

Information for Authors

Revised June 2016

The Journal of Neuroscience is the official *Journal* of the Society for Neuroscience. *JNeurosci* publishes papers on a broad range of topics of general interest to those working on the nervous system. All papers accepted for publication in *JNeurosci* will appear simultaneously in the print journal and online.

- **General Information**
- **Policies**
- **Fees**
- **Preparing Manuscript**
- **Submitting Manuscript**
- **Revising/Finalizing a Manuscript**
- **Correcting Errors in Published Articles**

General Information

Types of Articles

Research Articles

The Journal of Neuroscience publishes [research reports](#), which are restricted to 650 word Introductions and 1500 word Discussions.

As of January 6, 2016, Brief Communications will no longer be considered a separate manuscript type from Regular Manuscripts for [NEW](#) submissions. Manuscripts previously formatted for the Brief Communication guidelines may be submitted as Regular Manuscripts following the regular manuscripts guidelines

Brief Communications submitted prior to January 6, 2016 with a decision allowing resubmission as long as the [Brief Communication](#) guidelines have been met. Authors may request to have their manuscript type changed to Regular Manuscript if the manuscript meets those guidelines. Contact the Central Office (jn@sfn.org) with any questions.

Journal Clubs

[Journal Clubs](#) are scholarly reviews of papers recently published in *The Journal of Neuroscience*. Only graduate students and post-docs may be authors on Journal Club articles.

Letters to the Editor

The Journal of Neuroscience does not publish [Letters to the Editor](#) in the print edition. Responses to articles may be submitted online via a link on the article's web page. Responses will also be visible via the [Letters to the Editor](#) link on *JNeurosci*'s home page.

The Week in the Journal

This Week in the Journal highlights articles from different sections of the current issue and is written by the Features Editor. Guided by reviewers' comments, the editors select important articles covering the full range of topics in neuroscience.

Policies

In submitting a manuscript to *JNeurosci*, all authors must agree to abide by all relevant Society for Neuroscience policies, including its [Guidelines for Responsible Conduct Regarding Scientific Communication](#). Manuscripts with multiple authors are reviewed with the explicit understanding that all authors have seen and approve of the submitted version and agree to abide by the Society's policies.

JNeurosci recognizes its responsibility to ensure that questions of scientific misconduct or dishonesty in research are adequately pursued. Should scientific misconduct or dishonesty be suspected or alleged, *JNeurosci* follows the recommended procedures outlined by [COPE](#) when dealing with allegations of misconduct. Manuscripts that have been referred to the SfN Ethics Committee because an alleged violation of the Ethics Policy may not be withdrawn from consideration for publication until the Ethics Committee has rendered a final decision to the authors.

Policy on Ethics

It is expected that authors submitting papers to *The Journal of Neuroscience* will have conducted their work in strict accordance with the Society's [Policy on Ethics](#). SfN follows the recommended procedures outlined by [COPE](#) when dealing with allegations of misconduct.

Policies on the Use of Animals and Humans in Neuroscience Research

All animal experimentation reported in *JNeurosci* must have been conducted in accordance with the Society's [Policies on the Use of Animals and Humans in Neuroscience Research](#).

Policy on Prepublication

The Journal of Neuroscience generally does not consider manuscripts that have been previously published. Posting to a preprint server such as [bioRxiv](#), [ArXiv](#), [Open Science Framework](#), etc. are not considered prior publication. Exceptions are made for published abstracts, theses, and posters or manuscripts that have been posted on the Internet for the purpose of receiving commentary from the community. Online posting is typically done at a prepublication repository that has been designed for the purpose, but posting on an institutional web site or other Internet location is acceptable.

It is essential that the authors retain the copyright for any prepublished material that they submit to *JNeurosci*, and that they are willing and able to relinquish to *JNeurosci* any copyrights and/or licenses that *JNeurosci* requires for publication of accepted manuscripts. Authors should realize that other journals might not consider prepublished material and that prepublication will restrict their alternatives when a manuscript is not accepted by *JNeurosci*.

Policy on Molecular Data

The Journal of Neuroscience subscribes to the policies of *The Journal of Biological Chemistry* on protein & nucleic acid sequences and genomic & proteomic data, which it modifies as follows.

Protein and nucleic acid sequences: Newly determined nucleotide or protein sequences must be deposited in GenBank (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/>), EMBL (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk>), or the DNA Databank of Japan (<http://www.ddbj.nig.ac.jp>). Accession numbers must be reported in the manuscript and data must be available upon acceptance and publication of the manuscript. No data are to be withdrawn following publication.

Genomic and proteomic data: Authors of papers that include functional genomics data such as microarray, ChIP seq, RNA-seq, or other high-throughput data are required to deposit the data in a MIAME-compliant database such as GEO (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo>), ArrayExpress (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/array-express>) or CYBEX (<http://cibex.nig.ac.jp/data/index.html>) and to provide accession numbers. Data must be publicly accessible upon acceptance and publication of the manuscript. No data are to be withdrawn following publication.

Authors of papers that include proteomics data should comply with the guidelines developed by Molecular and Cellular Proteomics (<http://www.mcponline.org/site/misc/CheckList.pdf>).

Policy on Image Manipulation

The Journal of Neuroscience subscribes to the policy of *The Journal of Cell Biology* on image manipulation, which it modifies as follows.

Original data: The editors reserve the right to request any original data from authors at any stage in the submission, review, or publication process, including after publication. Failure to provide requested information may result in publication delays or revocation of acceptance.

Image manipulation: All images in manuscripts accepted for publication will be scrutinized by our production department for any indication of manipulation that is inconsistent with the following guidelines. Manipulation that violates these guidelines may result in production delays or revocation of acceptance.

- No specific feature within an image may be enhanced, obscured, moved, removed, or introduced.
- Constructing figures using images taken from different parts of the same gel, or from different gels, is discouraged. But when this is necessary it must be made explicit by the arrangement of the figure (e.g., using dividing lines) and in the text of the figure legend.
- Recordings obtained at different time points or from different sites must not be spliced together to give the appearance of a continuous record. Authors must make it clear in the figure legend how many different recordings are illustrated.
- Adjustments to images or recordings are acceptable if they are applied uniformly to all portions of the image or recording, and as long as they do not obscure, eliminate, or misrepresent information present in the original, including the background. Adjustments involving filtering or scaling (e.g., brightness, contrast, or color balance) must be applied to every pixel in the image or applied uniformly to an entire recording. Non-linear adjustments (e.g., changes to gamma settings) or deleting portions of a recording (e.g. leak subtraction or stimulus artifacts) must be disclosed in the figure legend.
- The minimum resolution for images is 300 dpi.
- At the time of acceptance, authors will be required to submit uncropped images of complete gels for comparison to the prepared figures. If original data cannot be produced, the acceptance of the manuscript may be revoked.

Scale bars: All illustrations documenting results must include a bar to indicate the scale.

Molecular weights and fragment sizes: The migration of protein molecular weight size markers or nucleic acid size markers must be indicated and labeled appropriately (e.g., "kD", "nt", "bp") on all figure panels showing gel electrophoresis.

