

INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

(Revised February 2018)

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REVIEW-READY SUBMISSION

Beginning in 2018, all ACS journals have simplified their formatting requirements in favor of a streamlined and standardized review-ready format for an *initial* manuscript submission. This change allows authors to focus on the scientific content needed for efficient review rather than on formatting concerns. It will also help ensure that reviewers are able to focus on the scientific merit of a submission during the peer review process. Review-Ready Submission will also reduce the effort needed to revise formatting should a manuscript be transferred as a submission to a different ACS journal. Authors will be asked to attend to any journal-specific formatting requirements during manuscript revision.

Manuscripts submitted for initial consideration **must** adhere to these standards:

- Submissions must be complete with clearly identified standard sections used to report original research, free of annotations or highlights, and include all numbered and labeled components.
- Figures, charts, tables, schemes, and equations should be embedded in the text. Separate graphics can be supplied at revision.
- When required by a journal's structure or length limitations, manuscript templates should be used.
- References can be provided in any style, but they must be complete, including titles.
- Supporting Information should be submitted as a separate file(s).
- Author names and affiliations on the manuscript must match what is entered into ACS Paragon Plus.

ACS CENTRAL SCIENCE: SCOPE, STYLE, AND CONTENT TYPES

BASIC SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

- Cover letter
- Author list with affiliations: must match between electronic entry and manuscript file
- Abstract
- Title: Titles should be clear and concise; they must match between manuscript file and electronic submission.
- Manuscript File: Clean with no highlighting or comments and all changes accepted. Research Articles should be **no more than 40,000 total characters and ~5 figures**. Written in a style accessible to our broad audience.
- (Highly encouraged) Have a colleague in another field read as test for accessibility.
- (Optional for main text, required in the Supporting Information) an experimental section located after the results and discussion; includes safety comment.
- Tables/Schemes/Figures: Text should be clear and legible, with fonts no smaller than 8 pt.
- Figures: must be labeled sequentially and match numbered references in article (manuscript and Supporting Information). Where appropriate, label all subsections by letter.
- Supporting Information (if any) must be included in the electronic submission.
- Table of Contents Graphic
- References: no specific format required, but must be sufficient to aid referees in their reviewing duties.

See rest of guidelines for additional requirements to be applied at revision.

SCOPE

ACS Central Science publishes the most compelling, important primary reports on research in chemistry and in allied fields across the sciences where chemistry plays a role. It is the first fully open access journal published by the American Chemical Society. Authors whose articles are accepted to *ACS Central Science* are provided with a complimentary [ACS AuthorChoice](#) license at no charge, making all content openly accessible immediately.

The journal seeks to address important advances in fundamental areas of chemistry, as well as applied and interdisciplinary research highlighting the seminal role of chemistry in a wide range of other scientific disciplines. The Editors place a premium on articles deemed to be of exceptional scientific quality, originality, significance, and breadth of interest to the global chemistry community.

WRITING STYLE

Writing style, language usage, and quality of figures are considered for original submissions. Given the broad reach and the open availability of all content in *ACS Central Science*, remember that chemists, scientists in related disciplines, and the broad public will read articles published. When writing, seek to communicate the science in a way that is accessible to all scientists. For your article,

concise writing and clarity are always appreciated. The Editors highly suggest having a colleague in another field read your manuscript and comment on its accessibility prior to publication. Authors are also encouraged to consult [The ACS Style Guide](#) for guidance on style, word-usage conventions, nomenclature, physical quantity symbols and units, abbreviations, use of italics, and punctuation. Spelling and use of periods and commas in numbers should conform to U.S. usage. Authors not fluent in idiomatic English are urged to obtain assistance with manuscript preparation from a colleague whose native language is English. Authors may want professional assistance with improving the English, figures, or formatting in their manuscript before submission. ACS ChemWorx Authoring Services can save you time and improve the communication of research in your manuscript. You can learn more about the services offered at <http://es.acschemworx.acs.org>.

