

3 BIOTECH – Specific Instructions for Authors

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3 BIOTECH – Instructions for Authors

3 BIOTECH is a quarterly peer-reviewed Open Access journal in which readers, immediately upon online publication, can access articles free of costs and subscription charges. 3 BIOTECH is also a peer-reviewed, free-to-publish journal in which submitting authors do not pay any costs towards their publications.

1. EDITORIAL POLICIES

1.1 Editorial Process

3 BIOTECH accepts biotechnology-related papers which are original, unpublished and not under simultaneous consideration by another journal. All papers are rigorously peer-reviewed and selected on the basis of quality and originality. Submitted manuscripts are sent to a 3 BIOTECH Associate Editor. For the review process, two or more reviewers are selected by the Associate Editor from a database of experts. Authors can also suggest up to 5 external expert reviewers for their manuscript, but the Associate Editor is not obliged to use the suggested reviewers. The Associate Editor advises the Editor-in-Chief (EiC) on the reviewers' reports and a final decision to accept or reject a manuscript is then made. The journal's rejection rate is very high.

We aim to reach a final decision on all submissions papers within 5 weeks of submission. If an offer of publication is made which is subject to revision, then the authors are asked to submit a revised version of the manuscript within 8 weeks. Articles are usually published online within 4 weeks after acceptance.

3 BIOTECH is an e-journal and all accepted manuscripts will be published online at the journal's website. It is expected that no print issues will be available.

1.2 Use of Human or Animal Subjects

The corresponding author must confirm that all research studies conducted using either vertebrates or higher invertebrates were performed in accordance with the relevant government's regulatory guidelines and regulations. Any manuscript submitted to 3 BIOTECH must include at an appropriate place in the article a statement which includes details of the authority approving the experiments. In addition, for experiments involving human subjects, authors must state the committee approving the experiments, and include in their submission a statement confirming that informed consent was obtained from all subjects.

1.3 Conflict of Interest (COI)

For the purposes of this journal, a conflict of interest (COI) is defined as a competing financial interest which could have the potential to influence behaviour, content or perception and undermine the objectivity, integrity or value of a publication. Public knowledge of such work after it has been published would cause embarrassment. Some examples of COI include stocks or shares in companies that may gain or lose financially through publication; consultation fees or other forms of remuneration from organisations that may gain or lose financially; patents or patent applications whose value may be affected by publication.

3 BIOTECH takes the issue of COI seriously and therefore the authors are required to declare in their manuscript with either one of the following statements:

- The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest in the publication
OR

- The authors declare that they have a conflict of interest [in which the case authors should supply an appropriate statement describing the conflict of interest].

1.4 Scientific Integrity

The editorial team of 3 BIOTECH are committed to maintaining very high standards of scientific integrity of the published scientific records. Authors are reminded of their responsibility to avoid misrepresentation in the reports of their work. The credibility of a research project is determined by promoting objectivity and avoiding misrepresentation in both what is written and in the assignment of credit to the research.

The journal will investigate suspected cases that violate research ethics and instances of scientific fraud and misrepresentations, inappropriate manipulation of graphics files, redundant publications, and plagiarism. Plagiarism includes the unattributed use of text written by others and represented as original. It is distinct from large-scale attributed copying, but both practices are objectionable. 3 BIOTECH adopts the position that plagiarism is completely unacceptable, and word-for word attributed copying of more than a few sentences should be avoided. Depending on the outcomes of these investigations, the journal may decide to publish errata or corrigenda and, in cases of serious scientific misconduct, ask authors to retract their paper, or impose a retraction on them.

CrossCheck is a multi-publisher initiative to screen published and submitted content for originality. 3 BIOTECH uses CrossCheck to detect instances of overlapping and similar text in submitted manuscripts. To find out more about CrossCheck visit <http://www.crossref.org/crosscheck.html>. 3 BIOTECH is a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (<http://publicationethics.org/>). COPE provides a forum for publishers and editors

1.5 Author Contributions Statement

Submission of a paper implies that all authors have seen and approved the manuscript and its contents, and that they are aware of the responsibilities connected to authorship. All listed authors are required to include a statement of their contributions in the manuscript, entitled “author contributions”, after the acknowledgement section.

1.6 Availability of Published Material

By publishing a paper in 3 BIOTECH, the authors agree that they will make freely available any of the organisms, viruses, cells, nucleic acids, antibodies, reagents, data and associated protocols that were used in the reported research that are not available commercially, to colleagues for academic research without preconditions.

