



Journal of Biomedical Informatics

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About the journal

Aims and scope

The premier methodology journal in the field

The *Journal of Biomedical Informatics* (JBI) is the premier methodology journal in the field of [biomedical informatics](#). JBI publishes research on new methodologies and techniques that have general applicability and form the basis for the evolving science of biomedical informatics. Papers should focus on a real-world biomedical or clinical problem, develop a novel approach to address the problem, and evaluate its appropriateness in comparison to the current state-of-the-art (SoA) methods. Involvement of healthcare professionals in motivating the work and evaluation of results is expected.

Focus Areas and Topics of Interest

JBI seeks to publish papers that make a conceptual contribution to the field, typically by describing an *innovation in methodology* or technique or by discussing substantive generalizable lessons that have been learned in the context of an informatics project. When a methodological contribution has a theoretical basis, that theory is an appropriate emphasis for papers as well. Research papers may also present a novel "method of methods" explaining how to apply the existing methods to a space of biomedical problems that share unique characteristics influencing the choice of methods.

JBI publishes papers on a wide range of informatics topics. However, across these topics, papers must build on deep understanding and utilization of medical domain knowledge and should consider pragmatic translation for clinical care or applications. Topics of interest include (but are not limited to) clinical decision support, patient safety, natural language processing, artificial intelligence and machine learning, knowledge representation for healthcare, translational bioinformatics, clinical research informatics, and clinical informatics. Additional considerations for papers in the areas of translational bioinformatics, machine learning, security and privacy are provided below. Irrespective of the topic, papers must focus on novel informatics methods and its comparison to the current approaches.

Manuscripts can be submitted in the following categories: original research, methodological review, commentaries, special communication, letters to the editor, book reviews, and editorials (see additional details on each of these categories below). Given the international readership of JBI, country-specific health systems or approaches will be considered only if they offer generalizable lessons that are relevant to the broader readership, regardless of their country, language, culture, or health system.

Specific considerations for manuscripts in certain topical areas have also been provided in recent editorials.

If you are considering an article with a focus on **translational bioinformatics**, please read this [editorial](#). Biologic discoveries based on the use of routine informatics techniques may be important biologic contributions, but are not suitable for JBI. In addition, please note that JBI publishes bioinformatics papers only if they deal with issues in translational (human) science (e.g., translational bioinformatics papers).

If you are considering an article describing a new **machine learning** approach, please read this [editorial](#). Machine learning papers would be considered only if the methods that are introduced demonstrate substantial novelty and advancement beyond the current SoA and their evaluation is sound and includes an assessment of the potential of the method to be used in clinical practice. For example, submissions reporting publishing marginally SoA findings without an in-depth analysis or discussion of how the methods are potentially generalizable (or applicable in a wider setting) would not be considered. Novel and important clinical problems addressed by existing machine learning methods may warrant Special Communication papers if their discussion includes novel insights or lessons learned for future research in such domains.

Authors considering an article on **biomedical privacy and security**, please read this [editorial](#). To be considered, the privacy and security methods that are introduced should demonstrate substantial novelty and advancement beyond the SoA, should be specific to the biomedical informatics domain, and their practical application and/or likely real-world usefulness in the biomedical domain.

Please also note that papers related to **signal processing, imaging, medical devices, or communication networks** are generally considered outside the scope of the journal. To be considered, such papers must introduce novel informatics methods that build on deep understanding and utilization of medical domain knowledge and should be

translatable into applications. Papers on such topics should focus on information processing and management or knowledge-based approaches.

Please also consult the [editorial](#) that explains where to direct Artificial Intelligence in Medicine-related manuscripts for peer review and possible publication, considering the different scope of the three Elsevier medical informatics journals: JBI, Artificial Intelligence in Medicine, and Intelligence-based Medicine.

Article types

Original research: Presentation and discussion of a biomedically or clinically motivated system or approach that has required the development of innovative methods rather than the application of established techniques. Motivating applications may be discussed, but the new method should be discussed so that generalizability is clear, ideally with an assessment of its range of applicability. Please choose the article type "Research Paper" during the submission process.

Methodological review: Reviews of a methodological approach that summarize its introduction, use, successes, and limitations. Such reviews will also often propose future research directions or critique a method and discuss the range of problems for which it may not be an appropriate solution. Note that such reviews should focus on a method or approach, not on specific application domain (e.g., avoid submitting on reviews such as "Computers in Diabetes Management"). Please choose the article type "Review article" during the submission process.

To ensure that your methodological review to JBI is considered, please bear in mind that:

1. The paper should meet JBI's Aims and Scope - focus on novel biomedical informatics methods that have been developed rather than on application of methods.
2. In a methodological review you are expected to specify the systematic methods (including the exact search terms and the resources that were searched (e.g., Pubmed, Scholar) by which you searched for papers, and present a Prisma Diagram <https://www.prisma-statement.org/prisma-2020-flow-diagram>
3. The focus of the review should not be too broad nor too narrow. 4) The paper should follow an informed and relevant way to organize the breadth of papers; a simple bibliometric organization, like the countries and years of publication, the diseases in which the methods have been applied is not appropriate.
4. The Discussion should bring new insights to developers of novel biomedical informatics methods.
5. The methods reviewed should be translational to medicine.
6. Please also explain in the Statement of Significance how you go beyond existing surveys related to your topic - see [Statement of Significance](#).

Special communication: These are articles that address an issue of broad interest to the methodologically-oriented informatics research community and clearly communicate generalizable novel conclusions/recommendations/lessons-learned that are useful to the developers or users of biomedical informatics methods. These lessons should be based on the application of existing biomedical informatics methods and should present such results. They may report on the results of research studies, including an application of an existing

biomedical informatics approach in a new informatics domain. Alternatively, they could report on widely adopted biomedical informatics tools or standards (e.g., REDCap, FHIR, OMOP, openEHR).

If submission of a special communication is being considered, please submit a brief proposal to morpeleg@is.haifa.ac.il beforehand. If your submission of a Special Communication has been approved by the editor, please choose the article type "Short Communication" during the submission process and specify in the cover letter that your manuscript is intended as a Special Communication. Note that this is just a category of submission, used for technical reasons in the Editorial Manager information system; your paper does not need to be particularly short.