CONTENT TYPES

ACS Central Science publishes original Research Articles and Outlooks (reviews) and commissions highlights called *First Reactions* to advance understanding of the articles published. Submissions are based on original work not previously published. The Editors welcome submissions for Research Articles and proposals for Outlooks.

Research Articles. Reports of original research focused on an individual significant finding or an advance of immediate and lasting impact that is of broad interest to the scientific community. **No minimum length requirement** is imposed for original submissions, noting that for *ACS Central Science*, content traditionally considered letters or rapid communications as well as full articles all fall into the category Research Articles. The Editors request authors explain their findings concisely and accurately, **no more than 40,000 characters** (including spaces, graphics, tables, and equations), excluding Supporting Information (SI). Authors are encouraged to use Supporting Information as appropriate.

Outlooks (Reviews). Outlooks will be invited by the Editors. Interested authors may submit proposals for Outlooks to EIC@centralscience.acs.org with the subject line, "Outlook Proposal". Outlooks are topical, typically brief reviews (~25,000 characters, including spaces, graphics, tables, and equations), that are forward-looking and of general interest to the broad readership of *ACS Central Science*.

First Reactions (Commentary). These are short, general pieces (no more than 1000 words) that help relate the research articles to the world at large. The Editors especially encourage a forward-looking view. Where could this research go? First Reactions will be invited by the Editors. Authors interested in serving as First Reactions authors should e-mail Managing Editor Miranda Paley (M_Paley@acs.org) with a brief biosketch, research interests about which they would like to write, and either a sample or a link to equivalent published work where science is explained to a broad audience.

Science/Life (Narratives) *Science/Life* will be invited by the Editors. *Science/Life* manuscripts are either autobiographical or third person accounts of stories, lives, and anecdotes of the people behind the science. While there are no strict length requirements, writing must be lively and brisk, and will be subject to both style and copy-editing. Interested authors may submit proposals for

Science/Life to eic@centralscience.acs.org with the subject line, "Science/Life Proposal on <the name of the subject or story>".

Expressions of Concern. The American Chemical Society (ACS) follows guidance from the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) when considering expressions of concern; for more information see: <http://publicationethics.org/>. In accordance with COPE guidelines, expressions of concern may be issued if:

- there is inconclusive evidence of research or publication misconduct by the authors;
- there is evidence that the findings are unreliable but the authors' institution will not investigate the case;
- an investigation into alleged misconduct related to the publication either has not been, or would not be, fair and impartial or conclusive;
- an investigation is underway but a judgment will not be available for a considerable time.

Expressions of concern are published at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief. Upon completion of any related investigation, and when a final determination is made about the outcome of the article, the expression of concern may be replaced with a retraction notice or correction.

ETHICS

ACS ETHICAL GUIDELINES

All parties—Editors, reviewers, and authors—are expected to adhere to the standards embodied in the American Chemical Society's [Ethical Guidelines to Publication of Chemical Research](#).

ANONYMITY OF PEER REVIEW

The ACS strongly disapproves of attempts to determine the identity of reviewers. This journal's policy is to neither confirm nor deny speculation about the identities of reviewers.

AUTHORS AND COAUTHORS

During manuscript submission, the submitting author must provide contact information (full name, e-mail address, institutional affiliation, and mailing address) for all coauthors. The author who submits the manuscript for publication accepts the responsibility of notifying all coauthors that the manuscript is being submitted. Authors are reminded of their obligation to obtain the consent of all coauthors before submitting a manuscript. Submission is taken to imply that all coauthors have approved of the content and submission to the journal, and that the corresponding author is authorized to represent all authors. Deletion of an existing author after the manuscript has been submitted requires a confirming letter to the Editor-in-Chief from the author whose name is being deleted. If any other change in authorship is necessary after submission, the corresponding author must e-mail a signed letter to the Managing Editor confirming that all original coauthors have been notified and have agreed to the change, with those coauthors cc'ed. For more information on ethical responsibilities of authors, see the [Ethical Guidelines to Publication of Chemical Research](#).

