessary files have been uploaded
• Keywords
• All figure captions
• All tables (including title, description, footnotes)
Further considerations
• Manuscript has been "spellchecked" and "grammar-checked"
• 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 Web)
• Color figures are clearly marked as being intended for color reproduction on the Web (free of charge) and in print or to be reproduced in color on the Web (free of charge) and in black-and-white in print
• If only color on the Web is required, black and white versions of the figures are also supplied for printing purposes.
For any further information please visit our Support Center.

AFTER ACCEPTANCE

Online proof correction

To ensure a fast publication process of the article, we kindly ask authors to provide us with their proof corrections within two days. 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.

Offprints

The corresponding author will, at no cost, receive a customized Share Link providing 50 days free access to the final published version of the article on ScienceDirect. The Share Link can be used for sharing the article via any communication channel, including email and social media. For an extra charge, paper offprints can be ordered via the offprint order form which is sent once the article is accepted for publication. Corresponding authors who have published their article gold open access do not receive a Share Link as their final published version of the article is available open access on ScienceDirect and can be shared through the article DOI link.

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 2018 Elsevier | https://www.elsevier.com