

frontiers

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY RESEARCH PUBLISHING

Author Guidelines

Tier 1 Articles

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1. Tier 1 Article Types

Original Research Article

Original Research Articles describe the hypothesis, study, and methods of original research. The results of the research is reported, interpreted and may include a discussion of possible implications. Original Research Articles have a maximum word count of 12,000, are peer-reviewed, copy-edited, receive a DOI, are citable, published in PDF and HTML format, and submitted for indexing in digital archives, such as PubMed Central. Authors are required to pay a fee to publish an Original Research Article. The most outstanding Original Research Articles, selected democratically via the Frontiers Evaluation System, will be invited to write a prestigious Focused Review in the corresponding field journal.

Clinical Trial Article

Original Research Related to Clinical Trials Articles describe issues related to the design and development of clinical trials (such as ethical considerations, study designs, measurements of outcome, and methods of analysis) or the results of clinical trials (including pilot, proof-of-concept, surrogate endpoint, safety, and efficacy trials). The results of the research is reported, interpreted and may include a discussion of possible implications. Clinical Trial Articles have a maximum word count of 12,000, are peer-reviewed, copy-edited, receive a DOI, are citable, published in PDF and HTML format, and submitted for indexing in digital archives, such as PubMed Central. Authors are required to pay a fee to publish an Original Research Article. The most outstanding Articles, selected democratically via the Frontiers Evaluation System, will be invited to write a prestigious Focused Review in the corresponding field journal.

Hypothesis and Theory Article

Hypothesis and Theory Articles present an argument, synthesis, hypothesis or theory. Hypothesis and Theory Articles should be closely tied to empirical data, and provide novel insights into a significant question or issue. In addition, the argument or theory put forth should lead to testable predictions. Hypothesis and Theory Articles have a maximum word count of 12,000, are peer-reviewed, copy-edited, receive a DOI, are citable, published in PDF and HTML format, and submitted for indexing in digital archives, such as PubMed Central. Authors are required to pay a fee to publish a Hypothesis and Theory Article.

Perspective Article

Perspective Articles present a viewpoint on an important area of research. Perspective Articles focus on a specific field or subfield and discuss current advances and future directions. Perspective Articles may add personal insight and opinion to a field. Perspective Articles have a maximum word count of 3,000, are peer-reviewed, copy-edited, receive a DOI, are citable, published in PDF and HTML format, and submitted for indexing in digital archives, such as PubMed Central. Authors are required to pay a fee to publish a Perspective Article.

Methods Article

Methods Articles present a cutting-edge technology that opens new avenues for experimental investigation of important issues in a field. Method manuscripts should include in the form of a brief statement: the experimental objectives, the limitations of current techniques, and a detailed protocol of the new technique. In addition, there should be some data to demonstrate the power of the technique. Methods Articles may add personal insight and opinion of the significance of the technology for the field. Methods Articles have a maximum word count of 12,000, are peer-reviewed, copy-edited, receive a DOI, are citable, published in PDF and HTML format, and submitted for indexing in digital archives, such as PubMed Central. Authors are required to pay a

fee to publish a Methods Article.

Mini Review Article

Mini Reviews focus on clearly defined topics of current interest and recent developments in the field. They offer a fast and easy read to get up to date on exciting new developments and/or concepts. Mini Reviews have a word count of maximum 3,000, are peer-reviewed, copy-edited, receive a DOI, are citable, published in PDF and HTML format, and submitted for indexing in digital archives, such as PubMed Central. Authors are required to pay a fee to publish a Mini Review.

Clinical Case Studies

Clinical Case Studies present real patient cases from medical practice. They should present cases that make a significant contribution to the body of knowledge in the medical field. Clinical Case Studies illustrate the signs, symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of a disease. They include a brief presentation of the case, background information, and a discussion of the significance of the case. Clinical Case Studies have a word count of maximum 12,000, are peer-reviewed, copy-edited, receive a DOI, are citable, published in PDF and HTML format, and submitted for indexing in digital archives, such as PubMed Central. Authors are required to pay a fee to publish a Clinical Case Study.

CPC

CPC articles present real patient cases from medical practice and are an educational tool in diagnostic teaching. CPC articles illustrate the signs, symptoms, and diagnosis. They include historical and physical exam findings and presents a problem based approach to a case: differential diagnosis should not be exhaustive, but should include the 3–5 most probable diagnoses with the greatest discussion spent on the most likely. CPC articles have a word count of maximum 2,500, are peer-reviewed, copy-edited, receive a DOI, are citable, published in PDF and HTML format, and submitted for indexing in digital archives, such as PubMed Central. Authors are required to pay a fee to publish a CPC article.

