



ACS Sensors

Guidelines for Authors

Updated June 2018

IMPORTANT MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

streamlined and standardized review-ready format for an <i>initial</i> manuscript submission
Scope: new and original knowledge on all aspects of sensor science that selectively sense chemical or
biological species or processes
Analytical data: All analytical data should include uncertainties, comparisons to a standard analytical
method, and demonstration of the sensor's performance in the complex samples for which the device is intended to be used
Cover letter : must include a clear statement of the objective of the study and justification of publication
in ACS Sensors; further it should contain the full manuscript title, the name and complete contact
information of the corresponding author, the name(s) of any other author(s), a description of any
Supporting Information for Publication and/or for Review Only Material, 4 individuals competent to review the manuscript
Structured abstract : the first sentence should outline the objective of the work (i.e., the sensing issue
being addressed); the next two to three sentences should describe the methods being used; the final two
to three sentences should outline the findings of the study
5-8 keywords : covering the type of sensor and the application area along with more specific keywords related to the submission
References: in the appropriate format which is, for example, Cuartero, M.; Crespo, G. A.; Bakker, E. Paper-
Based Thin-Layer Coulometric Sensor for Halide Determination. <i>Anal. Chem.</i> 2015 , <i>87</i> , 1981–1990.
Acronyms: apart from established acronyms well known in the field, these are strongly discouraged
Graphics: easily readable; check font size and avoid inset figures
Safety: authors must emphasize any unexpected, new, and/or significant hazards or risks associated with
the reported work
Table of contents graphic: required with the dimensions listed, width is 8.47 cm (3.33 in or 240 points)
and height is 4.76 cm (1.88 in or 135 points)
Paper lengths: Article <8 pages, letter <4 pages, Sensor Issues ~3 pages, Perspective 6-10 pages, Review 6-
20 pages; justification for longer manuscripts is required
Administrative considerations: All papers must not be under consideration or published elsewhere;
manuscripts will be screened with plagiarism software; information on whether the paper has been
previously considered elsewhere must be provided; do not forget to list funding sources and ORCID

Correspondence to the Editor-in-Chief should be addressed to:

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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.

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1 Scope and Editorial Policies

1.1 Scope of the Journal

ACS Sensors is a peer-reviewed research journal that is devoted to the dissemination of new and original knowledge on all aspects of sensor science that selectively sense chemical or biological species or processes. Articles may address conceptual advances in sensing that are applicable to many types of analytes or application papers which report on the use of an existing sensing concept in a new way or for a new analyte.

Application papers should demonstrate the use of the sensor in complex samples, show it is fit-for-purpose, and exhibit a correlation of the sensor's performance with an existing analytical method. Papers may focus on sensor development for commercialization or development of sensors that are used to provide new scientific knowledge. Articles may be entirely theoretical with regard to sensing, or they may report experimental results. The types of sensors the journal will cover include:

- Biosensors
- Chemical sensors
- Gas sensors
- Intracellular sensors
- Single molecule sensors
- Cell chips
- Arrays
- Microfluidic devices

1.2 Manuscript Types

Manuscripts must be submitted electronically via the ACS Paragon Plus Environment; templates are available at http://pubs.acs.org/page/ascefj/submission/ascefj templates.html. Instructions and an overview of the submission process are available (http://paragonplus.acs.org/login). ACS Sensors publishes papers without page or color charges to authors.

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.

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. The submitting author accepts responsibility for notifying all co-authors that the manuscript is being submitted and for providing accurate email addresses for all 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 title page of the manuscript. (Note that co-authors are not required to register in ACS Paragon Plus.) Deletion/addition of an author after the manuscript has been submitted requires a confirming letter to the Editor-in-Chief from both the submitting author and the author whose name is being deleted/added. For more information on the ethical responsibilities of authors, see the Ethical Guidelines to Publication of Chemical Research.

1.2.1 Research Manuscripts

Research manuscripts include Articles, Letters, and Comments.

Articles. The recommended length of an Article is **eight** journal pages. Rarely, a longer submission may be justified. If so, a convincing justification for the extra length must be made by the authors in their cover letter. The Editor will normally require condensation of longer papers but will consider the justification details provided by the authors.

Letters. A Letter is a *brief* disclosure of a significant new sensing concept or application and will be considered on an accelerated schedule. Letters have a suggested length of **four** journal pages.

Comments. A Comment presents important comments on the work of others already published in *ACS Sensors*; *ACS Sensors* will not accept comments concerning research published elsewhere. The authors of the work being discussed will ordinarily be allowed a chance to reply. Comments have a recommended length of **three** journal pages.

See the **Calculating Manuscript Length** section below for details. If a submission exceeds the length guidelines, unless otherwise agreed with an appropriate editor, it will be returned to the authors to be shortened or modified to fit another manuscript category. Although it may be appropriate that some experimental detail be included in the Supporting Information (see **Supporting Information** section below), it is not acceptable to place important details of the experiments there in order to circumvent the length guidelines.

