

Information for Authors

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Journal Scope

ACS Macro Letters welcomes submissions in all areas of contemporary soft matter science in which macromolecules play a key role, including nanotechnology, self-assembly, supramolecular chemistry, biomaterials, energy generation and storage, and renewable/sustainable materials. The scope of the journal will include high-impact research of broad interest in all areas of polymer science and engineering. **Submissions to *ACS Macro Letters* should justify clearly the rapid disclosure of the key elements of the study.**

Manuscript Types

ACS Macro Letters is an online publication and predominantly publishes research Letters. The journal also publishes Viewpoints that highlight recent developments in the field of polymer science and engineering. Manuscripts are typically submitted to at least two experts for comments; authors are required to recommend four preferred reviewers. Editors may reject manuscripts without seeking external review if they are outside the central scope of *ACS Macro Letters* or if they are judged unlikely to survive the reviewing process.

The Editors welcome the submission of manuscripts in the following categories:

Letters. Brief reports that are of unusual urgency, significance, and interest to the broad polymer science field. Letters should be approximately 2500 words or less (ca. 4 journal pages or approximately 14-16 double-spaced manuscript pages), including the abstract, body text, methods, references, tables, graphics/artwork, and figure/scheme legends. Letters can contain 4–6 display items (figures/tables/schemes).

Viewpoints. Viewpoints are typically invited by the Editors and treat a topic of particular current interest in the field. To suggest a topic for a future Viewpoint, please send proposals to macro@macrolett.acs.org.

Submission of Manuscripts

Professional Ethics. 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, which are available at <http://pubs.acs.org/ethics>. Authors are reminded of their obligation to obtain the consent of all coauthors before submitting a manuscript for publication. If any change in authorship is necessary after a Letter has been submitted, the corresponding author must provide a signed letter (via e-mail with copy to all coauthors) to the Editor confirming that all of the original coauthors have been notified and have agreed to the change.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure. A statement describing any financial conflicts of interest or lack thereof is published with each manuscript. This statement, provided separately from the manuscript during the submission process, should describe all potential sources of bias, including affiliations, funding sources, and financial or management relationships, that may constitute conflicts of interest (please see the [ACS Ethical Guidelines](#)). The corresponding author must provide a statement on behalf of all authors of a manuscript. If no conflict of interest is declared during the submission process, the following statement will be published in the manuscript: "The authors declare no competing financial interest."

Author List. During manuscript submission, the submitting author must provide contact information (full name, email address, institutional affiliation and mailing address) for all of the co-authors. Because all of the 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 co-authors are not required to register in ACS Paragon Plus.) The author who submits the manuscript for publication accepts the responsibility of notifying all co-authors that the manuscript is being submitted. Deletion of an author after the manuscript has been submitted requires a confirming letter to the Editor-in-Chief from the author whose name is being deleted. For more information on ethical responsibilities of authors, see the [Ethical Guidelines to Publication of Chemical Research](#).

Cover Letter. All manuscripts must be accompanied by a cover letter that contains clear and precise information about the submission and a paragraph explaining why the manuscript is appropriate for *ACS Macro Letters*, including a short summary highlighting the significance of the work, justifying the rapid Letter format, and its interest for a broad audience.

Submission Procedure. Manuscripts must be submitted via the ACS Paragon Plus environment (<http://paragonplus.acs.org/login>). Complete instructions and an overview of the electronic online (Web) submission process are available through the secure ACS Paragon Plus Web site. Authors must also submit all revisions of manuscripts via the ACS Paragon Plus environment. The Web submission site employs state-of-the-art security mechanisms to ensure that all electronically submitted manuscripts 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 manuscript.

Authors who submit Letters may use the word-processing templates available from the submission Web site (http://pubs.acs.org/page/amlccd/submission/amlccd_templates.html). Use of the template will allow authors and Editors to more accurately estimate the length of Letters at submission and will reduce delays caused by modification to meet the page guidelines at the review stage.

If the provided template is not used, authors should ensure that the *entire* manuscript (including abstract, references, tables, and figure legends) is *double-spaced*. All pages should be numbered consecutively. Sequences of figures, tables, charts, and schemes should also be numbered with Arabic numerals.