1.7 Submission to Public Databases

3 BIOTECH will only review and publish manuscripts if the authors agree that all data which cannot be published in the journal (e.g. nucleotide sequences, structural data, or data from large-scale experiments) will be freely available in one of the public databases. The sequence data, separate from the manuscript, must be provided for

reviewing if a database accession number is not yet given in the manuscript. However, the accession number must be provided before acceptance of the manuscript (see 3. Submission to Public Databases, for further details).

1.8 Electronic Manipulation of Images

If a digital image figure has been subjected to significant electronic manipulation, it can misrepresent data, present unrepresentative data or result in a loss of meaningful signals. No specific feature(s) of an image should be enhanced, obscured, moved, removed, or introduced. If images from different parts of the same gel, or from different gels, fields, or exposures have been grouped, then this must be made explicit in the text of the figure legend or in the Methods section.

The editors reserve the right to request original versions of figures from the authors of a paper under consideration, or after publication, if concerns arise. If the original data cannot be produced, the acceptance of the manuscript may be withdrawn. The journal also reserves the right to retract published papers in which data has been misrepresented and/or electronic image manipulation has affected the interpretation of the data. The journal also reserves the right to bring such matters to the attention of the funding agencies and institutions to which the authors are associated.

The following publication is a good reference for acceptable practices:

Rossner M, Yamada KM (2004) What's in a picture? The temptation of image manipulation. *J Cell Biol* 166:11-15

2. MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

2.1 Categories of Manuscript

The following seven (7) categories of manuscripts in the field of biotechnology will be accepted. Authors should note that format, word counts and page length restrictions apply for each manuscript category.

2.1.1 Original Articles: Original articles (full-length research papers) follow the AIMRAD standard structure with the following headings: Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion followed by References and Acknowledgement. Manuscripts in this category should follow the following guidelines.

Word count: up to 6,400 words (8 printed pages)

Structured abstract: maximum of 300 words

Tables/Illustrations: up to 7

References: up to 40

Introduction:

The introduction should be on a separate page and it should be in context to the work being presented and should clearly state the purpose and objectives of the research. The introduction should be succinct and provide only the necessary background information, rather than a comprehensive treatise of the specific field. It should not contain subheadings.

Methods:

This section should not be extensively descriptive but should contain sufficient detail so that, in conjunction with cited references, all experimental procedures can be reproduced by others. Essential technical detail or full descriptions of materials that

are not of immediate importance for the understanding of the manuscript may be removed into Supplementary material, based upon the advice of peer-reviewers. Laboratory chemical and biochemical supply firms should be indicated and commercial companies and institutions who may have provided analytical services should be included in this section.

Results and Discussion:

Results and Discussion can be presented under separate headings or as a combined heading. This can be further divided into subheadings. The presentation of experimental detail in the Results and Discussion section(s) should be kept to a minimum. Reiteration of information that is made obvious in tables, figures, or reaction schemes should be avoided. Within the discussion, brief speculation on the implications of the reported findings may be included if appropriate.

Conclusions:

If an optional conclusion section is used, its content should not substantially duplicate the abstract.

2.1.2 Review Articles: Review articles are normally invited, but prospective authors are encouraged to contact the Editors-in-Chief or the Associate Editors to discuss possible contributions. Review articles will describe particular topics of current interest or controversy within the scope of 3 BIOTECH. Review articles should include an Abstract, an Introduction which describes the background to the article, the main text arranged under subheadings, and should end with a Conclusion section. Review articles should not contain an “Experimental” section.

Word count: up to 9,600 words (12 printed pages)

Structured abstract: maximum of 300 words

Tables/Illustrations: up to 7

References: up to 100

2.1.3 Short Research Reports: Short research report will describe important preliminary findings from innovative research that deserve immediate dissemination. Research reports should be of high scientific quality and should not present poorly elaborated research and scientific data.

Word count: up to 2,400 words (3 printed pages)

Structured Abstract: up to 200 words

Tables/Illustrations: up to 2

References: up to 20

2.1.4 Protocols and Methods: Protocols submitted to the journal are proven experimental procedures that authors have successfully used in their laboratories and reported as part of their research work in a peer-reviewed journal. The submitted protocol should not be in press or under consideration by any other journal. As protocols are constantly evolving, subsequent modifications made by the authors to improve the protocol are acceptable for submission as long as there is no direct repetition of text between this protocol and previous publications of the method, as this would constitute selfplagiarism.

