CANCER LETTERS
An international journal providing a forum for original and pertinent contributions in cancer research

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Description p.1
- Audience p.1
- Impact Factor p.1
- Abstracting and Indexing p.2
- Editorial Board p.2
- Guide for Authors p.4

DESCRIPTION

Cancer Letters is an international journal that considers full-length articles and Mini Reviews in the broad area of basic and translational oncology. Additionally, Special Issues highlight topical areas in cancer research. Basic areas of interest to a broad readership of Cancer Letters include the molecular genetics and cell biology of cancer, radiation biology, molecular pathology, hormones and cancer, viral oncology, metastasis, and chemoprevention. The journal places emphasis on experimental therapeutics, particularly targeted therapies for personalized cancer medicine.

Cancer Letters now offers online submission for authors. Please submit manuscripts at http://www.ees.elsevier.com/can and follow the instructions on the site.

Benefits to authors
We also provide many author benefits, such as free PDFs, a liberal copyright policy, special discounts on Elsevier publications and much more. Please click here for more information on our author services.

Please see our Guide for Authors for information on article submission. If you require any further information or help, please visit our support pages: http://service.elsevier.com.

AUDIENCE

Cancer researchers, toxicologists, pathologists, endocrinologists, virologists, molecular, cell and tumor biologists, radiotherapists, epidemiologists.

IMPACT FACTOR

2018: 6.508 © Clarivate Analytics Journal Citation Reports 2019
ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

BIOSIS Citation Index
Chemical Abstracts
Current Contents - Life Sciences
Embase
PubMed/Medline
Oncology Information Service
Pascal Francis
Scopus

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief
Manfred Schwab, German Cancer Research Centre, Heidelberg, Germany

Associate Editor (Shanghai Office)
Min Li, Oklahoma City, United States

Editorial Board (Shanghai and Tianjin Editorial Offices)
Ceshi Chen, China
Jing Fang, Shanghai, China
Jianren Gu, Shanghai, China
Xiaomao Guo, Shanghai, China
Jie He, Beijing, China
He Ren, Tianjin, China
Changqing Su, Shanghai, China
Hong-Yang Wang, Shanghai, China
Xianjun Yu, Shanghai, China

Associate Editors
Hasan Mukhtar, University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Dermatology, Madison, Wisconsin, United States
Toshikazu Ushijima, National Cancer Center Research Institute, Tokyo, Japan

Editorial Board
Maria Blanco-Prieto, Pamplona, Spain
Dan Cacșire Castillo-Tong, Wien, Austria
Andrew Chan, Shatin, Hong Kong
Jason Chen, New York, United States
Francois Claret, Houston, Texas, United States
Yan Dong, Louisiana, United States
Deilson Elgui de Oliveira, BOTUCATU, Brazil
Michael Freeman, Tennessee, United States
Simone Fulda, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Alexandros Georgakilas, Greenville, North Carolina, United States
Sanjay Gupta, Cleveland, Ohio, United States
Monika Hämmerle, Halle, Germany
David Hoskin, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
Chuang-Kuei Huang, Providence, Rhode Island, United States
Honbo Huang, Chengdu, Sichuan, China
Pintong Huang, Hangzhou, China
Evgeny Imyanitov, Sankt Petersburg, Russian Federation
Shuai Jiang, California, United States
Dean Johnston, New York, New York, United States
Miran Kim, Providence, Rhode Island, United States
Guideng Li, Suzhou, China
Min Li, Oklahoma City, United States
Zhihua Liu, Beijing, China
Xiao-Jie Lu, Nanjing, China
Rekha Mehta, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Dan Peer, Tel Aviv, Israel
Yong Peng, Chengdu, Sichuan, China
Suhkneung Pyo, Suwon, Korea, Republic of
Liang Qiao, Westmead, New South Wales, Australia
Pranela Rameshwar, Newark, New Jersey, United States
Gautam Sethi, Singapore, Singapore
Seema Singh, Mobile, Alabama, United States
Shree Ram Singh, Frederick, Maryland, United States
Yong-Sang Song, Seoul, Korea, Republic of
Gloria H. Su, New York, New York, United States
Young-Joon Surh, Seoul, Korea, Republic of
David Symer, Houston, Texas, United States
Gerald Verhaegh, Nijmegen, Netherlands
Mariano Viapiano, Syracuse, New York, United States
Robert C.A.M. van Waardenburg, Birmingham, Alabama, United States
Kai Wang, Hangzhou, China
Deborah White, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia
Eddy Yang, Birmingham, Alabama, United States
Shyng-Shiou Yuan, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Andrey Zamyatnin, Moscow, Russian Federation
Hao Zhang, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China
Guoguang Zheng, Xicheng District, China
Shengtao Zhou, Chengdu, Sichuan, China
GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