1.2.2 Perspectives and Reviews

Perspectives. Perspective articles report the authors' opinion on important new directions in sensing and discuss the nature of the opportunities perceived. Perspectives are neither reports of original research nor reviews with the traditional objective of summarizing progress in a field. They are aimed at specialists and experts in the field. The content should reflect the sophistication of the authors' understanding of the topic. Perspectives are not intended to be accounts or analyses of an individual's personal research. The manuscript must be balanced, fair, and accurate in its treatment of the contemporary literature.

Perspectives are typically **six** pages and have a maximum length of **ten** pages. Perspectives are usually invited, but pre-publication inquiries are encouraged and should be sent to the Editor-in-Chief (eic@sensors.acs.org).

Reviews. Reviews are often invited and details will be provided to authors when the invitation is accepted. Suggested topics for Reviews will also be considered and any topic proposals must be emailed in advance to the Editor-in-Chief (eic@sensors.acs.org).

Reviews may cover conceptual advances in sensing that are applicable to many types of analytes, review a class of sensor or analyte, or can be more of a tutorial that addresses existing challenges in sensing and approaches to overcome these challenges. A good review critically evaluates existing work of multiple groups in a field or across disciplines, provides a logical organization, and makes the material more easily accessible to those who are not experts in the area through clear text and figures. Reviews should lay out challenges and future opportunities and should be broad rather than narrowly focused. Reviews should contain an abstract and appropriate references. The use of graphics to illustrate key concepts is strongly encouraged. Reviews include a graphical Table of Contents figure. Reviews should also include 8–10 keywords and a vocabulary section in which 5–7 terms extracted from the text are defined in one or two sentences. Reviews are typically **six** pages and have a maximum length of **twenty** pages.

1.2.3 Sensor Issues

Sensor Issues (by invitation only) are short Editorial Features that will guide the community and new entrants to sensors on where the opportunities and challenges are by highlighting specific sensing issues. Sensor Issues are typically **two** pages and have a maximum length of **four** pages. If you have a topic that you think should be considered for publication as a Sensor Issues article, please contact the Editor-in-Chief (eic@sensors.acs.org).

1.2.4 Introducing Our Authors

Introducing Our Authors will feature a select few authors per issue discussing their scientific and non-scientific accomplishments. These will be handled by the Editor-in-Chief.

1.3 Editorial Policies

1.3.1 Submission Requirements

Authors must submit the following materials as separate files:

- manuscript file (as a single .doc or .docx file with figures, tables, and captions)
- cover letter
- Supporting Information for Publication, if applicable
- any additional materials for review, if needed (submit as Supporting Information for Review Only).

A manuscript PDF file is optional. If uploaded, this file will be used as the PDF proof during the peer-review process and as the Just Accepted version. Authors must view and approve the PDF version of their manuscript prior to formal submission to the Editor-in-Chief.

Authors should review the journal's instructions for **Preparing the Manuscript and Supporting Information** before submission. Close attention to all of the required details will expedite the review process and reduce the time to publication.

1.3.2 Cover Letter

A letter must accompany the submission, and it must contain the following elements:

- the full manuscript title
- the name and complete contact information (mailing address, phone, and email) of the corresponding author
- the name(s) of any other author(s)
- a statement of why the paper is appropriate for ACS Sensors which must include a clear statement of the objective of the study
- a description of any Supporting Information for Publication and/or for Review Only Material
- Four individuals competent to review the manuscript (see below).

Additionally, authors should note any length issues, whether the manuscript was discussed with an Editor before submission, and other issues important for the review process.

Authors are required to suggest four or more potential reviewers, including email addresses.

Suggested reviewers should not be at the same institution as any of the manuscript authors and will be used at the discretion of the Editors. An author may request that a certain person not be used as a reviewer, but should include justification. The request will generally be honored, unless the Editor feels that this individual's opinion, in conjunction with the opinions of other reviewers, is vital to the evaluation of the manuscript.

1.3.3 Related Work by Authors (and Prior Publication Policy)

ACS Sensors authors are allowed to deposit an initial draft of their manuscript in a preprint service such as or including these specific preprint servers, ChemRxiv, 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 include a link to the preprint, and as appropriate, state how the manuscript has been adjusted/updated between deposition and submission. All other prior/redundant publication is forbidden.

Upon publication in ACS Sensors, authors are advised to add a link from the preprint to the published paper via the Digital Object Identifier (DOI). ChemRxiv, bioRxiv adds this link for authors automatically after publication.

1.3.4 Manuscript Evaluation

Submitted manuscripts should not be published or under consideration elsewhere and may be examined using software to detect duplication of previously published material (see **Professional Ethics**).

