

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Biophysical Journal (BJ) is to publish the highest quality biophysical research that elucidates important biological, chemical, or physical mechanisms and provides quantitative insight into fundamental problems at the molecular, cellular, systems, and whole-organism levels. Articles published in BJ should be of general interest to quantitative biologists, regardless of their research specialty.

SCOPE

BJ publishes original articles, letters, and perspectives on important problems in modern biophysics. The articles should be written so as to be of interest to a broad community of biophysicists. BJ welcomes experimental studies that employ quantitative physical approaches for the study of biological systems, including or spanning scales from molecule to whole organism. Experimental studies of a purely descriptive or phenomenological nature, with no theoretical or mechanistic underpinning, are not appropriate for publication in BJ. Theoretical studies should offer new insights into the understanding of experimental results or suggest new experimentally testable hypotheses. Articles reporting significant methodological or technological advances, which have potential to open new areas of biophysical investigation, are also suitable for publication in BJ. Manuscripts describing improvements in accuracy or speed of existing methods or extra detail within methods described previously are not suitable for BJ.

Manuscripts are handled by an Editorial Board of more than 110 scientists who solicit reviewers with the requisite expertise. The Editorial Board is divided among the following sections; these descriptions also serve to detail the scope of science published by BJ:

Section I—Nucleic Acids and Genome Biophysics. This Section highlights biophysical aspects of genome organization and their relation to cellular functions such as transcription, translation, development, and gene-regulatory mechanisms. It includes studies using experimental and computational techniques to investigate the structure, dynamics, function, and regulation of DNA, RNA, and their complexes with other molecules. It also publishes research studies on chromatin structural states, folding and function, and the dynamic organization of the nucleus.

Section II—Proteins. This section focuses on studies on the biophysics of protein structure, function, and interactions. The emphasis is on molecular biophysics encompassing experimental, computational, and theoretical approaches.

Section III—Channels and Transporters. This section publishes mechanistic studies on the structure, function, and regulation of membrane transport proteins and signaling receptors, using experimental and/or computational methods.

Section IV—Membranes. This section publishes studies on the structure, organization, and function of artificial and biological membranes via state-of-the art experimental and theoretical biophysics approaches.

Section V—Molecular Machines, Motors, and Nanoscale Biophysics. This section publishes biophysical studies of molecular motors (cytoskeletal and non-cytoskeletal), cytoskeletal assemblies, and muscle contraction and studies that use single-molecule tracking, force spectroscopy, and other nanoscale techniques.

Section VI —Cell Biophysics. This section focuses on work that furthers our understanding of molecular function and interactions within and between cells and elucidates how these mechanisms are regulated within the cellular milieu.

Section VII—Systems Biophysics. This section publishes the analysis of collective properties in systems of interacting components, including biomolecular networks, organelles, tissues, organs, and whole organisms. Special emphasis is placed on studies that link multiple levels of biological organization, from gene sequence to nonlinear and network-level phenomena, such as pattern formation, metabolism, and signal transduction.

Section VIII—Perspectives (invited).

GENERAL POLICIES

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The Biophysical Society, publisher of BJ, agrees fully with the intent of the National Institutes of Health Principles and Guidelines for Reporting Preclinical Research <https://www.nih.gov/research-training/rigor-reproducibility/principles-guidelines-reporting-preclinical-research> to encourage reproducible, robust, and transparent research.

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Manuscripts submitted to BJ must be original; except for the specific exception noted below, manuscripts and Supplemental Information that have already been published or are concurrently submitted elsewhere for publication are not acceptable for submission.

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Article Type	Page Limit
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New and Notables	2

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Wager, E., and S. Kleinert. 2011. Responsible research publication: International standards for authors. A position statement developed at the 2nd World Conference on Research Integrity, Singapore, July 22–24, 2010. In *Promoting Research Integrity in a Global Environment*. T. Mayer and N. Steneck, editors. Imperial College Press/World Scientific Publishing, Singapore, pp. 309–316.

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REGULAR ARTICLES

BJ will accept for initial review well-prepared manuscripts in any format. The page estimating tool, however, will be most accurate if the text is one column and the font is Times New Roman size 12 point for regular text and Symbol for Greek and mathematical symbols.

