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Scope and Editorial Policy

Langmuir is dedicated to reporting new and original experimental and theoretical research of interest to scientists in the fields of surface and colloid chemistry. The material may have applied aspects, but the dominant emphasis is on fundamental new experimental and/or theoretical findings. Manuscripts that essentially report data or applications of data are, in general, not suitable for publication in *Langmuir*.

All manuscripts are subject to critical review. The editors will request the scientific advice of

reviewers who are active in the area of research covered by the manuscript. The reviewers act only in an advisory capacity, and the final decision concerning a manuscript is the responsibility of the editors. The reviewers are asked to comment not only on the scientific content but also on the manuscript's suitability for *Langmuir*. With respect to Letters, the reviewers are asked to comment specifically on the urgency of publication. All reviews are anonymous. An exception occurs when a manuscript is submitted for publication in the form of a comment on the work of another author. Under such circumstances, the first author will, in general, be allowed to review the comment and to write a rebuttal. The reply and the original comment may be published together in the same issue of the journal.

Authors are responsible for ensuring that all patent activities and intellectual property issues are satisfactorily resolved prior to first publication (Just Accepted, ASAP, or in an issue). Acceptance and publication may be delayed by pending or unresolved issues of this nature.

Types of Manuscripts

Langmuir primarily publishes eight types of articles: Letters, Articles, Feature Articles, Instructional Reviews and Historical Reviews, Invited Perspectives, Comments, and Additions and Corrections. Each article type is described below. Please use the following table as a reference when preparing your manuscript.¹

Table 1. Guidelines for Length of Manuscripts and Number of References and Graphical Elements

Type	Length*	References	Self References	Graphic Elements***	Abstract
Letter	≤8-10 (5)**	30 or fewer	20% or under	6 or fewer	≤150 words
Article	≤30 (12)	60 or fewer	25% or under	10 or fewer	≤300 words
Invited Feature Article	≤40 (16)	70 or fewer	40% or under	15 or fewer	≤300 words
Instructional Review	≤40 (16)	70 or fewer	40% or under	15 or fewer	≤300 words
Historical Review	≤40 (16)	70 or fewer	40% or under	15 or fewer	≤300 words

* Length is in double-spaced typewritten pages; parentheses are for published journal pages.

** *Langmuir* instructions specify "Letters are restricted to 2500 words".

*** All figures, graphs, and tables are included in the total number of graphic elements

1. Letters are concise reports of compelling significance and novelty whose immediate availability

¹ Note that *Invited Perspectives, Comments, and Additions and Corrections* vary in length.

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to the scientific community is deemed important. A more comprehensive study containing significant additional data and/or analysis could be published subsequently as an Article. Letters should not be used to publish incremental advances or results from multiple related studies.

Manuscripts for Letters should be subdivided into (1) introduction, (2) experimental, (3) results and discussion, and (4) outlook—a paragraph stating the potential impact of the results and future directions. The abstract placed right after the listing of authors should briefly summarize the results and their significance. In addition, a descriptive table of contents graphic should be placed as the last page of the manuscript.

- 2. Articles** are comprehensive, critical accounts of the solution of significant problems that are expected to have a definable impact on the advancement of science and technology. Articles based on work reported in a preliminary Letter are welcome provided they represent a substantial amplification and extension of the earlier work and are not merely the addition of experimental details or further examples. Manuscripts should cover the research with thoroughness and clarity yet be as concise as possible.

Articles should be subdivided into (1) introduction, (2) experimental, (3) results, (4) discussion or results and discussion combined, and (5) conclusions/summary. The abstract placed right after the listing of authors should briefly summarize the results and their significance. The experimental section should be brief and more extensively described in the supporting information to afford adequate details to allow duplication of the procedures. In addition, a descriptive table of contents graphic should be placed as the last page of the manuscript.