Commentaries: These are articles, generally shorter than research papers, that tend to discuss previously published articles or a theme that is an important area of focus for the methodological basis of biomedical informatics research and its application. Commentaries are often invited, but may be submitted by anyone after a discussion with the editors. If submission of a commentary is being considered, please submit a brief proposal to morpeleg@is.haifa.ac.il beforehand. If your submission of a Commentary has been solicited, or approved by the editor, please choose the article type "Commentary" during the submission process and specify in the cover letter that your manuscript is intended as a Commentary.

Letters to the Editor: Letters may be submitted and will be considered for possible publication in the journal. They typically comment on a previously published paper. Please choose the article type "Correspondence" during the submission process.

Book reviews: The editors will occasionally identify a new book that is likely to be of interest to the JBI readership. They will invite individuals to write reviews of these volumes, and such submissions are by invitation only. Unsolicited book reviews will not be considered. Please choose the article type "Book review" during the submission process.

Editorials: The editors or their invitees will occasionally publish editorials, but unsolicited editorials will not be considered. Please choose the article type "Editorial" during the submission process.

When an author is submitting a manuscript in response to a call for papers for a Special Issue, the submission category should be the Special Issue title, but the cover letter should indicate whether the article is an original research paper, methodological review, a special communication, or a commentary.

All submissions should:

- Include a structured abstract (Objective, Methods, Results, Conclusion; with a total of ≤ 300 words)
- Keywords
- The body of the manuscript should be structured according to (Introduction, Related Work, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion; with a total of ≤ 6000 words)
- The total number of figures and tables ≤ 8

Special Issues

We aim for special issues that are likely to attract enough high quality papers to justify creating a dedicated issue on the topic. We look for topics that are closely aligned with the editorial policy of goals of JBI. A statement of our editorial policy ("Aims and Scope"), and our emphasis on methodological innovation and methodological reviews, rather than on applications or evaluations, is provided on the JBI Aims and Scope page:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/journal-of-biomedical-informatics/about/aims-and-scope>

Note that JBI does not publish papers that are primarily related to biomedical engineering (including image or signal analysis), and any bioinformatics papers must be explicitly related to human health and/or disease (translational bioinformatics). We stress that the theme of special issues should generally be an important methodological focus rather than an application domain. Thus we would, for example, entertain special issues on "Informatics Methods for Medical Privacy" or "Evolutionary Computation in Biomedicine" (both published in 2014) but not "Informatics in Diabetes Care."

JBI does not entertain special issues that are drawn from papers originally presented at a conference or workshop. Sometimes meetings inspire the notion for a special issue, but we do not publish papers that appeared in the proceedings of conferences (see <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jbi.2005.10.002>). The Call for Papers must make it clear that we seek open submissions to the special issue, not limited to people who may have attended or presented work at a specific meeting. If submitted papers are based on reports that were previously published in a conference proceedings, they must be substantially expanded, typically updating or providing more detail on what was previously presented at the conference. All papers must be reviewed in accordance with the usual JBI review process, with its emphasis on innovative methodology (rather than novel applications of well-known methods), and even invited papers cannot be assured of acceptance until they have met our standards for peer review.

The guest editor manages the special issue using JBI's editorial system (Editorial Manager), serving as a temporary associate editor, although the Editor-in-Chief retains the final decision on the acceptance of papers and works closely with the guest editor(s) during the editorial process. When submitted papers are authored or coauthored by one of the guest editors, that paper is handled by a different associate editor, even though the paper is intended for the special issue.

When a paper is accepted to a JBI Special Issue it is immediately placed into the next volume of JBI. When the Guest Editor finalizes the Special Issue the previously accepted and published papers are assembled into the Special Issue along with an invited editorial from the Guest Editor putting Special Issue and the papers it contains into a broader context.

Any team of guest editors who wishes to submit a Special Issue proposal need to include one of JBI's Associate Editors (or former Associate Editor of JBI). This person would be the Managing Guest Editor and should be the one who submits the proposal via email to the Deputy Editor.

The proposal for a special issue also involves the preparation of a draft Call for Papers. Examples of such 1-2 page Calls for Papers have appeared in JBI on ScienceDirect over the last several years. Potential guest editors are encouraged to refer to them for templates to follow: (<https://shorturl.at/irEQ9>)

A proposed time line for the submission of manuscripts and the reviewing/revising process is also requested, and should be planned for around 12 months, although the time to completion of a special issue is very hard to predict given the vagaries of reviewing times, delays while papers are being revised, and the need for several rounds of reviews for some papers before they are suitable for publication.

Associate Editors who have reviewed the criteria above and wish to prepare a proposal for a special issue should contact the Deputy Editor (jbi.special.issues@gmail.com) and submit a 1-2 page proposal using the template at this [link](#). All sections A-C and 1-11 are required.

Note also that JBI has transitioned to become an online-only journal, given the straightforward access to all content online. The journal has also moved to an article-based publishing model which has a positive effect on the satisfaction of authors who submit papers to special issues. An editorial that describes those changes in detail can be found [here](#).

Peer review

This journal follows a single anonymized review process. Your submission will initially be assessed by our editors to determine suitability for publication in this journal. If your submission is deemed suitable, it will typically be sent to a minimum of two reviewers for an independent expert assessment of the scientific quality. The decision as to whether your article is accepted or rejected will be taken by our editors.

Read more about [peer review](#).

Our editors are not involved in making decisions about papers which:

- they have written themselves.
- have been written by family members or colleagues.
- relate to products or services in which they have an interest.

Any such submissions will be subject to the journal's usual procedures and peer review will be handled independently of the editor involved and their research group. Read more about [editor duties](#).

Authors may submit a formal appeal request to the editorial decision, provided it meets all the requirements and follows the procedure outlined in [Elsevier's Appeal Policy](#). Only one appeal per submission will be considered and the appeal decision will be final.