Copyright Policy

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Policy Concerning Availability of Materials and Data

By publishing a paper in *The Journal of Neuroscience* the author(s) agree to make freely available to colleagues in academic research any clones of cells, nucleic acids, antibodies, etc. that were used in the research reported and that are not available from commercial suppliers.

Authors should, when possible, honor requests for access to any form of published data for appropriate scientific use. The editors reserve the right to request any original data from authors at any stage in the review or publication process, including after publication. Failure to provide requested information may result in publication delays or revocation of acceptance.

Fees

Submission Fees

A submission fee of \$140 must be paid when submitting a Regular Manuscript or Brief Communication. A fee is also required when resubmitting an article that was previously rejected. No submission fee is required for features (Journal Clubs, Mini-reviews, etc.). The submission fee covers a portion of the costs associated with peer review.

The submission fee must be paid by credit card when you submit your manuscript at the eJournalPress site: (<http://jneurosci.msubmit.net/cgi-bin/main.plex>). A "Pay and Submit" button will allow you to enter credit card information after you have uploaded your documents.

There is an additional \$25 fee if publication fees are paid by Wire transfer. A printable receipt will be accessible through your Author Center after payment is made.

If you have any technical difficulties or questions, please contact *JNeurosci's* Central Office at jn@sfn.org.

Submission fees are waived for manuscripts submitted from certain countries. See [JNeurosci's Reduced Fee Policy](#).

A separate [publication fee](#) is required for articles that are accepted for publication.

Publication Fees

Publication Fee

Publication fees are reduced if the first and last authors are members of the Society for Neuroscience. *The Journal of Neuroscience* charges a publication fee for Regular Manuscripts of \$1,260 (for members) and \$1,890 (for nonmembers) and for Brief Communications of \$615 (for members) and \$925 (for nonmembers). There is an additional \$25 fee if publication fees are paid by Wire transfer.

If you would like to join SfN and take advantage of membership, visit our Member Center <http://www.sfn.org/member-center/member-benefits>. There is no fee for feature articles (Journal Clubs, Commentaries, etc.). Accepted manuscripts will not move into the production process until payment has been received.

Open Choice

Authors may pay a fee to make their published article freely available on *JNeurosci's* website as soon as it is published. Articles will carry a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International \(CC BY 4.0\) license](#). The titles of open access articles are highlighted as "Free Access" in the online table of contents of *JNeurosci*. Authors will be asked if they want the Open Choice option in the email that is sent when the manuscript is accepted.

The Open Choice fee is in addition to the publication fee of \$2,965 for Regular Manuscripts and \$1,485 for Brief Communications. Wire transfer fees are \$25.00. Upon receipt of the publication fee and Open Choice fee, *The Journal of Neuroscience* will deposit the final published article to PMC and Europe PMC, where they will be fully available in [PubMed's Open Access Subset](#).

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*COAF includes a partnership between six UK medical research charities: Arthritis Research UK, Breast Cancer Campaign, the British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, Leukaemia & Lymphoma.

*RCUK includes seven different research bodies: MRC, BBSRC, AHRC, ESRC, EPSRC, NERC, STFC.

Reduced Charges

Publication charges are reduced for manuscripts submitted from some countries. See [JNeurosci's Reduced Fee Policy](#).

Payment

Fees should be paid by credit card. If a credit card cannot be used, a check or wire transfer can be accepted. Purchase orders are no longer accepted.

Help

For payment questions, please contact *JNeurosci's* Central Office at jn@sfn.org.

Contact Information

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Preparing a Manuscript

Regular Manuscripts

Organization of the Manuscript

Manuscripts must be written in English. The entire text should be double-spaced, including references. Submitting an incomplete manuscript or a manuscript that does not adhere to the word limits will cause a delay in review.

Multiple-part papers are discouraged. Although this arrangement is sometimes necessary, authors will often be asked to collapse multiple papers into a single manuscript.

The Journal of Neuroscience no longer accepts supplemental material or appendices. Authors may host supporting material on an external web site by providing a URL pointing to that site and a brief description of its contents. No reference may be made to this URL or supplemental material, or any other author site, in the manuscript text. See [Supplemental Material](#) for more information.

Manuscripts must include the following sections in the order listed:

- Title Page
- Abstract
- Significance Statement (120 maximum)
- Introduction (650 words maximum, including citations)
- Materials & Methods
- Results
- Discussion (1500 words maximum, including citations)
- References
- Legends
- Illustrations and Tables
- Mathematics and Equations

All lines of text should be numbered. Line numbers are automatically added in Microsoft Word documents.

Brief Communications are subject to the same word restrictions, with the additional requirement that the abstract, introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion, references, and figure legends cannot exceed 4500 words.

Title Page

The first page of the manuscript should be a title page with the following:

- Title (50 word maximum)
- Abbreviated title (50 character maximum)
- Author names and affiliations, including postal codes
- Corresponding author with complete address, including an email address and postal code
- Number of pages
- Number of figures, tables, multimedia and 3D models (separately)
- Number of words for Abstract, Introduction, and Discussion (separately)
- (For Brief Communications) Total number of words (Abstract, Introduction, Materials & Methods, Results, Discussion, References and Figure Legends)
- Conflict of Interest
- Acknowledgements

Submitting and Communicating Authors:

JNeurosci distinguishes submitting and communicating authors. The submitting author is the author who submits the manuscript. A manuscript can have only one submitting author. The submitting author acts on behalf of all other authors, and is the only author with authority to resubmit, withdraw, correct or retract manuscripts and published articles.

The corresponding author is the person identified on a published article as "corresponding author". This author is responsible for responding to reader queries about the article. While submitting author is often the corresponding author, that is not necessary. *JNeurosci* allows either one or two authors to be designated as "corresponding author". When two are listed, no priority is given to either. Corresponding authors do not have authority to correct or retract a published article; only the submitting author as noted above.

Author Names: Authors who normally write their names in non-Latin characters may include their names in their native writing system in parentheses immediately following a transliterated version, for example, Jingbing Xue (薛晶冰). Any non-Latin languages that can be represented in Unicode characters will be accepted. This second rendering is allowed only for the original written form of a transliterated name, and may not be used to include nicknames, degrees, ranks, titles, etc. Please size the name, including the surrounding parentheses, in your manuscript .pdf file so that it can be used as a graphic to produce the name in the final article.

The name of a formal group or consortium may be included in the author list only if that group made essential contributions to the results and there is at least one individual author in addition to the group. The individual authors must be listed first followed by, "for <Group Name>". We do not allow "and <Group Name>". The group name must be spelled out. A statement in the acknowledgements may specify the contribution(s) of the group and may include a URL that provides further information about the group (such as a list of its membership), but may not list individual group members or differentiate contributions made by subgroups or individuals within the group.

Author Affiliations: Authors affiliations should be their home institutions at the time when their primary contribution to the research was made. If an author's current affiliation differs, the current affiliation may be listed as a separate paragraph in the Acknowledgements.

Acknowledgements: Acknowledgements should be used to identify all funding sources. Acknowledgements may also be used to note intellectual, technical or other assistance that does not warrant authorship. Individuals should be informed before the publication of any such acknowledgements and given the opportunity to decline

the recognition. Promotional statements are not permitted. Funding sources should be listed first with any acknowledgements of assistance following.

