

Biological Psychiatry

A Journal of Psychiatric Neuroscience and Therapeutics

GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

ARTICLE TYPES

Archival Reports
Priority Communications
Reviews
Techniques and Methods
Correspondence
Commentaries and Editorials
Early Career Investigator Commentaries
Clinical Commentaries

PREPARATION & FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

Cover Letter
Manuscript
Title Page
Abstract
Main Text
Acknowledgments
Disclosures
References
Figure/Table Legends
Tables
Figures
Supplemental Information
Multimedia Content
3D Neuroimaging
Style
Psychopharmacology Nomenclature
Gene/Protein Nomenclature

SUBMISSION PROCESS

New Submission
New Submission Files
Author Notifications
Referee Suggestions

Revised Submission
Revised Submission Files
File Type Requirements
Word Limits
In This Issue Feature

PEER REVIEW PROCESS

EDITORIAL POLICIES

Authorship
Corresponding Author
Disclosure of Biomedical Financial Interests and Potential Conflicts of Interest
Ethical Considerations
Clinical Trials Registration
Research and Data Reporting Guidelines
Materials and Genes
Repository Data
Preprint Policy

ACCEPTANCE AND PUBLICATION

Proofs
Publication Schedule
Press and Embargo Policy
Fees
Cover Art
Article Sharing
NIH Public Access Policy and Other Funding Body Agreements
Copyright

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US

Biological Psychiatry is the official journal of the Society of Biological Psychiatry. The *Journal* rapidly publishes reports of novel results on a broad range of topics related to the pathophysiology and treatment of major neuropsychiatric disorders. Both basic and clinical neuroscience contributions are encouraged, particularly those addressing genetic and environmental risk factors, neural circuitry and neurochemistry, and important new therapeutic approaches.

Except where explicitly stated otherwise, *Biological Psychiatry* conforms to the guidelines set forth by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) (see Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals (December 2017): Available from <http://www.ICMJE.org>).

All new manuscripts must be submitted through the journal website: <https://www.editorialmanager.com/bps>. All correspondence should be directed to the Editorial Office at Biol.Psych@utsouthwestern.edu.

ARTICLE TYPES

Archival Reports

Archival Reports are original research papers reporting novel results on a broad range of topics related to the pathophysiology and treatment of major neuropsychiatric disorders. Clear explication of methods and results is critical to facilitate review of papers and replicability of findings.

Word Limit: 4000 words in main body of text*

Abstract: 250 word limit; Structure as follows: Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions

Main Text: Structure as follows: Introduction, Methods and Materials, Results, Discussion

Tables/Figures: No limit, as needed

References: No limit, as needed

Supplement: Allowed, unlimited length

Priority Communications

These are Archival Reports that clearly document novel experimental findings of unusual and timely significance. These papers should represent a conceptual advance in the field and are not intended for publication of preliminary results. They are expected to be acceptable for publication in essentially the form submitted. Papers

that require substantial revisions or do not fit the criteria will be considered as Archival Reports. See Archival Reports for structure, word length, and other requirements.

Reviews

Reviews are concise and focus on current aspects of interest and research. Reviews should be novel and have sufficient supporting literature, which should be integrated into a mechanistic model when applicable. Reviews should generally not focus solely on the authors' own work. Note that meta-analyses report original data and thus, are not considered review papers; meta-analyses should be submitted as Archival Reports. Unsolicited reviews may be submitted directly. Invited reviews must first complete a pre-submission evaluation and consultation process with the Reviews Editor. The Editorial Office will provide specific details and the proposal form to all invited authors when warranted.

Word Limit: 4000 words in main body of text*

Abstract: 250 word limit; unstructured

Main Text: Structure with headings as needed

Tables/Figures: Allowed to summarize or illustrate important points

References: 150 maximum

Supplement: Allowed, unlimited length

GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

Techniques and Methods

These articles feature new, improved, or noteworthy comments about techniques or methods relevant to basic or clinical research in, or treatment of, psychiatric disorders.

Word Limit: 3000 words in main body of text*

Abstract: 150 word limit; unstructured

Main Text: Structure as follows: Introduction, Methods and Materials, Results, Discussion

Tables/Figures: Maximum of two

References: No limit, as needed

Supplement: Allowed, unlimited length

Correspondence

These letters to the editor are directly related to methods, procedures or interpretation of data presented in work recently published in our journal and uses new analysis of data presented, the support of previously published work, and/or scientific points to be addressed based on methodological issues. They may also present a case report that clearly and unambiguously illustrates important new principles that have not yet been demonstrated in clinical trials. When warranted, a reply from author(s) of the original work is solicited; in such cases, the editor does not issue a final decision until both articles are submitted and the pair is then published together. Correspondence is published online only as e-content.

Word Limit: 1000 words in main body of text*

Abstract: Not permitted

Main Text: Unstructured

Tables/Figures: Not encouraged, but 1-2 allowed if needed to illustrate important points

References: No limit, as needed

Supplement: Not permitted

Commentaries and Editorials

These articles address points directly related to articles in the concurrent issue, and/or focus on topics of current research and interest. These are generally invited, but interested contributors may contact the Editor.