ACS Macro Letters does not accept hardcopy submissions.

Preparation of Manuscript

Authors should write in clear, concise English and should consult *The ACS Style Guide* for guidance on style, word-usage conventions, nomenclature, physical quantity symbols and units, abbreviations, use of italics, and punctuation.

Any author that is not fully proficient in idiomatic English should have the spelling, grammar, and style checked by someone who is a native English speaker. For more information, authors may visit the [Language Editing Services](#) listed under the Publishing Tools tab of the ACS Author & Reviewer Resource Center.

Journal Publishing Agreement. A properly completed and signed Journal Publishing Agreement must be submitted for each manuscript. ACS Paragon Plus provides an electronic version of the agreement that will be available 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 agreement is also available, but **authors are strongly encouraged to use the electronic Journal Publishing Agreement**. If the PDF version is used, **all pages of the signed PDF agreement 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 form. Forms and complete instructions are available at <http://pubs.acs.org/page/copyright/journals/index.html>.

Length of Manuscript. Authors are encouraged to keep their text as concise and brief as possible, as prescribed by the Letters format. Care should be taken not to use an overly long introduction, and only references that pertain to the information in the article should be used. Authors should not repeat information found in their previous publications.

Table of Contents Graphic for Submissions. A Table of Contents (TOC) graphic is required for all manuscripts when first submitted to *ACS Macro Letters*. This graphic will also be used for the graphical abstract. The TOC graphic should capture the reader's attention and, in conjunction with the manuscript title, give the reader a quick visual impression of the essence of the manuscript. The TOC graphic should be in the form of a structure, graph, drawing, image or micrograph, or reaction scheme. Tables or spectra are not acceptable. Color is encouraged and is free of charge. The author should submit a graphic in the actual size to be used for the TOC that will fit in an area that is 4 cm high and 8 cm wide. Larger images will be reduced to fit within those dimensions. Type size of labels, formulas, or numbers within the graphic must be legible. The figure should be labeled "for Table of Contents use only" and contain the title and authors of the manuscript. If the manuscript submission template is not used, this item should be appended as the last page of the manuscript.

Title. Titles should clearly and concisely reflect the emphasis and content of the manuscript. Titles are of great importance for current awareness and information retrieval and should be carefully constructed for these purposes. Please note that the use of serial numerals in the title (e.g., “broad topic. 3. specific subject”) is not permitted. Authors should refrain from using words such as “First”, “Novel”, “Facile”, etc. in the title or abstract.

Author List. Bylines should include all those who have made substantial contributions to the work. All coauthors need to be included during the submission process. To facilitate indexing and retrieval and for unique identification of an author, use first names, initials, and surnames (e.g., John R. Smith) or first initials, second names, and surnames (e.g., J. Robert Smith). At least one author must be designated with an asterisk as the person to whom correspondence should be addressed. The full author list, including the corresponding author’s e-mail contact information, must be provided on the title page of the manuscript.

An Abstract must be provided for all Letters and Viewpoints. Abstracts should be between 100 and 150 words in complete, concise sentences to indicate what is new, different, and significant. The abstract should be presented in a findings-oriented format; that is, one in which the first sentence is a succinct, informative summation of the most important results and conclusions. The remainder should highlight pertinent supporting details, related findings, types or classes of compounds investigated, and methods used. The abstract should not contain any citations.

The **Introduction** should clearly state the purpose and significance of the research and place the current work in the context of earlier work in the area. Historical summaries are seldom warranted. If a recent article has summarized work on the subject, that article should be cited without repeating its individual citations. An Introduction section heading is not used.

The **Results and Discussion** should be continuous with the Introduction and does not receive a heading. Tables and figures should be used only if they contribute significantly to the comprehension of the data. The same data should not be presented in more than one figure or in both a figure and a table. The purpose of the discussion is to interpret the results and to relate them to existing knowledge in the field.