Review Article

Review Articles cover topics that have seen significant development or progress in recent years with comprehensive depth, balanced perspective, intellectual insight, and broad general interest. Reviews do not merely recap the literature, but critique fundamental concepts, issues, and problems that define the field. Review Articles have a maximum word count of 12,000, are peer-reviewed, copy-edited, receive a DOI, are citable, published in PDF and HTML format, and submitted for indexing in digital archives, such as PubMed Central. Authors are required to pay a fee to publish a Review Article.

Technology Report

Technology Reports provide information on new methods or emerging techniques. Technology Reports introduce the basic technical background of the method and evaluate the advantages and the limitations of the approach and its applications. Technology Reports have a maximum word count of 12,000, are reviewed, and receive a DOI. Any registered Frontiers user, including companies, may submit a Technology Report. Authors are required to pay a fee to publish a Technology Report.

General Commentary

General Commentaries call attention to papers of particular note – either published in Frontiers or in other journals. They have an maximum word count of 1,000, may contain no more than one illustration, are peer-reviewed, receive a DOI, are citable, published in PDF and HTML format, and submitted for indexing in digital archives, such as PubMed Central. Authors are not required to pay a fee to publish a Commentary.

Book Review

Book Reviews are one page literary criticisms analyzing content, style, and merit. These articles have a maximum word count of 1,000, are peer-reviewed, receive a DOI, are citable, published in PDF and HTML format, and submitted for indexing in digital archives, such as PubMed Central. Any registered Frontiers user may submit a Book Review. Authors are not required to pay a fee to publish a Book Review.

Opinion Article

Opinion Articles allow researchers to publish an opinion on the interpretation of facts, value of methods used, weaknesses and strengths of any scientific theory or on any topic relevant to the field of research. Opinion Articles allow maximum freedom of expression for researchers and are peer-reviewed. Opinion Articles have a maximum word count of 2,000. The articles are copy-edited, receive a DOI, are citable, and published in PDF and HTML format, and submitted for indexing in digital archives, such as PubMed Central. Authors are not required to pay a fee to publish an Opinion Article.

Editorials

Editorials are submitted by the host editor(s) of a Special Topic, and are an excellent way to introduce the topic, and summarize its contributing articles. They are also a way for the host to convey to the reader the aims and objectives of the research pertaining to the topic at hand. Editorials are usually written once all contributing articles have been accepted and published, and are the final contributing article to the topic. Editorials have a maximum word count of 1,000. Editorials are approved by the specialty chief editor of the journal in which the topic is hosted, receive a DOI, are citable, published in PDF and HTML format, and submitted for indexing in digital archives, such as PubMed Central. Authors are not required to pay a fee to publish an editorial.

Specialty Grand Challenge

Specialty Grand Challenges are written by Specialty Chief Editors about where they see their field going. Specialty Grand Challenges expose the major issues in the field for the 21st century and help the readers to understand the scope of the specialty. Specialty Grand Challenge Articles have a maximum word count of 2,000. The articles are copy-edited, receive a DOI, are citable, and published in PDF and HTML format, and submitted for indexing in digital archives, such as PubMed Central. Specialty Chief Editors are not required to pay a fee to publish a Specialty Grand Challenge Article.

2. Manuscript

2.1. Length

Frontiers encourages its authors to closely follow the article word count lengths given in the summary table in section 5. The manuscript length does not include references, tables and captions.

2.2. Language Style

Authors are requested to follow American English spelling. For any questions regarding style Frontiers recommends authors to consult the Chicago Manual of Style.

2.3. Title

The title is centered, and in 16 point bold Times New Roman font at the top of page. Except for special names (e.g., GABAergic), capitalize only the first letter of the title.

2.4. Authors and Affiliations

All names are listed together and separated by commas. Ensure to provide exact and correct author names as these will be indexed in official archives. Any later changes may be difficult. Affiliations should be keyed to the author's name with superscript numbers. Affiliations should be listed as follows: Laboratory, Institute, Department, Organization, City, State abbreviation (USA, Canada, Australia), and Country (without detailed address information such as city zip codes or street names).

Example: Max Maximus, Department of Excellence, International University of Science, New York, NY, USA.