Types of Papers

Cancer Letters is an international journal that considers full length articles and Mini Reviews in the broad area of basic and translational oncology. Additionally, special issues highlight topical areas in cancer research. Areas of interest to the broad readership of Cancer Letters include the molecular genetics and cell biology of cancer, radiation biology, molecular pathology, hormones and cancer, viral oncology, metastasis, chemoprevention and targeted therapies for personalized cancer medicine. Noncoding RNA (ncRNA) and its role in different types of human cancer has been a highlight topic for Cancer Letters over the past years, manuscripts in this area are particularly welcome.

Mini Reviews

Authors of Mini Reviews must be a scientific authority for the topic of the manuscript, they must document their relevant own experience for the area by listing their own relevant original publications in the cover letter. Manuscript submissions that fail to list relevant own original publications in the cover letter will be returned to authors. All Mini reviews should be about 5000 words and should not include more than 100 references.

Cancer Letters operates a single blind review process. All original papers should be between 3000 and 3500 words and will be initially assessed by the Editors for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. More information on types of peer review.

The Editorial Office has adopted a rating system, in order to establish which manuscripts will be sent out for peer review. The rating system allows the Editor to assess the manuscript in terms of the following criteria:

* Presentation
* Style and structure
* Quality of English language
* Whether the topic being covered is within the aims and scope of the journal
* The manuscript's scientific novelty together with how it compares to other manuscripts submitted on similar topics.

Those manuscripts which are judged as being eligible for consideration by the Editors will be subject to peer review.

Page charges

This journal has no page charges.

Submission Checklist

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

Ensure that the following items are present:

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

All necessary files have been uploaded:

Manuscript:
• Include keywords
• All figures (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)

Supplemental files (where applicable)
Further considerations
• Manuscript has been 'spell checked' and 'grammar checked' and meets a level of English proficiency consistent with English-language journals
• All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text, and vice versa
• Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)
• Relevant declarations of interest have been made
• Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
• Referee suggestions and contact details provided, based on journal requirements

For further information, visit our Support Center.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

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

Ethics and Procedures
The editors and publisher of this Journal believe that there are fundamental principles underlying scholarly or professional publishing. While this may not amount to a formal "code of conduct", these fundamental principles with respect to the authors' paper are that the paper should:
* be the authors' own original work, which has not been previously published elsewhere
* reflect the authors' own research and analysis and do so in a truthful and complete manner,
* properly credit the meaningful contributions of co-authors and co-researchers,
* not be submitted to more than one journal for consideration (ensuring it is not under redundant simultaneous peer review), and
* be appropriately placed in the context of prior and existing research.

Of equal importance are ethical guidelines dealing with research methods and research funding, including issues dealing with informed consent, research subject privacy rights, conflicts of interest, and sources of funding. While it may not be possible to draft a "code" that applies adequately to all instances and circumstances, we believe it useful to outline our expectations of authors and procedures that the Journal will employ in the event of questions concerning author conduct. Relevant conflicts of interest should be disclosed (see https://www.elsevier.com/conflictsofinterest).

Studies involving experiments with animals must state that their care was in accordance with institution guidelines.

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.

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.

Work on human beings that is submitted to Cancer Letters should comply with the principles laid down in the Declaration of Helsinki; Recommendations guiding physicians in biomedical research involving human subjects. Adopted by the 18th World Medical Assembly, Helsinki, Finland, June 1964, amended by the 29th World Medical Assembly, Tokyo, Japan, October 1975, the 35th World Medical Assembly, Venice, Italy, October 1983, and the 41st World Medical Assembly, Hong Kong, September 1989. The
manuscript should contain a statement that the work has been approved by the appropriate ethical committees related to the institution(s) in which it was performed and that subjects gave informed consent to the work. Studies involving experiments with animals must state that their care was in accordance with institution guidelines. Patients' and volunteers' names, initials, and hospital numbers should not be used.