The **Experimental Methods** follows the main body of the text (but before Acknowledgments and References) and includes a section heading. The Experimental Methods should provide a concise, unambiguous description of materials, methods, and equipment in sufficient detail to permit repetition of the work elsewhere. Only key experimental details should be included in this section. Other information can be included in the Supporting Information. Repetitive descriptions of a general procedure should be avoided. *Precautions for handling dangerous material or for performing hazardous procedures should be explicitly stated.*

Acknowledgments. Financial support, technical assistance, advice from colleagues, and other necessary acknowledgments should be included.

References. It is the responsibility of authors to ensure the accuracy of references. During the publication process, many of them will have links added to other Web resources, such as the corresponding abstracts in *Chemical Abstracts* and the full text on publisher Web sites. Because of this electronic linking and because the references are not checked in detail by Editors or reviewers, it is crucial that authors verify their accuracy.

References should be typed in the format of *ACS Macro Letters* (see below) and cited in the text by superscript numbers without parentheses or spaces. Unnecessarily long lists of references should be avoided. However, authors must reference all previous publications in which portions of the present work have appeared. Long references with multiple citations within one reference number should be avoided. Each reference should be listed as a separate citation, and each should be assigned a unique reference number. When more than one reference is cited in one place, separate the numbers by commas without spaces.

Authors should consult the journal Web site available via <http://pubs.acs.org> as a guide to proper format. Information on a standard list of abbreviations for ACS journals may be found in *The ACS Style Guide* (3rd ed., 2006), available from Oxford University Press, Order Department, 201 Evans Road, Cary, NC 27513.

The following format for journals (1) and books (2) must be used:

- (1) Li, Z.; Ma, J.; Cheng, C.; Zhang, K.; Wooley, K. L. *Macromolecules*, **2010**, *43*, 1182-1184
- (2) Wignall, G. D. In *Encyclopedia of Polymer Science and Engineering*, 2nd ed.; Mark, H. F., Bikales, N. M., Overberger, C. C., Menges, G., Eds.; Wiley-Interscience: New York, 1999; Vol. 10, p 112.

Supporting Information

Supporting Information must be submitted at the same time as the manuscript and uploaded separately to the ACS Paragon Plus environment. A [list of acceptable file types](#) is available on the Web. All Supporting Information files of the same type should be prepared as a single file (rather than submitting a series of files containing individual images or structures). For example, all Supporting Information available as PDF files should be contained in one PDF file. **Do not upload figures and tables that are to be published in the article into the Supporting Information file.** The availability of the Supporting Information should be noted in a paragraph, to precede the references, as follows: "Supporting Information Available: Description. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>."

Web-Enhanced Objects. *ACS Macro Letters* encourages the submission of Web-enhanced objects (WEOs) for the presentation of graphical results that go beyond conventional publication capabilities, including 3D rotatable figures, animations, spectra, video, and sound. Links to WEOs will appear in the Web HTML version of the manuscript. Files suitable for this form of publication should be viewable with commonly available Internet plug-ins (e.g., Chime) or helper applications (Rasmol, Mercury, etc.). Authors should submit WEOs via the Paragon Plus Web site as part of their submissions and clearly indicate to the Editor that the material is WEO material. Descriptions of WEOs should be noted in the appropriate places within the graphic caption or text of the manuscript, noting the type of file and format. Example: "A 3D rotatable image in xyz format is available." For more information, including acceptable software for WEOs, go to <http://pubs.acs.org/page/4authors/submission/weo.html>.

Guidelines for Illustrations in ACS Journals

General Considerations. Submission of graphics that are to be considered for publication in color is strongly encouraged (see the “Color” section below). Graphics that are intended to appear in black and white should not be furnished in color. The quality of the illustrations in the journal depends on the quality of the originals. Figures cannot be modified or enhanced by the journal production staff. Whenever possible, the graphics files furnished by authors with Web submissions are used in production of the journal. To ensure good quality production in the journal, a copy of each graphic should be printed (at the desired size in the final printed version) from a high-quality laser printer (600 dpi or higher) to verify that all parts of the artwork are clear and legible. Any changes to the artwork (including size changes) must be made in the drawing program that was used to create the artwork, and the revised artwork reimported into the manuscript.