- 3. Feature Articles** are concise and clear summaries of the most recent activity of the author and his/her group written with the broad readership of *Langmuir* in mind. These articles are intended to form a collection of accounts of modern research appropriate to *Langmuir* written for scientists in fields other than that of the authors and should thus contain (1) an introduction that familiarizes scientists with the authors' field and outlines the important questions to which answers are being sought; (2) interesting, new, and recent contributions of the author(s) to the field; and (3) a summary that mentions possible future directions and some speculation about them.

Generally, experts in a field who have made significant contributions to a specific topic in recent years will be invited to write Feature Articles. However, authors in important and active research fields of interest to the *Langmuir* audience are encouraged to propose such articles. Two-page proposals should be sent to the Editor-in Chief for approval.

An attractive color figure with aesthetic appeal aimed at generating excitement about the research contribution and submitted at the time of revision shall be considered for publication on the issue cover.

Feature Articles will include brief biographies of approximately four to five sentences describing each author's education, previous and current positions, scientific research interests, and color photographs of the authors. The biography of the senior author can be more extensive than those of the co-authors.

- 4. Instructional Reviews** are practical guides on how to perform experimental procedures relevant to obtaining data on systems dealing with colloidal and surface science as well as other techniques of interest to the *Langmuir* readership. They are neither reviews nor synopses of current progress in a particular area of science. They contain only those equations and formulas that are necessary to link the experimental and analytical aspects of a technique. References should be selected on the basis of their demonstration of the principles and procedures related to the procedure rather than being seminal articles in the field. A successful instructional review will lead the uninitiated reader (perhaps in the initial stages of graduate studies) through the steps necessary to obtain reliable data from an experimental procedure without focusing on one model or type of equipment germane to that task.

Generally, experts in a field will be invited to write Instructional Reviews. Before the preparation and submission of unsolicited manuscripts, ideas and brief outlines for Instructional Reviews should be sent to the Editor-in Chief for approval.

The abstract, placed immediately after the listing of authors, should briefly summarize the results and significance of the review. In addition, a descriptive table of contents graphic should be placed as the last page of the manuscript.

An attractive color figure with aesthetic appeal aimed at generating excitement about the research contribution and submitted at the time of revision shall be considered for publication on the issue cover.

Instructional Reviews will include brief biographies of approximately four to five sentences describing each author's education, previous and current positions, scientific research interests, and color photographs of the authors. The biography of the senior author can be more extensive than those of the co-authors.

- 5. Historical Reviews** provide a historical perspective on the development of an aspect of science of interest to the *Langmuir* readership. They are intended to provide the community with a balanced view of the seminal advances in the field, including the chronology of those advances. A short separate section at the end of the manuscript on perspectives on future advances in the field is optional but highly recommended. The references should lead the reader to the most important advances.

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Generally, experts in a field will be invited to write Historical Reviews. For unsolicited manuscripts, ideas and brief outlines for Historical Reviews should be sent to the Editor-in Chief for approval.

The abstract, placed immediately after the listing of authors, should briefly summarize the results and significance of the review. In addition, a descriptive table of contents graphic should be placed as the last page of the manuscript.

An attractive color figure with aesthetic appeal aimed at generating excitement about the research contribution and submitted at the time of revision shall be considered for publication on the issue cover.

Historical Reviews will include brief biographies of approximately four to five sentences describing each author's education, previous and current positions, scientific research interests, and color photographs of the authors. The biography of the senior author can be more extensive than those of the co-authors.