**Guidelines for Formatting Gene and Protein Names**

Please refer to the following Guidelines to ensure correct formatting for Gene and Protein Names.

**Reliability of results based on cultivated animal and human cells**

Authors must state in their manuscript how the identity of the cell line was confirmed.

**Declaration of interest**

All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential competing interests include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. Authors must disclose any interests in two places: 1. A summary declaration of interest statement in the title page file (if double-blind) or the manuscript file (if single-blind). If there are no interests to declare then please state this: 'Declarations of interest: none'. This summary statement will be ultimately 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.

**Submission of Manuscripts**

Manuscripts should be submitted online at https://www.editorialmanager.com/CANLET/default.aspx and the instructions on the site should be closely followed. Authors may submit manuscripts and track their progress through to final decision.

Authors unable to submit online should contact the Editorial Office:

Cancer Letters Editorial Office
Elsevier Ltd
The Boulevard
Langford Lane
Oxford OX5 1GB
U.K.
Tel : +44 (0)1865 843203
Fax : +44 (0)1865 843992
Email :cancerletters@elsevier.com

Submission of an article to Cancer Letters 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), 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 any other language, without the written consent of the Publisher.

Manuscripts should be submitted in English. Authors' full names, academic or professional affiliations, and addresses should be included on the first page. All authors should have made substantial contributions to all of the following: (1) the conception and design of the study, or the acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, (2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content, (3) final approval of the version to be submitted. The name, postal address, email address, phone and FAX numbers of the corresponding author should be provided. Authors should supply the names, institutional mailing address and institutional email addresses of 3 to 5 potential reviewers for their manuscript and indicate why each reviewer would be competent for reviewing the manuscript. To provide an international perspective, no more than 2 potential reviewers should be from the same country. Please do not suggest reviewers from your own institution, previous or current collaborators or Editorial Board members. Please do not contact any reviewers that you have
suggested. Without reviewer suggestions, processing of the manuscript may be delayed. Note that the editor retains the sole right to decide whether or not the suggested reviewers are used. For more details, visit our Support site.

Online submission guidelines can be followed at http://www.ees.elsevier.com/can. Via this website you will be guided stepwise through the creation and uploading of the various files. The system automatically converts source files into a single Adobe Acrobat PDF version of the article, which is used in the peer review process. Please note that although manuscript source files are converted to PDF at submission for the review process, these source files are needed for further processing after acceptance. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor’s decision and requests for revision, takes place by email and via the author’s homepage, removing the need for a hard-copy paper trail.

Submission declaration and verification
Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract, a published lecture or academic thesis, see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' for more information), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically without the written consent of the copyright-holder. To verify originality, your article may be checked by the originality detection service Crossref Similarity Check.

Preprints
Please note that preprints can be shared anywhere at any time, in line with Elsevier's sharing policy. Sharing your preprints e.g. on a preprint server will not count as prior publication (see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' for more information).

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').

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

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.

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.

Elsevier supports responsible sharing
Find out how you can share your research published in Elsevier journals.

Role of the funding source
You are requested to identify who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article and to briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; and in the decision to submit the article for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement then this should be stated.

Funding body agreements and policies
Elsevier has established a number of agreements with funding bodies which allow authors to comply with their funder's open access policies. Some funding bodies will reimburse the author for the gold open access publication fee. Details of existing agreements are available online.

After acceptance, open access papers will be published under a noncommercial license. For authors requiring a commercial CC BY license, you can apply after your manuscript is accepted for publication.

Open access
This journal offers authors a choice in publishing their research:

Subscription
• Articles are made available to subscribers as well as developing countries and patient groups through our universal access programs.
• No open access publication fee payable by authors.
• The Author is entitled to post the accepted manuscript in their institution’s repository and make this public after an embargo period (known as green Open Access). The published journal article cannot be shared publicly, for example on ResearchGate or Academia.edu, to ensure the sustainability of peer-reviewed research in journal publications. The embargo period for this journal can be found below.

Gold open access
• Articles are freely available to both subscribers and the wider public with permitted reuse.
• A gold open access publication fee is payable by authors or on their behalf, e.g. by their research funder or institution.