PLAGIARISM

Manuscripts must be original. By publishing only original reports, ACS is committed to deterring plagiarism, including self-plagiarism. ACS Publications uses CrossCheck's iThenticate software to screen submitted manuscripts for similarity to published material. Note that all manuscripts may be screened during the submission or peer-review process. Further information about plagiarism can be found in Part B of the [Ethical Guidelines to Publication of Chemical Research](#).

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

The corresponding author must submit on behalf of all authors of a manuscript a statement describing all potential sources of bias, including affiliations, funding sources, and financial or management relationships, that may constitute conflicts of interest. For further information, please see the [Ethical Guidelines to Publication of Chemical Research](#).

MEDIA POLICY

ACS Central Science aims to make important discoveries broadly and openly available rapidly and with excellence of quality peer review characteristic of the American Chemical Society. The Media Policy seeks to encourage discussion of new research both prior to and following publication.

Prior to acceptance and publication, authors are encouraged to present their findings to peers, including at meetings and conferences, and through social media. Articles accepted for publication may be selected for promotion through an embargoed press release available through EurekaAlert.org, sent out on Fridays, and released publicly the following Wednesday.

If an author is particularly interested in a press release, please include a document with a layperson's summary of the key elements of the paper and why it will be of wide interest for consideration for a press release no later than revision. The document should be named "Newsworthy - the submitting author's last name". Inclusion of a simple graphic is highly encouraged.

Anyone interested in being included on the media list may contact newsroom@acs.org. If there is media interest in an article accepted by *ACS Central Science* but not yet published, authors should contact newsroom@acs.org so that the Office of External Affairs & Communication can make the final article proof available as well as any accompanying content.

SUBMISSION AND PEER-REVIEW PROCESS

PRESUBMISSION INQUIRIES

Presubmission inquiries can be sent to eic@centralscience.acs.org to request feedback on the journal's level of interest in a manuscript. In the subject line, include the phrase "presubmission inquiry: <insert here general topic or manuscript title>". In the e-mail, provide the title, authors, either the abstract or general description of the key results, and a statement indicating why the manuscript is of broad interest and appropriate for *ACS Central Science*. Research Articles or Outlooks (reviews) that are encouraged will undergo the same process of rigorous review upon

submission.

SUBMISSION

Manuscripts must be submitted via [ACS Paragon Plus](#), where complete instructions and an overview of the submission process are available. The Web submission site employs state-of-the-art security mechanisms to ensure that all electronically submitted papers are secure. These same security mechanisms are also utilized throughout the peer-review process, permitting access only to Editors and reviewers who are assigned to a particular paper.

Author Names. Because all author names are automatically imported into the electronic Journal Publishing Agreement, the names must be entered into ACS Paragon Plus in the same sequence as they appear on the first page of the manuscript. (Note that coauthors are not required to register in ACS Paragon Plus.)

Funding Sources. Authors are required to report ALL funding sources and grant/award numbers relevant to this manuscript. Enter all sources of funding for ALL authors relevant to this manuscript in BOTH the Open Funder Registry tool in ACS Paragon Plus and the manuscript to meet this requirement. See http://pubs.acs.org/page/4authors/funder_options.html for complete instructions.

ORCID. Authors submitting manuscript revisions are required to provide their own personal, validated ORCID iD before completing the submission, if an ORCID iD is not already associated with their ACS Paragon Plus user profiles. This iD may be provided during original manuscript submission or when submitting the manuscript revision. All authors are strongly encouraged to register for an ORCID iD, a unique researcher identifier. The ORCID iD will be displayed in the published article for any author on a manuscript who has a validated ORCID iD associated with ACS when the manuscript is accepted.

