



# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES

## AUTHOR INFORMATION PACK

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |                                 |            |
|---|---------------------------------|------------|
| ● | <b>Description</b>              | <b>p.1</b> |
| ● | <b>Impact Factor</b>            | <b>p.1</b> |
| ● | <b>Abstracting and Indexing</b> | <b>p.2</b> |
| ● | <b>Editorial Board</b>          | <b>p.2</b> |
| ● | <b>Guide for Authors</b>        | <b>p.3</b> |



ISSN: 0002-9629

### DESCRIPTION

#### **Mission Statement:**

The mission of *The American Journal of the Medical Sciences (AJMS)* is to support the exchange of knowledge and information and to publish high quality clinical, basic, and education research. As the official Journal of the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation (SSCI), an academic organization, The *AJMS* will support the academic, educational, and medical research activities of the SSCI through the exchange of knowledge, information and ideas at the Southern Regional Meetings. Through these activities, the Journal will actively support mentoring, research activities and the scholarship of future generations of medical academicians.

#### **Vision Statement:**

*The American Journal of the Medical Sciences* will be recognized as a premier medical journal for showcasing basic and clinical medical research, and advances in medical education. *The American Journal of the Medical Sciences* is the official Journal of the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation (SSCI) and is dedicated to supporting the academic agenda of the SSCI. The *AJMS* is committed to supporting and encouraging young investigators, mentoring future generations of these investigators, and promoting their careers in academic medicine.

*The American Journal of The Medical Sciences (AJMS)*, founded in 1820, is the 2nd oldest medical journal in the United States. The *AJMS* is the official journal of the [Southern Society for Clinical Investigation \(SSCI\)](#). The SSCI is dedicated to the advancement of medical research and the exchange of knowledge, information and ideas. Its members are committed to mentoring future generations of medical investigators and promoting careers in academic medicine. The *AJMS* publishes, on a monthly basis, peer-reviewed articles in the field of internal medicine and its subspecialties, which include: Original clinical and basic science investigations Review articles Online Images in the Medical Sciences

Special Features Include: Patient-Centered Focused Reviews History of Medicine The Science of Medical Education

### IMPACT FACTOR

2018: 1.962 © Clarivate Analytics Journal Citation Reports 2019

## ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

---

PubMed/Medline

## EDITORIAL BOARD

---

### *Editor-in-Chief*

**Jesse Roman, MD**, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA

### *Managing Editor*

**Sarah McCann**, Charleston, SC

### *Assistant Managing Editor*

**Christina Halcomb**, Louisville, KY

### *Allergy*

**Richard D. deShazo, MD**, Jackson, MS

**Allen Kaplan, MD**, Charleston, SC

### *Cardiology*

**Martin Alpert**, Columbia, Missouri, USA

**Daniel Villarreal, MD**, Syracuse, NY

### *Dermatology*

**Bruce H. Thiers, MD**, Charleston, SC

### *Endocrinology*

**Samuel Dagogo-Jack, MD**, Memphis, TN

**Guillermo Umpierrez, MD**, Atlanta, GA

### *Gastroenterology*

**C. Mel Wilcox, MD**, Birmingham, AL

**Ira R. Willner, MD**, Charleston, SC

### *General Medicine*

**John R. Feussner, MD**, Charleston, SC

### *Hematology/Oncology*

**Robert T. Means, Jr. MD**, Lexington, KY

**Donald M. Miller, MD, PhD**, Louisville, KY

### *Hypertension*

**L. Gabriel Navar, PhD**, New Orleans, LA

### *Infectious Diseases*

**Monica M. Farley, MD**, Atlanta, GA

**Charles V. Sanders, MD**, New Orleans, LA

### *Nephrology*

**Tibor Fülöp, MD**, Jackson, MS

**Efrain Reisin, MD**, New Orleans, LA

### *Neurology*

**Marian L. Evatt, MD**, Atlanta, GA

**Vanessa K. Hinson, MD**, Charleston, SC

### *Pulmonary/ Critical Care*

**David M. Guidot, MD**, Atlanta, GA

**Kenneth M. Nugent, MD**, Lubbock, TX

### *Rheumatology/Immunology*

**Luis R. Espinoza, MD**, New Orleans, LA

**James C. Oates, MD**, Charleston, SC

## GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

---

### INTRODUCTION

*The American Journal of the Medical Sciences (AJMS)* considers manuscripts reporting original clinical or basic investigations, reviews and special feature topics, as described below. Papers on all internal medicine subspecialties are invited. Please note, submissions considered outside of the scope of the *AJMS*, for example articles focused on a pediatric cohort, basic science studies that are descriptive in nature and/or use a single cell line for study, articles describing radiographic or other specialized procedures/techniques that are not expansive to a wider general medicine audience will not be considered for publication. Clinical studies that include a very small cohort of patients or that address a very regional problem not relevant to our wider audience will not be given high priority. Case reports will not be considered and Patient-Centered Focused Reviews should provide an adequate review of the literature and present novel concepts.

