

***Biophysics and Physicobiology (BPPB)***  
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**INSTRUCTION FOR AUTHORS**

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We welcome contributions from all over the world, from both BSJ members and non-members. Submitted papers must be based on unpublished original research, and not be under consideration for publication elsewhere. BPPB supports the idea of posting a preprint to preprint servers, and hence the manuscript posted on servers such as [arXiv](https://arxiv.org/) (<https://arxiv.org/>), [bioRxiv](https://www.biorxiv.org/) (<https://www.biorxiv.org/>), [ChemRxiv](https://chemrxiv.org/engage/chemrxiv/public-dashboard) (<https://chemrxiv.org/engage/chemrxiv/public-dashboard>), [medRxiv](https://www.medrxiv.org/) (<https://www.medrxiv.org/>) or [Jxiv](https://jxiv.jst.go.jp) (<https://jxiv.jst.go.jp>) before submission to BPPB is not considered as publication. The authors are free to post the manuscript to the preprint servers, but after publication on BPPB, we ask them to specify the DOI of the final BPPB version of the manuscript along with the posted manuscript. Submitted papers must conform in style to the Instruction for Authors outlined below.

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These notes make up the Instruction for Authors who would like to submit their articles to BPPB.

1. Article Categories in BPPB
2. Special Issues
3. Peer review procedure
4. How to submit a manuscript
5. Manuscript style
6. General policy on the journal's ethics
7. Publication fees
8. Proofs, reprints, and copyright
9. Corrections and retraction policy

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**1. Article Categories in BPPB**

Articles that BPPB publishes are categorized as (1) Regular Articles, (2) Review Articles, (3) Notes, (4) Methods and Protocols, (5) Databases and Computer Programs, (6) Commentary and Perspective, and (7) Editorial.

(1) Regular Articles are the main category of the journal and must be prepared in accordance with the instructions provided below. The manuscript template for Microsoft Word is available [HERE](#).

(2) Review Articles summarize a particular aspect of biophysical research. Most Review Articles are invited, but contributed Review Articles are also welcome (please send inquiries with an outline to the Editor-in-Chief before sending the manuscript). The manuscript template for Microsoft Word is available [HERE](#).

(3) Notes are short articles that are not necessarily categorized as Regular Articles because of the content, and may contain important information on new devices and/or new ideas, including hypothetical comments that are useful for researchers working in the field of biophysics. The goal of this category is to encourage critical evaluation of concepts, idiosyncratic viewpoints, and challenges to ideas. However, the manuscript should go through rigorous review, and the ideas should be based on sound data without excessive speculation. The manuscript template for Microsoft Word is available [HERE](#).

(4) Methods and Protocols cover new methods or significant new advancement of established methods that will be widely applicable to the field of experimental and computational biophysics. The manuscript template for Microsoft Word is available [HERE](#).

(5) Databases and Computer Programs should be a description of the core data or software that would be useful for biophysics studies. The databases/computer programs should be available via a website designated by the authors or via BPPB. The review process for this category is based on the functionality of the database/computer program. The manuscript template for Microsoft Word is available [HERE](#).

(6) Commentary and Perspective introduces hot topics in the field of biophysics and topics with global collaborations. Most of the Articles in Commentary and Perspective are invited from the organizers of the annual BSJ meetings or other scientific meetings, but contributed articles are also welcome (please send inquiries with an outline to Editor-in-Chief before sending the manuscript). The manuscript template for Microsoft Word is available [HERE](#).

(7) Editorial is written by the Editor-in-Chief, Editorial Board members and Guest Editor-in-Charge for Special Issues. It introduces new policies, comments and new editorial board members. The manuscript template for Microsoft Word is available [HERE](#).

The manuscript template for LaTeX is available [HERE](#).

## **2. Special issues**

We welcome a proposal of a topic as a Special Issue, which is in principle composed of more than four articles focusing on a particular biophysical issue, from the members of the Society, the Editorial Board, Associate Editors and Advisory Board. The proposer should contact the Editor-in-Chief directly, and may take on duties as a Guest Editor-in-Charge. Note that all the manuscripts in these Special issues are reviewed,

and the publication fees must be paid. In addition, the proceedings of a scientific meeting can be considered for a special issue publication.