Word Limit: 1500 words in main body of text*

Abstract: Not permitted

Main Text: Unstructured, headings are not permitted

Tables/Figures: A single summarizing figure or table is encouraged

References: 10 maximum

Supplement: Not permitted

Early Career Investigator Commentaries

These articles provide publishing opportunities to early career investigators (ECI), as part of a joint project between the *Journal* and the Education Committee of the Society of Biological Psychiatry. These are invited articles for which an ECI serves as the sole and corresponding author. Each ECI shall be 1) a current member of the Society of Biological Psychiatry, 2) no more than 10 years out from terminal degree, and 3) not hold an academic faculty rank higher than Assistant Professor. A senior investigator mentors each ECI, acts as the content reviewer, and is recognized in the Acknowledgments section. ECI commentaries are published online only as e-content.

Word Limit: 1500 words in main body of text*

Abstract: Not permitted

Main Text: Unstructured, headings are not permitted

Tables/Figures: A single summarizing figure or table is encouraged

References: 10 maximum

Supplement: Not permitted

Clinical Commentaries

These invited-only commentaries are produced in collaboration with the National Neuroscience Curriculum Initiative (NNCI). Unlike regular commentaries, these articles have a specific clinical focus and are intended for a clinical audience, including medical students, residents, and clinicians. Clinical commentaries are published online only as e-content.

Word Limit: 1500 words in main body of text*

Abstract: Not permitted

Main Text: Unstructured

Tables/Figures: A single summarizing figure or table is encouraged

References: 10 maximum

Supplement: Not permitted

*Word limits include main text of the article only, e.g., for Archival Reports, the word count includes the Introduction, Methods and Materials, Results, and Discussion sections. When calculating word counts, exclude abstract, references, table/figure legends, acknowledgments, and disclosures.

PREPARATION & FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

The basic elements of all submissions are as follows:

- Cover letter
- Manuscript
 - › Title page
 - › Abstract
 - › Main text of article
 - › Acknowledgments
 - › Disclosures
 - › References
 - › Legends for tables and figures
- Tables
- Figures
- Supplemental Information

Further details on each element are provided below, followed by guidance on style.

Cover Letter

Cover letters are optional for all submissions. A cover letter must be uploaded as a separate file, as it is not made available to peer reviewers.

Manuscript

Manuscripts should contain the following sections: title page, abstract, main article text, acknowledgments, disclosures, references, footnotes, and table/figure legends. The manuscript may also include tables, in text format, at the end of the file. Begin all sections on separate pages. The manuscript file should be supplied in Word, not in PDF.

Title Page

The title page should be the first page of the manuscript file and should include the following elements:

- Full article title, 200 characters or less; acronyms/abbreviations are prohibited
- Full names of all authors, in order, and their affiliations
- Corresponding author's complete mailing address, phone, and email
- Short/running title, 55 characters or less (including spaces); standard acronyms are permitted
- Six keywords
- Number of words in the abstract
- Number of words in the main text
- Number of figures, tables, and supplemental information, each listed separately; if zero, state zero

Abstract

Abstracts should be structured or unstructured according to the article type and should not exceed the word limits as detailed [above](#). Structured abstracts should have the following sections: Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions. The Methods section should explicitly state the sample size and sex/species of subjects, when applicable. For those manuscripts that require clinical trials registration (see Clinical Trials Registration section, [below](#)), the registry name, URL, and registration number should be included at the end of the abstract. References are not permitted in abstracts. Avoid the use of abbreviations/acronyms that are not used at least three times.

Main Text

The text of papers should be double-spaced and structured according to the article type. It should not exceed the word limits as detailed [above](#). Articles reporting original research (Archival Reports, Priority Communications, Techniques and Methods) should be structured with the following headings: Introduction, Methods and Materials, Results, Discussion. The introduction should provide a brief background and state the objectives/hypotheses of the current work; it should not include the findings/results of the study. The Methods and Materials section should include sufficient detail to allow other investigators to replicate the work. It is not appropriate to move the entire text of the methods to the supplement to adhere to the *Journal's* word count limits. Manufacturer name and location should be included at first mention, where applicable. Authors may reference other publications for methods that have previously been published in full detail elsewhere. Relevant ethics statements must be included; see Ethical Considerations section, [below](#). The Results section should clearly present the experimental findings and test statistics in a logical order. The Discussion section should describe the results, interpret them in the context of prior literature, and discuss the implications and significance of the finding(s). Limitations of the current work should also be discussed.

Acknowledgments

This section should include detailed information regarding all sources of funding, including grant and other material or financial support. Specify granting agency, grant number, and recipient for each funding source. The role of study sponsor(s), if any, should be stated. Identify any data that was published previously, in abstract/poster form or on a preprint server. This section may also be used to acknowledge non-author contributors/collaborators and individuals who provided personal and technical assistance. If a consortium/group is listed as an author, then the individual members must be named here. Authors should secure written permission from all individuals named in this section.

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