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

#### **Ethics in publishing**

Please see our information pages on [Ethics in publishing](#) and [Ethical guidelines for journal publication](#).

#### **Human rights**

If the work involves the use of human subjects, the author should ensure, with a statement in the beginning of the "Methods" section, 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 human subjects (<http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html>). Authors should include a statement in the beginning of the "Methods" section that informed consent was obtained for experimentation with human subjects, as subject privacy rights must always be observed. A clear statement that the work was approved by the authors institutional review board or other equivalent body should be included.

#### **Animal rights**

If the work involves the use of animal subjects, the author should ensure that the work described has been carried out in accordance with the EU Directive 2010/63/EU for animal experiments ([http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab\\_animals/legislation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/legislation_en.htm)). Authors should include a statement in the beginning of the "Methods" section that the work was sanctioned by the institutions animal use and care committee or equivalent body.

#### **Conflict of interests**

All authors are requested to disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest including any financial, personal or other relationships with other people or organizations within three years of beginning the submitted work that could inappropriately influence, or be perceived to influence, their work. A conflict of Interest statement is to be added to the Title Page. See also <https://www.elsevier.com/conflictsofinterest>. Further information and an example of a Conflict of Interest form can be found at: [http://service.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/286/supporthub/publishing](http://service.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/286/supporthub/publishing).

#### **Submission Declaration**

Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis or as an electronic preprint, see <https://www.elsevier.com/postingpolicy>, 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 including electronically in the same form, in English or in any other language, without the written consent of the copyright-holder. This statement should appear in the Cover Letter.

#### **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').

## 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 an 'Exclusive 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](#).

## Page Charges

Members of the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation will not be charged a publication fee (must be either listed as first or corresponding author). Non-members will be billed a publication page charge of \$40 per printed page, regardless of article type. This is not a submission fee; rather it is a page charge that is required only if your manuscript is accepted for publication.

## Abbreviations and Nomenclature

Should conform to the American Medical Association Manual of Style, 10th ed. Abbreviations should be kept to a minimum in the text and should be defined at first usage. If a term is used fewer than 3 times in an article, do not abbreviate it. Periods are not used after abbreviations (e.g., mm, mL). Generic names are preferred for drugs. Use of SI (Systeme International) units is preferred but not required.

*Elsevier supports responsible sharing*

Find out how you can [share your research](#) published in Elsevier journals.

## PUBLISHING OPTIONS

### Open Access

**The AJMS** offers authors a choice in publishing their work. Your publication choice will have no effect on the peer review process or acceptance of submitted articles.

**Articles Available Through Open Access** Articles are freely available to both subscribers and the wider public with permitted reuse. An Open Access publication fee is payable by authors or their research funder. (<https://www.elsevier.com/about/open-science/open-access>)

**Articles Available Through Subscription** Articles are made available to subscribers to the journal through Elsevier, as well as developing countries and patient groups through our [access programs](#) No Open Access publication fee payable by authors

All articles published Open Access will be immediately and permanently free for everyone to read and download. Permitted reuse is defined by your choice of one of the following Creative Commons user licenses:

*Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY)*

Lets others distribute and copy the article, create extracts, abstracts, and other revised versions, adaptations or derivative works of or from an article (such as a translation), include in a collective work (such as an anthology), text or data mine the article, even for commercial purposes, as long as they credit the author(s), do not represent the author as endorsing their adaptation of the article, and do not modify the article in such a way as to damage the author's honor or reputation.

### *Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND)*

For non-commercial purposes, lets others distribute and copy the article, and to include in a collective work (such as an anthology), as long as they credit the author(s) and provided they do not alter or modify the article.

### *Open Access Fee*

To provide Open Access, this journal has a publication fee which needs to be met by the authors or their research funders for each article published Open Access. The article processing charge for *The American Journal of the Medical Sciences* is \$3,000 for original research and reviewer articles, and \$750 for case reports.