Regardless of how you choose to publish your article, the journal will apply the same peer review criteria and acceptance standards.

For gold open access articles, permitted third party (re)use is defined by the following Creative Commons user licenses:

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.

The gold open access publication fee for this journal is USD 3550, excluding taxes. Learn more about Elsevier's pricing policy: https://www.elsevier.com/openaccesspricing.

Green open access
Authors can share their research in a variety of different ways and Elsevier has a number of green open access options available. We recommend authors see our open access page for further information. Authors can also self-archive their manuscripts immediately and enable public access from their institution’s repository after an embargo period. This is the version that has been accepted for
publication and which typically includes author-incorporated changes suggested during submission, peer review and in editor-author communications. Embargo period: For subscription articles, an appropriate amount of time is needed for journals to deliver value to subscribing customers before an article becomes freely available to the public. This is the embargo period and it begins from the date the article is formally published online in its final and fully citable form. Find out more.

This journal has an embargo period of 12 months.

Elsevier Researcher Academy
Researcher Academy is a free e-learning platform designed to support early and mid-career researchers throughout their research journey. The "Learn" environment at Researcher Academy offers several interactive modules, webinars, downloadable guides and resources to guide you through the process of writing for research and going through peer review. Feel free to use these free resources to improve your submission and navigate the publication process with ease.

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 http://webshop.elsevier.com/languageediting/ or visit our customer support site https://service.elsevier.com for more information. Authors should be aware that papers written in poor English are more likely to be rejected.

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.

Submit your article
Please submit your article via http://ees.elsevier.com/can/.

Reviewer Suggestions
Authors should supply the names, institutional mailing address and institutional email addresses of 5 potential reviewers for their manuscript and indicate why each reviewer would be competent for reviewing the manuscript. To provide an international perspective, no more than 2 potential reviewers should be from the same country. Please do not suggest reviewers from your own institution, previous or current collaborators or Editorial Board members. Please do not contact any reviewers that you have suggested. Without reviewer suggestions, processing of the manuscript may be delayed. Note that the editor retains the sole right to decide whether or not the suggested reviewers are used. For more details, visit our Support site.

PREPARATION

Preparation of Manuscript
Please strive for a professionally prepared manuscript of high technical and scientific quality. Many reviewers are overwhelmed with review requests. Our experience is that they are more likely to agree to review a well prepared manuscript.

Articles should be submitted in the following order: Title, Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements, References.

Please number the headings in your manuscript as follows:
1. Introduction; 2. Materials and methods; 3. Results; 4. Discussion, etc.; with further numbering for subheadings (e.g. 1.1, 1.2, etc) as required.

All submissions must be accompanied by a covering letter in which the significance of the results is outlined in no more than 5 sentences.

Title must address the main result of the study and preferably not exceed 185 characters, including spaces. Extraneous words such as 'study' 'investigation', 'analysis', etc, should be avoided.
Acknowledgements. All contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship as defined above should be listed in an acknowledgements section. Examples of those who might be acknowledged include a person who provided purely technical help, writing assistance, or a departmental chair who provided only general support. Authors should disclose whether they had any writing assistance and identify the entity that paid for that assistance.

**Essential title page information**

- **Title.** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems and careful thought should be given to them. Titles should be informative, they should present the main result(s), best will be to design the title as a take-home message. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible and avoid addressing simply what you have done, such as "Profiling of?.", "Analysis of?.", also "Effect of?.", "Role of?.", "Correlation of?.", "Association of?." "Modulation of?.", or titles with a question mark.

- **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.

**Note - in some instances, such as ethical investigations or corrigenda, the Editorial Team may ask for all authors' contact details. It will be the responsibility of the corresponding author to provide this information and ensure it is correct and up to date.**

- **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.

Note: If there is more than one corresponding author, please mention the main corresponding author and followed by additional corresponding authors in the Title page

**Highlights**

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

Highlights should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point).

**Abstract**

A concise and factual abstract is required not exceeding 185 words. 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.

**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, therefore please try to avoid duplicating words which have already appeared in the title of the paper.
**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**
All contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship as defined above should be listed in an acknowledgements section at the end of the article before the references. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

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

Funding: This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health [grant numbers xxxx, yyyy]; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA [grant number zzzz]; and the United States Institutes of Peace [grant number aaaa].