Special issues and article collections

The peer review process for special issues and article collections follows the same process as outlined above for regular submissions, except, a guest editor may send the submissions out to the reviewers and may recommend a decision to the journal editor. The journal editor oversees the peer review process of all special issues and article collections to ensure the high standards of publishing ethics and responsiveness are respected and is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles.

Open access

We refer you to our [open access information page](#) to learn about open access options for this journal.

Ethics and policies

Ethics in publishing

Authors must follow ethical guidelines stated in [Elsevier's Publishing Ethics Policy](#).

Submission declaration

When authors submit an article to an Elsevier journal it is implied that:

- the work described has not been published previously except in the form of a preprint, an abstract, a published lecture, academic thesis or registered report. See our policy on [multiple, redundant or concurrent publication](#).
- the article is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.
- the article's publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out.
- if accepted, the article 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 compliance with our journal publishing policies, we may check your manuscript with our screening tools.

Authorship

All authors should have made substantial contributions to all of the following:

1. The conception and design of the study, or 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.

Authors should appoint a corresponding author to communicate with the journal during the editorial process. All authors should agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work to ensure that the questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Changes to authorship

The editors of this journal generally will not consider changes to authorship once a manuscript has been submitted. It is important that authors carefully consider the authorship list and order of authors and provide a definitive author list at original submission.

The policy of this journal around authorship changes:

- All authors must be listed in the manuscript and their details entered into the submission system.
- Any addition, deletion or rearrangement of author names in the authorship list should only be made prior to acceptance, and only if approved by the journal editor.
- Requests to change authorship should be made by the corresponding author, who must provide the reason for the request to the journal editor with written confirmation from all authors, including any authors being added or removed, that they agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement.

- All requests to change authorship must be submitted using [this form](#). Requests which do not comply with the instructions outlined in the form will not be considered.
- Only in exceptional circumstances will the journal editor consider the addition, deletion or rearrangement of authors post acceptance.
- Publication of the manuscript may be paused while a change in authorship request is being considered.
- Any authorship change requests approved by the journal editor will result in a corrigendum if the manuscript has already been published.
- Any unauthorized authorship changes may result in the rejection of the article, or retraction, if the article has already been published.

Declaration of competing interests

All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence or bias their work. Examples of potential competing interests include:

- Employment
- Consultancies
- Stock ownership
- Honoraria
- Paid expert testimony
- Patent applications or registrations
- Grants or any other funding
- Affiliation with the journal as an Editor or Advisory Board Member

The [declarations tool](#) should always be completed.

Authors with a journal affiliation to declare should enter the following text under “Other Activities” within the [declarations tool](#) and should inform the journal and publisher prior to completing the submission process: *Given their role as [insert journal role title], [insert your name] had no involvement in the peer-review of this article and has no access to information regarding its peer-review. Full responsibility for the editorial process for this article was delegated to another journal editor.*

Editorial disclosure statements will be included as a footnote and/or in the declaration of competing interest section of the article.

Authors with no competing interests to declare should select the option "I have nothing to declare".

The resulting Word document containing your declaration should be uploaded at the "attach/upload files" step in the submission process. It is important that the Word document is saved in the .doc/.docx file format. Author signatures are not required.

Funding sources

Authors must disclose any funding sources who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article. The role of sponsors, if any, should be declared in relation to the study design, collection, analysis and interpretation of data, writing of the report and decision to submit the article for publication. If funding sources had no such involvement this should be stated in your submission.

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, scholarships 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, it is recommended to include the following sentence:

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

Declaration of generative AI use

Authors must declare the use of generative AI in the manuscript preparation process upon submission of the paper.

Elsevier recognizes the potential of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies ("AI Tools"), when used responsibly, to help researchers work efficiently, gain critical insights fast and achieve better outcomes. Increasingly, these tools, including AI agents and deep research tools, are helping researchers to synthesize complex literature, provide an overview of a field or research question, identify research gaps, generate ideas, and provide tailored support for tasks such as content organization and improving language and readability.

Authors preparing a manuscript for an Elsevier journal can use AI Tools to support them. However, these tools must never be used as a substitute for human critical thinking, expertise and evaluation. AI technology should always be applied with human oversight and control.

Ultimately, authors are responsible and accountable for the contents of their work. This includes accountability for:

- Carefully reviewing and verifying the accuracy, comprehensiveness, and impartiality of all AI-generated output (including checking the sources, as AI-generated references can be incorrect or fabricated).
- Editing and adapting all material thoroughly to ensure the manuscript represents the author's authentic and original contribution and reflects their own analysis, interpretation, insights and ideas.
- Ensuring the use of any tools or sources, AI-based or otherwise, is made clear and transparent to readers. If AI Tools have been used, we require a disclosure statement upon submission; please see example below.

- Ensuring the manuscript is developed in a way that safeguards data privacy, intellectual property and other rights, by checking the terms and conditions of any AI tool that is used.

Finally, authors must not list or cite AI Tools as an author or co-author on the manuscript since authorship implies responsibilities and tasks that can only be attributed to, and performed by, humans.

The use of AI Tools in the manuscript preparation process must be declared by adding a statement at the end of the manuscript when the paper is first submitted. The statement will appear in the published work and should be placed in a new section before the references list.

An example:

- Title of new section: *Declaration of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the manuscript preparation process.*
- Statement: *During the preparation of this work the author(s) used [NAME OF TOOL / SERVICE] in order to [REASON]. After using this tool/service, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take(s) full responsibility for the content of the published article.*

The declaration does not apply to the use of basic tools, such as tools used to check grammar, spelling and references. If you have nothing to disclose, you do not need to add a statement.

Please read Elsevier's author policy on the use of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies, which can be found in [our generative AI policies for journals](#).

Please note: to protect authors' rights and the confidentiality of their research, this journal does not currently allow the use of generative AI or AI-assisted technologies such as ChatGPT or similar services by reviewers or editors in the peer review and manuscript evaluation process, as is stated in [our generative AI policies for journals](#). We are actively evaluating compliant AI Tools and may revise this policy in the future.

Preprints

Preprint sharing

Authors may share preprints in line with Elsevier's [article sharing policy](#). Sharing preprints, such as on a preprint server, will not count as prior publication.