BJ has partnered with Overleaf to provide an easy to use LaTeX template in which you can compose and edit your manuscript and submit directly to BJ. The LaTeX template is found at: <https://www.overleaf.com/articles/biophysical-journal-template/pxxcptphxdhv>

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1. Title Page Include article title and author names. *(For initial submissions: Please list author names with initials of given names followed by surnames; do not list affiliations, addresses or email address.)*
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3. Main Text (Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion [or Results and Discussion], Conclusion)
Theoretical manuscripts may include just a Methods Section and do not require Materials. It is preferable if figures or tables, along with their titles and captions, are embedded in the text as they are referenced in the manuscript when submitting for review.
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6. Supplemental Information (movies, database files, etc. may be uploaded as separate files). Instructions for Supplemental Information are available at the following link: [Supplemental Information.pdf](#)

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Manuscripts are to follow the conventions of Scientific Style and Format, 8th Edition, the Council of Science Editors Style Manual (except for references).

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KEYWORDS

Up to three keywords or phrases and up to three techniques must be provided from a predetermined list.

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Capitalize trade names and give manufacturers' full names and addresses (city and state).

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Equations are to be typewritten. Clearly indicate capital and lowercase letters. Label Greek and unusual symbols

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Microsoft Equation is found at:

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REFERENCES

References are cited in numerical order in the text and are designated by that reference number in parentheses. The numbers, in parentheses, can be repeated at each citation of the referenced material. References appearing solely in figure legends and tables follow those in the text. Reference citations are not allowed in the Abstract. The following is an example of numbered citations:

Membrane channels with large aqueous pores are traditionally regarded as “molecular sieves” that discriminate between different molecules based on their size (1,2). This simplified view, however, contradicts emerging experimental evidence that permeation through these structures involves intimate molecular interactions (3–5). Metabolite-specific channels exhibit affinity to their metabolites; permeating molecules do not just slip through the pore, but feel strong attraction to the pore-lining residues. The now classical example is bacterial porin LamB (6), where the existence of an extended binding zone for oligosaccharides is firmly established. More recent examples include ATP interactions with VDAC (3) and penicillin antibiotic interactions with the general bacterial porin OmpF (4,6–8).

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Citations such as “unpublished data” and “personal communication” should be included parenthetically in the text, with all authors’ initials and last names, and must not appear in the reference section. For personal communications, include cited author’s institutional affiliation and date of communication. Provide written permission to use the material cited when submitting the manuscript.

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For the reference list, follow the style of the examples listed here, noting that each reference is numbered according

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For references to journal articles, include all authors' names (invert only the first author's last name and initials; do not use "et al."), year, complete article titles, volume number, journal name, and inclusive page numbers. Abbreviate the names of journals as in the Serial Sources for the Biosis Data Base; spell out the names of unlisted journals.

See the examples below:

1. Cole, K. S., and J. W. Moore. 1960. Potassium ion current in the squid giant axon: Dynamic characteristics. *Biophys. J.* 1:1-14.
2. Loboda, A., and C. M. Armstrong, 2001. Resolving the gating charge movement associated with late transitions in K channel activation. *Biophys. J.* 81:905-916.
3. Reference deleted in proof.
4. Johnston I. G., B. C. Rickett, and N. S. Jones. 2014. Explicit tracking of uncertainty increases the power of quantitative rule-of-thumb reasoning in cell biology. *Biophys. J.* 107:2612-2617.
5. Álvarez-González, B., R. Melli, E. Bastounis, R. A. Firtel, J. C., Lasheras, J. C. del Álamo. 2015. Three-dimensional balance of cortical tension and axial contractility enables fast amoeboid migration. *Biophys. J.* In press.

PREPRINTS

Kappen, B., and V. Gome. 2009. Optimal control as a graphical model interface problem, arXiv, arXiv:0901.0633v2, <http://arxiv.org/abs/0901.0633v2> (preprint posted March 10, 2009).

Zhang, D., and M. Glotzer. 2014. Efficient site-specific editing of the *C. elegans* genome. bioRxiv, doi: 10.1101/007344 (preprint posted April 17, 2014).

