**Description**

**Announcement:** From January 2020 *Neuroimage* will become 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
• Sensorimotor Processing
• Communication, Language, and Learning

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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.

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:
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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

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

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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.

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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.

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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. 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.

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Technical notes are brief reports that focus on specific methodological developments of an experimental, computational or analytic nature. They should be concise, focused 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.

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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".

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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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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.
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