### **3. Peer review procedure**

If a submitted manuscript does not conform to the journal scope, or other inadequacies are found, the Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to reject the manuscript without review. Manuscripts are handled through the peer review process and edited by an Editor-in-Charge, selected from the Associate Editors, the Advisory Board members, the Editorial Board members or the Editor-in-Chief, who are introduced in the web page of our Editorial Board. Manuscripts are sent out for peer review to two or more reviewers. The Editor-in-Charge may suggest to the authors that the linguistic accuracy of the manuscript should be improved when the manuscript is poorly written. In that case, the Editorial office may support the authors by introducing a professional English proofreader.

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If there are any problems with on-line submission, please contact the editorial office below.

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(3) Do not include spaces and Japanese characters (multi-byte codes) in the file name or file path. Use only alphanumeric characters.

(4) The size of each file that is uploaded using the on-line submission system such as text, tables, figures and supplementary material (if any), should be no more than 20 MB. When the supplementary materials are larger than 20 MB, please upload them to another relating BPPB data repository, J-STAGE Data (<https://jstagedata.jst.go.jp/>). In this case, please contact the Editorial office.

## 5. Manuscript Style

The following materials in electronic form are required for submission. **The text including Tables and Figures, and supplementary materials (if any) are required for initial submission.**

### (1) Text

The text file should include the title, the author name(s), text, and references as in **the template file for each Category**. All the URLs on the Word file should be hyperlinked. Every author is requested to use the template file for Microsoft Word or for LaTeX.

Page 1 of the template file should contain the **article title, author name(s), affiliation(s), address(es), an abstract, keywords, and a significance statement**. The complete postal address and the ORCID iD of the corresponding author should be indicated on the footer of page 1. An E-mail address can be added if the corresponding author(s) wishes. An **abstract of no more than 250 words** is required. The abstract must not include references. For the “Editorial” or “Commentary and Perspective” categories, an abstract is not necessary. A list of up to five **keywords**, which have not been used in the title, should be provided below the abstract. **A short statement of less than 100 words about the significance** of the paper should be added, but it is not necessary for “Editorial” or “Commentary and Perspective”. This significance statement will also be published on the Society News website.

Following the above information, **Introduction, Materials and Methods** (or Methods), **Results, Discussion** (or Results and Discussion), **Conclusion, Conflict of Interest, Author Contributions, Data Availability**, (A comment about deposition to a preprint server if the authors have deposited the file there: e.g. A preliminary version of this work was deposited in arXiv (ID, DOI or URL) on August 13, 2020.), **Acknowledgements and References**, should be arranged in this order.

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All tables must be cited in the text. Number the tables consecutively with Arabic numerals (for example “Table 3”), in the order of their appearance in the text. Supply a short explanatory title above the body of the table, and table footnotes lettered a, b, c, and so forth, below the body of the table. Do not use vertical lines.

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All figures must be cited in the text. Number the figures consecutively with Arabic numerals (for example “Figure 3”), in the order of their appearance in the text. The dimensions of each illustration, photograph, or composite imagery should be no larger than the size of the manuscript page.

Figures must be at a resolution high enough for printing. **Electronic files of photographs and illustrations should be at 300 dpi resolution** in gray scale or color at the size being printed. We accept **figure files in TIFF, PNG or JPEG formats**.

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- c. The file name extension should be one of the following as appropriate; jpg, jpeg, tif, tiff, eps, png, pdf, mpeg or avi.
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## (5) Graphical Abstract

One figure in color or monochrome that depicts the content of the manuscript should

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For more than six authors, list the first six authors followed by “et al.”:

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[3] Go, M. Protein structures and split genes. in *Adv. Biophys.* (Kotani, M. ed.) vol. 19, pp. 91–131 (Japan Sci. Soc. Press and Elsevier Sci. Pub., Tokyo and Limerick, 1985).