INFORMATION IN PUBLIC REPOSITORIES

Manuscripts that refer to information in a public database (such as structures in the RCSB Data Bank) must cite the publication, if available, in which the original information was reported as well as the database serial number.

ABSTRACTS

Hohendanner, F., F. Heinzl, L. Blatter. 2016. Dyssynchronous CA Removal in Atrial Cardiac Myocytes. 2016 Biophysical Society Meeting Abstracts. *Biophys. J.* 110(3), Suppl 1, Abstract 515-Pos.

COMPLETE BOOKS

Phillips, R., J. Kondev, and J. Theriot. 2009. *Physical Biology of the Cell*. Garland Science, New York.

ARTICLES IN BOOKS

Seddon, J. M., and R. H. Templer. 1995. Polymorphism of lipid-water systems. In *Handbook of Biological Physics*, vol 1. Structure and Dynamics of Membranes, From Cells to Vesicles. R. Lipowsky and E. Sackmann, editors. Elsevier/North Holland, Amsterdam, pp. 97-160.

COMMERCIAL SOFTWARE

All commercial software and products should provide the name and location of the manufacturer. MATLAB (The

MathWorks, Natick, MA).

WEBSITES

Web references should be treated no differently than other references, and should appear as shown below.

Biophysical Society. 2010. 08 July 2010. <http://www.biophysics.org>.

TABLES

All tables should be double-spaced and carry a title. Do not use vertical rules. Tables must be in black and white.

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Biophysical Letters are short articles in diverse areas that report exceptionally important results in an accelerated manner. A Letter should be of interest to a wide variety of readers, and should potentially change the way the reader thinks about an important topic or address a critical question. A letter should tell a complete story without needing extensive data analysis, and it is not meant to serve as a means of publishing preliminary results. The criteria for acceptance of a Letter are more stringent than for Regular Articles, and particular attention will be paid to the significance of the results.

Letters must not exceed five published pages (including figures and references). There will be no exceptions to this length limit. Letters are required to have an Abstract and an Author Contributions Section. They are not required to follow traditional manuscript organization (Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion). Only one revision cycle is allowed for Letters and revisions will be due within 30 days (rather than 90 days allowed for Regular Articles). The author of a Letter requiring major revision will be invited to resubmit the work as a Regular Article. Letters are published online ahead of print as soon as corrected proof has been generated.

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These are short commentaries on an article published earlier in BJ. These are NOT short original articles. In order for a submission to qualify as a Comment, it must not contain unpublished data and must be entirely free of polemic. Comments to the Editor may be rebutted by the authors of the previously published article. Comments and any rebuttals are subject to review. Abstracts are not required for Comments.

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Computational Tool articles are limited to five published pages in length (including figures and references) and describe software for analysis of experimental data, modeling/simulation software, or database services. The tool should be new or the manuscript should describe a significant new feature in an existing computational resource. The manuscript should also describe how the computational tool could be applied to a biophysical problem, preferably with an example. Any new algorithms implemented in the software should also be described. All computational tools will have to be freely accessible and open to the research community. The manuscript should describe what the tool does, but should not take the place of a user guide, which, together with any requisite

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These commentaries, which highlight Regular Articles appearing in the same issue of BJ, are solicited by the handling editor. They are expected within 10 days of solicitation to facilitate rapid peer review and publication. Abstracts are not required for New and Notable articles.

A New and Notable gives the writer some leeway to highlight whatever he/she thinks is relevant as opposed to an inclusive overview. A New and Notable can mention some of the limitations of the relevant article and thus where questions and controversies still lie and where future research can provide the next steps forward. Therefore, it should have no more than 10 references to earlier work (preferably from BJ) and should also have an explicit citation of the article. It could be as short as half a page and be up to two published pages; importantly, it should convey excitement to a non-specialist reader regarding the advance made by the research article. There are no page charges associated with New and Notables. One figure is free of charge; color figures will be online only color. If there are multiple figures with color, any figures after the first one are charged to the author at normal member/non-member rates. If authors insist on print color, it will be at their own expense and billed at the established member/nonmember rates.

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As noted above: LaTeX manuscripts must be converted to .doc format by our composition team. As a result, approximately 1 week will be added to the production timeline for LaTeX manuscripts. (See “Math and Equations” in the “Regular Articles” section above for more information.)

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