We advise you to read our policy on [multiple, redundant or concurrent publication](#).

Preprint posting on SSRN

In support of [Open Science](#), this journal offers its authors a free preprint posting service on [SSRN](#), Elsevier's preprint and early research repository.

During submission to this journal, you can choose to post your manuscript on SSRN, and it will be made publicly available as soon as it passes the journal's initial desk review.

As a preprint on SSRN, your manuscript will benefit from:

- Early registration with a preprint DOI (Digital Object Identifier)

- A link from the preprint to the version of record if published in this Elsevier journal
- Preprint posting, sharing, and download availability that facilitates collaboration and early citations

Your decision to post or not post your preprint will have no effect on the editorial process or publication outcome with the journal. For additional information, please consult the [SSRN Terms of Use](#) and [FAQs](#).

It is expected that the corresponding author will seek approval from all co-authors before agreeing to post the manuscript publicly, prior to peer review, on SSRN.

Use of inclusive language

Inclusive language acknowledges diversity, conveys respect to all people, is sensitive to differences, and promotes equal opportunities. Authors should ensure their work uses inclusive language throughout and contains nothing which might imply one individual is superior to another on the grounds of:

- age
- gender
- race
- ethnicity
- culture
- sexual orientation
- disability or health condition

We recommend avoiding the use of descriptors about personal attributes unless they are relevant and valid. Write for gender neutrality with the use of plural nouns ("clinicians, patients/clients") as default. Wherever possible, avoid using "he, she," or "he/she."

No assumptions should be made about the beliefs of readers and writing should be free from bias, stereotypes, slang, reference to dominant culture and/or cultural assumptions.

These guidelines are meant as a point of reference to help you identify appropriate language but are by no means exhaustive or definitive.

Reporting sex- and gender-based analyses

There is no single, universally agreed-upon set of guidelines for defining sex and gender. We offer the following guidance:

- Sex and gender-based analyses (SGBA) should be integrated into research design when research involves or pertains to humans, animals or eukaryotic cells. This should be done in accordance with any requirements set by funders or sponsors and best practices within a field.

- Sex and/or gender dimensions of the research should be addressed within the article or declared as a limitation to the generalizability of the research.
- Definitions of sex and/or gender applied should be explicitly stated to enhance the precision, rigor and reproducibility of the research and to avoid ambiguity or conflation of terms and the constructs to which they refer.

We advise you to read the [Sex and Gender Equity in Research \(SAGER\) guidelines](#) and the [SAGER checklist](#) (PDF) on the EASE website, which offer systematic approaches to the use of sex and gender information in study design, data analysis, outcome reporting and research interpretation.

For further information we suggest reading the rationale behind and recommended [use of the SAGER guidelines](#).

Definitions of sex and/or gender

We ask authors to define how sex and gender have been used in their research and publication. Some guidance:

- Sex generally refers to a set of biological attributes that are associated with physical and physiological features such as chromosomal genotype, hormonal levels, internal and external anatomy. A binary sex categorization (male/female) is usually designated at birth ("sex assigned at birth") and is in most cases based solely on the visible external anatomy of a newborn. In reality, sex categorizations include people who are intersex/have differences of sex development (DSD).
- Gender generally refers to socially constructed roles, behaviors and identities of women, men and gender-diverse people that occur in a historical and cultural context and may vary across societies and over time. Gender influences how people view themselves and each other, how they behave and interact and how power is distributed in society.

Depending on the focus of a paper, sex and/or gender may or may not be relevant to the content of the paper. We recognize that beliefs, attitudes, and laws relating to sex and gender may vary. These articles do not attempt to dictate author beliefs but rather require that, where relevant to an author's research or paper, the author must provide clear explanations of how the paper and research define and use sex and gender.

Jurisdictional claims

Elsevier respects the decisions taken by its authors as to how they choose to designate territories and identify their affiliations in their published content. Elsevier's policy is to take a neutral position with respect to territorial disputes or jurisdictional claims, including, but not limited to, maps and institutional affiliations. For journals that Elsevier publishes on behalf of a third party owner, the owner may set its own policy on these issues.

- Maps: Readers should be able to locate any study areas shown within maps using common mapping platforms. Maps should only show the area actually studied and authors should not include a location map which displays a larger area than the bounding box of the study area. Authors should add a note clearly stating that "*map lines delineate study areas and do not necessarily depict accepted national boundaries*". During the review process, Elsevier's editors may request authors to change maps if these guidelines are not followed.
- Institutional affiliations: Authors should use either the full, standard title of their institution or the standard abbreviation of the institutional name so that the institutional name can be independently verified for research

integrity purposes.

Studies in humans

Authors must follow [ethical guidelines](#) for studies carried out in humans.

Work which involves the use of human subjects should be carried out in accordance with the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki: [Ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects](#).

Manuscripts should follow the [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors \(ICMJE\) recommendations](#) for the conduct, reporting, editing and publication of scholarly work in medical journals and aim to be representative of human populations in terms of sex, age and ethnicity. [Sex and gender terms](#) should be used correctly, as outlined by WHO (World Health Organization).

Manuscripts must include a statement that all procedures were performed in compliance with relevant laws and institutional guidelines and have been approved by the appropriate institutional committee(s). The statement should contain the date and reference number of the ethical approval(s) obtained.

Manuscripts must also include a statement that the privacy rights of human subjects have been observed and that informed consent was obtained for experimentation with human subjects.

This journal will not accept manuscripts that contain data derived from unethically sourced organs or tissue, including from executed prisoners or prisoners of conscience, consistent with recommendations by [Global Rights Compliance on Mitigating Human Rights Risks in Transplantation Medicine](#). For all studies that use human organs or tissues, sufficient evidence must be provided that these were procured in line with [WHO Guiding Principles on Human Cell, Tissue and Organ Transplantation](#). For clinical studies, a statement of informed consent having been obtained from a patient or their nominated representative, paired with ethical approval for the study from a suitable institution, as required by the policies of the journal, may be considered sufficient evidence, but the journal reserves the right to request additional evidence in cases where it feels this is not sufficient. The source of the organs or tissues used in clinical research must be transparent and traceable. If your manuscript describes organ transplantation you must additionally declare within the manuscript that:

- autonomous consent free from coercion was obtained from the donor(s) or their next of kin.
- organs and/or tissues were not sourced from executed prisoners or prisoners of conscience.