### **General Guidelines**

Please refer to Instructions for Authors for the proper set-up of the article type being submitted. Please refer to Instructions for Authors for the proper set-up of Title Page as these instructions have changed. Manuscripts should be formatted U.S. letter (8 1/2 inch x 11 inch size paper) with 1 inch margins - left, right, top and bottom). Manuscript text should be Calibri, font size 12 point. Manuscript pages should be numbered (bottom right corner). Each new section of the manuscript should start on a new page. The entire manuscript should be double-spaced. There should be 2 spaces between every new paragraph. Tables and/or figures should not be included in the manuscript document. The figure legend, however, should be included in the manuscript file, on its own page following the References. When uploading figures online, in the Description area, please number each. Authors are responsible to provide qualified reviewers. Reviewers should not be from the same institution as any of the authors, nor should they be, in any way, affiliated with the authors. U.S. reviewer names are preferred. Institutional email addresses should also be provided for reviewers.

### **ARTICLE TYPES**

#### *Clinical/Basic Investigation*

The *AJMS* seeks reports of quality original clinical or basic science research. The format of the manuscript text include the following in order: 1) title page; 2) structured abstract; 3) introduction; 4) methods with statistical considerations; 5) results; 6) discussion; 7) acknowledgments; 8) references; 9) figure legends (if applicable). Tables and figures should be uploaded separate from the manuscript document. Word count should not exceed 5,000 (excluding title page, abstract, references, tables, figure legends, and figures).

#### *Review Article*

The *AJMS* is interested in reviews of diseases or related topics of interest to a general medical readership. Following the title page, a list of abbreviations and definitions should be included. An unstructured abstract of less than 150 words is required, and the text that follows should be divided into headed subsections that should include an introduction (noting the clinical importance of the topic); material content; summary; and conclusion. Word count (excluding title page, abstract, references, and tables/figures) should be no more than 10,000 words. There is no limit on the number of references.

#### *Patient-Centered Focused Review*

Occasionally a clinical case presents a situation where the understanding of the basic pathophysiology of a disease has advanced greatly, the implication of the disease in the contemporary world has changed, a new disease presentation or complication has been identified, or new therapies have been brought to bear. Clinical scenarios such as these may allow the presentation of the case as a case report-focused review. These papers present a more detailed re-view of that topic than a case letter (see above), with detailed explanation of the recent discovery and its implications for clinical application. In general, an unstructured abstract of less than 150 words and an illustrative case presentation are followed by a discussion based upon literature review, and a brief conclusion emphasizing the key aspect(s) of the case. These papers should be 2,500-5,000 words (excluding title page, abstract, references and tables/figures), with appropriate support of figures and/or tables.

#### *The Science of Medical Education*

These are short structured reports designed to disseminate descriptions of exciting new ideas and innovations relating to medical education. Such reports might include, but not be limited to, novel methods for teaching and evaluation, innovative curricular design, and investigations of learner/teacher characteristics and abilities impacting education. Educators are encouraged to include reflective discussion of their work, even for projects that were unsuccessful. Word count should be limited to 750 (excluding title page and references), authors to 4, and references to 4. The report

should be organized into 4 sections without an abstract: 1) background/setting; 2) reason the project was performed; 3) description of the project including results; 4) and what was learned from the undertaking. A limited number of tables or figures may be included.

#### *Letter to the Editor*

Submissions to this section are concise communications that are appropriate for the Journal's scope, that address a topic of interest to its readers, or that re-analyze an article previously published in the AJMS or another journal. Submissions should be limited to less than 1,000 words, 5-10 references, and only 1 or 2 figures or tables. No abstract is required.

#### *Online Images in the Medical Sciences*

Submissions for this section are for Online publication and will contain 1 or more images (no more than 3) with a short case presentation, description of the image (without separate figure legend), and a discussion of the relationship of the image(s) to the clinical case. The goal of this series is to display an important or unique pictorial representation of a disease, e.g.: x-ray, biopsy, or photograph. Text is limited to 500 words, the number of references and authors are limited to 3.

### **SUBMISSION PROCESS**

#### **Submitting your article**

Submissions are made online only. Authors will be guided stepwise through the creation and uploading of the various file types (text, tables, figures). The system automatically converts source files to a single PDF file of the article, which is used in the peer-review process. Even though manuscript source files are converted to PDF files at submission for the review process, these source files are needed for further processing after acceptance. All correspondences, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, take place by e-mail removing the need for a paper trail. Please submit all articles via [www.editorialmanager.com/maj](http://www.editorialmanager.com/maj). Manuscript document should include the following (and in this order): 1) Cover Letter, 2) Title Page, 3) Abstract (if applicable, see article types as some do not require Abstracts), 4) Manuscript Text, 5) References, 6) Figure Legends (if applicable).

