

## GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

The *Nano Letters* manuscript submission process is fully electronic, to ensure the rapid publication of results. Manuscripts should be submitted via our secure Web site. Manuscripts submitted by hardcopy mail or by e-mail will not be processed.

**Introduction**

*Nano Letters* invites original reports of fundamental research in all branches of the theory and practice of nanoscience and nanotechnology. Areas of interest include the synthesis, assembly, and properties of patterned materials on the nanometer scale. Contributions to the study of size-dependent scaling laws and of properties related to catalytic, optical, electrical, mechanical, magnetic, and biological properties are invited. In the selection of manuscripts for publication, the Co-Editors place emphasis on the quality and originality of the work as well as on achieving an appropriate distribution of topics.

The purpose of *Nano Letters* is the rapid disclosure of the key elements of a study. Authors should provide enough background information to place the new disclosure in context and to justify the rapid publication format.

The length of a Letter can be **2, 3, or 4** journal pages (approximately 5 manuscript pages, including artwork and tables, equals 1 journal page). Use of color, if approved by the Editor, will be offered at no cost to authors. There are no page charges associated with *Nano Letters*. Fifty (50) free electronic reprints are available for each paper.

Submission of a manuscript to the Journal implies that the work reported therein has not been previously published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere in any medium, including electronic journals and computer databases of a public nature. Authors should adhere to the *Ethical Guidelines to Publication of Chemical Research*, which are published periodically in this and other ACS journals.

**Prescreen Process.** Due to the highly competitive nature of publication in *Nano Letters*, and to avoid overburdening reviewers, a stringent prescreen process is performed by the Co-Editors on a weekly basis. Less than half of submitted manuscripts are sent out for in-depth review. Due to the volume of papers involved, we regret that we are unable to provide detailed justification or advice for papers that do not pass this filter.

**Supporting Information.** The *Nano Letters* manuscript format does not contain a separate Experimental Section. Authors must describe the work in sufficient detail for others working in the field to be able to reproduce the results. Those data or procedures essential to the discussion and/or reproduction of the work should appear in the narrative, the

references, or in Supporting Information. Although Supporting Information is not required, it is both encouraged and welcomed.

**Related Work by Author.** When references concerning related work by the author are quoted and such work is not available to the referees because it is “in press” or has been submitted to this or other journals, an electronic copy should be submitted with the manuscript for use by the referees and the Editor.

**Peer Review.** Letters will be handled expeditiously and will take full advantage of Web technology in submission and review of manuscripts and approval of page proofs.

Manuscripts selected for further review will be sent to a group of peers for evaluation. Authors can greatly expedite the speed of this process by supplying a list of six or more potential reviewers, with their current title and address, including e-mail addresses. Authors may request that certain individuals not be used as referees. Such a request will be honored, unless it is believed that the individual’s opinion is vital in the consideration of the manuscript.

**Publication Date.** Documents accepted for publication in ACS journals will be published as *Articles ASAP* in the Web edition of the journal as soon as they are ready for publication (when page proofs are corrected and all author concerns are resolved). Publication on the Web usually occurs within 24–48 hours of proof approval. Authors should take this into account when planning their public relations and intellectual property and patent activities related to a document. The ACS will not hold or delay publication of any paper approved for ASAP posting.

The actual date on which the document is posted on the Web is recorded on the Web edition of the document and in a separate line at the bottom of the first page of the document in the printed issue.

**Submission of Manuscripts**

A manuscript template is available in several word processing versions at the *Nano Letters* Web edition homepage: <http://pubs.acs.org/Nano>.

**Copyright.** A properly completed Copyright Status Form must be provided for each submitted manuscript. A form is available from the *Nano Letters* homepage (click the “copyright info” button). The completed form *should be faxed to the editorial office*; the original signed form must also be faxed or mailed to the Editor.

**Electronic Cover Letter.** An electronic cover letter must accompany all manuscripts. It should include the following:

- manuscript title
- corresponding author’s name
- corresponding author’s mailing address

- corresponding author's phone number, fax number, and e-mail address
- suggested objective reviewers (6) and e-mail addresses
- comments on the manuscript's significance
- list of graphics to be published in color
- graphics requiring special attention for reproduction

Authors should note that a clear statement of the manuscript's goals and significance can be very helpful to the Co-Editor during the prescreening process.

**Web Submission.** Authors must submit a manuscript using the submission site on the *Nano Letters* homepage, <http://pubs.acs.org/Nano>. Complete instructions, including the platforms and word processing packages supported, are available on the submission site.

The manuscript submission site employs state-of-the-art security mechanisms to ensure privacy for all electronically submitted manuscripts. These same security mechanisms are also utilized throughout the peer review process, permitting access to only the Editor and reviewers assigned to a particular manuscript.

## Preparation of Manuscripts

Authors should consult *The ACS Style Guide*, 2nd ed.; American Chemical Society: Washington, DC, 1997, for guidance in preparing their manuscripts. *The ACS Style Guide* is available from Oxford University Press, Order Department, 201 Evans Road, Cary, NC 27513.

*Nano Letters* encourages authors to prepare manuscripts using the template available on the Web site. Use of the template facilitates the peer review process by allowing artwork and tables to be placed close to the point where they are discussed.

Any author who is not fully fluent in idiomatic English is urged to obtain assistance with manuscript preparation from a colleague fluent in English, as manuscripts with grammar deficiencies are sometimes handicapped during the scientific review process.

**Title.** Titles should clearly and concisely reflect the emphasis and content of the paper. Titles are of great importance for current awareness and information retrieval and should be carefully constructed for these purposes.