With an ORCID iD, you can create a profile of your research activities to distinguish yourself from other researchers with similar names, and make it easier for your colleagues to find your publications. If you do not yet have an ORCID iD, or wish to associate your existing ORCID iD with your ACS Paragon Plus account, you may do so by following the ORCID-related links in the E-mail/Name section of your [ACS Paragon Plus](#) account. Learn more at <http://www.orcid.org>.

Institution Identification. Many funders and institutions require that institutional affiliations be identified for all authors listed in the work being submitted. ACS facilitates this requirement by collecting institution information during manuscript submission under Step 2: Authors and Affiliations in ACS Paragon Plus.

JOURNAL PUBLISHING AGREEMENT REQUIRED

A properly completed and signed Journal Publishing Agreement (JPA) must be submitted for each manuscript upon submission. ACS Paragon Plus provides an electronic version of the JPA on the My Authoring Activity tab of the corresponding author's home page once the manuscript has been assigned to an Editor. A PDF version of the JPA is also available, but authors are strongly

encouraged to use the electronic JPA. If the PDF version is used, all pages of the signed JPA must be submitted. If the corresponding author cannot or should not complete either the electronic or PDF version for any reason, another author should complete and sign the PDF version of the JPA. Forms and complete instructions are available [here](#). After acceptance, authors will be presented with a complimentary [ACS AuthorChoice](#) license, and if desired, the option to buy up to [CC-BY](#) or [CC-BY-NC-ND](#). Although an alternate license will be offered after acceptance, prior to acceptance the JPA is required. For questions or further assistance with [ACS AuthorChoice](#), please reach out to support@services.acs.org.

COVER LETTER

It is required that a cover letter accompany each original submission. Recommended information includes the following:

- title
- name of the corresponding author
- name(s) of any other coauthor(s)
- the type of manuscript submitted
- a paragraph explaining why the article appeals to the broad audience ACS Central Science serves
- a description of any Supporting Information and/or Review-Only Material
- where appropriate, a note regarding presubmission inquiries made of the journal or discussions with an *ACS Central Science* Editor or the Managing Editor about this article

FORMATTING

The Editor's objective when considering your initial submission is to evaluate the science presented. As a result, some details may be handled later in the process should your Research Article be advanced; these include stylistic formatting, reference formatting, synopses, and a graphic for the journal table of contents. For the convenience of authors, the preferred options are presented below. *It is important to note that upon revision submissions, such formatting and stylistic matters must be addressed.*

Text. Manuscripts must be prepared using accepted word-processing software as defined [here](#). LaTeX users should follow the detailed guidelines available at [this site](#).

Tables. Tables may be prepared in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, or LaTeX and must be embedded in the word-processing file. Authors are asked to follow these guidelines:

- Number tables consecutively using Arabic numerals.
- Include a descriptive heading that explains the table.
- Give footnotes a letter designation, and cite in the table by italic superscript letters, labeling sequentially by lines of the table.

Graphics. The preferred submission procedure is to embed graphic files in the word-processing document near the point where they should appear in the final publication. Separate graphic files

may also be included with the submission package and are required at revision. Additional acceptable file formats for graphics are TIFF, PDF, or EPS (vector artwork).

- EPS files: For EPS files, all fonts should be converted to outlines or embedded in the graphic file. The document settings should be in RGB mode. EPS is preferred for line-art figures.
- TIFF files are preferred for photographs.
- A rule should not be placed around the graphic.

Colors. Choose colors that will allow all features to be clearly visible on white paper, and format in RGB color mode. The RGB requirements are essential for producing high-quality graphics within the published manuscript. Graphics submitted in CMYK may be used; however, the colors may not appear the same in the final output.

Naming and Numbering. Name your graphics Figure 1, Figure 2, etc. (Arabic numerals), consecutively, and for figures not embedded in the text, place a call-out in the main manuscript text where the graphic should be located. Boldface Arabic numerals should be used for numbering structures.

Lettering. Lettering should be ≥ 6 points, and lines should have ≥ 0.5 -point thickness at final printed size. Lettering and lines should be of uniform density.