#### **Page formatting**

The page size configuration should be U.S. letter: 8.5 x 11 inches with 1-inch margins. The text of the manuscript should be typed using Calibri, 12-point font. All text should be double-spaced. There should be 2 spaces between every new paragraph. All pages should be numbered (bottom right corner), including the title page. Each section should begin on a new page.

**Cover Letter.** The cover letter is to be uploaded separately from the manuscript document. Cover letter should include: (1) full title of the paper; (2) clear statement that the paper has not been submitted elsewhere and is not under review by another journal, has not been published previously, except in abstract form; (3) any possible conflicts of interest; and (4) a statement to the effect of "all the authors are aware of and approve the manuscript as submitted to this journal". **Title page.** The title should be concise and informative, limited to 15 words. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems, so avoid abbreviations and formulas. The title should then be followed by a list of author names (first, last), highest level of degrees. Below the author names should be the authors' affiliations and addresses (where the actual work was done). Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name, along with the e-mail address of each author. Below this information should be the Corresponding Author name and complete contact information (to include institution, mailing address, telephone number and email 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. The Title Page should also include a Short Title (7 words or less), Conflict of Interest Statement, a Source of Funding Statement and 3-5 key terms useful in information retrieval [terms from common directories (e.g., MeSH) should be used when possible]. **Abstract.** The abstract should start on a new page. Abstract may be unstructured (less than 150 words) or structured (Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions (less than 250 words); see Article Types above for requirements. The abstract should provide the context or background for the research and should state its purpose, basic procedures (selection of study subjects or laboratory animals, observational and analytical methods), main findings (giving specific effect sizes and their statistical significance, if possible), and principal conclusions. It should emphasize new and important aspects of the study or observations. Abbreviations should be used sparingly. Only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be used, and should be defined upon first usage in the abstract. If the same abbreviation is used again in the main text, it should be re-defined there.

## References

### *Citation in Text*

References should start on a new page and should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. Identify references in text, tables, and legends by superscript Arabic numerals. Avoid using abstracts as references.

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 and a copy of the title page of the relevant article must be submitted.

Authors should obtain written permission and confirmation of accuracy from the source for references that are unpublished observations, articles in press, and personal communications. The permission document should be submitted with the manuscript.

### *Reference Style*

**Text:** Indicate references by number(s) superscripted in text. The actual authors can be referred to, but the reference number(s) must always be given.

Example: '..... as demonstrated.<sup>3,6</sup> Barnaby and Jones<sup>8</sup> obtained a different result ....'

**List:** Number the references in the list in the order in which they appear in the text, then additional references for Tables, and then for Figures, consecutively.

Examples:

Reference to a journal publication:

1. Paivio A, Jansen B, Becker LJ. Comparisons through the mind's eye. *Cognition* 1975;37:635-47.

Reference to a book:

2. Strunk Jr W, White EB. *The elements of style*. 3rd ed. New York: MacMillan; 1979 [chapter 4].

Reference to a chapter in an edited book:

3. Adams MJ, Briscoe BE, Sinha SK. Interface friction and energy dissipation in soft solid processing applications. In: Dowson D, Taylor CM, Childs THC, Godet M, Dalmas G, editors. *Dissipative processes in tribology*. Dowson D, editor. *Tribology series*, vol. 27. Amsterdam: Elsevier; 1994. p. 223-34.

Reference to a URL:

4. Health Care Financing Administration. 1996 statistics at a glance, <http://www.hcfa.gov/stats/stathili.htm>; 1996 [accessed 13.03.12].

Reference to a dataset:

5. Oguro M, Imahiro S, Saito S, et al. Mortality data for Japanese oak wilt disease and surrounding forest compositions, Mendeley Data, v1; 2015. <http://dx.doi.org/10.17632/xwj98nb39r.1>.

## Artwork

### *Electronic Artwork*

Sharp photographic images, no larger than 8 x 10 inches, are preferred, color is encouraged. Photomicrographs should have internal scale markers; symbols, arrows or letters used should contrast with the background. If photographs of people are used, the subjects must be unidentifiable or the subjects must have provided written permission to use the photograph. This permission document should also be submitted with the manuscript. If a figure has been previously published, acknowledge the original source and upload the written permission from the copyright holder to reproduce the material. Permission is required irrespective of authorship or publisher, except for documents in the public domain.

General Points

Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork. Embed the used fonts if the application provides that option. Aim to use the following fonts in your illustrations: Arial, Courier, Times New Roman, Symbol, or use fonts that look similar. Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text. Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files. Provide captions to illustrations separately. Size the illustrations close to the desired dimensions of the printed version. Submit each illustration as a separate file; in the description area, please number each illustration. A detailed guide on electronic artwork is available on our website: <https://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions>. You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.