Word count: up to 4,800 words (or 6 printed pages)

Structured Abstract: up to 200 words

Tables/Illustrations: up to 2

References: up to 20

2.1.5 Notes to the Editor: The journal will consider notes to the editor which will provide further confirmatory information on a particular topic, or a novel aspect of a method, or an organism, or an application for which results are preliminary but the impact for biotechnology is deemed to be important and requires rapid publishing.

Word count: up to 1,600 words (2 printed pages)

Tables/Illustrations: 2

References: up to 15

2.1.6 Letters to the Editor: Letters which provide further debate on a particular topic arising from the publication of a paper in the Journal will be considered. The author(s) of the paper will be sent an edited copy of the letter and they will have the right of reply. Both letters (subject to editing) will be published in the Journal.

Word count: up to 800 words (1 printed page)

Tables/Illustrations: 1

References: up to 12

2.1.7 Book Reviews: 3 BIOTECH will publish reviews on books relevant to biotechnology. Book reviews should address and evaluate important developments and trends in scholarly work about biotechnology.

A potential reviewer may propose a book review by sending a one page proposal and a current CV to one of the two Editors-in-Chief via email who will review the proposal in light of reviews already commissioned and may suggest alterations accordingly.

Reviewers have the responsibility to summarise and assess authors' arguments fairly and accurately, within a broad scholarly context, and to emphasise the implications of any given work for future research in biotechnology. Reviewers have the right to make informative judgements about books under review, but personal attacks, ridicule, and distortion are not acceptable. The primary purpose of the book review section is to foster a respectful and rigorous scholarly dialogue, rather than to deliver personal judgements or disagreements.

Word count: Up to 800 words (1 printed page)

2.2 Language

Manuscripts should be in English (consistent with either British or American spelling). Authors are strongly advised to ensure that the manuscript is written in clear and concise language, is intelligible to a broad readership and is of a publishable standard prior to submission. Manuscripts that are deficient in this respect may be returned to the author without peer review.

To help authors avoid receiving negative comments from referees or editors about the poor use of the English language in their manuscripts, and for authors who are unsure of correct English usage, at least one of the following steps should be considered:

- Have the manuscript reviewed for clarity by a colleague whose native language is English.

- Use one of the many English language-editing services that are available (e.g. Edanz, www.edanzediting.com).

Authors should note that the use of an editing service is at the author's own expense and risk and in no way implies that the article will be accepted by 3 BIOTECH. The decision of accepting a manuscript by 3 BIOTECH editors is based on the quality and suitability of a manuscript and is independent of whether that manuscript has been professionally edited with regard to the English language. 3 BIOTECH accepts no responsibility for the interactions between the author and the service provider or for the quality of the work performed.

2.3 Nomenclature

Microbes

- The genus, species, and variety name should be in italics; strain number, and culture collection number and source of all strains under investigation should be given in the Methods section.
- The scientific names should be given in full (e.g., *Escherichia coli*) in the title, in the abstract, and when first mentioned in the body of the manuscript.
- Thereafter, the appropriate abbreviation of the full generic name of the microbe should be reduced to conform with the Rules of Nomenclature (except in tables and figure legends) as suggested in the International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria (Lapage, S.P., Sneath, P.H.A., Lessel, E.F., Skerman, V.B.D., Seeliger, H.P.R. and Clark, W.A. International code of nomenclature of bacteria (1990 Revision). American Society for Microbiology, Washington, D.C., 1992). Alternatively, use the validation lists published in the International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary (IJSEM) and/or published in the Microbiology List of Prokaryotic names with Standing in Nomenclature at the URL <http://www.bacterio.cict.fr/>
- In case of usage of symbols that do not conform to those that have previously appeared in the literature, their aliases may be obtained from the approved nomenclature in the Human Gene Nomenclature Database (Genew) [www.gene.ucl.ac.uk/nomenclature/guidelines.html] and LocusLink, to allow retrieval of all the information available for each gene.

Plants

- Guidance for naming plants correctly is given in The International Plant Names Index and in *The Plant Book: a Portable Dictionary of the Vascular Plants* (1997) by D.J. Mabberley (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0521-414210-0).
- Scientific names of plants must be written out in italics except for the abbreviations “var.”, “subsp.”, “f.”, etc. which indicate rank at the infraspecific level (e.g., *Cedrus libani* subsp. *atlantica*, *Phytophthora parasitica* var. *nicotianae*).
- All names should be written full (Genus, species) in the abstract and again in the main text for every organism at first mention (but the genus is only needed for the first species in a list within the same genus, e.g. *Lolium annuum*, *L. arenarium*). After first mention, the generic name may be abbreviated to its initial (e.g. *A. thaliana*) except where its use causes confusion.

