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INTRODUCTION

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In addition to research Communications and Articles, the journal welcomes submission of Methods Notes Databases/ Web Servers, Brevia, Perspectives and Reviews

Research areas include but are not limited to: DNA replication, repair and recombination, gene expression, epigenetics and chromatin structure and function, RNA processing, functions of noncoding RNAs, transcription Structure, chemistry, processing and function of biologically important macromolecules and complexes Biomolecular interactions, systems biology Computational biology Translation, protein folding, processing and degradation Sorting, spatiotemporal organization, trafficking, signal transduction and intracellular signaling Membrane processes, cell surface proteins and cell-cell interactions Molecular basis of disease Methodological advances, both experimental and theoretical, including databases

The Journal will not, as a rule, publish papers which fall outside the areas defined above.

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The *Journal* aims to publish novel and significant research in the general areas of molecular genetics and structural biology. Acceptance of papers for publication in the *Journal* is at the discretion of the Editors. All manuscripts are reviewed initially by the Editorial Board and only those papers that meet the scientific and editorial standards of the *Journal* will be sent for outside review. Authors may indicate in their cover letter a suitable Editor to whom the paper could be allocated. However, the *Journal* reserves the right to reallocate manuscripts to the most appropriate Editor.

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As soon as the paper has been reviewed, the corresponding author will receive a decision letter from the Editor. Revised manuscripts and correspondence concerning such manuscripts should be addressed to the Editor at the address indicated on the decision letter.

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The Board will editorially reject papers, without outside review, if in their opinion the paper falls outside the scope of papers normally published by JMB, if the paper lacks originality, or if the paper fails to meet expected technical standards. The following specific points are brought to the attention of authors:
(a) **Originality.** The Board will reject those papers that it considers to provide only slight or incremental advances over previously published material.

(b) **Methodology papers.** Papers that deal only with new methods and do not contain important new results discovered by means of these methods will be accepted only when the general applicability and interest of the method are immediately obvious and clearly documented in the manuscript. Improvements on existing methods will in general be viewed as appropriate to more specialized journals unless it can be shown that they lead to important new insights that were not accessible with current technologies.

(c) **Sequences.** Papers describing new members of a gene family will not ordinarily be accepted unless they contain results of particular importance for studies of evolution or of the function of the gene. In general, papers describing the cloning and sequencing of new genes will be acceptable only if there is experimental evidence for the function of the gene.

(d) **Structural studies.** Communications describing preliminary crystallographic data (crystallization conditions and diffraction pattern and space group) will not, in general, be accepted. Papers of this type will be considered only if, in the judgment of the Editorial Board, they contain results of exceptional interest and importance. Low-resolution structural studies will be acceptable only if they have clear biological implications and exhibit features of special interest. Papers describing structures of mutant proteins are appropriate if the mutations have been successfully designed to provide new insights into structural principles or biological function. Similar criteria apply to structures of proteins from variant species. In the particular case of unliganded antibody Fab fragments, papers would not normally be acceptable unless they provide novel structural or biological insight.

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(h) **Preprints.** Authors are required to disclose in their cover letter if their manuscript has been previously posted on a preprint server.

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Papers dealing with amino acid sequences of proteins or with nucleotide sequences must carry a statement that the data have been deposited with an appropriate data bank, e.g., the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) or GenBank Data Libraries. The data base accession number must be given at the end of the Materials and Methods section of the manuscript under the separate heading 'Accession numbers'. For example: Coordinates and structure factors have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank with accession number 2XYZ. Lengthy nucleotide sequences will be published only if, in the judgement of the Editorial Board, these results are of general interest and importance.

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For papers describing structures of biological macromolecules, the atomic coordinates and the related experimental data (structure factor amplitudes/intensities and/or NMR restraints) must be deposited at a member site of the Worldwide Protein Data Bank (http://www.wwpdb.org): RCSB PDB (http://www.pdb.org), MSD-EBI (http://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/), PDBj (http://www.pdbj.org), or BMRB (http://www.bmrb.wisc.edu). Manuscripts must carry a statement that coordinates and structure factors (or NMR restraints) have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank. The accession number(s) must be cited in the manuscript at the end of the Materials and Methods section. Authors must agree to release the atomic coordinates and experimental data immediately upon publication. Small angle scattering (Small angle X-ray and neutron scattering (SAXS and SANS)) data and structural models must be deposited at SASBDB (https://www.sasbdb.org) prior to submission. The database accession numbers must be cited in the manuscript and authors must agree to release the experimental data and structural models immediately upon publication.

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**Cell lines**

In keeping with NIH guidelines, the Journal considers it to be good practice for cultured cell lines to be authenticated. A description of the methods used to authenticate cells should be included in the Materials and Methods section. Authors are expected to check that cell lines used in their experiments are free from mycoplasma infections.

**Types of paper**

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**Communications** are brief papers that make a specific well-documented point. In general, a Communication should include no more than four figures and tables. The text will be continuous, with technical and methodological detail printed in the legend to the tables and figures.

**Reviews** are scholarly and balanced accounts of progress in fields of interest to the general reader. Reviews should be no longer than 12 printed pages and with no more than 12 figures and tables. Authorship is normally by invitation: an Editor should be consulted in advance by anyone wishing to submit an unsolicited Review.

**Perspectives** are brief reviews that present a sharply focused view of a rapidly advancing area of research. Authorship is normally by invitation: the Editor-in-Chief or Scientific Editor should be consulted in advance by anyone wishing to submit an unsolicited Perspective.

**Brevia** are brief notes that report a specific well-documented result. Brevia are limited to a single page, including references and captions, and contain only one figure or table. Details of methods must be provided as Supplemental Material.

**Methods Notes** report novel methods of immediate and general interest and applicability. Methods Notes are limited to 5 pages, including references and captions, with a maximum of 3 displayed items (figures or tables). Additional details required to implement the new method must be provided as Supplemental Material. Preliminary enquiries about the suitability of a submission to this section are encouraged.

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