The Corresponding Author should be marked with an asterisk. Please provide in a separate paragraph the exact contact address (this time including street name and city zip code) and email of the corresponding author. Please see the following example

Correspondence:

Dr. Max Maximus
International Institute of Neuroscience
Department of Physiology
Laboratory of Sensory Integration
Cajal Street 2460,
New York, NY, 59066, USA
maximus@gmail.com

If one of the authors has a change of address, list the new address below the correspondence details using a superscript symbol †, and use the same symbol to indicate the author in the author list.

2.5. Running Title

For article types requiring it, the running title should be a maximum of 5 words in length. (see section 5 Summary table)

2.6. Headings and Sub-headings

Except for special names (e.g. GABAergic), capitalize only the first letter of headings and subheadings. Headings and subheadings need to be defined in Times New Roman, 12, bold. You may insert up to 4 heading levels into your manuscript (not more than for example: 3.2.2.1. Heading title).

2.7. Abstract

As a primary goal, the abstract should render the general significance and conceptual advance of the work clearly accessible to a broad readership. References should not be cited in the abstract. The text of the abstract section should be in 12 point normal Times New Roman. See section 5 table for abstract length and requirement.

2.8. Keywords

All article types: you may provide up to 8 keywords; at least one is mandatory.

2.9. Text

The body text is in 12 point normal Times New Roman. New paragraphs will be separated with a single empty line. The entire document should be single-spaced and should contain line numbers in order to facilitate the review process. Your manuscript should be written using either LaTeX or MS-Word.

2.10. Nomenclature

- Non-standard abbreviations should be defined when first used in the text.
- Equations can be left as the image output of the equation editor in the text.
- Gene symbols should be italicized; protein products are not italicized.
- We encourage the use of Standard International Units in all manuscripts.

2.11. Sections

Your manuscript is organized by headings and subheadings.

For **Original Research Articles**, **Clinical Trial Articles** and **Technology Reports**, the following sections are mandatory. Please note that the Material and Methods section can be placed in any of the following ways: before Results, before Discussion or after Discussion:

1. **Introduction**
Succinct, with no subheadings.
2. **Materials and Methods**
This section may be divided by subheadings. The section should contain sufficient details so that when read in conjunction with cited references, all procedures can be repeated.
3. **Results**
This section may be divided by subheadings. Footnotes should not be used and have to be transferred into the main text.
4. **Discussion**
This section may be divided by subheadings.
Discussions should cover the key findings of the study: discuss any prior art related to the subject so to place the novelty of the discovery in the appropriate context; discuss the potential short-comings and limitations on their interpretations; discuss their integration into the current understanding of the problem and how this advances the current views; speculate on the future direction of the research and freely postulate theories that could be tested in the future.

For **Clinical Case Studies** the following sections are mandatory:

1. **Case Presentation**
Include symptoms at presentation, physical exams and lab results.
2. **Background**
This section may be divided by subheadings. Include history and review of similar cases.
3. **Discussion**
This section may be divided by subheadings. Include diagnosis and treatment.
4. **Concluding Remarks**

For **all other article types** there are no mandatory sections.

2.12. Use of Experimental Animals or Human Subjects

All experiments on live vertebrates or higher invertebrates must be performed in accordance with relevant institutional and national guidelines and regulations. In the manuscript, authors must identify the committee approving the experiments and must confirm that all experiments conform to the relevant regulatory standards. For

manuscripts reporting experiments on human subjects, authors must identify the committee approving the experiments and must also include a statement confirming that informed consent was obtained from all subjects. In **Original Research Articles** and **Clinical Trial Articles** these statements should appear in the Materials and Methods section.

2.13. Clinical Trial Registration

Clinical trials should be registered in a public trials registry in order to become the object of a publication at Frontiers. Trials must be registered at or before the start of patient enrollment. A clinical trial is defined as “any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes.” (www.who.int/ictcp/en). A list of acceptable registries can be found at www.who.int/ictcp/en and www.icmje.org

2.14. Conflict of Interest Statement

All relationships financial, commercial or otherwise that might be perceived by the academic community as representing a potential conflict of interest must be described. If no such relationship exists, authors will be asked to declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

2.15. Acknowledgements

The acknowledgements header is not numbered (Times New Roman, 12pt, bold). This is a short text to acknowledge the contributions of specific colleagues, institutions, or agencies that aided the efforts of the authors. A statement about the principal source of funding is encouraged, including grant numbers if appropriate.

2.16. References

All citations in the text, figures or tables must be in the reference list and vice-versa. Please make sure that the references are accurate and that ALL authors are listed in the reference list. Citations should be called according to the last name of the first author, followed by the year.