Illustrations must fit a one- or two-column format on the journal page: **For efficient use of journal space, single-column illustrations are preferred.**

	single (preferred)	double
width		
minimum		10.5 cm (4.13 in.)
maximum	8.25 cm (3.25 in.)	17.78 cm (7 in.)
maximum depth	24 cm (9.5 in.)	24 cm (9.5 in.)

For best results, submit illustrations in the actual size at which they should appear in the journal. Original illustrations that do not need to be reduced to fit a single or double column will yield the best quality. Lettering should be no smaller than 4.5 points. (Helvetica or Arial type works well for lettering.) Lines should be no thinner than 0.5 point. Lettering and lines should be of uniform density. If you must submit artwork that must be reduced, use larger lettering and thicker lines so that, when reduced, the artwork meets the above-mentioned parameters.

Avoid using complex textures and shading to achieve a three-dimensional effect. To show a pattern, choose a simple crosshatch design.

Color. The use of color to enhance the clarity of complex structures, figures, spectra, schemes, etc. is encouraged. Color reproduction of graphics will be provided at no cost to the author. Graphics intended to appear in black and white or grayscale should not be submitted in color.

Chemical Structures. Structures should be produced with the use of a drawing program such as ChemDraw. Structure drawing preferences (preset in the ACS Stylesheet in ChemDraw) are as follows:

(1) As drawing settings select:

chain angle	120°
bond spacing	18% of width
fixed length	14.4 pt (0.508 cm, 0.2 in.)

bold width	2.0 pt (0.071 cm, 0.0278 in.)
line width	0.6 pt (0.021 cm, 0.0084 in.)
margin width	1.6 pt (0.056 cm, 0.0222 in.)
hash spacing	2.5 pt (0.088 cm, 0.0347 in.)

(2) As text settings select:

font	Arial/Helvetica
size	10 pt

(3) Under the preferences choose:

units	points
tolerances	5 pixels

(4) Under page setup choose:

Paper	US Letter
Scale	100%

(5) Save the file at 75%

Authors using other drawing packages should, insofar as possible, modify their program's parameters so that they reflect the above guidelines.

File Preparation for Submission

A [list of currently acceptable Word processing packages](#) and [guidelines for TeX/LaTeX](#) users are given on the submission Web site.

Manuscripts prepared with the software packages listed below will be used for production, providing the following guidelines are adhered to. Failure to adhere to the following instructions may prevent all or part of the material supplied from being used in production.

When preparing a manuscript, use the document mode or its equivalent in the word-processing program; i.e., do not save files in "Text Only" (ASCII) mode. If a non-Western version of the word-processing software is used to prepare the manuscript, save the file in rich-text format (RTF). Do not include any page-layout instructions such as placement information for graphics in the file. The text should be left justified, and automatic end-of-line hyphenation should be turned off. Use carriage returns only to end headings and paragraphs, not to break lines of text. Do not insert spaces before punctuation. References must conform to the format printed in the journal.

Ensure that all characters are correctly represented throughout the manuscript: for example, 1 (one) and l (ell), 0 (zero) and O (oh), x (ex) and × (times sign). Check the final copy carefully for consistent notation and correct spelling. The Editorial Office conversion program will faithfully translate any errors to the typeset copy.

All text (including the title page, abstract, all sections of the body of the manuscript, figure captions, scheme or chart titles and footnotes, and references) and tabular material should be in *one* file. Graphics and tables should be inserted in the file at the first mention in the text. It is best to use standard fonts (e.g., "Times" and "Symbol"). Other fonts, particularly those that do not come bundled with the system software, may not translate properly. Ensure that all special characters (e.g., Greek characters, math symbols, etc.) are present in the body of the text as

characters and not as graphic representations. Consult the documentation for the specific software package being used on how to detect the presence of graphics in the files, and replace them with the appropriate text characters. Tables may be created using a word processor's text mode or table format feature. The table format feature is preferred. Ensure each data entry is in its own table cell. If the text mode is used, separate columns with a single tab and use a line feed (return) at the end of each row.