Dedications: *JNeurosci* generally does not allow dedications. The only exception we allow is dedications to recently deceased neuroscientists who made a specific scientific contribution to the work described in the article. If the recently deceased person was one of the authors of the current paper, his or her date of death should be included. We do not allow dedications to living people.

Conflict of interest: Conflict of interest declarations are included in the Acknowledgments section. For "no conflict," the current preferred wording is: "The authors declare no competing financial interests." It is expected that authors submitting papers to *The Journal of Neuroscience* are in accordance with the Society's [Policy on Conflict of Interest](#).

Abstract (250 words maximum, including citations)

The abstract should be clearly written and readily comprehensible to the broad readership of *JNeurosci*. It should provide a concise summary of the objectives, methodology (including the species studied), key results, and major conclusions of the study. It should be written in complete sentences, without subheadings.

Significance Statement (120 words maximum)

The significance statement should provide a clear explanation of the importance and relevance of the research in a manner accessible to researchers without specialized knowledge in the field and informed lay readers. The Significance Statement will appear within the paper below the abstract.

Introduction (650 words maximum, including citations)

The Introduction should briefly indicate the objectives of the study and provide enough background information to clarify why the study was undertaken and what hypotheses were tested.

Materials and Methods

The materials and methods section should be brief but sufficient to allow other investigators to repeat the research (see also [Policy Concerning Availability of Materials](#)). Reference should be made to published procedures wherever possible; this applies to the original description and pertinent published modifications. The sex of subjects should be stated. All companies from which materials were obtained should be listed. If materials were obtained from an individual, an affiliation for that individual should be listed. A manuscript that presents only a theory may omit the Materials and Methods section.

The Journal of Neuroscience encourages the use of links to web pages providing detailed specification for animal lines, reagents, software packages, etc., when it is impossible or impractical to include a unique identifier or

unambiguous description. URLs should be cited in parentheses in the text: e.g., "Experiments were done using C57BL mice (<http://jaxmice.jax.org/strain/013636.html>).

URLs of sites providing tutorial material (e.g., <http://en.wikipedia.org/>) are not allowed in articles because their authority and permanence cannot be verified.

URLs of personal or laboratory web sites, or dropboxes, are also prohibited because the content of such pages can easily change and visiting those pages could compromise reviewer anonymity. Published articles may include in a footnote a URL for any external web site that holds supplemental material, together with a brief description of the contents of the supplemental material added to the manuscript at time of revision (see [Supplemental Material](#)).

None of the Materials and Methods may be placed in Supplemental Materials.

RRIDs

JNeurosci encourages use of Research Resource Identifiers (RRIDs) through the [Resource Identification Initiative](#), a project aimed at clearly identifying key biological resources used in the course of scientific research. The project helps address concerns of reproducibility by providing unique searchable identifiers, RRIDs, for critical reagents and tools. RRIDs can be used to link readers to external resources and enable search engines to return all papers in which a particular antibody, organism, or tool was used.

To find an RRID: visit <https://scicrunch.org/resources> and enter your search term(s).

- Antibodies: searching for the catalog number usually narrows the search to only a few relevant results.
- Cell Lines: searching for the catalog number of an established cell line is usually best, searching for common cell lines such as HeLa cells is expected to produce several pages of results.
- Organisms: you can include PubMed IDs (PMIDs) in your search or filter your search results by PMID, species, phenotype, and other criteria.
- Software tools: usually the name of the tool (MATLAB or ImageJ) or the institution where it is housed will bring back relevant results.

Search help is available at: rii-help@scicrunch.org.

Once you have located an RRID, insert "RRID:" plus the identifier in the appropriate location in the manuscript. For example:

- Antibodies: "Sections were stained with a rabbit polyclonal antibody against ERK1 (Abgent Cat# AP7251E, RRID: AB_2140114)."

- Cell Lines: "Subjects include the following cell line: CLS Cat# 300384/p699_HeLa_S3, RRID:CVCL_0058."
- Genetically modified organisms: "Subjects in this study were Fgf9Eks/Fgf9+ mice (RRID: MGI_3840442)..."
- Software tools: "...terminals were mapped with a computer-assisted mapping program (NeuroLucida, v 10; MicroBrightField RRID:nif-0000-10294)."

If you cannot find an RRID for a model organism or antibody that you used, you can submit the reagent so that it can be given proper identifiers for future use at the [Resource Identification Portal](#) (instructions at <https://scicrunch.org/resources/about/guidelines#organism> (new organism) <http://antibodyregistry.org/add> (antibodies). Note that login is required on that site.

Journal Style Guidelines

Manuscripts with many mathematical characters and equations should be prepared using MathType version 6.0 or higher (available from [Design Science, Inc.](#)). Our publisher can pull equations in this format directly from the text, thereby avoiding typographical errors that frequently occur in composing equations. Manuscripts with a minimal amount of math may be prepared using word-processing tools such as Word's Equation Editor, or with features such as bold, italics, superscript and subscript together with characters in the Symbol or Greek fonts. Do not use the Wingdings or Webdings fonts.

List of Some Standard Abbreviations

Nonstandard abbreviations should be used only if a term appears two or more times. Spell out the term at first occurrence, and introduce the abbreviation by placing it in parentheses after the term. Units should conform to the International System of Units (SI) (see the [International System of Units Brochure](#)), except for temperatures, which should be expressed in degrees Celsius.

Results

This section should present clearly but succinctly the experimental findings. Only results essential to establish the main points of the work should be included. Numerical data should be analyzed using appropriate statistical tests. Authors must provide detailed information for each statistical test applied including: the type of test; specific p values (not > or <); degrees of freedom; population size; definition of population (e.g., number of individual measurements, number of animals, number of slices, number of times treatment was applied, etc.); and if performed, what correction was used to adjust for multiple pairwise comparisons.

For guidelines on how to report statistical results, see Bailar, JC, Mosteller, F (1988) Guidelines for statistical reporting in articles for medical *Journals*. *Ann Intern Med*, 108:266-273; Curran-Everitt, D, Benos DJ, (2004) Guidelines for reporting statistics in *Journals* published by the American Physiological Society. *J Neurophysiol*,

92:669-671; Lang, TA, Secic, M (2006) How to report statistics in medicine: annotated guidelines for authors, editors and reviewers, 2nd edition, Philadelphia, PA, ACP Press; Sarter M, Fritschy JM (2008) Eur J Neurosci 28:2363-2364.

Discussion (1500 words maximum, including citations)

The discussion section should be as concise as possible and should include a brief statement of the principal findings, a discussion of the validity of the observations, a discussion of the findings in light of other published work dealing with the same or closely related subjects, and a statement of the possible significance of the work. Extensive discussion of the literature is discouraged.

References

Only published and "in press" (i.e., accepted for publication in a specific journal or book) references should appear in the reference list at the end of the paper. The latest information on "in press" references should be provided. Any "in press" references that are relevant for reviewers to see in order to make a well-informed evaluation should be included as a separate document text file along with the submitted manuscript. "Submitted" references should be cited only in text and in the following form: (A. B. Smith, C. D. Johnson, and E. Greene, unpublished observations). The form for personal communications is similar: (F. G. Jackson, personal communication). Authors are responsible for all personal communications and must obtain written approval from persons cited before submitting the paper to *JNeurosci*. Proof of such approval may be requested by *JNeurosci*.