The references should only include articles that are published or in press. Unpublished data, submitted manuscripts, or personal communications should be cited within the text only. Personal communications should be documented by a letter of permission.

Please use the following style for references:

Article in a periodical

Sondheimer, N., and Lindquist, S. (2000). Rnq1: an epigenetic modifier of protein function in yeast. *Mol. Cell* 5, 163–172.

Article in a book

Sorenson, P. W., and Caprio, J. C. (1998). "Chemoreception," in *The Physiology of Fishes*, ed. D. H. Evans (Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press), 375–405.

Book

Cowan, W. M., Jessell, T. M., and Zipursky, S. L. (1997). *Molecular and Cellular Approaches to Neural Development*. New York: Oxford University Press.

For general questions regarding reference style, please refer to the Chicago Manual of Style.

2.17. Supplemental Material

Frontiers journals do not support pushing important results and information into supplementary sections. All information in form of additional text, graphs, and tables should be included into the original text. However, supplemental material that cannot be included in the article because it is too large or the current format does not permit it (such as movies, raw data traces, power point presentations, etc.) can be uploaded during the submissions procedure and will be displayed along with the published article.

3. Figures and Tables

3.1. General Style Guidelines for Images and Figures

Check that each table and figure is mentioned in the text and in numerical order. Make sure that permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the web).

Please note that it is obligatory to follow figure instructions. Figures provided, which are not according to the guidelines will cause substantial delay during the production process. The numbers of figures and tables allowed are shown in the summary table in section 5.

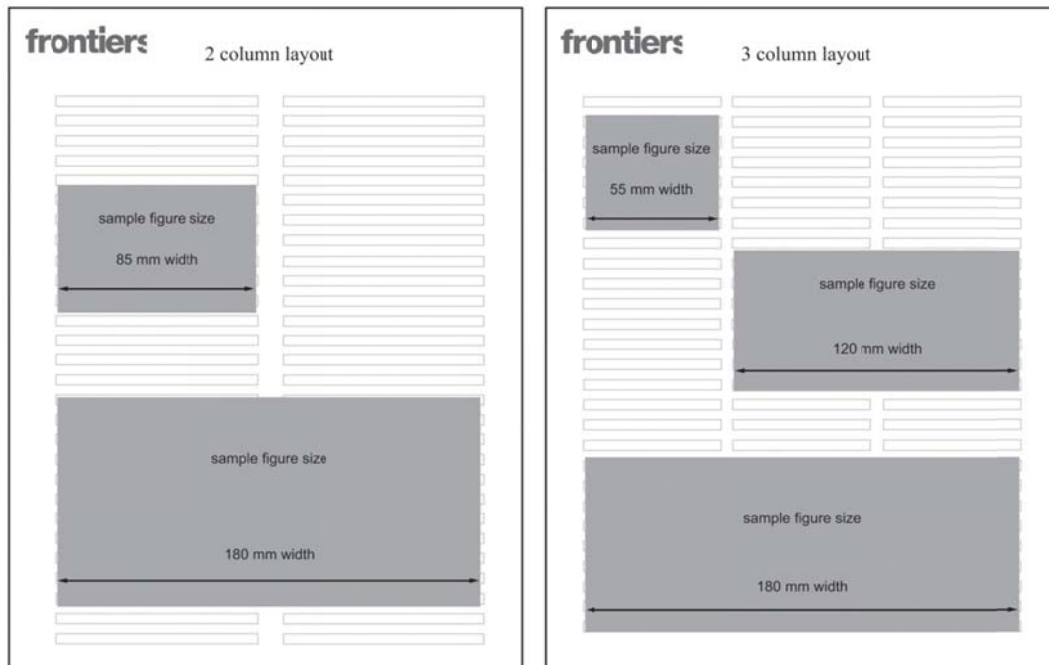
High-resolution images must be submitted separately in the formats described below.

3.2. Figure and Table Legends

Figure and table legends are the same as body text (12 point normal Times New Roman, single spaced). Legends should be preceded by a label, for example "Figure 1." or "Table 4.". Figure legends should be placed at the end of the manuscript. Please use only a single paragraph for the legend. Figure panels are referred to by bold capital letters in brackets: (A), (B), (C), (D), etc.

3.3. Image Size

Figure images should be prepared with the PDF layout in mind, with a width that corresponds to 1 column, 2 columns or 3 columns depending on article type.



