DESCRIPTION

**Announcement:** From January 2020 *Neuroimage* is an open access journal. Authors who publish in *Neuroimage* will be able make their work immediately, permanently, and freely accessible.

*Neuroimage* continues with the same aims and scope, editorial team, submission system and rigorous peer review.

*Neuroimage* authors will pay an article publishing charge (APC), have a choice of license options, and retain copyright to their published work. The APC will be requested after peer review and acceptance and will be required for all accepted articles submitted after the **13th of October 2019**. The APC for *Neuroimage* will be US$ 3000 (excluding taxes).

**Please note:** Authors who have submitted papers before the **13th of October 2019** will have their accepted paper published in *Neuroimage* at no charge. Authors submitting papers after this date will be requested to pay the APC. For full information on publishing your paper open access in *Neuroimage*, visit the journal’s [guide for authors](#), or visit our [FAQs](#) page.

*NeuroImage*, a Journal of Brain Function, provides a vehicle for communicating important advances in the use of neuroimaging to study structure-function and brain-behavior relationships. Though the emphasis is on the macroscopic level of human brain organization, meso-and microscopic neuroimaging across all species will be considered if they provide advances that are of relevance to a systems-level understanding of the human brain.

The main criterion on which papers are judged for *NeuroImage*, is to what extent the scientific contribution helps advance our understanding of brain function, organization, and structure. *NeuroImage*, also welcomes papers that explicitly address these questions in animal models or clinical populations. Papers that do not contain significant methodological development, and whose major contribution is to use imaging to advance the understanding of pathology, abnormal development, use of biomarkers or other questions of clinical utility should be referred to *NeuroImage: Clinical*.

*NeuroImage*, publishes original research articles, papers on methods, models of brain function, as well as positions on contentious issues. The journal strives to incorporate theoretical and technological innovations and is committed to publishing the highest quality papers in both print and electronic media. The editors and the editorial board members come from highly diverse specialties, reflecting the fact that imaging neuroscience is a multi-disciplinary science.
Submitted papers will generally be considered under eight general themes. However, papers with the above criteria that do not easily fit into any of the below themes will also be handled by an editor with the appropriate expertise.

- Analysis Methods
- Functional MRI Acquisition and Physics
- Computational Modeling and Analysis
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Cognition and Aging
- Social Neuroscience
- Systems and molecule neuroimaging
- Communication, Language, and Learning

NeuroImage has two open access companion titles: NeuroImage: Clinical NeuroImage: Reports

AUDIENCE


IMPACT FACTOR

2019: 5.902 © Clarivate Analytics Journal Citation Reports 2020

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

Scopus
ISI Web of Knowledge
PubMed/Medline
ISI Science Citation Index
Embase

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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.

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
- Main text, abstract, and title page
- All figures (include relevant captions)
- All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
- Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
- Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print

Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files (where applicable)

Supplementary files (where applicable)

Manuscript components required at first submission:
- Keywords
- Highlights
- Data/code availability statement. "Available upon request" is not acceptable without further specification; see below for further description as well as special requirements for Toolbox papers. Must be included in Methods or paper may be returned without review.
- Ethics statement. See below for specifics on animal studies, human studies, as well as use of public datasets. Must be included in Methods or paper may be returned without review.
- Disclosure of competing interests or affirmative statement that there are none.
- Referee suggestions and contact details. See below to ensure that your suggested reviewers do not have a conflict of interest; serious violations may result in a paper being rejected without external review. Please also indicate if the paper is being submitted through the Neuroscience Peer Review Consortium and you would like to request the same reviewers.

Further considerations
- Manuscript should be 'spell checked' and 'grammar checked'
- All references mentioned in the Reference List must be cited in the text, and vice versa
- Permission must be obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)
- Journal policies detailed in this guide should be reviewed prior to manuscript preparation and submission
- All manuscripts submitted to NeuroImage are screened via plagiarism detection software. Consideration should be given when writing Methods sections in particular. If your methods closely follow those of a prior paper and you wish to re-use the same text for clarity, this should be explicitly stated at the beginning of the relevant portion of text

For further information, visit our Support Center.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN
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Language (usage and editing services)
Please write your text in good English (American or British usage is accepted, but not a mixture of these). Authors who feel their English language manuscript may require editing to eliminate possible grammatical or spelling errors and to conform to correct scientific English may wish to use the English Language Editing service available from Elsevier's WebShop.

