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37 **FRONT MATTER**

38 **Title**

- 39
- 40 • Full titles can be a maximum of 135 characters.  
41 • Short title can be a maximum of 50 characters.

42 **Authors**

43 Example: Firstname M. Lastname,<sup>1\*</sup> Firstname I. Lastname,<sup>1,2</sup> Firstname I. Lastname<sup>3†</sup>

44 Authors should be listed in order of contribution to the paper, by first name, then middle  
45 initial (if any), followed by last name and separated by commas. The author list should be  
46 one single paragraph with no line breaks. Failure to spell out first names will introduce  
47 errors when the paper is deposited in PubMed. The author list should match information  
48 cataloged in the author paperwork in CTS.

49 **Affiliations**

50 Use superscript numbers (1, 2, 3) to designate author affiliations.

- 51
- 52 • Each affiliation should be preceded by superscript numbers corresponding  
53 to the author list, and each affiliation should end with a period.  
54 • Each affiliation should be a separate paragraph.  
55 • You can include group authors, but please include a list of the actual  
56 authors (the group members) in the Supplementary Materials.

57 **Identify the corresponding author with an asterisk (\*) and be sure to include that**  
58 **person's e-mail address.**

59 Use symbols (in this order: †, ‡, §, ||, ¶, #, ††, ‡‡, etc.) for author notes such as present  
60 addresses, "These authors contributed equally to this work" notations, and similar  
61 information.

62 **Abstract**

63 The abstract should be a single paragraph (**less than 160 words**) written in plain language  
64 that a general reader can understand. Do not include citations. The abstract should  
65 provide:

- 66
- 67 • An opening sentence that states the question/problem addressed by the research  
68 • Enough background content to give context to the study  
69 • A brief statement of primary results  
70 • A short concluding sentence

71 **Teaser**

72 This one-sentence summary (<130 characters with period) provides a pithy snapshot of  
73 your research for non-specialist readers and should complement rather than repeat the title.  
74 Do not use "We" to start the teaser.

75 **MAIN TEXT**

76 **The manuscript should be a maximum of 15,000 words.**

77 **Introduction**

78 The manuscript should start with a brief introduction that lays out the problem addressed  
79 by the research and describes the paper's importance. The scientific question being

87 investigated should be described in detail. The introduction should provide sufficient  
88 background information to make the article understandable to readers in other disciplines,  
89 and provide enough context to ensure that the implications of the experimental findings  
90 are clear. USE ACTIVE VOICE: “The team conducted the experiment.” NOT “The  
91 experiment was conducted by the team.”

92 **Results**

93 The results should describe the experiments performed and the findings observed. The  
94 results section should be divided into subsections to delineate different experimental  
95 themes. Subheadings should be descriptive phrases. All data must be shown either in the  
96 main text or in the Supplementary Materials.

- 98 • All data should be presented in the Results. No data should be presented for the  
99 first time in the Discussion. Data (such as from Western blots) should be  
100 appropriately quantified.
- 101 • Subheadings should be descriptive phrases. They should be brief, ideally less  
102 than 10 words. Subheadings should not end in a period. Your paper may have  
103 as many subheadings as are necessary.
- 104 • Figures and Tables must be called out in numerical order. For example, the  
105 first mention of any panel of Fig. 3 cannot precede the first mention of all  
106 panels of Fig. 2.
- 107 • Display equations (set on their own line) can be included. Do not use the native  
108 Word 2007, 2008, 2010, or 2011 equation editor. This can produce inaccurate  
109 MathML, the online markup language we use, which may result in display  
110 errors. Instead, use the legacy equation editor in Word (Insert menu; select  
111 insert object; select word equation) or use MathType (recommended). If you  
112 enter equations in simple LaTeX, check that they convert accurately (Word  
113 2007 and higher can convert simple LaTeX equations). Display equations  
114 should be numbered at the right — (1), (2), etc.
- 115 • The same guidelines apply to mathematical expressions within a sentence of  
116 text; however, MathType (or the equivalent) should be used within text only  
117 when the desired result cannot be achieved using ordinary Word characters.  
118 Reserve MathType for when its use is unavoidable—for example, characters  
119 with overbars or carets, with stacked superscripts and subscripts, or within  
120 square root symbols.

121 **Discussion**

122 Include a Discussion that summarizes (but does not merely repeat) your conclusions and  
123 elaborates on their implications. There should be a paragraph outlining the limitations of  
124 your results and interpretation, as well as a discussion of the steps that need to be taken for  
125 the findings to be applied. Please avoid claims of priority. Do not include a “Conclusion”  
126 heading.