References should be cited in the text as follows: "The procedure used has been described elsewhere (Green, 1978)," or "Our observations are in agreement with those of Brown and Black (1979) and of White et al. (1980)," or with multiple references, in chronological order: "Earlier reports (Brown and Black, 1979, 1981; White et al., 1980; Smith, 1982, 1984)...."

In the [list of references](#) papers should be given in alphabetical order according to the surname of the first author. In two-author papers with the same first author, the order is alphabetical by the second author's name. In three-or-more-author papers with the same first author, the order is chronological. The name of the author(s) should be followed by the date in parentheses, the full title of the paper as it appeared in the original together with the source of the reference, the volume number, and the first and last pages. Do not number or bullet the references. If the author list for a paper in the references exceeds 20, the paper should be cited as Author A et al. The following illustrate the format to be used:

Journal article

Hamill OP, Marty A, Neher E, Sakmann B, Sigworth F (1981) Improved patch-clamp techniques for high-resolution current recordings from cells and cell free membrane patches. *Pflugers Arch* 391:85-100.

Hodgkin AL, Huxley AF (1952a) The components of membrane conductance in the giant axon of *Loligo*. *J Physiol (Lond)* 116:473-496.

Hodgkin AL, Huxley AF (1952b) The dual effect of membrane potential on sodium conductance in the giant axon of *Loligo*. *J Physiol (Lond)* 116:497-506.

Book

Hille B (1984) Ionic channels of excitable membranes. Sunderland, MA: Sinauer.

Chapter in a book

Stent GS (1981) Strength and weakness of the genetic approach to the development of the nervous system. In: *Studies in developmental neurobiology: essays in honor of Viktor Hamburger* (Cowan WM, ed), pp288-321. New York: Oxford UP.

Abbreviations of journal titles should follow those listed in the *Index Medicus*. Responsibility for the correctness of the references lies with the author(s). After manuscript revisions, authors should double-check that all in-text citations are in the reference list and that all references on the reference list have at least one corresponding in-text citation. Failure to do so will result in the delay of proof generation and possibly publication. *Please make sure that the References are double-spaced and no bullets, numbers, or other listing formats are used.*

Legends

Manuscripts that include illustrations (figures, multimedia, or 3D models) must include legends as part of the main manuscript text. A legend must be supplied for each illustration. Figures, models, and multimedia files should be numbered independently. The text of the article should refer to figures as "Figure 1", "Figure 2", etc., models as "Model 1", "Model 2", etc., and multimedia files as "Movie 1", "Movie 2", etc. These text citations of Figures, etc., need to be in numerical order, in part to aid in placing the illustrations in the proper position on the printed page.

Illustrations and Tables

All illustrations must adhere to [JNeurosci's Policy on Image Manipulation](#).

The Journal of Neuroscience will publish multimedia and 3D models embedded in the HTML and PDF versions of articles. Multimedia and models will be displayed in line with the article text, as is done for figures. Authors should be aware that multimedia and 3D models will be unavailable to readers who only access the printed version. See [Illustrations and Tables](#) for details on preparing material.

Tables should be included in the manuscript file, but figures, models, and 3D models must be submitted as separate files (see [Illustrations and Tables](#) for acceptable file formats).

Multimedia Files, Figures, and Tables

General Guidelines for Illustrations

Image Manipulation: Illustrations must conform to *JNeurosci's Policy on Image Manipulation*. Authors must retain their unprocessed data and metadata files, as editors may request them to aid in manuscript evaluation. If unprocessed data are unavailable, manuscript evaluation may be halted until the issue is resolved. If the original data cannot be produced, the manuscript may be rejected.

Use of Color: Illustrations must be prepared so that they are accessible to our many color-blind readers. The following sites contain useful information, tips and tools on appropriate use of color in illustrations:

<http://jfly.iam.u-tokyo.ac.jp/color/index.html>
<http://webdesign.tutsplus.com/articles/design-theory/designing-for-and-as-a-color-blind-person/>
<http://colorfilter.wickline.org/>

The following guidelines should be observed:

- Avoid gratuitous color: Grayscale generally provides a more faithful representation when a single quantity is displayed. Use textures or different line types rather than colors in bar plots or graphs.
- Avoid troublesome color combinations: Figures with red and green are particularly problematic. Illustrations using green/red should generally be converted to green/magenta. If no suitable combination can be found, consider presenting separate monochrome images for the different color channels. For line drawing that require color, consider redundant coding by adding different textures or line types to the colors.

Multimedia and 3D Models

The Journal of Neuroscience will publish multimedia and 3D models embedded in the HTML and PDF versions of articles. Essential multimedia and models will be displayed in line with the article text, as is done for figures. Authors should be aware that multimedia and 3D models will not be available to readers who only access the printed version.

Authors should not use multimedia and 3D models simply to enliven or embellish their article. Because they substantially increase file sizes and are not available to all readers, multimedia and 3D models will be accepted only when they are needed to display findings that 1) are essential to defend the articles conclusions and 2) could not be presented adequately in the text, a table, or a figure. The editors will review all multimedia and 3D models to determine whether they are essential. It is

unlikely that more than one or two multimedia files that illustrate representative examples will be considered justified. Non-essential multimedia can be posted on an institutional or other web site (see [Supplemental Material](#)).

Text Citation

Multimedia and 3D models must be numbered independently of figures and tables, and cited at the relevant point in the manuscript text, e.g. "Movie 1", "Movie 2", and "Model 1", "Model 2".

Title

A title should be part of the legend and not lettered onto the multimedia or 3D model itself.

Legends

A legend must be included in the manuscript document after the reference list and not included in the video or 3D model itself. Legends should include sufficient detail to be intelligible without reference to the text. Legends must define all symbols and include essential information. If videos are not in real time and the time is not displayed in the video, the period represented must be stated in the legend. Rather than stating "See text," legends should be more specific; for example, "See Results".

Size

Videos and 3D models must be submitted at the size they are to appear in *The Journal of Neuroscience*. They should be the smallest size that will convey the essential scientific information, and sized to 1 column (maximum width 8.5 cm), 1.5 columns (maximum width 11.6 cm), or 2 columns (maximum width 17.6 cm).

Format

Multimedia files must be in MP4 format, and should not be larger than one megabyte. 3D models must be in U3D format.

To optimize videos for PC, tablet and smartphone viewing, we recommend formatting your videos with the following specifications:

- Video codec: H.264
- Audio codec: AAC
- Audio bit rate: 128 kbit/s
- Video resolution: 480 vertical lines or better
- Size: Maximum width of 480 pixels

To convert videos from other formats to MP4 format, the following resource is available: http://download.cnet.com/Free-MP4-Video-Converter/3000-2194_4-75628166.html.

For each video submitted, authors should provide a preview image, or poster frame, that best captures the main point.

Figures

Text Citation

Figures must be numbered independently of tables, multimedia, and 3D models and cited at the relevant point in the manuscript text, e.g. "Figure 1", "Figure 2", etc. Do not duplicate data by presenting it both in the text and in a figure.

Title

A title should be part of the legend and not lettered onto the figure.

Legends

A legend must be included in the manuscript document after the reference list. Legends should include sufficient detail to be intelligible without reference to the text. Legends must define all symbols and include essential information. Rather than stating "See text," legends should be more specific; for example, "See Results".