Use of inclusive language
Inclusive language acknowledges diversity, conveys respect to all people, is sensitive to differences, and promotes equal opportunities. Articles should make no assumptions about the beliefs or commitments of any reader, should contain nothing which might imply that one individual is superior to another on the grounds of race, sex, culture or any other characteristic, and should use inclusive language throughout. Authors should ensure that writing is free from bias, for instance by using 'he or she', 'his/her' instead of 'he' or 'his', and by making use of job titles that are free of stereotyping (e.g. 'chairperson' instead of 'chairman' and 'flight attendant' instead of 'stewardess').

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

Studies in humans and animals
If the work involves the use of human subjects, the author should ensure that the work described has been carried out in accordance with The Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki) for experiments involving humans. The manuscript should be in line with the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals and aim for the inclusion of representative human populations (sex, age and ethnicity) as per those recommendations. The terms sex and gender should be used correctly.

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. The ethics statement must indicate that written informed consent was obtained from participants, as well as a statement identifying the specific institutional ethical review committee who approved the study.

All animal experiments should comply with the ARRIVE guidelines and should be carried out in accordance with the U.K. Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, 1986 and associated guidelines, EU Directive 2010/63/EU for animal experiments, or the National Institutes of Health guide for the care and use of Laboratory animals (NIH Publications No. 8023, revised 1978) and the Authors should clearly indicate in the manuscript that such guidelines have been followed. The sex of animals must be indicated, and where appropriate, the influence (or association) of sex on the results of the study should be considered. Clear justification is required that sex is not a variable of relevance for studies comprising only a single sex. Failure to do so may impact on the editorial assessment of a submitted manuscript. Reporting of the age or developmental state of animals is also required.

If the study involves the re-analysis of previously published datasets (from the author or other groups) or public/shared datasets, the ethics statement should describe both the original ethical review as well as any further ethical review or data use agreement pertinent to the submitted manuscript.

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 manuscript file. If there are no interests to declare then please state this: 'Declarations of interest: none'. This summary statement will be
published if the article is accepted. 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.

**Originality declaration and verification**

Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been previously published in a peer-reviewed journal or proceedings (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. Papers that contain plagiarism may be rejected without external review, and the editors may notify supervisors, department heads, and/or funding bodies, especially in repeated or egregious cases.

Authors must state in their cover letter if a brief version of the study has been published as a conference proceeding. In this case, the Authors should clarify the additional work that has been completed and added to the submitted full report. The proceeding paper must be available to the editorial team in order to judge the relative novelty and contribution of the full paper.

Authors are able to upload their author manuscript to a public-domain preprint server upon submission to NeuroImage. The editorial team will not consider a publicly available (non-peer reviewed) preprint as a prior publication.

**Author contributions**

For transparency, we encourage authors to submit an author statement file outlining their individual contributions to the paper using the relevant CRediT roles: Conceptualization; Data curation; Formal analysis; Funding acquisition; Investigation; Methodology; Project administration; Resources; Software; Supervision; Validation; Visualization; Roles/Writing - original draft; Writing - review & editing. Authorship statements should be formatted with the names of authors first and CRediT role(s) following. 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 be published as a corrigendum.

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PREPARATION

New Submissions
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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.

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.

Please ensure that the manuscript format is optimized for peer review, with 1.5 or double-spacing, page numbers and numbered lines.

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.

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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.

Data and code availability statements
All papers must include a statement regarding the availability of all data used in the study. Where data was downloaded from the public domain, the source and means of obtaining the data should be stated. Data, or metadata (e.g. activation maps, connectivity matrices) that were newly acquired for the present study should ideally be made available to the community via a suitable open repository, preferably at the time of paper submission. If data is not able to be made openly available then a reasonable rationale should be provided, such as ethics or privacy issues of clinical data, or restrictions imposed by the administering institution. If data is only to be made available via a request to the Authors, then the conditions of such a request, and any restrictions - such as the need for a formal data sharing agreement - should be clearly stated.

For further information on data sharing, see "Research data" section below, including possible reporting of research data via Data in Brief.
All papers must also include a statement regarding the availability of software and code used in the study. Where third party code was used, the version and a repository of that code must be stated and cited appropriately. Where new code was developed for the execution of the study, then it should ideally be made available to the community via a suitable open repository, preferably at the time of paper submission.

For ToolBox and Software papers, code must be made available to the Reviewers, via a suitable means, at the time of submission (see further details below).

This statement will appear in the Methods section of the paper and separately with your published article on ScienceDirect information. For more information, visit the Data Statement page.