127 **Materials and Methods**

128 The Materials and Methods section should provide sufficient information to allow  
129 replication of the results. Begin with a section titled Experimental Design describing the  
130 objectives and design of the study as well as prespecified components.

133 In addition, include a section titled Statistical Analysis at the end that fully describes the  
134 statistical methods with enough detail to enable a knowledgeable reader with access to the  
135 original data to verify the results. The values for  $N$ ,  $P$ , and the specific statistical test  
136 performed for each experiment should be included in the appropriate figure legend or  
137 main text.

138 All descriptions of materials and methods should be included after the Discussion. This  
139 section should be broken up by short subheadings. Under exceptional circumstances, when  
140 a particularly lengthy description is required, a portion of the Materials and Methods can  
141 be included in the Supplementary Materials.

## 144 References

145 There is only one reference list for all sources cited in the main text, figure and table legends,  
146 and Supplementary Materials. The suggested upper limit for research articles is 80 and for  
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151 extensive reference lists) include these references in an Excel file and list the datafile labeled  
152 as such in the Supplementary Materials.

153  
154 Each reference should have a separate number and should be on a separate line ending in a  
155 period. References should be numbered in order of citation in the text: first in the text, then  
156 through figure and table captions and text boxes, and finally SM-only references. If using software  
157 to number references, please ensure that they follow the citation order listed here. If they do not,  
158 renumbering will be required and this could delay the paper.

159  
160 See the [Information for Authors](#) for details of correct reference style, with examples.

161  
162 Please do not include any extraneous language such as explanatory notes as part of a reference  
163 to a given source. No endnotes or footnotes are permitted; if information is important enough  
164 to include, add it to the main text. Note that accepted papers cannot include any unpublished  
165 or “in-press” references. They must convert to published references or will be removed and  
166 the list will have to be renumbered.  
167

## 168 Acknowledgments

169  
170 Acknowledgments follow the references and notes section but are not numbered. They  
171 should include the following information in the order listed below. Each section must be a  
172 **separate paragraph** and the heading in bold. Please use the subhead and boldface layout  
173 as shown below.).  
174

175  
176 If applicable, begin the section with text that acknowledges non-author contributions.  
177 (Note this section does not have a general heading).

178  
179 **Funding:** Include all funding sources, including grant numbers, complete funding agency  
180 names, and recipient’s initials. Each funding source should be listed in a separate  
181 paragraph such as:

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National Institute of Health Researh UK

**Author contributions:** Each author's contribution(s) to the paper should be listed (we suggest following the CRediT model with each CRediT role given its own line. No punctuation in the initials.

Examples:

Conceptualization: SBB, DLA, MPW  
Methodology: HP, FTGS, CW, JRK  
Investigation: SBB, DLA, MPW  
Visualization: SFB  
Supervision: SJE, JLS, EH  
Writing—original draft: SBB, DLA  
Writing—review & editing: SBB, DLA, PRB, EH

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**Data and materials availability:** All data, code, and materials used in the analyses must be available in some form to any researcher for purposes of reproducing or extending the analyses. Include a note explaining any restrictions on materials, such as materials transfer agreements (MTAs). Include accession numbers to any data relevant to the paper and deposited in a public database; include a brief description of the dataset or model with the number. The DMA statement should include the following: “All data are available in the main text or the supplementary materials.”

## Figures and Tables

You may include up to **a total of 10 figures and/or tables (combined)** throughout the manuscript. You should embed your figures within the Word file. A detailed description for figure preparation can be found on the topical style sheet for your field. For revised papers, include the captions at the end of the document and upload figures to CTS.

**Fig. 1. Short title of the first figure.** The figure legend should begin with a title (an overall description of the figure, in boldface) followed by additional text. Each legend should be placed immediately after its corresponding figure.

**Fig. 2. Short title of the second figure.** Indicate figure parts with bold capital letters: (A), (B), etc.

**Table 1. Short title of the first table.** Start table legends with a title (short description of the table). Format tables using the Word Table commands and structures. Do not

use spaces, tabs or hard returns to create tables. Every vertical column should have a heading, followed by a unit of measure (if any) in parentheses. Units should not change within a column. Centered headings of the body of the table can be used to break the entries into groups. Footnotes should contain information relevant to specific cells of the table; use the following symbols in order, as needed:\*, †, ‡, §, ||, ¶, #, \*\*, ††, etc. (Don't use footnotes in column heads; include any such details in sentence form after the table itself.)

## Supplementary Materials

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