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

If no funding has been provided for the research, please include the following sentence:

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

**Artwork**

*Electronic artwork*

**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 published version.
- Submit each illustration as a separate file.
- Ensure that color images are accessible to all, including those with impaired color vision. A detailed guide on electronic artwork is available.

You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.

**Formats**
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 & white pixels) line drawings, keep to a minimum of 1000 dpi.
- **TIFF (or JPEG):** Combinations bitmapped line/half-tone (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 online (e.g., ScienceDirect and other sites) regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in color in the printed version. **For color reproduction in print, you will receive information regarding the costs from Elsevier after receipt of your accepted article.** Please indicate your preference for color: in print or online only. Further information on the preparation of electronic artwork.

**Illustration services**
Elsevier's Author Services offers Illustration Services to authors preparing to submit a manuscript but concerned about the quality of the images accompanying their article. Elsevier's expert illustrators can produce scientific, technical and medical-style images, as well as a full range of charts, tables and graphs. Image 'polishing' is also available, where our illustrators take your image(s) and improve them to a professional standard. Please visit the website to find out more.

**Figure captions**
Ensure that each illustration has a caption. Supply captions separately, not attached to the figure. A caption should comprise a brief title (not on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum but explain all symbols and abbreviations used.

**Tables**
Tables should be typed, with double spacing, each on a separate sheet, numbered consecutively with Roman numerals, and should only contain horizontal lines. A short descriptive heading should be given above each table, and any footnotes and explanations underneath.

**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.


**Reference management software**
Most Elsevier journals have their reference template available in many of the most popular reference management software products. These include all products that support Citation Style Language styles, such as Mendeley. Using citation plug-ins from these products, authors only need to select the appropriate journal template when preparing their article, after which citations and bibliographies will be automatically formatted in the journal's style. If no template is yet available for this journal, please follow the format of the sample references and citations as shown in this Guide. If you use reference management software, please ensure that you remove all field codes before submitting the electronic manuscript. More information on how to remove field codes from different reference management software.

Users of Mendeley Desktop can easily install the reference style for this journal by clicking the following link:
http://open.mendeley.com/use-citation-style/cancer-letters
When preparing your manuscript, you will then be able to select this style using the Mendeley plug-ins for Microsoft Word or LibreOffice.

**Reference formatting**
There are no strict requirements on reference formatting at submission. References can be in any style or format as long as the style is consistent. Where applicable, author(s) name(s), journal title/book title, chapter title/article title, year of publication, volume number/book chapter and the article number or pagination must be present. Use of DOI is highly encouraged. The reference style used by the journal will be applied to the accepted article by Elsevier at the proof stage. Note that missing data will be highlighted at proof stage for the author to correct. If you do wish to format the references yourself they should be arranged according to the following examples:
Please ensure to provide the complete author names in reference list. The journal style will be applied at proof stage.

**Journal abbreviations source**  
Journal names should be abbreviated according to the List of Title Word Abbreviations.

**Video**  
Elsevier accepts video material and animation sequences to support and enhance your scientific research. Authors who have video or animation files that they wish to submit with their article are strongly encouraged to include links to these within the body of the article. This can be done in the same way as a figure or table by referring to the video or animation content and noting in the body text where it should be placed. All submitted files should be properly labeled so that they directly relate to the video file's content. In order to ensure that your video or animation material is directly usable, please provide the file in one of our recommended file formats with a preferred maximum size of 150 MB per file, 1 GB in total. Video and animation files supplied will be published online in the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including ScienceDirect. Please supply 'stills' with your files: you can choose any frame from the video or animation or make a separate image. These will be used instead of standard icons and will personalize the link to your video data. For more detailed instructions please visit our video instruction pages. Note: since video and animation cannot be embedded in the print version of the journal, please provide text for both the electronic and the print version for the portions of the article that refer to this content.

**Data visualization**  
Include interactive data visualizations in your publication and let your readers interact and engage more closely with your research. Follow the instructions here to find out about available data visualization options and how to include them with your article.

**Supplementary material**  
Supplementary material such as applications, images and sound clips, can be published with your article to enhance it. Submitted supplementary items are published exactly as they are received (Excel or PowerPoint files will appear as such online). Please submit your material together with the article and supply a concise, descriptive caption for each supplementary file. If you wish to make changes to supplementary material during any stage of the process, please make sure to provide an updated file. Do not annotate any corrections on a previous version. Please switch off the 'Track Changes' option in Microsoft Office files as these will appear in the published version.