Size. Submit graphics at the required print publication size. Single-column figures must be ≤ 8.4 cm wide. Double-column figures must be ≤ 17.7 cm wide.

Resolution. At printed size, graphics must be 300 dpi for color art and images containing photographic material, 600 dpi for grayscale art, and 1200 dpi for black and white line art. The resolution requirements are essential for producing high-quality graphics within the published manuscript. Graphics submitted at lower resolutions may be used; however, graphics that do not meet stated resolution requirements may appear at a lower quality in the final output.

Titles, Footnotes, Captions, Legends. Schemes may have titles and footnotes. Figures must have captions. To save space, place legends for graphs within the main body of the graphic, whenever possible.

TABLE OF CONTENTS GRAPHIC (TOC) AND HERO IMAGE

Authors are encouraged to submit a table of contents graphic upon initial submission. Images should be 8.4 cm in width, 4.75 cm in height, and >600 dpi resolution. TIFF images in RGB format are preferred. Authors are encouraged to submit figures and images in an editable format, usually a layered file or vector format, depending on the application used to generate the image. As the first impression of the journal article, these are important components of the paper that should clearly summarize the key point of your article, without being overly busy or dramatized. For guidance, this [editorial](#) from *Chemistry of Materials* may be useful.

Every Research Article and Outlook published is invited to be highlighted for several days on the Web page with a large focal image. These images are different than the TOC graphic, in that their aim is not necessarily to educate readers about the conclusions or experimental set-up of the paper, but

rather to be incredibly visually pleasing and eye-catching to direct traffic to the story. At revision, we appreciate input about visual representation of your paper (draft image, sketch, or text description of desired image). The best results are obtained by submitting artwork that will fit into the 2.47:1 aspect ratio at 72 dpi and RGB color mode (preferred). Alternatively, figures may be cropped or enlarged to fit that proportion. Pixel based images may be supplied as **layered Photoshop files (PSD), uncompressed JPEG, or TIF**. Vector images may be submitted as **Adobe Illustrator (AI), EPS or PDF**.

ORGANIZATION

Title. Titles should clearly and concisely reflect the emphasis and content of the paper and be accessible to a broad audience. Titles are one of the most important tools for current awareness and information retrieval—they provide readers a first opportunity to understand the purpose of the article.

Author List. Include all who have made substantial contributions to the work. To facilitate indexing and retrieval and for unique identification of an author, use first names, initials, and surnames (e.g., Katherine M. Jones) or first initials, second names, and surnames (e.g., K. Mary Jones). At least one author must be designated with an asterisk as the person to whom correspondence should be addressed.

Abstract. All Research Articles and Outlooks should contain an abstract. An abstract provides a succinct, informative summation of the most important results and conclusions.

Introduction. Clearly state the purpose and significance of the research, and put it into the context of earlier work in the area, aiming for brevity.

Results and Discussion. Explain the motivation for the work and how it involves chemistry. Present results concisely. The discussion should interpret the results and relate them to existing knowledge in the field, and explain the significant advance made by these results. To conserve space, please submit supplemental information in a separate file for online Supporting Information (note, all content submitted is subject to review).

Methods (Optional for Main Text). Provide a clear, unambiguous description of materials, methods, and equipment in sufficient detail to permit repetition of the research. Describe novel experimental procedures in detail, but published procedures may be referred to by literature citation of both the original and any published modifications. Articles reporting data from experiments on live animals must include a statement identifying the approving committee and certifying that such experiments were performed in accordance with all national or local guidelines and regulations. Results from experiments involving humans or tissue samples must additionally include a statement that informed consent was obtained from the subject or from the next of kin. Authors must emphasize any unexpected, new, and/or significant hazards or risks associated with the reported work. This information should be in the experimental details section. For experimental papers, a statement must be included emphasizing either:

- “no unexpected or unusually high safety hazards were encountered” OR

- explaining any unexpected, new, and/or significant hazards or risks associated with the reported work and how they were mitigated.

