The Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology (JMCC), the official journal of the International Society for Heart Research, publishes work advancing knowledge of both normal and diseased cardiovascular function. Relevant areas include (but are not limited to): structural biology; genetics; proteomics; morphology; stem cells; molecular biology; metabolism; biophysics; bioengineering; computational modeling and systems analysis; electrophysiology; pharmacology and physiology. We consider mechanistic studies using basic, translational or clinical discovery approaches. The journal is directed not only to basic scientists but also to clinical cardiologists who wish to follow the rapidly advancing frontiers of cardiovascular science.

US National Institutes of Health (NIH) voluntary posting ("Public Access") policy

Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology and Elsevier facilitate the author's response to the NIH Public Access Policy. For more details please see the Guide for authors.

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

Scopus
Embase
EMBiology
Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief
Rong Tian, University of Washington, 1400 NE Campus Parkway, 98195, Seattle, Washington, United States of America

Deputy Editor
Mike Regnier, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, United States of America

Associate Editors
P. Alcaide, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America
J. Davis, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, Seattle, Washington, United States of America
I. Deschênes, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, United States of America
R. S. Y. Foo, National University of Singapore, Cardiovascular Research Institute, Singapore, Singapore
M. Gautel, London, United Kingdom
R. Gilsbach, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
C. Glembotski, San Diego, California, United States of America
A.V. Gomes, Davis, California, United States of America
M.W. Gorr, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, United States of America
A. Gramolini, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
E. Grandi, Davis, California, United States of America
J. Heijman, Maastricht, Netherlands
J. Heineke, Heidelberg, Germany
B. G. Hill, Louisville, Kentucky, United States of America
L.C. Hool, Perth, Australia
Y. Huang, Hong Kong, China
T. J. Hund, Columbus, Ohio, United States of America
S. Jones, Louisville, Kentucky, United States of America
T. Kamp, Madison, Wisconsin, United States of America
J. A. Kirk, Chicago, Illinois, United States of America
M.J. Kohr, Baltimore, Maryland, United States of America
S. Kolwicz, Jr., Collegeville, Pennsylvania, United States of America
M. Kontaridis, Utica, New York, United States of America
E.G. Kranias, Cincinnati, Ohio, United States of America
D. Kuster, Duivendrecht, Netherlands
Z. Lin, Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America
G.D. Lopashuk, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
F. de Man, Duivendrecht, Netherlands
S. Matsooka, Kyoto, Japan
A. McCulloch, La Jolla, California, United States of America
T. McKinsey, Aurora, Colorado, United States of America
T. Minamino, Bunkyo-Ku, Japan
F. del Monte, Charleston, South Carolina, United States of America
E. Murphy, Bethesda, Maryland, United States of America
S.V. Naga Prasad, Cleveland, Ohio, United States of America
B.L. Prosser, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States of America
W.G. Pyle, Guelph, Ontario, Canada
H. Qiu, Tucson, Arizona, United States of America
J. Ren, Shanghai, China
E. van Rooij, Utrecht, Netherlands
S. Sadayappan, Cincinnati, Ohio, United States of America
G. Santulli, New York, New York, United States of America
G. Schiattarella, Dallas, Texas, United States of America
A. Shah, London, United Kingdom
E. M. Small, Rochester, New York, United States of America
L. S. Song, Iowa City, Iowa, United States of America
P. Song, Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America
C. Steenbergen, Baltimore, Maryland, United States of America
J. Stelzer, Cleveland, Ohio, United States of America
C. Sucharov, Aurora, Colorado, United States of America
C. W. Tanner, Pullman, Washington, United States of America
D. Terentyev, Columbus, Ohio, United States of America
P.P. de Tombe, Chicago, Illinois, United States of America
N. Voigt, Germany
T. Vondriska, Los Angeles, California, United States of America
L. Wang, Beijing, China
D. W. Wang, Wuhan, China
W. Wang, Seattle, Washington, United States of America
X. Wang, Vermillion, South Dakota, United States of America
Y. Wang, Shanghai, China
X.H.T. Wehrens, Houston, Texas, United States of America
Y.K. Xiang, Davis, California, United States of America
C. Yan, Rochester, New York, United States of America
L. Yin, Rootstown, Ohio, United States of America
S. Yuasa, Minato-Ku, Japan
K. E. Yutzey, Cincinnati, Ohio, United States of America
L. Zelarayan, Göttingen, Germany
Y. Zheng, Seattle, Washington, 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

Journal Categories

Full Length Articles
Articles in this category report original research of cardiovascular regulatory mechanisms. To accelerate publication, manuscripts should be no longer than approximately 6000 words not including references or abstract, containing up to 8 Figures and/or Tables. Article should include an abstract of no more than 250 words. Full Length articles are reviewed on average within 1 month by the editorial office.

