

## Springer Protocols Manuscript Instructions

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The purpose of this series is to provide individual volumes that describe detailed practical procedures for a particular subject area. Although the research literature contains descriptions of practical procedures, extensive practical detail is not always presented, and, more particularly, an idea of the problems that can be encountered and how they are identified and overcome is rarely included. This series aims to address these deficiencies. Each chapter in a volume of this series should therefore be one specific method, written such that a competent scientist who is unfamiliar with the method can carry out the technique successfully at the first attempt by simply following the detailed practical procedures that you have described. The success of the series is, in large part, due to the usefulness of the "Notes" section. Chapters tend to average 10-15 double-spaced typed pages, but can be longer or shorter as necessary. Unless your editor has specifically requested that you write a review chapter, each contribution should conform to the following format as closely as possible. (**A Sample Chapter is included as a reference**).

Please arrange your chapter text file in the following order:

#### **i. Summary/Abstract**

In one or two paragraphs, please write an overview of the method described.

#### **ii. Key Words**

Please include 5-10 key words for referencing by electronic databases and search engines.

## **1. Introduction**

This section should contain a summary of, and the outline of any theory to, the method that you're describing. It should also outline the major procedures involved in the protocol.

## **2. Materials**

This section should list the composition of all buffers, media, solutions, and specialist equipment etc., that are necessary for carrying out the method described in section 3. Suppliers aren't needed for routine reagents (the reader will use his/her own local supplier) and catalogue numbers aren't required at all for reagents. All buffers, solutions and media should be presented in the same format i.e. name, colon then composition on one continuous line, with components separated by commas not semi-colons.

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This is the main section and should explain in detail the individual steps necessary to carry out the technique. Where possible, please simply list the steps in numerical order. For techniques that comprise a number of separate major procedures, please indicate these separate procedures in the introduction, and then subdivide section 3 into subheadings to cover each procedure (3.1, 3.2 etc; please avoid any further subdivision of these headings). The steps in each subsection should then be numbered individually, renumbering from number one. Do take great care to try to indicate any little "tricks" or nuances that help improve your method by referring to relevant "notes" in section 4 (see below). This sort of information rarely gets into the scientific literature. You may also find it useful to relate to some aspects of the theory in this section indicating the purpose of some of the major steps by cross-referencing to an appropriate "note". Do not be tempted to get involved in the description of variations/alternatives to your technique in this section: this can be done in the "Notes" section. Stick to the basic procedure detailed in this section.

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As we all know, even the simplest techniques go wrong from time to time. Would you therefore indicate any major problems or faults that can occur with your technique? Try to indicate the major sources of problems and how they can be identified and overcome. With reference to related techniques, any variations of the technique that you have described should also be made in this section, as well as--where relevant--an indication of the sensitivity of the method, timescale for the singled technique, etc. This "Notes" section is a hallmark of this series and has been singled out for praise by a number of reviewers. Please try and make this section as extensive as possible by putting on paper all of your various experiences with the technique. Each 'Note' should be cross-referenced with the 'Materials' and 'Methods' sections, e.g. (see **Note 1**).

## **5. References**

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19.	<b>Patent. Name and date of patent are optional</b>	Norman LO (1998) Lightning rods. US Patent 4,379,752, 9 Sept 1998
20.	<b>Dissertation</b>	Trent JW (1975) Experimental acute renal failure. Dissertation, University of California
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