Acknowledgment. Include financial support, technical assistance, advice from colleagues, gifts, etc. Be precise and thorough when acknowledging funders, and include grant numbers where appropriate.

References. Compile all references together in a list at the end of the manuscript text. Many references will link directly to the cited article or other Web sites. It is crucial that authors verify the accuracy of references cited. Literature references should be numbered with Arabic numerals in the order of their first citation in the text and the corresponding superscripted numbers inserted at the appropriate locations in the text. **ACS Central Science will use the following reference style, but authors are not required to submit in this format.** As long as all components of references are provided consistently, references will be properly formatted during the technical editing process. Articles accepted for publication should be cited as “in press”; the DOI should be given if the paper is published online only. Cite papers that are in preparation or have been submitted but not yet accepted in the text as unpublished experiments or personal communications. Titles of journals are abbreviated according to [Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index](#) (CASSI).

For journals:

1. Moreau, P.; Anizon, F.; Sancelme, M.; Prudhomme, M.; Bailly, C.; Severe, D.; Riou, J.-F.; Fabbro, D.; Meyer, T.; Aubertin, A.-M. Syntheses and biological activities of rebeccamycin analogues. Introduction of a halogenoacetyl substituent. *J. Med. Chem.* **1999**, *42*, 584–592.

For journal articles published online ahead of print or online only, the DOI should be used:

2. Liu, C.; Yang, S. Synthesis of angstrom-scale anatase titania atomic wires. *ACS Nano* **2009**, DOI: 10.1021/nn900157r.

For books:

3. Fierke, C. A.; Hammes, G. G. Transient kinetic approaches to enzyme mechanisms. In *Contemporary Enzyme Kinetics and Mechanism*, 2nd ed.; Purich, D., Ed.; Academic Press: New York, 1996; pp 1–35.

Nomenclature. Use abbreviations and acronyms sparingly, and all usage should be defined at the first occurrence in the text. Use systematic and standard nomenclature appropriate for your field of study.

Supporting Information. This information is sent to the reviewers during the peer-review process and is available to readers of the published work. The Supporting Information may provide and make readily available almost any type of supplementary figures or data (e.g., reproductions of spectra, experimental procedures, tabulated data, or expanded discussion of peripheral findings). For clarity, a cover page with the title and authors should be included, the copy should be clean and readable, and the pages must be numbered. Supporting Information must be submitted at the same time as the manuscript and uploaded separately to ACS Paragon Plus. A list of acceptable file types is available [here](#). All Supporting Information files of the same type should be prepared as a single file. For example, all Supporting Information available as PDF files should be contained in one

PDF file. This does not mean that multiple files of the same type should be included in one .zip file. Particularly structure files and movies should be uploaded separately so they correctly display in the Supporting Information viewer. If the manuscript is accompanied by any Supporting Information files for publication, a brief description of each file is required. The paragraph and descriptions should be placed at the end of the manuscript before the list of references. The appropriate format is as follows:

Supporting Information. Brief descriptions in nonsentence format listing the contents of the files supplied as Supporting Information.

DATA AND MATERIALS

Advancing scientific discoveries can be enhanced when data and materials are made available and readily exchanged. *ACS Central Science* requires for all published articles that authors make materials, data, and protocols available to readers through deposition in a public database. In addition, ACS Publications' figshare houses all Supporting Information within the HTML presentation of the paper and at acs.figshare.com. Authors may want to further investigate [Dryad](#), or institutional repositories for depositing data. Authors also agree to make available to interested academic researchers for their own use any materials reported in the manuscript that are not otherwise obtainable. Any restrictions to the availability of materials or information must be stated at the time of submission.