Short Communication
This category provides rapid publication of results of exceptional significance or special interest. Short Communication manuscripts should not exceed 2000 words, not including references or abstract. Results and Discussion sections may be combined. No more than 2 Figures and/or Tables should be included, plus an abstract of 100 words and no more than 15 references. A brief statement explaining the importance of the results and why rapid publication is justified must accompany the manuscript. Short Communications are reviewed on an accelerated schedule. A single round of minor revisions may be requested. Following this, decisions are made on a 'yes-no' basis and detailed referee's opinion may not be obtained.

Letter to the Editor
This category offers a concise report of a novel finding or a critical viewpoint for a question of general interest for the readers of JMCC. Letters should begin with "Dear Editor" and end with authors' names and affiliations, with no more than 10 references. The text should be 800 words or less (excluding references) with a maximum of one Figure or Table, and no abstract or supplementary materials.

Correspondence
Comments on a paper previously published in JMCC can be communicated through this category. The article should be no more than 2000 words in length, including references. One Figure or Table is permitted, with no more than 10 references, and no abstract. Correspondence will be reviewed by the editor and the author of the original paper may be invited to respond.

How-To (Methods and Resources) Articles
This category of papers is designed to highlight emerging experimental methodologies (particularly new and technically challenging methods), new experimental models (cell or animal systems), experimental tools, and/or major informational databases or datasets that are of value and interest to the readers of JMCC. Proof-of-concept demonstration for new technology, experimental methods or tools should be provided, and new insights that can be yielded from the databases should be included. Articles in this category can be invited or self-submitted but are subject to normal review process for full length articles. The length of the articles 5000 words, not including references or abstract. Articles may contain upto 8 figures/Tables, and an abstract of 250 words.

Hypothesis Papers
Hypothesis papers are reports on new working models, pathways and mechanisms, derived from newly available datasets, newly developed data analysis tools, newly applied analysis strategies, and newly identified biological or clinical questions. They can be preliminary without experimental validations, but the scientific deduction should be sound and rational. The format can be flexible but preferably be short, 3000 word limit and 3 figures, plus one graphic illustration of the new hypothesis.

Invited Reviews
Review Articles are by editor invitation only. They provide an updated and comprehensive view of a specific area in cardiovascular research. All such articles are subject to normal review process for full length articles. Review Articles should generally be no longer than 6000 words not including references or abstract, and should include an abstract of 250 words or less. The total number of Figures and/or Tables should not exceed 4.

Invited Perspectives
Articles in this category are by editor invitation only and provide an outlook of an area of special interest in cardiovascular research. All such articles are subject to normal review process for full length articles. Perspectives in general should be no longer than 2500 words, not including references. Articles may include up to 3 Figures and/or Tables, plus an abstract of 100.

Editorial
Editorial article is an invitation-only submission. It is mostly used to highlight or feature a recent publication(s), or to address a specific issue, with particular significance for the JMCC readership. The related publications can be newly accepted manuscripts at JMCC or other noteworthy publications in the field. The editorial content should aim to provide a balanced perspective about the significance, strengths and major implications, as well as the limitation of the study and key remaining questions. The format of an Editorial article is limited to 1,000 words in total, including one illustration and a maximum of 5 references, with no abstract.

REQUIREMENT FOR DATA SUBMISSION
Transcriptome data must be made available for unrestricted use by the research community by submission to the gene expression omnibus (GEO). GSE number must be provided for confidential use by the reviewers during the review process and open access use after publication. For all revised papers: provide full unedited gels images for each representative western blot shown in the manuscript. All manuscripts submitted to JMCC that contain mass spectrometry data must be in compliance with established guidelines for acquiring and reporting these types of data. Please see the supplied checklist used by the editorial team when screening submitted manuscripts that contain mass spectrometry data (link here).