**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, first names, initials, and surnames (e.g., John R. Smith) or first initials, second names, and surnames (e.g., J. Robert Smith) should be used. At least one author must be designated with an asterisk as the author to whom correspondence should be addressed. Corresponding authors are encouraged to supply phone numbers, fax numbers, and e-mail addresses in the manuscript for publication.

**Table of Contents Graphic.** A graphic for the Table of Contents must be supplied with each Letter. This graphic, in conjunction with the manuscript title, should give the reader a summary of the research described in the paper. This graphic can be no wider than 9.0 cm and no taller than

3.5 cm and should be prepared following the specifications under Artwork. Text should be limited to essential technical labels.

**Abstract.** All Letters must contain an abstract, not exceeding 75 words, which should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results, and major conclusions.

**Text.** Section headings such as Introduction, Conclusion, etc. should not be used.

**Hazards.** Any unusual hazards in the chemicals, equipment or procedures used in an investigation should be clearly identified.

**Nomenclature.** Registered trademark names should be capitalized whenever used. Registration marks are not required to ensure legal protection for the trademark. Trade and trivial names should not be capitalized. Usually the chemical name or composition should be given in parentheses or in a reference at the first occurrence of such a name.

*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; telefax, (614) 447-3747; or e-mail, [answers@cas.org](mailto:answers@cas.org).

**References.** In the Web edition of the Journal, references will be linked to various electronic sources (e.g., the corresponding abstract from Chemical Abstracts Service, full text from other American Chemical Society journals, etc.); therefore, the accuracy of the references is critical. **Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the references.**

References to the literature should be numbered in one consecutive series by order of appearance in the text, with the text citations presented as unparenthesized superscript Arabic numbers.

Authors should consult *The ACS Style Guide* for the appropriate style to use in citations of journal papers, books, and other publications. In literature references, journal abbreviations should be those used by Chemical Abstracts Service [see *Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index* (CASSI) 1907-1999].

**Artwork.** Artwork should be numbered sequentially using Arabic numbers. Schemes and charts may have titles and footnotes; figures should have captions. Structures should be numbered with boldface Arabic numbers. Remove all color from graphics, except those graphics to be considered for publication in color (see Color section below for details).

Images from high resolution transmission electron microscopy and scanning probe microscopy are an essential component of nanoscience and nanotechnology. *Nano Letters* is committed to providing the highest quality reproduction of such images. In the cover letter, authors should identify all images that need special attention for reproduction. Authors will be asked to review such images for reproduction quality during the proof review process.

The quality of the illustrations in the journal depends on the quality of the originals. Graphics cannot be modified or

enhanced by the journal production staff. To ensure good quality production in the journal, a copy of each graphic should be printed (at the desired size in the final printed version) from a high-quality laser printer (600 dpi or higher) to verify that all parts of the artwork are clear and legible. Any changes to the artwork (including size changes) must be made in the drawing program that was used to create the artwork, and the revised artwork reimported into the manuscript.

**Artwork should be provided at the size it will be printed in the journal** keeping with the following journal column widths:

	One column (preferred)	Two column
<b>Width</b>		
<i>Minimum</i>	N/A	10.5 cm (4.1 in.)
<i>Maximum</i>	8.5 cm (3.3 in.)	17.8 cm (7 in.)
<b>Maximum Depth</b>	24 cm (9.5 in.)	24 cm (9.5 in.)

Use the following guidelines for artwork preparation:

- Lettering should be no smaller than 4.5 pt
- Use Helvetica or Arial type for lettering
- Lines should be no thinner than 0.5 pt
- Lettering and lines should be of uniform density
- Use a simple cross-hatch design to show a pattern or to achieve a three-dimensional effect.
- Do not submit color prints when black and white reproduction is required.

For papers submitted via the Web, all illustrations should be embedded in the word processing document by inserting the graphic file, not by cutting and pasting an image. Graphics should not be excluded from the document and submitted separately. Authors are encouraged to use ACS templates to compose manuscripts.

**Color.** The use of full color in the printed version of the journal will be limited to those instances where it is needed for clarity. Nevertheless, there is no limitation on the use of color for material submitted as Supporting Information. Color reproduction, if approved by the Editor, will be provided at no cost to the author. A surcharge of \$100 per 100 reprints will be added to the standard cost of reprints. All color

artwork must be submitted at the actual size it should appear in the journal. **Do not submit color prints to be printed in black and white.**

**Tables.** Tables should be numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals. Each table should include a descriptive heading that, together with the individual column headings, makes the table self-explanatory. Column headings should be lower case, except for symbols and proper names. Footnotes in tables should be given letter designations and be cited in the table by italic superscript letters. The sequence of letters should proceed by line rather than by column. If a reference is cited both in the text and in a table, a lettered footnote that refers to the numbered reference in the text should be inserted in the table.

In setting up tabulations, authors are requested to keep in mind the type area of the journal page (17.8 × 25.0 cm) and the column width (8.5 cm) and to make tables conform to the limitations of these dimensions. When arranging data into columns, use space efficiently.

**Supporting Information.** Supporting Information can accommodate almost any type of supplementary figures or data (e.g., reproductions of spectra, experimental procedures, tabulated data, expanded discussion of peripheral findings). The author must include a Supporting Information Available statement at the end of the manuscript that describes the nature of the material and the means by which the reader may access it. The following format should be used:

**Supporting Information Available:** Description of the material. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

Supporting Information should be submitted via the Web. The Web site gives a list of acceptable formats.

## Corrections

If errors of consequence are detected in a published paper, the author should contact as soon as possible and send a correction to Co-Editor A. Paul Alivisatos or Charles M. Lieber for publication in the Additions and Corrections section.