6. **Invited Perspectives** are sometimes included in Special Issues. Perspectives are personal, focused overviews of a topic. Authors of Perspectives are asked to assess the current status of the field, with an emphasis on identifying key advances being made or those advances that are needed, and with an eye to the future. The guest editor(s) of the special issue will provide detailed guidelines at the time of invitation.
7. **Comments** are brief responses to articles published in *Langmuir* and should be no more than two manuscript pages in length. A Comment could be a respectful presentation of an alternate point of view to one that has appeared in a recent (no more than 3 years prior) *Langmuir* publication. It could point out perceived errors in approaches, results, or conclusions in articles published in the journal. The authors of the original Article or Letter will be offered the opportunity to submit a Reply to a Comment, but the thread will be terminated at that point. Both Comments and Replies to Comments will be peer-reviewed, and the author(s) of the original article will be invited to review the former and the author of the Comment will be invited to review the Reply.
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approval from all of the article coauthors prior to submitting an Addition and Correction or should provide evidence that such approval has been solicited. The Addition and Correction should include the original article title and author list, citation including DOI, and details of the correction. For proper formatting, see examples in a current issue of *Langmuir*.

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Preparation and Submission of Manuscripts

Elements of Manuscripts

Please follow the guidelines in Table 1 and the guidelines listed below when preparing and submitting your manuscript. In 2012, *Langmuir* began checking new submissions to ensure that basic requirements were met prior to moving a manuscript into peer review. These criteria are intended to speed up the review and decision processes and are a direct response to requests from our reviewers and editors. These guidelines will ultimately help the author obtain a more timely review and revision process.

Title

Titles should clearly and concisely reflect the emphasis and content of the manuscript. Titles are of great importance for current awareness and information retrieval and should be carefully constructed for these purposes. Avoid uncommon acronyms and words such as “First”, “Novel”, “Facile”, and “One-Pot”.

Author List

Bylines should include all those who have made substantial contributions to the work. To facilitate indexing and retrieval and for unique identification of an author, use first names, initials, and surnames (e.g., John R. Smith) or first initials, second names, and last names (e.g., J. Robert Smith). At least one author must be designated with an asterisk to indicate the person to whom readers may send correspondence.

The author who submits the manuscript for publication accepts the responsibility of notifying all co-authors that the manuscript is being submitted. Deletion of an author after the manuscript has been submitted requires a confirming letter to the Editor-in-Chief from the author whose name is being deleted. For more information on ethical responsibilities of authors, see the [Ethical](#)

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[Guidelines to Publication of Chemical Research.](#)

Abstract

An abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research (if this is not contained in the title), the principal results, and the major conclusions.

Text

All sections of the manuscript must be presented in a clear and concise manner. Authors should include an introductory statement outlining the scientific motivation for the research. The statement should clearly specify the questions for which answers are sought as well as the connection of the present work to previous and current work in the field. In both Letters and Articles, the introduction should be a separate section of the manuscript. In the discussion section, the author should discuss the significance of his/her observations, measurements, or computations. The author(s) should also point out how these elements contribute to the scientific objectives indicated in the introduction. An extensive review of prior work is not appropriate in Letters and Articles, and documentation of the literature should be selective rather than exhaustive, particularly if reviews can be cited. Tabulation of experimental results is encouraged whenever it leads to a more effective presentation or economical use of space. Authors should use the supporting information format, now widely available on the Web along with the published article. A list of free [Supporting Information viewers is also available](#).

References and Footnotes

References and explanatory notes should be grouped at the end of the manuscript and typed double-spaced. They should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text as well as individually, with only one citation per reference (no a, b, c, etc., within a numerical reference). Manuscripts should not depend on unpublished material as citations for their usefulness, and excessive reference material is discouraged.

References should adhere to ACS journal format and should include the following components: article titles, [CAS Source Index](#) (CASSI) journal abbreviations, proper punctuation and arrangement, and full page ranges. See the examples below.

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- (1) Boisselier, E.; Astruc, D. Gold Nanoparticles in Nanomedicine: Preparations, Imaging, Diagnostics, Therapies and Toxicity. *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2009**, *38*, 1759–1782.
- (2) Ghosh, P.; Han, G.; De, M.; Kim, C. H.; Rotello, V. M. Gold Nanoparticles in Delivery Applications. *Adv. Drug Delivery Rev.* **2008**, *60*, 1307–1315.
- (3) Sperling, R. A.; Rivera, P.; Gil, Zhang, F.; Zanella, M.; Parak, W. J. Biological Applications of Gold Nanoparticles. *Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2008**, *37*, 1896–1908.
- (4) Giljohann, D. A.; Seferos, D. S.; Daniel, W. L.; Massich, M. D.; Patel, P. C.; Mirkin, C. A.