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

Ensure that the following items are present:

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:
- E-mail address
- Full postal address

All necessary files have been uploaded:

* Manuscript:
  - Include keywords
  - All figures are included, and legends contain: exact sample size (n) definition of how n is defined precise statement regarding how many times the experiment was replicated statistical test used levels of significance definition of error bars
  - All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
  - Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
  - Ensure any bar graphs are used only to report count or proportion data. Continuous data should be presented in a dot plot, box plot, violin plot, or SuperPlots
  - Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print

* Data: Data Availability statement has been provided High-throughput data sets are publicly available and linked in the text, or the justification for not making data available is provided Supplemental material includes the original, uncropped blots or gels, if used in the paper Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files (where applicable)
* Supplemental files (where applicable)

* Response to Reviewers (for revisions): This should be a separate file, not included in cover letter

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

For further information, visit our Support Center.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Ethics in Publishing

Reporting standards

Authors of reports of original research should present an accurate account of the work performed as well as an objective discussion of its significance. Underlying data should be represented accurately in the paper. A paper should contain sufficient detail and references to permit others to replicate the work. Fraudulent or knowingly inaccurate statements constitute unethical behavior and are unacceptable.

Review and professional publication articles should also be accurate and objective, and editorial opinion works should be clearly identified as such.

Data Access and Retention

Authors may be asked to provide the raw data in connection with a paper for editorial review, and should be prepared to provide public access to such data (consistent with the ALPSP-STM Statement on Data and Databases), if practicable, and should in any event be prepared to retain such data for a reasonable time after publication.

Originality and Plagiarism

The authors should ensure that they have written entirely original works, and if the authors have used the work and/or words of others, that this has been appropriately cited or quoted.

Plagiarism takes many forms, from passing off another paper as the author(s) own paper, to copying or paraphrasing substantial parts of another(s) paper (without attribution), to claiming results from research conducted by others. Plagiarism in all its forms constitutes unethical publishing behavior and is unacceptable.

Multiple, Redundant or Concurrent Publication

An author should not in general publish manuscripts describing essentially the same research in more than one journal or primary publication. Submitting the same manuscript to more than one journal concurrently constitutes unethical publishing behaviour and is unacceptable.

In general, an author should not submit for consideration in another journal a previously published paper. Publication of some kinds of articles (eg, clinical guidelines, translations) in more than one journal is sometimes justifiable, provided certain conditions are met. The authors and editors of the journals concerned must agree to the secondary publication, which must reflect the same data and interpretation of the primary document. The primary reference must be cited in the secondary publication. Further detail on acceptable forms of secondary publication can be found at http://www.icmje.org/

Acknowledgement of Sources

Proper acknowledgment of the work of others must always be given. Authors should cite publications that have been influential in determining the nature of the reported work. Information obtained privately, as in conversation, correspondence, or discussion with third parties, must not be used or
reported without explicit, written permission from the source. Information obtained in the course of confidential services, such as refereeing manuscripts or grant applications, must not be used without the explicit written permission of the author of the work involved in these services.

**Authorship of the Paper**

Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study. All those who have made significant contributions should be listed as co-authors. Where there are others who have participated in certain substantive aspects of the research project, they should be acknowledged or listed as contributors.

The corresponding author should ensure that all appropriate co-authors and no inappropriate co-authors are included on the paper, and that all co-authors have seen and approved the final version of the paper and have agreed to its submission for publication.

**Hazards and Human or Animal Subjects**

If the work involves chemicals, procedures or equipment that have any unusual hazards inherent in their use, the author must clearly identify these in the manuscript. If the work involves the use of animal or human subjects, the author should ensure that the manuscript contains a statement that all procedures were performed in compliance with relevant laws and institutional guidelines and that the appropriate institutional committee(s) have approved them. 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.

**Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest**

All authors should disclose in their manuscript any financial or other substantive conflict of interest that might be construed to influence the results or interpretation of their manuscript. All sources of financial support for the project should be disclosed.

Examples of potential conflicts of interest which should be disclosed include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. Potential conflicts of interest should be disclosed at the earliest stage possible.

**Fundamental errors in published works**

When an author discovers a significant error or inaccuracy in his/her own published work, it is the authors obligation to promptly notify the journal editor or publisher and cooperate with the editor to retract or correct the paper. If the editor or the publisher learn from a third party that a published work contains a significant error, it is the obligation of the author to promptly retract or correct the paper or provide evidence to the editor of the correctness of the original paper.