- The authority (e.g. L., Mill., Benth.) is *not* required unless it is controversial or is helpful for historical or taxonomic reasons. In such cases, the name should be first mentioned in the body of the text (do not use author citation in the abstract or title). Author names are to be abbreviated in accordance with the international standard provided by Brummitt, R.K., Powell, C.E., “Authors of Plant Names”, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew 1992. An on-line version of this work may be consulted via <http://www.rbkew.org.uk/data/authors.html>.
- Once defined in full, plants may also be referred to using vernacular or quasi-scientific names without italics or upper case letters (e.g. arabidopsis, dahlia, chrysanthemum, rumex, soybean, tomato). This is often more convenient.
- Cultivated varieties which are the product of selection and/or breeding are to be referred to as “cultivars” and not “varieties”. Any cultivar should be added to the full scientific name and written in accordance with the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants*. The current (2009) edition is obtainable from ISHS via <http://www.ishs.org/sci/icracpco.htm>. In particular, the part of a name which denotes the cultivar is to be placed within single quotation marks. The abbreviation “cv.” is not to be used within a name (e.g., *Malus ×domestica* ‘Golden Delicious’, not *Malus ×domestica* cv. Golden Delicious).
- If indicating hybrid status, the multiplication symbol should be used before the name of the genus or the species epithet as appropriate (e.g., *×Cupressocyparis leylandii*, *Mentha ×piperita*), or within the formula denoting the hybrid (e.g., *Mentha aquatica × M. spicata*). If the multiplication symbol is not available in your font set, use the letter “x” in lower case, but leave a space between it and the word to which it should be applied (e.g., *x Cupressocyparis leylandii*, *Mentha x piperita*). Neither the multiplication symbol nor the letter “x” are to be in italics.
- Use the letter “x” to indicate a cross such as “red x yellow” and for the term “by” in measurements (2 cm x 4 cm). Use italic *n* and *x* when indicating sporophytic or basic chromosome number (e.g., $2n=4x = 48$)

Genetics

- Genes, mutations, genotypes, and alleles should also be indicated in italics but the protein product of a gene should be in Roman type; phenotypes should not be italicised.
- For human genetics nomenclature, use the HUGO database. (a) In case of usage of symbols that do not conform to those that have previously appeared in the literature, their aliases may be obtained from the approved nomenclature in the Human Gene Nomenclature Database (Genew) [www.gene.ucl.ac.uk/nomenclature/guidelines.html] and LocusLink, to allow retrieval of all the information available for each gene. (b) It is sometimes advisable to indicate the synonyms for the gene the first time it appears in the text. Gene prefixes such as those used for oncogenes or cellular localisation should be shown in Roman: v-fes, c-MYC.

- For bacterial genetics nomenclature follow Demerec et al (1966) *Genetics* 54: 61-76; *J Bacteriol* (first issue of each year); *Microbiol Mol Biol Rev* (1998) 62:814-984 (*Escherichia coli* K-12); *Microbiol Rev* (1988) 52:485-532 (*Salmonella typhimurium*); *Microbiol Rev* (1985) 49:158-179 (*Bacillus subtilis*); *Annu Rev Microbiol* (1986) 40:79-105 (*Pseudomonas*); *Microbiol Rev* (1982) 46:426-570 (*Neurospora crassa*); *Nature* (1997) 387 (6632 Suppl):67-73 (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*).
- Nomenclature for plant genes should follow the recommendations of the International Society for Plant Molecular Biology Commission on Plant Gene Nomenclature, which are posted regularly on the public databases and published annually in *Plant Molecular Biology Reporter*, starting with the December 1993 issue.

Chemistry/Biochemistry

- For guidance in the use of biochemical terminology follow the recommendations issued by the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB; <http://www.chem.qmw.ac.uk/iubmb/>); International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC; <http://www.chem.qmw.ac.uk/iupac/index.html>).
- For enzyme nomenclature use *Enzyme Handbook* (1990) Springer, Berlin Heidelberg New York; *Enzyme Nomenclature* (1992) Academic Press, London New York.