**TYPES OF PAPERS**

**Original research papers**

Communicating original research papers form the core objective of NeuroImage. Such papers must lie within the journal's scope and strive for the highest standards of innovation, significance, technical accuracy and reproducibility. For further information, see the journal home-page.

**Review papers**

NeuroImage publishes review papers that address and synthesize research areas of outstanding current interest that lie within the scope of the journal. Such papers are usually invited but submitted reviews may be considered. If you plan to submit a review, we encourage you to contact the Editor-in-Chief or a Senior Editor with the relevant expertise, outlining the rationale, intended scope and novelty of the proposed review, prior to submission. Review papers should provide an authoritative and critical perspective. Review papers that are restricted to literature reviews, without broader interpretation and integration, are unlikely to fare well in editorial or peer review.

**Comments and Controversies**

NeuroImage encourages brief commentaries that address issues of outstanding interest to the field. This may include contentious themes of general relevance to the neuroimaging community, or specific issues that relate to recently published papers in the journal. Such commentaries should be brief (less than 1500 words), with a succinct abstract (~100 words), a short biography of relevant references, and up to 2 figures.

Where a commentary addresses a perceived limitation in a recently published (target) article, the tone of the report should be constructive, collegial and address the broader context. Where there is no clear conflict of interest, the Authors of the target article may be invited to appraise the submission for factual errors and will usually be invited to publish a brief (500 word) rejoinder. Authors submitting a commentary on a manuscript should use the protocol under “Submitting a commentary” when uploading their paper.

**ToolBox and Software papers**

NeuroImage encourages submission of Toolbox and Software papers. Such manuscripts should report novel and comprehensive software developments of relevance and significance to the field. Toolbox and Software manuscripts should identify the problem addressed, the computational architecture of the software, and its utility. Similarities and differences (and pros and cons) with respect to existing software/toolboxes should be described, both with respect to the underlying algorithms and the practicalities of usage. The use of the software should be clearly illustrated through application to meaningful real data. Underlying algorithms not previously published and validated should be validated. Manuscripts that report software of very narrow functionality, minor plug-ins for existing toolboxes and extensions of existing algorithms of limited breadth are unlikely to be selected for peer review. Toolboxes that make use of other existing neuroimaging software must be highly transparent about citing this, both in the paper, and when being used. The software should be available for use by the scientific community, ideally including source code for scientific transparency. This needs to be
available at the time of submission, so that Reviewers can test the software and potentially inspect the code. Sample data should be made available, sufficient for replication of all demonstrations of the software that are provided within the manuscript.

**NEW! Registered reports**

NEW! Registered reports (click here for more details). These submissions undergo a two-phase review process in which study rationale and methodology are considered prior to the research being undertaken.

**Technical Notes**

Technical notes are brief reports that focus on specific methodological developments of an experimental, computational or analytic nature. They should be concise, focussed on a specific technical issue and brief (~3000 words and 5 or fewer figures). Nonetheless they should report an innovative technical development of broad significance to the neuroimaging community. Technical notes should include empirical testing or validation of the core technique.

If this technical note focuses exclusively on the communication of a toolbox or software development, then it should be submitted as a Toolbox paper for which code and sample data availability are a prerequisite at the time of submission (see above). Papers of a software/toolbox nature but submitted as a technical note without code and sample data will be triaged without peer review.

**EDITORIAL AND PEER REVIEW PROCESS**

**Peer review**

This journal operates a single blind 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 (and usually three) 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. More information on types of peer review.

**The Neuroscience Peer Review Consortium**

NeuroImage is a member of the Neuroscience Peer Review Consortium (NPRC). The NPRC has been formed to reduce the time expended and, in particular, the duplication of effort by, and associated burden on Reviewers involved in the peer review of original neuroscience research papers. It is an alliance of neuroscience journals that have agreed to accept manuscript reviews from other Consortium journals. By reducing the number of times that a manuscript is reviewed, the Consortium aims to reduce the load on Reviewers and Editors and speed the publication of research results.