Size

Figures must be submitted at the size they are to appear in *The Journal of Neuroscience*. They should be the smallest size that will convey the essential scientific information, and sized to 1 column (maximum width 8.5 cm), 1.5 columns (maximum width 11.6 cm) or 2 columns (maximum width 17.6 cm).

Format

- Initial Submission - Figures may be included in a single PDF file that contains the manuscript and all tables and figures.
- Revised Submission or Resubmission - Figures must be submitted only as separate files in TIFF or EPS format. **Note:** EPS images cannot use the **Adobe CoolType Utility**. This is not compatible with the current image processing guidelines used by our online hosting provider.

Color figures should be in RGB format and supplied at a minimum of 300 dpi. For information on converting files to RGB format please see: http://www.jneurosci.org/site/misc/ifa_rgbworkflow.xhtml. Color is considered essential in a figure if it is necessary to accurately convey the information being presented by the image. Non-essential color refers to figures in which the color is not necessary for the meaning of the image to be made clear. Color should only be used in figures when essential.

For Figures in vector-based format, all fonts should be converted to outlines and saved as EPS (Encapsulated PostScript) to ensure that they are reproduced correctly. For information on converting to outlines, please see: http://www.jneurosci.org/site/misc/ifa_rgbworkflow.xhtml.

Monochrome (bitmap) images must be supplied at 1200 dpi.

Grayscale must be supplied at a minimum of 300 dpi.

Remove top and right borderlines (that do not contain measuring metrics) from all graph/histogram figure panels (do not box the panels in).

Do not include any two-bar graphs/histograms. Instead state those values in the text. Two-bar graphs/histograms are generally discouraged because the result can be conveyed more precisely and compactly with numbers.

To ensure that your figures will appear at the highest quality, please review the detailed instructions for figure preparation at <http://cpc.cadmus.com/da/index.jsp>. To better assist our authors with digital art preparation, *JNeurosci* has made available Cadmus' Rapid Inspector application, which alerts users when their files do not meet acceptable specifications and provides instructions on how to reformat their files to meet those specifications. Sign up at the Rapid Inspector web site: <http://rapidInspector.cadmus.com/RapidInspector/zo5/index.jsp> to download the application. If you have problems downloading the application please see the FAQs at the Cadmus site.

Tables

Text Citation

All tables must be numbered independently of figures, multimedia and 3D models and cited at the relevant point in the manuscript text, e.g. "Table 1", "Table 2", etc. Do not duplicate data by presenting it both in the text and in a table.

Title

A title should appear above the table.

Legends

A legend must be included in the manuscript document after the reference list. Legends should include sufficient detail to be intelligible without reference to the text. Legends must define all symbols and include essential information. Rather than stating "See text," legends should be more specific; for example, "See Results".

Format

Each table should be double-spaced. Multiple-part tables (A and B sections with separate "subtitles") should be avoided when possible, especially when there are two [different] sets [or types] of column headings.

Do not use color or shading, bold or italic fonts, or lines to highlight information. Indentation of text and sometimes, additional space between lines is preferred.

Supplemental Material

The Journal of Neuroscience no longer publishes supplemental material or considers it during peer-review. This change has been implemented to address problems that were discussed in an [editorial](#).

Submitted manuscripts must make no reference to supplemental material. Reviewers and editors will not evaluate supplemental material when deciding whether a manuscript is acceptable for publication. Reviewers will be [instructed](#) to consider each submission as a self-contained research report.

Published articles may include a URL for an external web site that holds supplemental material, together with a brief description of the contents of the supplemental material. Authors will have the opportunity to provide a URL and description when completing the online submission form for an invited revision. No references to supplemental material may appear in the manuscript text. The journal recommends that authors arrange to have supplemental material hosted on an institutional web site that will provide permanent access.

The criteria for including material in the submitted manuscript will remain the same as in the past, as described in [Organization of the Manuscript](#). Supplemental material should not be moved into the manuscript or into an appendix. The journal does not publish appendices. Such material should be hosted externally, as described above.

Multimedia such as movies or 3D models can be incorporated into published articles. However, multimedia must be essential to be included in the article. The editors will ask authors to remove inessential multimedia. Please see the [Illustration and Table Guidelines](#).

Brief Communications

Overview

NOTE: As of January 6, 2016, Brief Communications will no longer be considered a separate manuscript type from Regular Manuscripts for [NEW](#) submissions.

Brief Communications submitted prior to January 6, 2016 with a decision allowing resubmission or inviting revision will maintain the Brief Communication designation upon resubmission as long as the [Brief Communication](#) guidelines have been met. Authors may request to have their manuscript type changed to Regular Manuscript if the manuscript meets those guidelines. Contact the Central Office (in@sfn.org) with any questions.

Brief Communications are short research articles intended to present exciting findings that will have a major impact in neuroscience. Brief Communications are limited to 4,500 words, including the abstract, introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion, references and figure legends. The total word count must be listed on the title page.

Additionally, Brief Communications may include no more than 4 figures, tables, multimedia, and/or 3D models, which together may occupy no more than one full page. It is not acceptable to move materials and methods or essential figures into supplemental material in order to adhere to these limits.

Manuscripts should be organized as described for [Regular Manuscripts](#) and the abstract, introduction, and discussion must adhere to the word limits listed for Regular Manuscripts. Authors will be contacted if their manuscript does not conform to these guidelines, and will be asked to reduce the content or reclassify the paper as a Regular Manuscript.

Journal Club

The purpose of Journal Club articles is to provide scholarly reviews of papers recently published in *The Journal of Neuroscience*. Journal Club articles are written by students and post-docs, and are meant to be accessible by a broad range of young neuroscientists.

Requirements

We encourage Journal Club submissions that represent a group effort, but all authors must be graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, or the equivalent. Authors may publish no more than one Journal Club in a 12-month period.

Journal Club articles must be submitted within 2 months of the publication of the highlighted article. Authors are strongly encouraged to [e-mail the Features Editor](#) before beginning to write a Journal Club to reserve the article they wish to discuss. Once an article has been reserved, no other Journal Club submissions discussing the same article will be considered until after a decision regarding the original requester's submission has been made.

Authors of Journal Club submissions are subject to the same guidelines as reviewers concerning conflict of interest. In particular, they should not be from the same institution or have any real or apparent conflict of interest with the authors of the article, for example having recently collaborated with the authors or having done research that addresses the same question treated in the article. For more details, see: [Guidelines for Responsible Conduct Regarding Scientific Communication](#).

Content and Format

In general, Journal Club articles should have three components: a short overview of the topic and questions addressed in the reviewed paper, a critical review of the key findings, and a brief summary of the significance of the paper. In particular, what has been learned about neural mechanisms should be discussed.

The Journal Club must offer more than a summary of what was stated in the original article. For example, it might present important caveats, alternative explanations of the data, or a distinct interpretation of the results in the

context of work that the author did not discuss. Presentation of unpublished work or modeling results is not acceptable, however.

We expect that authors of Journal Clubs will be working on a topic related to that of the reviewed paper, and thus will be familiar with the experimental approach, but Journal Clubs should not focus on the author's own work. We encourage critical reviews, but comments must be accurate, well-reasoned, and diplomatic. Inappropriately harsh or glowing reviews will not be considered.