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- Gold Nanoparticles for Biology and Medicine. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2010**, *49*, 3280–3294.
- (5) Thomas, M.; Klibanov, A. M. Enhancing Polyethylenimine's Delivery of Plasmid DNA into Mammalian Cells. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **2012**, *100*, 9138–9143.
- (6) Rosi, N. L.; Giljohann, D. A.; Thaxton, C. S.; Lytton-Jean, A. K. R.; Han, M. S.; Mirkin, C. A. Oligonucleotide-Modified Gold Nanoparticles for Intracellular Gene Regulation. *Science* **2006**, *312*, 1027–1030.

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the references. Because subscribers to the Web editions of ACS journals are now able to link directly to the “CAS” tag following each reference to retrieve the corresponding abstract at Chemical Abstracts Service, the accuracy of references is critical. Further guidance on references is available in the [References chapter](#) of [The ACS Style Guide](#).

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Nomenclature should conform to current American usage. If possible, authors should use systematic names similar to those in Chemical Abstracts Service and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. Chemical Abstracts (CA) nomenclature rules are described in Appendix IV of the Chemical Abstracts Index Guide. For CA nomenclature advice, consult the Manager of Nomenclature Services, Chemical Abstracts Service, P.O. Box 3012, Columbus, OH 43210-0012. A name generation service is available for a fee through CAS Client Services, 2540 Olentangy River Road, P.O. Box 3343, Columbus, OH 43210-0334, telephone: (614) 447-3870, fax: (614) 447-3747, e-mail: answers@cas.org.

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Authors are strongly encouraged to use supporting information to submit extensive tables, graphs, spectra, mathematical derivations, expanded discussion of peripheral points, or other material that, although essential to the specialized reader who needs all the data or all of the details, may help but often hinders the effective presentation of the work being reported. Supporting information will be included in the Web edition of the journal and is available free of charge to the public.

Authors are encouraged to make use of this resource, in the interest of shorter articles (which could mean more rapid publication) and clearer, more readable presentations.

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DO NOT UPLOAD FIGURES AND TABLES THAT ARE INTENDED TO BE PUBLISHED AS PART OF THE ARTICLE INTO THE SUPPORTING INFORMATION FILE.

A paragraph should appear at the end of the manuscript indicating the supporting information and how the interested reader may obtain copies directly. Use the following format: **Supporting Information.** Brief statement in nonsentence format listing the contents of the material supplied as Supporting Information.

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The preferred submission procedure is to embed graphic files in a Word document. To facilitate the publication process, please submit manuscript graphics chemical structures following the guidelines found at http://pubs.acs.org/page/4Authors/submission/graphics_prep.html.

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Appendices must be placed in the supporting information.

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A graphic must be included with each manuscript for the table of contents (TOC). This graphic should capture the reader's attention and, in conjunction with the manuscript title, should give the reader a quick visual impression of the essence of the manuscript without providing specific results. The graphic submitted for the TOC is used for multiple purposes, including the document abstract and other situations where a representative graphic is required.

The TOC graphic should be in the form of a structure, graph, drawing, SEM/TEM photograph, or reaction scheme. Some of the best images are simple, relatively free of text and technical characters, and use of color for visual impact. It is best to stay away from complex structure schemes and small-sized details. The author must submit a graphic at the actual size to be used for the TOC so that it will fit in an area no larger than 3.25 inches by 1.75 inches (approx. 8.5 cm by 4.75 cm). Larger images will be reduced to fit within these dimensions. The type size of labels, formulas, and numbers within the graphic must be legible. Tables or spectra are not acceptable.

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