Studies in animals

Authors must follow [ethical guidelines](#) for studies carried out in animals.

All animal experiments should comply with [ARRIVE \(Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments\) guidelines](#).

Studies should be carried out in accordance with [Guidance on the operation of the Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act 1986](#) and associated guidelines, [EU Directive 2010/63 for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes](#) or the [NIH \(National Research Council\) Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#) (PDF).

The sex of animals, and where appropriate, the influence (or association) of sex on the results of the study must be indicated and a statement included in your manuscript that such guidelines as listed above have been followed.

Informed consent and patient details

Authors must document in the manuscript that ethics committee approval and informed consent have been obtained for studies involving patients or volunteers (including organ/tissue donors). Key guidelines:

- Appropriate consents, permissions and releases must be obtained if case details, personal information and images of patients or any other individuals are included in a publication, even if anonymized.
- Patient and research subjects' names, initials, hospital or social security numbers, dates of birth or any other personal or identifying information should never be used, even where consent has been provided.

Written consents must be retained. They should not be provided to this journal unless this is specifically requested in exceptional circumstances, for example, when a legal issue arises. Only then should you provide copies of the consents, or evidence that all relevant consents were obtained.

Personal details of any patient must only be included in your article or in any supplementary materials (including all images and videos) in cases where written permission has been given by the patient (or, where applicable, the next of kin).

We advise you to review [Elsevier's policy on patient consent](#) prior to preparing your manuscript.

Delayed publication

If you need to delay the publication of your article for any reason, please contact the editorial office of the journal or our [Journal Article Publishing Support Center](#) at the earliest possible opportunity. While we will try to ensure that your article is not published before a certain date if you make your request on a timely basis, we cannot guarantee this. Please also note that once the agreed period of delay has expired the article may be published at any time thereafter.

Writing and formatting

File format

We ask you to provide editable source files for your entire submission (including figures, tables and text graphics). Some guidelines:

- Save files in an editable format, using the extension .doc/.docx for Word files and .tex for LaTeX files. A PDF is not an acceptable source file.
- Format Word files in a single-column layout. Double-column formatting is only permitted for LaTeX submissions.
- Remove any strikethrough and underlined text from your manuscript, unless it has scientific significance related to your article.
- Use spell-check and grammar-check functions to avoid errors.

We advise you to read our [Step-by-step guide to publishing with Elsevier](#).

LaTeX

We encourage you use our [LaTeX template](#) when preparing a LaTeX submission. You will be asked to provide all relevant editable source files upon submission or revision.

Support for your LaTeX submission:

- [LaTeX submission instructions and templates](#)
- Journal Article Publishing Support Center [LaTeX FAQs and support](#)
- Researcher Academy's [Beginners' guide to writing a manuscript in LaTeX](#)

Title page

You are required to include the following details in the title page information:

- Article title. Article titles should be concise and informative. Please avoid abbreviations and formulae, where possible, unless they are established and widely understood, e.g. DNA.
- Author names. Provide the given name(s) and family name(s) of each author. The order of authors should match the order in the submission system. Carefully check that all names are accurately spelled. If needed, you can add your name between parentheses in your own script after the English transliteration.
- Affiliations. Add affiliation addresses, referring to where the work was carried out, below the author names. Indicate affiliations using a lower-case superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the corresponding address. Ensure that you provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the email address of each author.
- Corresponding author. Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence for your article at all stages of the refereeing and publication process and also post-publication. This responsibility includes answering any future queries about your results, data, methodology and materials. It is important that the email address and contact details of your corresponding author are kept up to date during the submission and publication process.
- Present/permanent address. If an author has moved since the work described in your article was carried out, or the author was visiting during that time, a "present address" (or "permanent address") can be indicated by a footnote to the author's name. The address where the author carried out the work must be retained as their main affiliation address. Use superscript Arabic numerals for such footnotes.

Abstract

You are required to provide a concise and factual abstract which does not exceed 250 words. The abstract should briefly state the purpose of your research, principal results and major conclusions. Some guidelines:

- Abstracts must be able to stand alone as abstracts are often presented separately from the article.
- Avoid references. If any are essential to include, ensure that you cite the author(s) and year(s).

- Avoid non-standard or uncommon abbreviations. If any are essential to include, ensure they are defined within your abstract at first mention.

Keywords

You are required to provide 1 to 7 keywords for indexing purposes. Keywords should be written in English. Please try to avoid keywords consisting of multiple words (using "and" or "of").

We recommend that you only use abbreviations in keywords if they are firmly established in the field.

Graphical abstract

You are required to provide a graphical abstract at submission.

The graphical abstract summarizes the contents of your article in a concise, pictorial, professional form, highlighting important aspects of the research. It is designed to appeal to an interdisciplinary audience, and draw more attention to your online article. Some guidelines:

- Ensure you have obtained the necessary permission to include any third party owned material in a graphical abstract.
- Use of generative AI or AI-assisted tools in the production of graphical abstracts must align with Elsevier's [GenAI Policies for Journals](#).
- Submit your graphical abstract as a separate file in the online submission system.
- Ensure the image is 531 x 1328 pixels (h x w) or proportionally more, and is readable at a size of 5 x 13 cm.
- Preferred file types for graphical abstracts are TIFF, EPS, PDF or MS Office files.

More information, examples and a template can be found in the [graphical abstract guidelines](#).

Math formulae

- Submit math equations as editable text, not as images.
- Present simple formulae in line with normal text, where possible.
- Use the solidus (/) instead of a horizontal line for small fractional terms such as X/Y.
- Present variables in italics.
- Denote powers of e by exp.
- Display equations separately from your text, numbering them consecutively in the order they are referred to within your text.