Journal Club submissions must be concise and should be limited to approximately 1500 words. They should be written in a style that is understandable to all readers of *The Journal of Neuroscience*. Avoid using jargon and unnecessary abbreviations.

A single, original schematic or explanatory figure is acceptable. The figure caption must appear in the main document, after the references. Do not duplicate figures that were in the reviewed paper—links to any figures you cite will be placed in the published Journal Club. In the text, refer to the cited figures with the author's name, e.g., "(Author et al., Figure 1A)".

A title page must be included with your submission. The title page should include: Journal Club title, citation of article being reviewed, list of Journal Club authors, author affiliations (universities/research institutes etc.; for graduate students, the affiliation should be listed as the Graduate Program or Department), corresponding author, corresponding author's contact information (address, phone, and email address), abbreviated title, and acknowledgments (optional).

Review Procedures

Journal Club submissions are examined by the editors for accuracy and appropriateness, but are generally not peer-reviewed. Submissions requiring more than minor revisions will not be accepted because of time constraints. The most common reasons for rejection of a Journal Club submission are failure to provide sufficiently novel insights about neural mechanisms and failure to provide a cogent and concise explanation of those insights. The editors reserve the right to balance acceptances among topics and institutions.

Due to the large volume of submissions, we do not provide detailed reviews of Journal Club articles that are not accepted for publication. Decisions on the acceptability of Journal Clubs are not subject to appeal. The authors of the paper that is reviewed will be allowed to read the Journal Club before publication. If the authors choose to reply, their response will be linked to the published Journal Club.

Submission Instructions

Journal Clubs must be submitted through *The Journal of Neuroscience* [submission site](#). They do not require a submission fee or publication fee. In using the on-line submission site, please follow these instructions:

For questions, please [contact the Features Editor](#).

1. Select "Feature: Journal Club" as the "Manuscript Type"
2. Select FEATURE EDITOR as the "Manuscript Section"
3. If you are prompted to pay the submission fee, do not enter payment information. Instead, please contact JNeurosci's Central Office (jn@sfn.org) just before submission so this fee can be waived.

Letters to the Editor

The Journal of Neuroscience does not publish letters to the editor in the print edition. *Responses* to articles may be submitted online via a link on the article's web page. *Responses* will also be visible via the Letters to the Editor link on *JNeurosci's* home page.

Article Responses allow readers to comment on the content of articles published in *The Journal of Neuroscience*. The goal is to facilitate open exchanges on science published in *JNeurosci*. *Responses* can be submitted by first clicking "Submit a Response" in the sidebar on the right side of an article's web page, and then following the instructions provided. Please note that communications meant solely for the authors of an article, including requests for reprints, reagents, or assistance, should be sent instead to the address listed in the footnotes of the original article (after the phrase "Correspondence should be addressed to...").

Responses should be concise: generally fewer than 250 words. It is acceptable to publish a more extensive commentary on an external site (e.g., ArXiv) and submit an abstract of that commentary with a URL as a *Response*.

Responses will be screened for significance and appropriateness, and will usually be posted within 48 hours of receipt. Publication is at the discretion of the editors. We will not publish *Responses* that, in our judgment, are not in the spirit of constructive scientific discourse. In addition, only one *Response* (and optional reply to that *Response* from the author) will be published concerning a given issue for a particular article. Although *Responses* cannot be edited by the submitting author after publication, *JNeurosci* editors reserve the rights to amend, edit, or remove materials at any time.

Certain material is inappropriate for *Responses*. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Requests for medical advice or assistance
- Unpublished data (including figures or tables)
- Comments that advertise or promote specific commercial interests
- Comments that promote specific political or religious viewpoints
- Comments from authors with real or apparent conflicts of interest

- Comments that are rude, libelous, or inflammatory
- Comments that are anonymous or written under a pseudonym

We will publish your name with your *Response*. You must provide an email address when a *Response* is submitted, and this address will be made available to readers so they can contact you. Citations should be included when needed and should be in the same format as used in *The Journal of Neuroscience*.

All authors of *Responses* are subject to the guidelines described in the [Responsible Conduct Regarding Scientific Communications](#). *Responses* must observe any licenses or copyrights on original material. Submitting authors are entirely responsible for the accuracy of the content of *Responses*. However, we expect specific claims to be supported by references and opinion or speculation to be so specified in the *Response*. Financial contributions to the work being reported should be clearly acknowledged, as should any potential conflict of interest. The proper form for citing *Journal Responses* is as follows:

Smith, A.B., Title of *Response* letter (electronic response to Jones, C.D., Title of original paper. *J Neurosci* 2015;35:19101. DOI:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.5813-12.2015).

Writing Tips

Below are tips on how to revise sentences. Both articles were published in SfN's Neuroscience Newsletter.

Say it Simply: Tips for Clear Writing

Tips for Revising Sentences

Overuse of the passive voice is a common problem in writing. Although the passive has its place—for example, in the Methods section—in many instances it makes the manuscript dull by failing to identify the author's role in the research. Other weak writing practices are the overuse of prepositional phrases, the verb “to be,” nominalizations, and noun strings. Using too many prepositional phrases causes information overload that can confuse readers. Overuse of the weak linking verb “to be” creates unnecessarily long and imprecise sentences. Sentences with many nominalizations (noun forms of verbs) result in texts that are difficult to understand. Energize your text by transforming the noun forms of verbs back into verbs and avoid noun strings (nouns modifying nouns), which result in too much compressed information that is confusing to readers. Consider, too, where to put new and important information. Generally, readers look for new information at the end of sentences, the end of paragraphs, and the end of abstracts. Help the reader locate your most important point by placing it in these stress positions.

Principles at Work

(See Examples on <http://www.jneurosci.org>)

1. Use direct, active-voice sentences.
2. Limit prepositional phrases.
3. Limit use of the verb “to be.”
4. Avoid noun forms of verbs (nominalizations).
5. Limit noun strings (nouns modifying nouns).
6. Put new and important information toward the end of sentences.

Submitting a Manuscript

Review Process

All manuscripts must be submitted to *JNeurosci's* [web-based submission site](#). Please refer to [requirements for submission](#) before you begin. The author who completes the submission will be designated as the corresponding author and will be responsible for handling communications with *JNeurosci*. Co-corresponding authors may be designated on the proofs for accepted articles. The submitting author has full authority to speak for all other authors regarding withdrawal of a manuscript or correction or retraction of a published article.

At the time of submission, authors will be asked to direct their manuscript to one of *JNeurosci's* sections (Cellular/Molecular, Development/Plasticity/Repair, Systems/Circuits, Behavioral/Cognitive, or Neurobiology of Disease). Authors may request specific [Senior Editors](#) or [Reviewing Editors](#), but editor assignments will be made based on expertise of the editors, load, and scheduling. Accepted manuscripts will appear in the section selected by the authors, regardless of editor assignments.

Authors are requested to identify five reviewers who are well qualified to referee the work and would not have a conflict of interest. Authors may also exclude specific individuals from reviewing their manuscript. The Reviewing Editor will typically select two independent reviewers to evaluate each paper. If a consensus is not reached, a third opinion may be sought. Reviewers are required to treat manuscripts as confidential.