If you are able to provide graphics in electronic form, please save each graphic in a separate TIFF file. Black and white line art should be saved at 1200 dots per inch (dpi), grayscale art at 600 dpi, and color art at 300 dpi. Consult the documentation in your graphics application for more information on how to save your files in this format. The filename for each graphic should be descriptive of the content graphic, for example, figure1 for Figure 1, scheme1 for Scheme 1, etc.

Nomenclature

Nomenclature should conform with current American usage. Insofar as possible, authors should use systematic names similar to those used by Chemical Abstracts Service and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC). Guides to IUPAC recommendations on macromolecular nomenclature are available via the Internet at <http://www.iupac.org/publications/books/author/metanomski.html> and <http://www.iupac.org/reports/IV/guide.html>. *Chemical Abstracts (CA)* nomenclature rules are described in Appendix IV of the *Chemical Abstracts Index Guide*. For CA nomenclature advice, consult the Manager of Nomenclature Services, Chemical Abstracts Service, P.O. Box 3012, Columbus, OH 43210-0012. A name generation service is available for a fee through CAS Client Services, 2540 Olentangy River Road, P.O. Box 3343, Columbus, OH 43210-0334; Telephone: (614) 447-3870; Telefax: (614) 447-3747; or e-mail: answers@cas.org.

Journal Cover Illustrations

Authors of all manuscripts are encouraged to submit one or more illustrations for consideration for use on the front cover of the journal, but authors of **Viewpoints** will be given special consideration. These illustrations should be submitted in color and pertain to the subject matter of the manuscript. Suggested cover art may be uploaded with the manuscript submission and should be labeled clearly.

In addition to the scientific content, considerations of design and visual appeal as a cover illustration will play an important role in the selection of illustrations. A brief, descriptive caption (about 25 words) that will appear below the Table of Contents is also needed. Once submitted by the author, the final version, if published, is at the discretion of the Editors. Once an illustration is selected for use on the cover, authors will be asked to provide a high-resolution digital version of the image.

For additional information on preparing journal cover art, please visit the Digital Image Guidelines for Journal Cover Graphics at <http://pubs.acs.org/userimages/ContentEditor/1230584897908/coverart.pdf> or contact support@services.acs.org.

Proofs, ASAP Publication, and Reprints

Galley Proofs. The corresponding author of an accepted manuscript will receive e-mail notification and complete instructions when page proofs are available for review via a secure Web site. Routine rephrasing of sentences or additions are not permitted at the page proof stage. Alterations should be restricted to serious changes in interpretation or corrections of data. Extensive or important changes on page proofs, including changes to the title or list of authors, are subject to Editorial review. It is the responsibility of the corresponding author to ensure that all authors listed on the manuscript agree with the changes made on the proofs. Galley proofs should be returned within 48 h of receipt in order to ensure timely publication of the manuscript.

ASAP Publication. Accepted manuscripts will be published on the “Articles ASAP” page on the journal Web site as soon as page proofs are corrected and all author concerns are resolved. Once published on the Web, no further changes can be made to the manuscript. After publication, all changes to a manuscript must be made through “Additions and Corrections”.

Publication on the Web usually occurs within 4 working days of receipt of page proof corrections, and this can be anywhere from 3 to 6 weeks in advance of the cover date of the issue. Authors should take this schedule into account when planning intellectual and patent activities related to a manuscript. The actual date on which an accepted manuscript is published on the Web is recorded on the Web version of the manuscript and on the first page of the PDF version.

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The [ACS AuthorChoice](#) option establishes a fee-based mechanism for authors or their research funding agencies to sponsor the open availability of their articles on the Web at the time of online publication. Under this policy, the ACS as copyright holder will enable unrestricted Web access to a contributing author’s publication from the Society’s Web site in exchange for a fixed payment from the sponsoring author. [ACS AuthorChoice](#) will also enable participating authors to post electronic copies of published articles on their own personal Web sites and institutional repositories for noncommercial scholarly purposes and allow immediate open access to an article as soon as it is published on the ACS Web site.