Reject After Editorial Review. The Editors may identify submissions that in their expert opinions would not fare well during the review process; these manuscripts may be rejected without additional external reviewers. Multiple editors will be consulted during this initial screening. This process shortens the time to decision and ensures a manageable workload and prevents overburdening for reviewers. Examples of

manuscripts that would not be peer reviewed include the following: the paper is a routine extension or minor technical improvement of research already published; the science lies outside the scope of ACS Sensors; the science does not meet ACS Sensors' standards; insufficient data are provided to properly substantiate the claims and conclusions made; closely related work has already been published and few, if any, new insights are provided; the work is not of general appeal to the readership of ACS Sensors; the manuscript is a resubmission of a paper that has been previously declined without the addition of adequate new science and/or without notification in the cover letter of previous submission; or the manuscript deals with known sensing concepts and does not offer a significant, original application of the method, a noteworthy improvement, or results on an important analyte.

The Editorial Decision. Reviewers should evaluate the manuscript on the basis of originality, technical quality, clarity of presentation, and importance to the field. The Editors will evaluate the reviewers' comments in the context of the scope and aims of the journal and make the final decision on each manuscript. The possible decisions include: accept; revise to address the concerns of the reviewers before the editors make a final decision; decline but consider a resubmission if significant additional work is completed; or decline on the grounds of major technical or interpretational flaws, insufficient advance, or lack of novelty and broad interest.

In cases when reviewers make different or conflicting recommendations, the Editors may request additional information from the reviewers, consult other experts, and/or ask the authors to clarify the sections in question. Some manuscripts that are declined may be considered upon resubmission if significant additional work is completed, but authors are *required* to let the Editor know that the work is being resubmitted for reconsideration.

Reviewers may be asked to review subsequent versions of the manuscript, especially if new data have been added to the paper, to evaluate whether the authors have addressed the scientific concerns appropriately. In such cases, blind copies of all reviewers' comments are normally sent to the reviewers. The Editors will expedite any additional rounds of review to ensure timely publication.

The Editors strongly disapprove of any attempts by authors to determine the identity of reviewers or to confront potential reviewers. The editorial policy of this journal is neither to confirm nor to deny any speculation about the identities of our reviewers. Authors whose manuscripts are published in ACS Sensors are expected to review manuscripts submitted by other researchers from time to time. Information for Reviewers is published separately online (http://pubs.acs.org/page/ascefj/submission/reviewers.html).

1.3.5 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.

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.

Note that transferring a manuscript is not a guarantee that the manuscript will be accepted, as the final publication decision will belong to the editor in the new journal. For complete details, see http://pubs.acs.org/page/policy/manuscript transfer/index.html.

1.3.6 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. Those guidelines are available on the Web submission site (http://paragonplus.acs.org). Authors are reminded of their obligation to obtain the consent of all co-authors before submitting a paper for publication. Deletion/addition of an author after the manuscript has been submitted requires a confirming letter to the Editor-in-Chief from the submitting author, all co-authors, and the author whose name is being deleted/added.

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 your manuscript may be screened during the submission process. Further information about plagiarism can be found in Part B of the Ethical Guidelines to Publication of Chemical Research.

1.3.7 Patent Activities and Intellectual Property Issues

Authors are responsible for ensuring that all patent activities and intellectual property issues are satisfactorily resolved prior to first publication (JAMs, ASAP, or in issue). The actual date on which an accepted paper is published on the Web is recorded on the Web version of the manuscript and on the first page of the PDF version. Acceptance and publication will not be delayed for pending or unresolved issues of this nature.

1.3.8 Assistance with Improving Your Manuscript

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.

1.3.9 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 in the manuscript to meet this requirement. See http://pubs.acs.org/page/4authors/funder_options.html for complete instructions.

1.3.10 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 Email/Name section of your ACS Paragon Plus account. Learn more at http://www.orcid.org.

1.3.11 Institution Identification

Many Funders and Institutions require that institutional affiliations are 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.

1.4 Online Publication

1.4.1 Just Accepted Manuscripts (JAMs)

After a manuscript is peer reviewed and accepted, authors have the option of having their work posted as a Just Accepted Manuscript. This is posted on the ACS Publications website prior to technical editing, formatting for publication, and author proofing, and usually occurs within 30 minutes to 24 hours of acceptance by the editorial off ice. To ensure rapid delivery of the accepted manuscript to the Web, authors must adhere carefully to all requirements in the journal's Author Guidelines. For further information, please refer to the Just Accepted FAQ, at http://help.acs.org. Note that publishing a manuscript as Just Accepted is not a means by which to comply with the NIH Public Access Mandate.