**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 but copies should not be provided to the journal. Only if specifically requested by the journal in exceptional circumstances (for example if a legal issue arises) the author must provide copies of the consents or evidence that such consents have been obtained. 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.

**Declaration of interest**

All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential competing interests include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. Authors must disclose any interests in two
places: 1. A summary declaration of interest statement in the title page file (if double anonymized) or the manuscript file (if single anonymized). If there are no interests to declare then please state this: 'Declarations of interest: none'. 2. Detailed disclosures as part of a separate Declaration of Interest form, which forms part of the journal's official records. It is important for potential interests to be declared in both places and that the information matches. More information.

**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.

**CrossCheck (iThenticate)**

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 originality, your article may be checked by the originality detection service [Crossref Similarity Check](#).

**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).

**Preprint posting on SSRN**

In support of Open Science, this journal offers its authors a free preprint posting service. Preprints provide early registration and dissemination of your research, which facilitates early citations and collaboration.

During submission to Editorial Manager, you can choose to release your manuscript publicly as a preprint on the preprint server [SSRN](#) once it enters peer-review with the journal. Your choice will have no effect on the editorial process or outcome with the journal. Please note that the corresponding author is expected to seek approval from all co-authors before agreeing to release the manuscript publicly on SSRN.
You will be notified via email when your preprint is posted online and a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is assigned. Your preprint will remain globally available free to read whether the journal accepts or rejects your manuscript.

For more information about posting to SSRN, please consult the SSRN Terms of Use and FAQs.

**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.

**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*
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, it is recommended to state this.

*Open access*
Please visit our [Open Access page](#) for more information.

*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 [Language Editing service](#) available from Elsevier's Language Services.

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

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.

The journal has moved to a new submission site called Editorial Manager. Please use the following link to submit new papers: https://www.editorialmanager.com/JMCC

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.

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.

Article structure
Subdivision - numbered sections
Divide your article into clearly defined and numbered sections. Subsections should be numbered
1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...), 1.2, etc. (the abstract is not included in section numbering). Use this
numbering also for internal cross-referencing: do not just refer to 'the text'. Any subsection may be
given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line.

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

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.

Glossary
Please supply, as a separate list, the definitions of field-specific terms used in your article.

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

Essential title page information
• Title. Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid
abbreviations and formulae where possible.
• Author names and affiliations. Please clearly indicate the given name(s) and family name(s)
of each author and check that all names are accurately spelled. You can add your name between
parentheses in your own script behind the English transliteration. 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. This responsibility includes answering any future queries about
Methodology and Materials. Ensure that the e-mail address is given and that contact details
are kept up to date by the corresponding author.
• Present/permanent address. If an author has moved since the work described in the article was
done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address' (or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as
a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author actually did the work must be
retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes.

Highlights
Highlights are mandatory for this journal as they help increase the discoverability of your article via
search engines. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that capture the novel results of
your research as well as new methods that were used during the study (if any). Please have a look
at the example Highlights.

Highlights 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 85 characters, including
spaces, per bullet point).

Abstract
A concise and factual abstract is required. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the
research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from
the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if
essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should
be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself.
Graphical Abstract

Graphical abstracts are required for Full Length Articles, and optional for all other article types. 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.

Keywords

Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords, using American spelling and avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, 'and', 'of'). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.

Abbreviations

Define abbreviations that are not standard in this field in a footnote to be placed on the first page of the article. Such abbreviations that are unavoidable in the abstract must be defined at their first mention there, as well as in the footnote. Ensure consistency of abbreviations throughout the article.

Acknowledgements

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, 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, yyyy]; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA [grant number zzzz]; and the United States Institutes of Peace [grant number aaaa].

It is not necessary to include detailed descriptions on the program or type of grants and awards. When funding is from a block grant or other resources available to a university, college, or other research institution, submit the name of the institute or organization that provided the funding.

If no funding has been provided for the research, it is recommended to include the following sentence:

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

Nomenclature and units

Follow internationally accepted rules and conventions: use the international system of units (SI). If other quantities are mentioned, give their equivalent in SI. You are urged to consult IUPAC: Nomenclature of Organic Chemistry for further information.