REVIEW PROCESS SUMMARY

Editors evaluate all submissions, and they consult with Editorial Advisory Board members in some cases. Some submissions are rejected shortly after submission, for example, those that fall outside the scope of the journal or are not deemed of sufficient interest to the broad readership. For manuscripts considered further, additional peer reviewers and the Editorial Advisory Board members are consulted to evaluate the originality, quality, clarity, and import. Editors review all feedback and make final decisions. Reviewers may be asked to consider subsequent versions of manuscripts, particularly where new data or information is included, and in those cases, blind copies of reviewers comments may be sent to all reviewers to encourage a consensus recommendation, and allow Editors to respond to authors with valuable and timely feedback.

PUBLICATION PROCESS

ASAP PUBLICATION

It is essential that authors review the galley proofs thoroughly to ensure that all content is final and correct. All corrections needed must be submitted in one package. Accepted manuscripts will be published ASAP in [ACS Central Science](#) as soon as page proofs are corrected and all author concerns resolved, typically within 1–2 business days of receipt of page proof corrections. ASAP publication is definitive and may be altered only with editorial approval; a post-ASAP change may require publication of an Additions and Corrections document or a Note explaining the nature of the change. All articles published ASAP receive a unique digital object identifier (DOI), acceptable for citing prior to issue publication (e.g., in research grants or on curriculum vitae). In some cases, an

embargo period (typically about 1 week) prior to ASAP publication will be proposed and agreed to between the authors and Editors in order to coordinate additional promotion and publicity.

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Authors should first sign the Journals Publishing Agreement prior to acceptance. After an article has been peer-reviewed and if it is accepted in *ACS Central Science*, the ACS awards the article an ACS AuthorChoice license. The corresponding author receives an e-mail from ACS with instructions and a link into the Copyright Clearance Center's RightsLink ecommerce system for use should they choose to purchase another open access license option. For some funders, special arrangements have been made, and alternate processes may be provided in the e-mail to the corresponding author (see http://pubs.acs.org/page/4authors/funder_options.html for details). Significant discounts are available for authors who are ACS members. For assistance with open access, please contact support@services.acs.org.

DATES OF PUBLICATION AND PATENTS

Publication of articles as ASAP may occur weeks in advance of the issue cover date. Authors should take this into account when planning their intellectual-property and patent activities related to an article, and they should ensure that all patent information is available at the time of first publication. The first date on which the article is published on the Web is recorded on each article, and is the publication date. We can accommodate short embargoes to ensure patent completion with proper notice at acceptance.

SECURITY CONCERNS

Certain papers may represent a potential security risk for the public. Such papers will be brought to the attention of the Editor-in-Chief. If necessary, outside reviewers with expertise in security matters will be consulted.

PRIOR PUBLICATION POLICY/PREPRINT SERVERS

ACS Central Science authors are allowed to deposit an initial draft of their manuscript in a preprint service such as [ChemRxiv](https://chemrxiv.org/), bioRxiv, arXiv, or the applicable repository for their discipline prior to submission. Please note any use of a preprint server in the cover letter, and as appropriate, state how the manuscript has been adjusted/updated between deposition and submission. All other prior/redundant publication is forbidden.

MANUSCRIPT TRANSFER

If your submission is declined for publication by this journal, the editors might deem your work to be better suited for another ACS Publications journal and suggest that the authors consider transferring the submission. Manuscript Transfer simplifies and shortens the process of submitting to another ACS journal, as all the coauthors, suggested reviewers, manuscript files, and responses to submission questions are copied by ACS Paragon Plus to the new draft submission. Authors are free to accept or decline the transfer offer. Interested authors may note their desired transfer journal in the cover letter to help facilitate transfer or reply to rejection decisions with the name of a journal with whose editors they would like a consultation.

Once a transfer is accepted, authors will then complete the submission to the new journal in ACS Paragon Plus. During the submission process, they will have the opportunity to revise the manuscript and address comments received from editors or reviewers. Requirements of the new journal may be different, so authors should also check the Author Guidelines for the new journal and make any needed revisions in order to conform to those requirements. Please keep in mind that the reviews, reviewer identities, and decision letter will all be transferred to the new journal. Authors are encouraged to identify changes made to the manuscript in a cover letter for the new journal.

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