Tables

Tables must be submitted as editable text, not as images. Some guidelines:

- Place tables next to the relevant text or on a separate page(s) at the end of your article.
- Cite all tables in the manuscript text.
- Number tables consecutively according to their appearance in the text.
- Please provide captions along with the tables.
- Place any table notes below the table body.
- Avoid vertical rules and shading within table cells.

We recommend that you use tables sparingly, ensuring that any data presented in tables is not duplicating results described elsewhere in the article.

Figures, images and artwork

Figures, images, artwork, diagrams and other graphical media must be supplied as separate files along with the manuscript. We recommend that you read our detailed [artwork and media instructions](#). Some excerpts:

When submitting artwork:

- Cite all images in the manuscript text.
- Number images according to the sequence they appear within your article.
- Submit each image as a separate file using a logical naming convention for your files (for example, Figure_1, Figure_2 etc).
- Text graphics may be embedded in the text at the appropriate position. If you are working with LaTeX, text graphics may also be embedded in the file.

Figure captions

All images must have a caption. A caption should consist of a brief title (not displayed on the figure itself) and a description of the image. We advise you to keep the amount of text in any image to a minimum, though any symbols and abbreviations used should be explained.

Read how to add captions to your submission [here](#).

Artwork formats

When your artwork is finalized, "save as" or convert your electronic artwork to the formats listed below taking into account the given resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations:

- Vector drawings: Save as EPS or PDF files embedding the font or saving the text as "graphics."

- Color or grayscale photographs (halftones): Save as TIFF, JPG or PNG files using a minimum of 300 dpi (for single column width: min. 1063 pixels, full page width: 2244 pixels).
- Bitmapped line drawings: Save as TIFF, JPG or PNG files, using a minimum of 1000 dpi (for single column width: min. 3543 pixels, full page width: 7480 pixels).
- Combinations bitmapped line/halftones (color or grayscale): Save as TIFF, JPG or PNG files using a minimum of 500 dpi (for single column: min. 1772 pixels, full page width: 3740 pixels).

Please do not submit:

- Files that are too low in resolution.
- Disproportionally large images compared to font size, as text may become unreadable.

Color artwork

If you submit usable color figures with your accepted article, we will ensure that they appear in color online.

Please ensure that color images are accessible to all, including those with impaired color vision. Learn more about [color and web accessibility](#).

Generative AI and Figures, images and artwork

Please read our policy on the use of generative AI and AI-assisted tools in figures, images and artwork, which can be found in Elsevier's [GenAI Policies for Journals](#). This policy states:

- We do not permit the use of Generative AI or AI-assisted tools to create or alter images in submitted manuscripts.
- The only exception is if the use of AI or AI-assisted tools is part of the research design or methods (for example, in the field of biomedical imaging). If this is the case, such use must be described in a reproducible manner in the methods section, including the name of the model or tool, version and extension numbers, and manufacturer.
- The use of generative AI or AI-assisted tools in the production of artwork such as for graphical abstracts is not permitted. The use of generative AI in the production of cover art may in some cases be allowed, if the author obtains prior permission from the journal editor and publisher, can demonstrate that all necessary rights have been cleared for the use of the relevant material, and ensures that there is correct content attribution.

Supplementary material

We encourage the use of supplementary materials such as applications, images and sound clips to enhance research. Some guidelines:

- Supplementary material should be accurate and relevant to the research.
- Cite all supplementary files in the manuscript text.
- Submit all supplementary materials at the same time as your manuscript.

- Include a concise, descriptive caption for each supplementary file, describing its content.
- After submission supplementary files can only be added or replaced in the revision stage of the editorial process.
- Be aware that all supplementary materials provided will appear online in the exact same way as received. These files will not be checked, formatted or typeset by the production team.

Video

This journal accepts video material and animation sequences to support and enhance your scientific research. We encourage you to include links to video or animation files within articles. Some guidelines:

- When including video or animation file links within your article, refer to the video or animation content by adding a note in your text where the file should be placed.
- Clearly label files ensuring the given file name is directly related to the file content.
- Provide files in one of our [recommended file formats](#). Files should be within our preferred maximum file size of 150 MB per file, 1 GB in total.
- Provide "stills" for each of your files. These will be used as standard icons to personalize the link to your video data. You can choose any frame from your video or animation or make a separate image.
- Provide descriptive text in your manuscript to refer to the video content. This text helps ensure accessibility for visually impaired readers who rely on descriptive information. For journals publishing in print this is also essential, as video and animation files cannot be embedded in the print version.

We publish all video and animation files supplied in the electronic version of your article.

For more detailed instructions, we recommend that you read our guidelines on [submitting video content to be included in the body of an article](#).

Research data

We are committed to supporting the storage of, access to and discovery of research data, and our [research data policy](#) sets out the principles guiding how we work with the research community to support a more efficient and transparent research process.

Research data refers to the results of observations or experimentation that validate research findings, which may also include software, code, models, algorithms, protocols, methods and other useful materials related to the project.

Please read our guidelines on [sharing research data](#) for more information on depositing, sharing and using research data and other relevant research materials.

Research data deposit, citation and linking

For this journal, **Option C** instructions from our [research data guidelines](#) apply. This means that you are **required** to:

- Deposit your research data in a relevant data repository.
- Cite and link to this dataset in your article.
- If this is not possible, make a statement explaining why research data cannot be shared.

Data statement

To foster transparency, you are required to state the availability of any data at submission.

Ensuring data is available may be a requirement of your funding body or institution. If your data is unavailable to access or unsuitable to post, you can state the reason why (e.g., your research data includes sensitive or confidential information such as patient data) during the submission process. This statement will appear with your published article on ScienceDirect.

Read more about the importance and benefits of providing a [data statement](#).

Data linking

Linking to the data underlying your work increases your exposure and may lead to new collaborations. It also provides readers with a better understanding of the described research.

If your research data has been made available in a data repository there are a number of ways your article can be linked directly to the dataset:

- Provide a link to your dataset when prompted during the online submission process.
- For some data repositories, a repository banner will automatically appear next to your published article on ScienceDirect.
- You can also link relevant data or entities within the text of your article through the use of identifiers. Use the following format: Database: 12345 (e.g. TAIR: AT1G01020; CCDC: 734053; PDB: 1XFN).