2.4 Taxonomy

2.4.1 Taxonomy Descriptions: Taxonomy papers relevant to any field of biotechnology will be accepted. Authors will have to provide evidence in the manuscripts of the relevance of the new taxon to biotechnological applications.

- The proposal of new taxa should follow the guidelines described in the *International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology* (<http://ijs.sgmjournals.org/>). The new bacterial name should be approved by an international authority on nomenclature. Authors should consult the following publications for guidance in these matters:
 - Tindall, B.J et al. (2006) Valid publication of names of prokaryotes according to the rules of nomenclature: past history and current practice. *IJSEM* 56: 2715-2720
 - Felis and Dellaglio. 2007. On species descriptions based on a single strain: proposal to introduce the status species proponenda (sp. pr.). *IJSEM* 57: 2185-2187
 - Tindall, B.J et al. (2010) Notes on the characterization of prokaryote strains for taxonomic purposes. *IJSEM International* 60: 249-266

The micro-organisms must be deposited in two recognized culture collections in two different countries. If a database accession number for the gene sequences is not stated in the manuscript then the sequence data, separate from the manuscript, must be submitted for reviewing and the accession number provided before acceptance of the paper.

2.4.2 Taxonomic Requirements When Dealing With Biological Material

Manuscripts on studies of biological material (e.g. enzyme) will only be considered if the organism producing the biological material has been identified to a species level and a brief taxonomic description is included in the manuscript. A voucher specimen of the organism should be deposited with a recognised taxonomist for the particular group of organisms in question. The taxonomist should then assign to specimen an identifying number unique to the organism so that any additional collections of the same organism would bear this same number. The number will be retained until the organism is completely identified.

Authors who purchase dried 'herbal remedies' or other materials from companies must make provision for their proper deposit in a herbarium, for access by future workers. When a commercially available extract is obtained, the extraction procedure from the organism of origin must be specified. The identification of the extract should be supported by an HPLC trace of known secondary metabolite constituents of the organism, which should be included in the manuscript.

2.5 Abbreviations

In general, use of abbreviations should be restricted to a minimum. Abbreviations should be restricted to SI symbols and those recommended by the IUPAC. Abbreviations must be defined in parentheses after their first mention in the text. Standard units of measurement and chemical symbols of elements may be used without definition in the body of the paper.

3. SUBMISSION TO PUBLIC DATABASES

This section should be read in conjunction with section 1.7.

3.1 Sequence Data

Sequence data should be submitted in electronic form to any one of the three major collaborative databases given below:

- DNA Data Bank of Japan - DDBJ (<http://www.ddbj.nig.ac.jp>)
- European Bioinformatics Institute - EMBL (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk>)
- GenBank - (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>).

3.2 Structural Data

3 BIOTECH accepts and follows the recommendations of the International Union of Crystallography (IUCr) with regard to the deposition and release of macromolecular structural data. These guidelines are set out in the article by the IUCr Commission on Biological Macromolecules in Acta Crystallographica (2000), D56, 2.

Structures of biological macromolecules must be submitted to a publicly available and recognised database, such as Protein DataBank (<http://www.rcsb.org/pdb/home/home.do>), Biological Magnetic Resonance Databank (<http://www.bmrwisc.edu/>), NDB (<http://ndbserver.rutgers.edu>).

Manuscripts reporting new three-dimensional structures of small molecules from crystallographic analysis should include a .cif file and a structural figure with probability ellipsoids for publication as Supplementary material. These files must have been checked using the IUCR's CheckCIF routine (<http://checkcif.iucr.org/>) and a PDF copy of the output must be included at submission, together with a justification for any alerts reported. Crystallographic data for small molecules should be submitted to the Cambridge Structural Database (<http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/>). In the case of low-resolution structures for which only a chain trace is reported, a set of C-alpha positions and structure-factor amplitudes may be sufficient.

3.3 Microarray Data

Data from microarray experiments should be submitted to either the ArrayExpress (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/arrayexpress>), GEO (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo>) or CIBEX (<http://cibex.nig.ac.jp/index.jsp>) databases. Microarray data should be described according to MIAME guidelines (<http://www.mged.org/Workgroups/MIAME/miame.html>).