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.

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) regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in color in the printed version. For color reproduction in print, you will receive information regarding the costs from Elsevier after receipt of your accepted article. Please indicate your preference for color: in print or online only. Further information on the preparation of electronic artwork.

Color artwork
The Publisher will not charge authors for color figures where its use is integral to the useful illustration of the data.

Manipulation and Editing of Figures
It is important that any editing of figures (particularly gels and fluorescence images) be done in a way that does not distort the meaning of the results. The same processing must be performed on all parts of the image or gel. Any cropping of images to selectively remove parts of gels or blots should be explicitly noted in the legend and discontinuities should be visibly apparent in the figure. It is not permissible to add or remove data from figures. Any image processing used in preparing the figure (other than simple changes of brightness and contrast) should be described in the legend. The Editors may request copies of original, unprocessed data. JMCC has a zero tolerance policy for image manipulation. Your manuscript may be checked by image software, and any discrepancies may result in withdrawal of your manuscript.

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.

Tables
Please submit tables as editable text and not as images. Tables can be placed either next to the relevant text in the article, or on separate page(s) at the end. Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text and place any table notes below the table body. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in them do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article. Please avoid using vertical rules and shading in table cells.

References
Citation in text
Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full. Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. 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.
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.

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.

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 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:

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 file in one of our recommended file formats with a preferred maximum size of 150 MB per file, 1 GB in total. 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.

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.

Supplementary Data
Elsevier accepts electronic supplementary material to support and enhance your scientific research. Supplementary files offer the author additional possibilities to publish supporting applications, high-resolution images, background datasets, sound clips and more. Supplementary files supplied will be published online alongside the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including ScienceDirect. In order to ensure that your submitted material is directly usable, please provide the data in one of our recommended file formats. Authors should submit the material in electronic format together with the article and supply a concise and descriptive caption for each file. All supplementary material except videos and spreadsheets should be combined into a single PDF. The Supplemental PDF file should be in a "presentation style" (i.e. not double-spaced) with Figures and their legends integrated within the text. For more detailed instructions please visit our artwork instruction pages at https://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions.

Experimental Data Requirements
I. Data Sharing Policy and Data Availability Statement
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. To facilitate reproducibility and data reuse, this journal encourages you to share your software, code, models, algorithms, protocols, methods and other useful materials related to the project, and requires the sharing of `omics data, as outlined below.

Omics Data Sharing
JMCC requires that authors publicly release all `omics data in a relevant data repository, and include the citation and link for the dataset in your article at the time of submission. If this is not possible, authors must make a statement explaining why research cannot be shared.
Genomics, transcriptomics, metabolomics, proteomics, lipidomics, glycomics, or otherwise high throughput data and related metadata underlying reported findings should be deposited in appropriate public data repositories. Repositories may be either subject-specific repositories that accept specific types of structured data, or cross-disciplinary generalist repositories that accept multiple data types. If field-specific standards for data deposition exist, JMCC requires authors to comply with these standards. Authors should select repositories appropriate to their field of study (e.g. ArrayExpress or GEO for microarray data; GenBank, EMBL, or DDBJ for gene sequences, PRIDE or MassIVE for mass spectrometry data). Authors will be required to provide the name and identifiers for relevant data during manuscript submission.

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).

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.

II. Guidelines for Presentation and Description of Data

All manuscripts submitted to JMCC must be in compliance with established guidelines regarding presentation and description of experimental data. Manuscripts will not be published until they meet these requirements.

a. Figure Legends
Figure legends must include explicit information describing the experimental replicates and statistics. Specifically, each figure legend should include:
exact sample size (n) for each experimental group/condition, where n is an exact number and not a range, a clear definition of how n is defined (for example x# cells per condition, x# slices from x# animals from x# litters, collected over x# days). For each experiment, the number of data points collected should be provided (e.g. x# of cells per animal and x# of animals) a precise statement regarding how many times the experiment was replicated; the details of sample collection should be sufficiently clear so that the repeatability of the experiment is obvious to the reader. There must be a clear distinction between the biological (independent) and technical replicates for each experiment the statistical test used levels of significance should be defined in the legend (e.g. p<0.05, p<0.01) definition of error bars
Notes: Mean and standard deviation are not appropriate on small samples and plots of independent data points should be included instead. When technical replicates are reported, error and significance measures reflect the experimental variability and not the variability of the biological process.