Learn more about [linking research data and research articles in ScienceDirect](#).

Journal specific information: Writing and formatting

Additional Information Specific for JBI

Data repositories accepted

When you submit your research to this journal, you may use the following repositories to share your data:

- ANDS
- Bitbucket
- caNanoLab

- CCDC
- Dataverse
- Dryad
- Earth/Chem
- Evidence hub
- F1000
- Figshare
- GitHub
- Google code
- HepData
- ICPSR
- Mendeley Data
- MGDS
- ModelDB
- NED
- NURSA
- ORNL-DAAC
- PANGAEA
- RunMyCode
- Sciwheel
- Seano
- SIMBAD
- SOL Genomics

- WHOAS

- Zotero

Statement of significance

At the end of the introduction, create a table using the following headings to summaries (in 150 words or less) the contribution of your paper to the existing literature:

- **Problem or Issue**
- **What is Already Known**
- **What this Paper Adds**
- **Who would benefit from the new knowledge in this paper**

Example of Statement of Significance

Problem

Clinical trials' conclusions may not generalize to other patients.

What is Already Known

Although there have been many prior explorations comparing a trial sample with a potentially eligible cohort, a prominent limitation in these methods is that their comparisons are between different clinical settings or geographical locations.

What This Paper Adds

This study aims to build upon the prior generalizability assessment literature by controlling for clinical setting. Additionally, this study has a unique opportunity to address a potential temporality concern for generalizability assessments by focusing on when the trial was ongoing as opposed to when the trial was completed; this opportunity is worthwhile because it further ensures the patients are subject to the same treatment opportunities.

Who would benefit from the knowledge in this paper

Clinicians who would like to know if the recommendations and conclusions of a clinical trial apply to their patient.

Submission Checklist specific to JBI

Your submission must include the following parts:

- Cover Letter
- Graphical Abstract

- Statement of Significance (should also be part of the Introduction section of the paper)
- Declaration of Competing Interest
- Title page
- Structured abstract (Objective, Methods, Results, Conclusion; with a total of ≤ 300 words) and Keywords
- Body of the manuscript: Introduction, Related Work, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion; with a total of ≤ 6000 words; total number of figures and tables ≤ 8
- The Conclusion section should also state the applicability of your research
- A Glossary is not needed for JBI papers

Other reporting guidelines

If your study includes generative artificial intelligence (AI)-driven chatbots used to summarize clinical evidence or provide health advice: please use the **Chatbot Assessment Reporting Tool** (CHART) 12 key reporting items, checklist, and methodological diagram. See [Reporting guideline for chatbot health advice studies: The CHART statement - ScienceDirect](#)

For **methodological reviews** you are expected to specify the systematic methods (including the exact search terms and the resources that were searched (e.g., Pubmed, Scholar) by which you searched for papers, and you are **required** to follow the **PRISMA reporting guidelines** and present a PRISMA diagram <https://www.prisma-statement.org/prisma-2020-flow-diagram>

- Read the [PRISMA 2020 guidelines](#)
- Follow the [PRISMA 2020 checklist](#)

Article structure

Article sections

- Divide your article into clearly defined and numbered sections. Number subsections 1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...), then 1.2, etc.
- Use the numbering format when cross-referencing within your article. Do not just refer to "the text."
- You may give subsections a brief heading. Headings should appear on a separate line.
- Do not include the article abstract within section numbering.

Glossary

Please provide definitions of field-specific terms used in your article, in a separate list.

Acknowledgements

Include any individuals who provided you with help during your research, such as help with language, writing or proof reading, in the acknowledgements section.

Acknowledgements should be placed in a separate section which appears directly before the reference list. Do not include acknowledgements on your title page, as a footnote to your title, or anywhere else in your article other than in the separate acknowledgements section.

Author contributions: CRediT

Corresponding authors are required to acknowledge co-author contributions using [CRediT \(Contributor Roles Taxonomy\)](#) roles:

- Conceptualization
- Data curation
- Formal analysis
- Funding acquisition
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- Methodology
- Project administration
- Resources
- Software
- Supervision
- Validation
- Visualization
- Writing – original draft
- Writing – review and editing

Not all CRediT roles will apply to every manuscript and some authors may contribute through multiple roles.

We advise you to read [more about CRediT](#) and [view an example of a CRediT author statement](#).

Appendices

We ask you to use the following format for appendices:

- Identify individual appendices within your article using the format: A, B, etc.

- Give separate numbering to formulae and equations within appendices using formats such as Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc. and in subsequent appendices, Eq. (B.1), Eq. (B. 2) etc. In a similar way, give separate numbering to tables and figures using formats such as Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

References

References within text

Any references cited within your article should also be present in your reference list and vice versa. Some guidelines:

- References cited in your abstract must be given in full.
- We recommend that you do not include unpublished results and personal communications in your reference list, though you may mention them in the text of your article.
- Any unpublished results and personal communications included in your reference list must follow the standard reference style of the journal. In substitution of the publication date add "unpublished results" or "personal communication."
- References cited as "in press" imply that the item has been accepted for publication.

Linking to cited sources will increase the discoverability of your research.

Before submission, check that all data provided in your reference list are correct, including any references which have been copied. Providing correct reference data allows us to link to abstracting and indexing services such as Scopus, Crossref and PubMed. Any incorrect surnames, journal or book titles, publication years or pagination within your references may prevent link creation.

We encourage the use of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) as reference links as they provide a permanent link to the electronic article referenced.

Reference format

This journal does not set strict requirements on reference formatting at submission. Some guidelines:

- References can be in any style or format as long as the style is consistent.
- Author names, journal or book titles, chapter or article titles, year of publication, volume numbers, article numbers or pagination must be included, where applicable.
- Use of DOIs is recommended.

Our journal reference style will be applied to your article after acceptance, at proof stage. If required, at this stage we will ask you to correct or supply any missing reference data.

Reference style

Indicate references by adding a number within square brackets in the text. You can refer to author names within your text, but you must always give the reference number, e.g., "as demonstrated [3,6]. Barnaby and Jones [8] obtained a different result".