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[4] Oosawa, F., Asakura, S. *Thermodynamics of the Polymerization of Proteins* (Academic Press, New York, 1975).

d. For an article in a preprint server by one or more authors:

- [5] Ichimura, T., Kakizuka, T., Horikawa, K., Seiriki, K., Kasai, A., Hashimoto, H., et al. Exploring rare cellular activity in more than one million cells by a trans-scale-scope. *bioRxiv* (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.06.29.179044>

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- [6] Itoh, H., Takahashi, A., Adachi, K., Noji, H., Yasuda, R., Yoshida, M., et al. Mechanically driven ATP synthesis by F1-ATPase. *Nature* (in press). <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature02212>

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The policy of BPPB requires that all authors should reveal any financial interests or connections, direct or indirect, or other situations that may raise the question of bias in the reported work. The following is an example of such a statement:

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### **(2) Ethics Standards**

Any submitted manuscript should be the authors’ own original work that has not been previously published elsewhere. The editors assume that the submitted manuscript

should include appropriate credit for the meaningful contributions of co-authors and co-researchers, and should be appropriately placed in the history of the research. Plagiarism in all its forms constitutes unethical publishing behavior and is unacceptable. Duplicated submission is not allowed even when the other publication is not made in English. The editors reserve the right to check for plagiarism if doubt arises.

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Authors may be asked to provide raw data in connection with the manuscript, and should be prepared to provide access to such data for a reasonable time after publication. Sequence and structural information of biological materials should be submitted to public databases and an Identification code should be obtained before submitting the manuscript. The identification code should be given in the manuscript.

Although the scientific content in every submitted article should reflect the authors’ own research, Large Language Models (LLMs) and Generative AI may be used to support authors in preparing their manuscript, for example, in searching previous studies and in revising English grammar. In that case, the detailed usage and the name of the LLM or Generative AI should be acknowledged in the Acknowledgements section.

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If the subjects are human, authors are required to ensure that the following guidelines are followed, as recommended by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. See, for example, “Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals” (1997), *Pathology*, Vol. 29, No. 4, Pages 441–447. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00313029700169515>. When informed consent has been obtained, it should be indicated in the submitted article. Identifying information, including subjects’ names, initials, or hospital numbers, should not be published in written descriptions, photographs, or pedigrees unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the patient (or parent or guardian) gives written informed consent for publication.

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All persons designated as authors should qualify for authorship.

To qualify for authorship, an author should contribute to:

- a. Conception and design of the work, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data,
- b. Drafting the article or revising important aspects of the intellectual content, and



c. Final approval of the version to be published.

The contributions of all the authors should be listed in a separate section at the end of the manuscript. For example,

- A, B, and C directed the entire project and co-wrote the manuscript.
- D synthesized and characterized materials. E carried out diffractometry analyses. F performed NMR measurements.
- G and H carried out *ab initio* calculations.

For an article by a single author, the example is as follows:

- J designed the research, performed the experiments, analyzed data and wrote the manuscript.

## (5) Data Availability

Every corresponding author of the article published in BPPB has to make their evidence data available upon reasonable request, and the statement should be described, for example,

- The evidence data generated and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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- Genetic and/or genomic sequence data were deposited to the DDBJ/ENA/GenBank (INSDC: <https://www.insdc.org/> ) under the accession number: ??????.
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## 7. Publication fees

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Errata concern the amendment of mistakes introduced by the journal in editing or production, including errors of omission such as failure to make factual proof corrections requested by authors within the deadline provided by the journal and within journal policy. Errata are generally not published for simple, obvious, typing errors, but are published when an apparently simple error is significant (for example, a Greek mu for an 'm' in a unit, or a typing error in the corresponding author's E-mail address).

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Addenda are judged on the significance of the addition to the interpretation of the original publication. Addenda do not contradict the original publication, but if the authors inadvertently omitted significant information available to them at the time, this material will be published as an addendum after peer review.

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Retractions are judged according to whether the main conclusion of the paper is seriously undetermined as a result. Infringements of professional ethical codes, such as multiple submission, bogus claims of authorship, plagiarism, fraudulent use of data, and the like, will also result in an article being retracted. All co-authors will be asked to agree to a retraction. In cases where some co-authors decline to sign a retraction, the Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to publish the retraction with the dissenting author(s) identified.

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BPPB may publish an “Expression of Concern”, with a brief response from the original authors when complaints, disagreements over interpretation or other matters arising are addressed to the Editor-in-Chief and do not lead to retraction of the original article.

Revised 30 January, 2024