Note: If 'Editing services' or 'Language editing certificate' is required, please ensure to submit under 'additional files' in EES. Do not upload under supplementary files as this would appear online.

**Research data**  
This journal encourages and enables you to share data that supports your research publication where appropriate, and enables you to interlink the data with your published articles. Research data refers to the results of observations or experimentation that validate research findings. To facilitate reproducibility and data reuse, this journal also encourages you to share your software, code, models, algorithms, protocols, methods and other useful materials related to the project.

Below are a number of ways in which you can associate data with your article or make a statement about the availability of your data when submitting your manuscript. If you are sharing data in one of these ways, you are encouraged to cite the data in your manuscript and reference list. Please refer to the “References” section for more information about data citation. For more information on depositing, sharing and using research data and other relevant research materials, visit the research data page.

**Data linking**  
If you have made your research data available in a data repository, you can link your article directly to the dataset. Elsevier collaborates with a number of repositories to link articles on ScienceDirect with relevant repositories, giving readers access to underlying data that gives them a better understanding of the research described.

There are different ways to link your datasets to your article. When available, you can directly link your dataset to your article by providing the relevant information in the submission system. For more information, visit the database linking page.

For supported data repositories a repository banner will automatically appear next to your published article on ScienceDirect.
In addition, you can link to relevant data or entities through identifiers within the text of your manuscript, using the following format: Database: xxxx (e.g., TAIR: AT1G01020; CCDC: 734053; PDB: 1XFN).

**Mendeley Data**
This journal supports Mendeley Data, enabling you to deposit any research data (including raw and processed data, video, code, software, algorithms, protocols, and methods) associated with your manuscript in a free-to-use, open access repository. During the submission process, after uploading your manuscript, you will have the opportunity to upload your relevant datasets directly to Mendeley Data. The datasets will be listed and directly accessible to readers next to your published article online.

For more information, visit the [Mendeley Data for journals page](https://mendeley.com/).

**Data statement**
To foster transparency, we encourage you to state the availability of your data in your submission. This may be a requirement of your funding body or institution. If your data is unavailable to access or unsuitable to post, you will have the opportunity to indicate why during the submission process, for example by stating that the research data is confidential. The statement will appear with your published article on ScienceDirect. For more information, visit the [Data Statement page](https://www.elsevier.com/authorcentre/).  

**AFTER ACCEPTANCE**

**Online proof correction**
Corresponding authors will receive an e-mail with a link to our online proofing system, allowing annotation and correction of proofs online. The environment is similar to MS Word: in addition to editing text, you can also comment on figures/tables and answer questions from the Copy Editor. Web-based proofing provides a faster and less error-prone process by allowing you to directly type your corrections, eliminating the potential introduction of errors.

If preferred, you can still choose to annotate and upload your edits on the PDF version. All instructions for proofing will be given in the e-mail we send to authors, including alternative methods to the online version and PDF. We will do everything possible to get your article published quickly and accurately. Please use this proof only for checking the typesetting, editing, completeness and correctness of the text, tables and figures. Significant changes to the article as accepted for publication will only be considered at this stage with permission from the Editor. It is important to ensure that all corrections are sent back to us in one communication. Please check carefully before replying, as inclusion of any subsequent corrections cannot be guaranteed. Proofreading is solely your responsibility.

**Offprints**
The corresponding author will, at no cost, receive a customized Share Link providing 50 days free access to the final published version of the article on ScienceDirect. The Share Link can be used for sharing the article via any communication channel, including email and social media. For an extra charge, paper offprints can be ordered via the offprint order form which is sent once the article is accepted for publication. Both corresponding and co-authors may order offprints at any time via Elsevier's [Author Services](https://www.elsevier.com/authorcentre/). 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**
Visit the [Elsevier Support Center](https://support.elsevier.com) to find the answers you need. Here you will find everything from Frequently Asked Questions to ways to get in touch.

You can also check the status of your submitted article or find out when your accepted article will be published.

© Copyright 2018 Elsevier | [https://www.elsevier.com](https://www.elsevier.com)