Manuscripts will be returned without outside review if the Reviewing Editor and the Senior Editor deem that the paper is of insufficient general interest for the broad readership of *The Journal of Neuroscience*, or that the scientific quality is such that it is unlikely to receive favorable reviews. Editorial rejection allows authors to submit their papers elsewhere without further delay.

The Journal of Neuroscience is a member of the Neuroscience Peer Review Consortium, an alliance of neuroscience journals that have agreed to share manuscript reviews at the author's request. Its goals are to support efficient and thorough peer review of original research in neuroscience, to speed the publication of

research reports, and to reduce the burden on peer reviewers. For information about the Consortium and instructions on how to forward reviews, please visit <http://nprc.incf.org/authors/information-for-authors>.

Requirements for Submission

When submitting your manuscript at *JNeurosci's* electronic site, you will be asked to provide the following:

Manuscript Files

- The manuscript should be organized as described in Organization of the Manuscript.
- Manuscripts must make no references to supplemental material.
- For invited revisions or resubmissions, you must submit the manuscript text in Word, WordPerfect, RTF, LaTeX or Text format. Each figure must be uploaded as a separate file in TIFF or EPS format. Tables may be included either in the manuscript text file or as separate Word, WordPerfect, RTF, LaTeX or Text files. PDF format is not accepted for the manuscript text, figures or tables.
- For new submissions, you may instead submit one PDF file that includes the manuscript text and all figures and tables. Pages must be numbered.

Author Information (for each author)

- Full Name
- Postal Address (with institution)
- Telephone Number
- E-mail Address
- Contribution(s)
 - Each author must be identified with at least one of the following: Designed research, Performed research, Contributed unpublished reagents/analytic tools, Analyzed data, Wrote the paper.

Title (50 words maximum) **and Running Title** (50 characters maximum)

Journal Section

- Authors must direct their manuscript to the appropriate section (Cellular/Molecular, Development/Plasticity/Repair, Systems/Circuits, Behavioral/Cognitive, or Neurobiology of Disease).

Reviewers

- Authors are asked to identify reviewers who are well qualified to referee the work and who would not have a conflict of interest. Authors should provide the name, address, and email for each potential referee. Authors will also be asked to identify reviewers who should be excluded from refereeing.

Editors

- Authors may request specific Senior Editors or Reviewing Editors, but editor assignments will be made based on expertise of the editors, load, and availability. Authors may exclude specific Senior Editors or Reviewing Editors from handling their manuscripts.

Cover Letter

- It is not necessary to include a cover letter, but you will be allowed to insert one on the submission form if you choose.

Submission Fee

- A submission fee must be paid using a credit card. Occasionally the editors decide not to send a manuscript out for peer review because they consider it inappropriate for *The Journal of Neuroscience*. The submission fee will be refunded if a manuscript is not sent out for peer review.

Checklist for Initial Submissions

- The submission may be** either a single PDF file containing all text and figures (pages and figures must be numbered) or multiple files: a manuscript file in Word, WordPerfect, RTF, LaTeX or text format and each figure in a separate TIFF (300 dpi) or EPS file
- Individual files must always be used for multimedia (MP4) and 3D models (U3D)
- The authors, title and abstract inserted on the submission form must match those in the manuscript files
- Preferred and excluded reviewers and editors may be specified on the submission form
- Cover letter is optional
- Credit card information must be used for payment of submission fee

Text:

- Sections appear in the following order: Title Page, Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, References, Figure/Table Legends, Figures, and Tables
- All pages double spaced and numbered (except the title page)
- No broken URLs in text
- No Footnotes or Appendices are present
- No reference to Supplemental Material appears in the text, figures, or tables
- Multimedia or 3D models are included only if the information cannot be adequately communicated in a figure

Brief Communications:

- Manuscript has no more than 4500 words (including abstract, references and figure legends)
- There are no more than 4 Figures or Tables, occupying in total the equivalent of one page or less

Title Page Includes:

- Title (50 words maximum)
- Abbreviated title (50 characters maximum)
- Names and affiliations of each author
- Corresponding author's name and email address
- Number of figures, tables, multimedia, and 3D models (separately)
- Number of words for Abstract, Introduction, and Discussion (separately, including any citations)
- Financial interests or conflicts of interest (if applicable)
- Acknowledgements (optional)

Abstract:

- Word count is ≤ 250
- Species studied is identified in abstract (or title)
- No subheadings are present

Introduction:

- Word count is ≤ 650

Materials and Methods:

- Sex of subjects is stated (male; female; of either sex)
- Companies or individuals (with full affiliations) from which unusual materials were obtained are provided

Results:

- Statistical tests are named and test statistics (e.g., t- or F-values) are reported

Discussion:

- Word count is ≤ 1500

Citations:

- Proper citation style for *The Journal of Neuroscience* is used
- A reference is provided for each in-text citation, and *vice versa*.

Figures, multimedia, and 3D models:

- Each illustration is numbered (separate numbering for figures, multimedia and 3D models)
- Each illustration has a legend and is mentioned in the manuscript
- All symbols are defined in the caption

Tables:

- Each table is numbered and mentioned in the manuscript
- A legend and title are provided for each table

Checklist for Submitting a Revised Manuscript:

Requirements are the same as for initial submissions, with the following additions:

Text:

- Manuscript file is in Word, WordPerfect, RTF, LaTeX or text format
- Individual table files in Word format

Figures:

- Each figure is in a separate TIFF (300 dpi) or EPS file
- Each figure in either RGB color mode or Grayscale format
- Individual files are provided for multimedia (MP4) and 3D models (U3D)
- All illustrations submitted at the size they should be published
- Graphs and figures do not have gridlines or top/right borders

Supplemental Material (optional):

- URL for site hosting supplemental material is listed
- Description of supplemental material is provided (75 word maximum)

License to Publish Form:

- Sign the electronic License to Publish form once the revised manuscript is submitted. A link to the form will be available on the home page of <http://jneurosci.msubmit.net> for each author, if the corresponding author does not sign for all authors.

Revising/Finalizing a Manuscript

Revisions

Detailed instructions for submitting a revised manuscript are included in the decision letter when a manuscript has been judged potentially acceptable for publication.

Authors have the option to provide a URL and footnote for supplemental material on the submission form when they submit an invited revision. The footnote may include

a brief description of the contents of the [Supplemental Material](#), but no other reference to supplemental material may appear in the article. See [Supplemental Material](#) for more information.