b. Appropriate Graphs based on Data Type
Bar graphs are not acceptable for reporting continuous data. Bar graphs may only be used for reporting discrete data, such as count or proportion data.
In contrast to discrete data, continuous data are quantitative information which should be presented in a dot plot, box plot, violin plot, or SuperPlots.
Table: Common data types and whether they are permitted to be presented in bar graphs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Type</th>
<th>Can this be presented in a Bar Graph?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data that can be counted and that only has a certain number of values (discrete)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of occurrences or observations</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of test subjects</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of male test subjects</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of female test subjects</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency of occurrence or observation</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data that can take on any value within a finite or infinite interval (quantitative)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diameter</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thickness</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentration</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abundance</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean fluorescence</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage or ratio data</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information and examples, please refer to these comprehensive resources:
- https://www.jbc.org/content/early/2017/10/03/jbc.RA117.000147.full.pdf
- https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/epub/10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.118.037777
- https://rupress.org/jcb/article/219/6/e202001064/151717/SuperPlots-Communicating-reproducibility-and

c. Blots and Gels
Blots should show full tonal range. Do not adjustment brightness, contrast, or color balance in ways that obscure, eliminate, or misrepresent any information, including non-specific signal or background details. Crop immunoblots in a way that retains information about antigen size and antibody specificity. Include positions of molecular weight markers above and below the band(s) of interest. When a comparative analysis among bands is performed, all relevant samples must be run on the same gel/blot. Each figure should include all relevant controls, and when relevant, control samples should be run on the same blot or gel as the experimental samples. Splicing between different blots or gels is not allowed. A figure panel should not include composite images of bands originating from different blots, exposures, or gels. If data from multiple blot or gel images are needed to illustrate the results, they should be clearly distinguished as separate panels within the figure and the legend should note that they represent different gels, blots, or exposures. If lanes from a single blot/gel image have been rearranged during preparation of a figure, image splicing should be clearly denoted by vertical black lines on the figure and the figure legend should provide details of how the figure was made. This would be appropriate, for example, if sections of the same original image were spliced together to reorder lanes or to remove irrelevant lanes. Record how data were obtained, whether signal intensity was linear with antigen loading, and how protein loading was normalized. Proceed with caution as some detection methods have a very limited linear range. Antibodies that recognize post-translationally modified proteins should be normalized to total levels of the target protein. The original, uncropped and minimally adjusted images supporting all blot and gel results reported in an article's figures must be provided in supporting information files. In order to ensure that your submitted material is directly usable, please provide the data in one of our recommended file formats. Authors should submit the material in electronic format together with the article and supply a concise and descriptive caption for each file. All supplementary material except videos and spreadsheets should be combined into a single PDF. The Supplemental PDF file should be in a "presentation style" (i.e. not double-spaced) with Figures and their legends integrated within the text. For more detailed instructions please visit our artwork instruction pages at https://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions. Label each raw blot or gel image to clearly annotate the loading order, identity of experimental samples, method used to capture the image, and to specify which figure panel was generated from that original image. Molecular weight markers should be included or indicated on the raw image, and any lanes not included in the final figure should be marked with an "X" above the lane label on the original blot/gel image. All labeling and annotation should be performed without obscuring any data or background bands.

AFTER ACCEPTANCE
Authors have 48 hours to respond to proofs unless otherwise requested. If no response occurs within this time, the manuscript will be published exactly as the proof reads.

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.

**Additional information**
The directives for preparing the paper in the style of the journal as set out in the Instructions for Authors must be followed; i.e. ensure the document is in the following order: Title; Authors; Addresses; Short title; Abstract; Introduction; Materials and Methods; Results; Discussion; Acknowledgements; References. Tables, Figure legends and Footnotes, should be saved in a separate file. Use two carriage returns to end headings and paragraphs. Type text without end of line hyphenation, except for compound words. Do not use lower case "I" for "1" (one) or "O" for "0" (zero). (They have different typesetting values.) Footnotes, Abbreviations, Tables and Figure legends should be saved in a separate file from the main text. Be consistent with punctuation and only insert a single space between words and after punctuation. Please include a list of any special characters you have had to use, e.g. Greek, maths.

**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