## Formats

If your electronic artwork is created in a Microsoft Office application (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) then please supply 'as is' in the native document format. Regardless of the application used other than Microsoft Office, 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 all used fonts. TIFF (or JPEG): Color or grayscale photographs (halftones), keep to a minimum of 300 dpi. TIFF (or JPEG): Bitmapped (pure black and white pixels) line drawings, keep to a minimum of 1000 dpi. TIFF (or JPEG): Combinations bitmapped line/halftone (color or grayscale), keep to a minimum of 500 dpi.

Please do NOT:

Supply files that are optimized for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); these typically have a low number of pixels and limited set of colors; 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 on the Web (e.g., ScienceDirect and other sites) in addition to color reproduction in print. For further information on the preparation of electronic artwork, please see <https://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions>.

### *Figures*

Submit each figure, as a separate document, not part of the manuscript. Number figures consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text. Ensure that each figure has a legend. Figure legends should be submitted on a separate page and included in the manuscript document (following the References), not attached to the figure. The 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. When uploading figures, in the description area, each should be numbered.

### *Tables*

Submit each table, double-spaced, as a separate document, not part of the manuscript. Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text and supply a title for each. Place footnotes to tables below the table body and indicate them with superscript lowercase letters. Avoid horizontal and vertical rules. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in tables do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article. When uploading tables, in the description area, each should be numbered.

### *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: <http://www.sciencedirect.com>. 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. For more detailed instructions please visit our artwork instruction pages at <https://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions>.

### **REVISION PROCESS**

For manuscripts requiring revision for continued consideration, the corresponding author will receive an email with comments/suggestions from the reviewers/editors. The author should address each suggestion in sequence and comment in this sequence in a "Response to Reviewers" letter. For example,

*"Reviewer 1, Comment 1: Clarification of recruitment process".* We have added text on how patients were recruited into the study. Page 3, Para 2.

Or

*"Reviewer 2, Comment 3: Additional data needed on subjects' concurrent diseases."* Since this study was retrospective with study data collected from existing databases, we are unable to add information on concurrent diseases. We have added a statement in our Discussion (Page 15, Para 1) noting this limitation of our work and how differences among patients could have affected our results."

The revised manuscript, along with the "Response to Reviewers" letter, should then be uploaded as directed.

Authors should include both a plain and highlighted version of the revised manuscript. All highlighted text changes should be made in red. If responding to more than 1 set of reviewer comments, author should choose a 2nd color which to highlight changes made based on the 2nd reviewer's comments.

#### *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.

### **AFTER ACCEPTANCE**

#### **Use of the Digital Object Identifier**

The Digital Object Identifier (DOI) may be used to cite and link to electronic documents. The DOI consists of a unique alpha-numeric character string which is assigned to a document by the publisher upon the initial electronic publication. The assigned DOI never changes. Therefore, it is an ideal medium for citing a document, particularly 'Articles in press' because they have not yet received their full bibliographic information. Example of a correctly given DOI (in URL format; here an article in the journal Physics Letters B: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.physletb.2010.09.059>. When using a DOI to create links to documents on the web, the DOIs are guaranteed never to change.

#### **Online Proof Correction**

Once accepted, corresponding authors will receive an e-mail with a link to the online proofing system, allowing annotation and correction of proofs online. The environment is similar to MS Word: in addition to editing text, authors 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 authors to directly type corrections, eliminating the potential introduction of errors.

If preferred, authors can still choose to annotate and upload edits on the PDF version. All instructions for proofing will be given in the e-mail Elsevier send to authors, including alternative methods to the online version and PDF.

Elsevier will do everything possible to get the 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 them in one communication. Please check carefully before replying, as inclusion of any subsequent corrections cannot be guaranteed. Proofreading is the responsibility of the author.

### **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. Both corresponding and co-authors may order offprints at any time via Elsevier's [Author Services](#). Corresponding authors who have published their article gold open access do not receive a Share Link as their final published version of the article is available open access on ScienceDirect and can be shared through the article DOI link.

### **Author Inquiries**

For inquiries relating to the submission of articles (including electronic submission) please visit this journal's homepage. For detailed instructions on the preparation of electronic artwork, please visit <https://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions>. Contact details for questions arising after acceptance of an article, especially those relating to proofs, will be provided by the publisher. Authors can track accepted articles at <https://www.elsevier.com/trackarticle>. Authors can also check Author FAQs at <https://www.elsevier.com/authorFAQ> and/or contact Customer Support via <https://service.elsevier.com>.

© Copyright 2018 Elsevier | <https://www.elsevier.com>