When submitting a revised manuscript you must:

- Submit revisions within 3 months of the decision letter. If an extension is needed, contact *JNeurosci's* Central Office (jn@sfn.org) before the deadline.
- Sign the electronic [License to Publish](#) form once the revised manuscript is submitted. A link to the form will be available on the home page of <http://jneurosci.msubmit.net> for each author, if the corresponding author does not sign for all authors.
- Submit a point-by-point reply to the reviews showing how reviewer concerns were addressed.
- Submit the manuscript text (including tables, if any) in Word, WordPerfect, RTF, LaTeX or Text format with all insertions indicated in bold or colored font, so that reviewers can easily see the changes you have made. **No clean copy is needed.**
- If revisions require adding, deleting, or reordering of figures, tables, or equations, be sure that all in-text references to such items are renumbered as well.
- Double-check that all in-text citations are in the reference list and that all references on the reference list have at least one corresponding in-text citation. Only published and "in press" references should appear in the reference list at the end of the paper. Unpublished references must be cited as such in text only. The latest information on "in press" references should be provided.
- Submit publication quality digital figures, one per file (see [Illustrations and Tables](#)). Check all aspects of illustrations carefully to avoid alterations in the proofs (see also the [Proofs](#) section). All labels used in a figure should be explained in the legend. Double-check that all labels and symbols mentioned in the figure legend are on the final version of the figure. For questions regarding figure sizing and digital art preparation see [Illustrations](#).
- Scrutinize the revised paper for any final corrections in style or substance. Changes at the proof stage are permitted only for corrections of factual errors, printer's errors, or quality of figure reproduction. Other changes may result in a fee.

Proofs

Authors should be aware that *The Journal of Neuroscience* limits author alterations in proof. Only corrections of factual errors, copyediting errors, or in the

quality of figure reproduction are allowed. All [fees](#) must be paid before a manuscript will be published.

To speed publication, authors are limited 48 hours from receipt of proofs to make and return corrections. Authors should notify *JNeurosci's* Central Office, jn@sfn.org, if the proofs should be sent to an email address other than that of the corresponding author listed on the manuscript. To inquire about production charges or invoices, refer to the contact material included with the proofs.

Once a manuscript is accepted, authors' names can only be added, deleted, or altered with the approval of the editors. Requests for changes to the author list will delay publication of a manuscript.

Embargo Policy

All articles appearing in *The Journal of Neuroscience* are embargoed for release to the public until 5 pm Eastern time on the evening before the publication date. This policy applies to members of the media, authors, local institutions' public information officers and anyone else with access to articles published in *JNeurosci*. If you would like to know when an article will be posted online, please send an email inquiry to jn@sfn.org at *The Journal of Neuroscience*. The Society's Public Information Committee and staff regularly review in advance articles published in *JNeurosci* for the purposes of issuing news releases. These are usually mailed the week before publication and marked for release to the press on the evening before the publication date. Authors can contact their institution's public information office, which may elect to do a news release or arrange an interview. To be fair to everyone, especially competing publications interested in writing about a particular paper, interviews are permissible before the publication date, but the information can be released only after the embargo is lifted. This applies to public information officers at local institutions, authors and members of the media.

A reporter also may contact an author independent of any media relations effort. As explained above, an author may share the manuscript and speak about it with a reporter as long as both understand that the release date is after the embargo is lifted.

Cover Art

JNeurosci cover art is either an image or a video that highlights material relevant to an article in that issue. Cover art is chosen primarily on the basis of aesthetic appeal and scientific interest. We are primarily interested in arresting and appealing images rather than those that serve to document experimental findings. Cartoons or metaphorical images are generally not accepted. Contributors are encouraged to view [recent covers](#) for examples of images that have been accepted.

When submitting cover art created by someone who is not an author of the article, please have the creator fill out and sign the following permission form, http://www.jneurosci.org/site/misc/License_to_Use_Cover_Material.pdf. The signed form must be submitted with the cover art submission. Also, include an acknowledgement in the cover legend of the creator who provided the artwork.

Because of our tight production schedule, cover art should be received with 10 days after a manuscript has been accepted. After that time you should contact jn@sfn.org to check whether your submission can be considered. Submissions should be deposited at the FTP site that is described in the acceptance letter that authors receive. Please save the art and legend in a folder named with the manuscript ID number assigned by *JNeurosci*. If you don't have FTP software, a free program can be obtained from <http://filezilla.sourceforge.net>. If using a Macintosh, you can download Fetch for free for 15 days at: <http://fetchsoftworks.com/>. After you have deposited your image and legend please notify the editor by sending email to jn@sfn.org.

Image Format

Images should be formatted to the equivalent of 9 inches wide by 11.25 inches high with a resolution of at least 300 pixels/inch. Cover art consisting of a single picture should be in TIFF format saved as RGB. Art including vector graphics should be in EPS format. A brief cover legend that describes the image should accompany the submission. Journal editors may crop, rotate or otherwise adjust images.

Video Format

Cover videos do not need to match the aspect ratio of the printed cover. Video should have a resolution of at least 480 vertical lines. Videos should be prepared in MP4 format using the H.264 video codec. When audio is included, the ACC audio codec should be used, with a bit rate of 128 kbit/s. Authors must also supply an image from the video to appear on the print issue. That image must comply with the image format described above. For more information see http://www.jneurosci.org/site/misc/ifa_illustrations.xhtml.

NIH Public Access Policy

NIH and certain private funding agencies require that a final, electronic version of manuscripts describing research they supported be submitted to the National Library of Medicine's PubMed Central site. Information about the NIH policy can be found at <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/>.

As a service to our authors, *The Journal of Neuroscience* will deposit in PubMed Central final versions of manuscripts that describe work that was funded by agencies that have this requirement. Manuscripts describing work that was funded by the NIH, HHMI and

the Wellcome Trust and which are accepted for publication in *The Journal of Neuroscience* on or after April 7, 2008 will be deposited. Authors funded by these agencies should make sure to accurately describe the source of funding in the acknowledgments section of their manuscripts.

Although the NIH policy calls for manuscripts in PubMed Central to be freely accessible after 12 months, *JNeurosci* will allow manuscripts to be publicly accessible through PubMed Central six months after publication, which is when all Journal of Neuroscience articles become freely accessible.

This service will be provided automatically, without a fee, and should fulfill the obligations that grantees of these agencies have to comply with the NIH Public Access Policy for articles published in *The Journal of Neuroscience*.

Correcting Errors in Published Articles

Corrections to Published Articles

Authors who discover errors in articles they have published should have the corresponding author contact *JNeurosci's* Central Office (jn@sfn.org) with a detailed description of the correction that is needed. Corrigenda (corrections of author's errors) and errata (corrections of publisher's errors) will be published at no charge to the authors. Requests for corrections that affect the interpretation or conclusions of a published article will be reviewed by the editors.

JNeurosci will [retract an article](#) at the authors' request at any time without requiring explanation. The corresponding author should contact the Editor-in-Chief (JN_EIC@sfn.org).

Retractions of Published Articles

Author-Initiated Retractions

JNeurosci will retract an article at the authors' request at any time without requiring explanation. At the authors' option, the retraction notice may simply state that the article has been retracted at the authors' request. Alternatively, the authors may provide a brief explanation of the error(s) prompting the retraction. However, statements of retraction may not assign blame to specific authors or laboratories. To request a retraction, the corresponding author should contact the Editor-in-Chief (JN_EIC@sfn.org).

In retraction statements, *JNeurosci* clearly distinguishes between author-initiated retractions and those initiated by the editors because of violations of the Society for Neuroscience's guidelines for [Responsible Conduct Regarding Scientific Communications](#).

Editorial Retractions

The editors reserve the right to retract an article at any time after publication without the consent of the authors if an investigation by an appropriate authority reveals a violation of the Society for Neuroscience Ethics Policy -- including the SfN guidelines for [Responsible Conduct Regarding Scientific Communication](#) -- regardless of whether that violation was intentional or not.