Articles with an abstract are prepared using the 2 column layout: 2 column articles can contain images 85 mm or 180 mm wide.

Articles containing no abstract are prepared using the 3 column layout: 3 column articles can contain images 55 mm, 120 mm or 180 mm wide.

3.4. Text within the Figure

Text in figures and tables should be in Arial font and no smaller than 8 points when reduced to one of the two formats mentioned above. Figure panels are lettered by bold capital letters: A, B, C, D, etc.

3.5. Format

The following formats are accepted:

EPS (.eps)

TIFF (.tif) TIFF files should be saved using LZW compression or any other non-lossy compression method.

JPEG (.jpg)

3.6. Color Image Mode

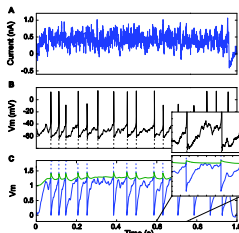
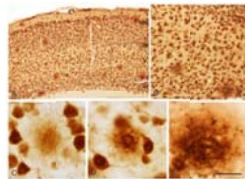
Please submit your images in the color mode RGB, grayscale or Bitmap.

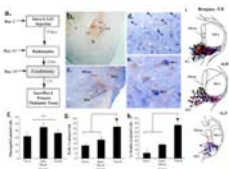
3.7. Resolution Requirements

All images must be uploaded separately in the submission procedure.

For black and white line art the minimum resolution should be 900 dpi. For halftone figures (photographs), the resolution should be a minimum of 300 dpi. For any type of graph or drawing in grayscale or combinations between line art and halftone, the resolution of your file should be a minimum of 600 dpi. Check the resolution of your figure by enlarging it to 150%. If the resolution is too low, the image will appear blurry, jagged or have a stair-stepped effect.

4. Image Specifications Table

Image Type	Description	Example	Format	Color Mode	Resolution
Line Art:	An image composed of lines and text, which does not contain tonal or shaded areas		TIFF, EPS, JPEG	RGB, Bitmap	900 – 1200 dpi
Halftone:	A continuous tone photograph, which contains no text		TIFF, EPS, JPEG	RGB, Grayscale	300 dpi

Combination:	Image contains halftone + text or line art elements		TIFF, EPS, JPEG	RGB, Grayscale	600 – 900 dpi
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4.1. Legibility

Figures must be legible. Please check the following:

- The smallest visible text is no less than 8 points in height, when viewed at actual size.
- Solid lines are not broken up.
- Image areas are not pixelated or stair stepped.
- Text is legible and of high quality.
- Any lines in the graphic are no smaller than 2 points width.

4.2. General Style Guidelines for Tables

Tables should be inserted into the manuscript. If you use a word processor, build your table in word. If you use a LaTeX processor, build your table in LaTeX. An empty line should be left before and after the table.

5. Article Types and Summary Table

	Abstract max. length	Running title (5 words)	Figures and tables	Manuscript max. length	Final PDF length (pages)	Peer review	Submitted to PubMed Central or other indexing databases
Original Research	2000 characters	✓	15	12'000 words	12	✓	✓
Hypothesis and Theory	2000 characters	✓	15	12'000 words	12	✓	✓
Methods	2000 characters	✓	15	12'000 words	12	✓	✓
Review	2000 characters	✓	15	12'000 words	12	✓	✓
Clinical Case Study	2000 characters	✓	15	12,000 words	12	✓	✓
Perspective	1250 characters	✓	3	3,000 words	3	✓	✓
Mini Review	1250 characters	✓	3	3,000 words	3	✓	✓

CPC	1250		6	2,500 words	4		
Clinical Trial	2000 characters		15	12'000 words	12		
Technology Report	2000 characters		15	12'000 words	12		
Editorial			0	1,000 words	1		
General Commentary			1	1,000 words	1		
Opinion			1	2,000 words	2		
Book Review			1	1,000 words	1		
Specialty Grand Challenge			1	2,000 words	2		

6. Quick Submission Checklist

Please note that the corresponding and all submitting authors **MUST** be registered with Frontiers before submitting an article. You must be logged in your personal Frontiers Account to submit an article.

It is mandatory to submit:

- 1) a manuscript PDF file.
- 2) the manuscript source file (Word/LaTeX).
- 3) all figures as separate files in TIFF, EPS or JPEG formats, RGB color mode, minimum resolution required: line art 900 dpi, combination (line art + halftone) 600 dpi, halftone 300 dpi.
- 4) Tables should be inserted into the manuscript in source form (doc, tex)