Number references in the order they appear in your article.

Abbreviate journal names according to the [List of Title Word Abbreviations](#) (LTWA).

Examples:

Reference to a journal publication:

[1] J. van der Geer, T. Handgraaf, R.A. Lupton, The art of writing a scientific article, J. Sci. Commun. 163 (2020) 51 – 59.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sc.2020.00372>.

Reference to a journal publication with an article number:

[2] J. van der Geer, T. Handgraaf, R.A. Lupton, 2022. The art of writing a scientific article. Heliyon. 19, e00205.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2022.e00205>.

Reference to a book:

[3] W. Strunk Jr., E.B. White, The Elements of Style, fourth ed., Longman, New York, 2000.

Reference to a chapter in a book:

[4] G.R. Mettam, L.B. Adams, How to prepare an electronic version of your article, in: B.S. Jones, R.Z. Smith (Eds.), Introduction to the Electronic Age, E-Publishing Inc., New York, 2020, pp. 281 - 304.

Reference to a website:

[5] Cancer Research UK, Cancer statistics reports for the UK.
<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/aboutcancer/statistics/cancerstatsreport/>, 2023 (accessed 13 March 2023).

Reference to a dataset:

[6] M. Oguro, S. Imahiro, S. Saito, T. Nakashizuka, Mortality data for Japanese oak wilt disease and surrounding forest compositions [dataset], Mendeley Data, v1, 2015. <https://doi.org/10.1234/abc12nb39r.1>.

Reference to software:

[7] E. Coon, M. Berndt, A. Jan, D. Svyatsky, A. Atchley, E. Kikinzon, D. Harp, G. Manzini, E. Shelef, K. Lipnikov, R. Garimella, C. Xu, D. Moulton, S. Karra, S. Painter, E. Jafarov, S. Molins, Advanced Terrestrial Simulator (ATS) v0.88 [software], Zenodo, March 25, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1234/zenodo.3727209>.

Web references

When listing web references, as a minimum you should provide the full URL and the date when the reference was last accessed. Additional information (e.g. DOI, author names, dates or reference to a source publication) should also be provided, if known.

You can list web references separately under a new heading directly after your reference list or include them in your reference list.

Data references

We encourage you to cite underlying or relevant datasets within article text and to list data references in the reference list.

When citing data references, you should include:

- author name(s)
- dataset title
- data repository
- version (where available)
- year
- global persistent identifier

Add [dataset] immediately before your reference. This will help us to properly identify the dataset. The [dataset] identifier will not appear in your published article.

Preprint references

We ask you to mark preprints clearly. You should include the word "preprint" or the name of the preprint server as part of your reference and provide the preprint DOI.

Where a preprint has subsequently become available as a peer-reviewed publication, use the formal publication as your reference.

If there are preprints that are central to your work or that cover crucial developments in the topic, but they are not yet formally published, you may reference the preprint.

Reference management software

Most Elsevier journals have their reference template available in popular reference management software products. These include products that support [Citation Style Language \(CSL\)](#) such as [Mendeley Reference Manager](#).

If you use a citation plug-in from these products, select the relevant journal template and all your citations and bibliographies will automatically be formatted in the journal style. We advise you to [remove all field codes](#) before submitting your manuscript to any reference management software product.

If a template is not available for this journal, follow the format given in examples in the reference style section of this Guide for Authors.

Submitting your manuscript

Submission checklist

Before completing the submission of your manuscript, we advise you to read our submission checklist:

- One author has been designated as the corresponding author and their full contact details (email address, full postal address and phone numbers) have been provided.
- All files have been uploaded, including keywords, figure captions and tables (including a title, description and footnotes) included. This includes any supplementary materials and videos.
- Spelling and grammar checks have been carried out.
- All references in the article text are cited in the reference list and vice versa.
- Permission has been obtained for the use of any copyrighted material from other sources, including the Web.
- For open access articles, all authors understand that they are responsible for payment of the article publishing charge (APC) if the manuscript is accepted. Payment of the APC may be covered by the corresponding author's institution, or the research funder.

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Our online submission system guides you through the process steps of entering your manuscript 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 email.

Please follow this link to [submit your paper](#).

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Corresponding authors will be sent an email which includes a link to our online proofing system, allowing annotation and correction of proofs online. The environment is similar to Word. You can edit text, comment on figures and tables and answer questions raised by our copy editor. Our web-based proofing service ensures a faster and less error-prone process.

You can choose to annotate and upload your edits on the PDF version of your article, if preferred. We will provide you with proofing instructions and available alternative proofing methods in our email.

The purpose of the proof is to check the typesetting, editing, completeness and correctness of your article text, tables and figures. Significant changes to your article at the proofing stage will only be considered with approval of the journal editor.

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A customized [Share Link](#), providing 50 days free access to the final published version of your article on [ScienceDirect](#), will be sent by email to the corresponding author. The Share Link can be used to share your article on any communication channel, such as by email or on social media.

A Share Link will not be provided if your article is published open access. The final published version of your open access article will be openly available on ScienceDirect and can be shared through the article DOI link.

Responsible sharing

We encourage you to share and promote your article to give additional visibility to your work, enabling your paper to contribute to scientific progress and foster the exchange of scientific developments within your field. Read more about how to [responsibly share and promote your article](#).

Resources for authors

Elsevier Researcher Academy

If you would like help to improve your submission or navigate the publication process, support is available via [Elsevier Researcher Academy](#).

Elsevier Researcher Academy offers free e-learning modules, webinars, downloadable guides and research writing and peer review process resources.

Language and editing services

We recommend that you write in American or British English but not a combination of both.

If you feel the English language in your manuscript requires editing to eliminate possible grammatical or spelling errors and to conform to correct scientific English, you may wish to use the [English Language Editing service](#) provided by Elsevier's Author Services.

Getting help and support

Author support

We recommend that you visit our [Journal Article Publishing Support Center](#) if you have questions about the editorial process or require technical support for your submission. Some popular FAQs:

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- [When will my article be published?](#)

