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

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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.
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.

**Data Resource Papers**

NeuroImage publishes Data Resource Papers that report the creation of a new data resource, such as a new imaging-based cohort. These papers will be considered on their importance to the field, including the innovation of the imaging sequences, the size or uniqueness of the subject groups, or the integration of multimodal imaging with other data (phenotypic, genetic etc). NeuroImage will consider clinical cohorts where there is clear innovation in the imaging protocols that are developed and tailored to address unique disease markers and mechanisms. Meta-data from healthy and clinical cohorts may also be considered as a resource, such as a novel atlas. The study should be sufficiently advanced before a resource paper is considered, e.g. with most data already available. A Data Resource paper should demonstrate salient features of the data through example analyses.

A condition for publication of a data resource paper is that the broader community must be able to access the data and address questions of their own interest. Where ethical or governance issues preclude deposition of the data into a public repository, the authors should make clear any conditions that must be met - such as a data access agreement (between resource curators and external scientists applying for the data), proof of local ethics clearance, and other valid and necessary conditions. Data access conditions that are not sufficiently "Open", e.g., which mandate explicit collaboration or co-authorship with the data curators, are unlikely to be chosen for peer review.

A Data Resource Paper should be structured the same as a standard NeuroImage paper, with Introduction, Methods, Results and a brief Discussion. The Introduction should highlight the innovation and importance. The Methods section must describe (1) The type of data, (2) The data format, (3) Acquisition methods and parameters, (4) Any preprocessing and de-identification; (5) The data source location(s); (6) Accessibility and data repository, including instructions for accessing the data; (7) An ethics statement, and (8) Any existing related articles. These details can be largely incorporated in Table form where expedient. The Results section should provide summary cohort statistics and sufficient example analyses to preface the utility of the data. The CRediT author statement and acknowledgement should follow the same principles as standard papers.

**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.

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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].

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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.

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**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.
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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
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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.

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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.

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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.).

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List funding sources in this standard way to facilitate compliance to funder's requirements:

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Follow internationally accepted rules and conventions: use the international system of units (SI). If other units are mentioned, please give their equivalent in SI.

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