3.4 Other Datasets

3 BIOTECH strongly recommends deposition of other types of data sets into appropriate public repositories that are at an earlier stage of development. Examples of such repositories that facilitate sharing large data sets, some of which can offer the option of anonymous referee access to data before publication, include:

Proteomics data:

PRIDE (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/pride/>), PeptideAtlas (<http://www.peptideatlas.org/>), Tranche (<http://www.proteomecommons.org>)

Protein interaction data:

IMEx consortium of databases including DIP, IntAct and MINT (<http://www.imexconsortium.org/>)

Chemical compound screening and assay data:

PubChem (<http://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>)

Cryoelectron microscopy:

Structures of biological macromolecules solved by electron microscopy must be submitted to the EMDB database at <http://www.ebi.ac.uk/msd/Deposition.html>. For a brief description of the database, see Tagari et al (2002) Trends Biochem Sci 27: 589.

4. HOW TO SUBMIT

The corresponding author of the manuscript will need to register and submit the manuscript online via the Editorial Manager. Instructions on registering, manuscript submission and manuscript revision can be found at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/btec/>

4.1 Manuscript

The author should submit a complete manuscript including text, tables, graphics as word processor files (.doc or .rtf format) and not as pdf files.

4.2 Cover Letter

A cover letter must be uploaded with every manuscript in PDF format at the same time as the manuscript is uploaded. The cover letter should contain:

- a. The corresponding author's name, postal and e-mail addresses, telephone and fax numbers.
- b. The title of the manuscript and a brief paragraph explaining the significance of the work.
- c. Type of manuscript.
- d. A statement that the submitted manuscript is original, unpublished and not under simultaneous consideration by another journal.
- e. The names, institutional affiliations, and postal and email addresses of up to 5 qualified reviewers.

5. REVISION

If a paper that is returned to the authors for amendment is not resubmitted in revised form within 8 weeks it will be regarded as withdrawn. Additional time for revision can be granted upon request, at the editors' discretion. Only a single round of revision will be permitted.

Revised versions of the manuscripts must be submitted online at

<https://www.editorialmanager.com/btec/>.

- a. The revised manuscript including text, tables, graphics should be submitted as word processor files (.doc or .rtf format) and not as pdf files.
- b. Clearly indicate in detail at the designated place on the web form and/or cover letter all changes/corrections that have been made to address the reviewers' recommendations/suggestions.
- c. Revised manuscripts may be returned to authors for further modification of the scientific content and/or for shortening and language corrections.

6. PUBLICATION

6.1 Proofs

Authors will be sent an email with a link to download the proof. In the interest of speed, corrections should be returned within 48 hours. Only typographic corrections and other minor changes may be made in a galley proof and substantive changes will require editorial approval and may delay publication of the article.

6.2 Page charges

Currently, there are no page charges for 3 BIOTECH.

6.3 Reprints

Hard copies of the paper are not published and therefore cannot be purchased. Papers are only published electronically online and can be downloaded as pdf free of charge.

6.4 Digital Object Identifier

Springer Publishing Group assigns a unique digital object identifier (DOI) to every article it publishes. The DOI initiative is an international effort for electronic content identification and is guided by the International DOI Foundation, composed primarily of academic publishers and societies. The DOI appears on the title page of the article. It is assigned after the article has been accepted for publication and persists throughout the lifetime of the article. It is important to include the article's DOI in the

reference as volume and page information is not always available for articles published online. The DOI should be cited in a reference as follows: "Slifka MK, Whitton JL (2000) Clinical implications of dysregulated cytokine production. J Mol Med. doi:10.1007/s001090000086"

7. AUTHOR'S CHECK LIST

Please tick the appropriate check list box, fill in the required information (if applicable) and submit the check list (in pdf format) with the manuscript:

- The selected manuscript category, a word count for the abstract and the text, and the numbers of tables and figures.
 - The paper conforms to the format of the selected manuscript category.
 - The manuscript has been checked for typographical errors.
 - References cited in the text are listed in the Reference List, and vice versa.
 - References conform to the journal's required format.
 - A brief statement of the relevance of the paper to biotechnology.
 - The submitted ms is original, unpublished and is not under consideration by another journal.
 - The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest in the publication.
- OR**
- The authors declare that they have a conflict of interest [in which please supply an appropriate statement describing the conflict of interest].
 - The data base accession number has been written in the manuscript and has been publicly released so that the editors can review the data during the review process.
 - The data base access number has been written in the text but has not yet been released publicly and therefore the data has been submitted for review in an electronic form.
 - Provide a list of up to 5 names of external expert reviewers together with their institutional affiliations, postal and email addresses.

3 Biotech

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