If a manuscript has been rejected by another journal in the Consortium, Authors can submit the manuscript to NeuroImage and indicate that the referees’ reports from the first journal be made available to the Editors of NeuroImage. It is the Authors’ decision as to whether or not to indicate that a set of referee's reports should be forwarded from the first journal to NeuroImage. If an author does not wish for this to happen, the manuscript can be submitted to NeuroImage without reference to the previous submission. No information will be exchanged between journals except at the request of Authors. However, if the original referees’ reports suggested that the paper is of high quality, but not suitable for the first journal, then it will often be to an author's advantage to indicate that referees' reports should be made available. Authors should revise the original submission in accordance with the first journal's set of referee reports, reformat the paper to NeuroImage 's specification and submit the paper to NeuroImage with a covering letter describing the changes that have been made, and informing the Editors that the Authors will ask for the referee's reports to be forwarded from the first Consortium journal. The Editors of NeuroImage will use forwarded referees' reports at their discretion. The Editors may use the reports directly to make a decision, or they may request further reviews if they feel such are necessary. Visit http://nprc.incf.org for a list of Consortium journals, as well as further information on the scheme.

**Referees**

Please suggest up to five Reviewers for your paper. These Reviewers should have the appropriate domain-specific expertise. Authors should not suggest Reviewers whom have a clear conflict of interest. A Reviewer has a conflict of interest if they: Have published together within the last five years; Have been co-investigators on the same grant within the last five years; Are currently collaborating
with a view to imminent publication or grant submission; Are in the same department/school/faculty; Have a close social or financial relationship that precludes an unbiased opinion Have a mentor-trainee relationship [e.g. graduate or post-doctoral advisor].

Authors whom suggest conflicted Reviewers, meeting one of these criteria, may have their paper rejected prior to peer review and with no opportunity for peer review. Corresponding Authors should therefore ask all other Authors prior to submission to endorse the list of suggested Reviewers prior to submission.

If a suggested Reviewer does meet one of these criteria but you still wish to nominate them, you must clearly state the potential conflict and the reason for special consideration (for example if you have both been Authors on an unrelated consortia-style paper).

Authors can list opposed Reviewers who may otherwise be selected by the editorial team but meet one of these criteria. Please ensure to state an explicit reason. Editors may choose to ignore this request if the stated reason is simply "conflict of interest".

**Editorial decisions**
Editors may issue one of a number of decisions, in some cases without further external review. Papers that do not fit the journal's mission, competitiveness profile, preparation standards (including required components noted above), may be rejected or recommended for transfer to another journal.

**Article transfer service**: This journal is part of our Article Transfer Service. This means that if the Editor feels your article is more suitable in one of our other participating journals, then you may be asked to consider transferring the article to one of those. If you agree, your article will be transferred automatically on your behalf with no need to reformat. Please note that your article will be reviewed again by the new journal. More information. **Appeals**: If you wish to appeal an decision, you must prepare a formal appeal letter for the Senior Editor who communicated the decision. The appeal should contain a copy of the decision letter and final round of reviews together with a clear argument supporting your appeal. The appeal will be considered by the Senior Editor, together with the Handling Editor and (possible) members of the editorial board or Editor-in-Chief. The senior editor will endeavor to provide you a response to your appeal within 10 working days. **Rejected papers**: The decision to reject a paper is final and no such paper should be resubmitted without prior editorial approval. Papers that are resubmitted without prior approval will be triage rejected without further review. **Reject with option to resubmit**: Papers that have been rejected, but provided with an option to resubmit, should follow the instructions in the decision letter. The expectation of the journal's Editors is that any resubmission will be the result of significant rewriting and additional experimentation or analyses as required to address all Reviewer and Editor concerns. Authors resubmitting previously rejected manuscripts are required to: 1) Identify the manuscript as a resubmitted manuscript in the cover letter to the Editor, including identification of the prior title and manuscript number; 2) Address all Reviewer concerns from the final reviews of the previous, rejected manuscript; and 3) Include a "Response to Reviewers" document that includes those reviews from the previous version and the responses to those reviews. You will also be requested to indicate this status during the submission process in Editorial Manager.

**FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS: REVISED SUBMISSIONS AND OPTIONAL MANUSCRIPT COMPONENTS**

**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: Original research papers**

Original research papers should confirm to the following guidelines. The structure of Review, Comments and ToolBox papers should be adapted to their content.

**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.

**Material and methods**

Provide sufficient details to allow the work to be reproduced by an independent researcher. Methods that are already published should be summarized, and indicated by a reference. If quoting directly from a previously published method, use quotation marks and also cite the source. Any modifications to existing methods should also be described.

**Results**

Results should be clear and concise.

**Discussion**

This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

**Conclusions**

The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

**Appendices**

Appendices can be employed for mathematical derivations or formulations that are important for the paper but are not the primary focus of the paper. Appendices are subject to peer review. 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.

**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
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. Authors can make use of Elsevier's Illustration Services to ensure the best presentation of their images and in accordance with all technical requirements.

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 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point). You can view example Highlights 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:

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