1.4.2 Articles As Soon As Publishable (Articles ASAP)

ACS Sensors will publish papers online within days after the authors return their corrected galley proofs. Papers published ahead of issue publication are definitive and may be altered only through an addition/correction. All articles published ahead of issue publication receive a unique digital object identifier (DOI), which is used to cite the paper before issue publication.

2 Preparing the Manuscript and Supporting Information

2.1 Word Processing Details

Manuscripts prepared with accepted software packages will be used for production. Documents prepared with other word-processing programs will be handled on an experimental basis with the understanding that the use of these files in production cannot be guaranteed. For a list of currently acceptable word-processing packages, please refer to the guidelines presented at http://paragonplus.acs.org.

2.2 Research Article Format

2.2.1 Title

Titles should clearly and concisely reflect the emphasis and content of the paper. Titles of manuscripts may not contain words like "First" or "Novel". Titles are of great importance for current awareness and information retrieval and should be carefully constructed for these purposes.

2.2.2 Authorship

Provide **authors' full names**, the complete mailing address of the location where the work was completed, and the current addresses of the authors, if different, as a footnote. Indicate the corresponding author by an asterisk and provide an email address for that person.

2.2.3 Structured Abstract

Abstracts (80–250 words) are required for all submissions. Abstract examples are available at http://pubs.acs.org/paragonplus/submission/ascefj/ascefj abstractguide.pdf and below.

Abstracts should follow the following format: the first sentence should outline the **objective** of the work (i.e., the sensing issue being addressed); the next two to three sentences should describe the **methods being used**; the final two to three sentences should outline the **findings** of the study. The abstract will be the most widely read portion of the paper and will be used by abstracting services. A Table of Contents graphic will appear with the abstract text and should encompass the objectives and outcome(s) of the study.

Objective/Sensing Issue | How this was addressed | Findings

Example of an abstract for a conceptual paper:

A challenge for sensors detecting ultralow amounts of analyte is that for reliable sampling, large volumes of samples must be analyzed. The implication of large volumes is slow response times. Herein, we introduce the concept of utilizing conductive gold-coated magnetic nanoparticles (Au@MNPs) as 'dispersible electrodes', which serve as the active element in the selective capture and direct electroanalytical quantification of analytes. The Au@MNPs are modified with self-assembled monolayers containing a peptide for the selective detection of Cu²⁺. The particles scavenge any Cu²⁺ in solution and are then magnetically drawn back to the macroelectrode where the Cu²⁺ is detected amperometrically. This concept reduces response times and decreases detection limits by bringing the sensor to the analyte rather than the conventional paradigm of the analyte finding the sensor. The higher sensitivity and lower detection limit is shown to be because all the analyte in the sample is collected, while the shorter response times are because by dispersing the Au@MNPs in solution, the diffusional pathlength of the analyte is drastically reduced.

Example of an abstract for an application paper:

Glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1c) is an important analyte for monitoring the effectiveness of a diabetic patients treatment regime. However there is no existing HbA1c biosensor for detecting HbA1c that

integrates with existing glucose meters. Addressing this challenge, an amperometric immunosensor HbA1c is reported. A glassy carbon electrode is modified with gold nanoparticles (AuNPs) bearing a ferrocene derivative and a glycosylated pentapeptide (GPP) as an epitope to which anti-HbA1c IgG can selectively bind. The rest of the electrode is passivated with an oligo(ethylene oxide) species to give the electrode resistant to nonspecific adsorption of proteins. Complexation of anti-HbA1c IgG with the surface bound epitope resulted in attenuation of the ferrocene electrochemistry. The immunosensor was shown to be able to detect HbA1c in whole blood over the clinically relevant range of 4.6–15.1% of HbA1c to total hemoglobin using a competitive inhibition assay. The performance of the amperometric HbA1c biosensor was compared with the independent analysis of the same blood sample by a local clinical laboratory with reasonably concordant results.

2.2.4 Keywords

All Articles, Letters, Reviews, Perspectives, and Sensor Issues must be accompanied by 5-8 keywords. It is suggested that keywords covering the type of sensor and the application area along with more specific keywords related to the submission be included. These keywords will appear in the PDF version of the article and will also be used as a search term in the HTML version of the article.

2.2.5 Text

Consult the publication for the general writing style. Write for the specialist. It is not necessary to include information and details or techniques that should be common knowledge to those in the field. The use of acronyms, apart from established acronyms well known in the field, is strongly discouraged.

2.2.6 Section Headings

Informative section headings and subheadings are encouraged for Articles and Reviews; the "Introduction" heading is not used. Sections are not numbered. Keep all information pertinent to a particular section and avoid repetition.

2.2.7 Introduction

The Introduction should state the purpose of the investigation and must include appropriate citations of relevant preceding work but should not include an extensive review of marginally related literature. The purpose statement should clearly outline how the work relates to the advancement of sensing. If the manuscript describes a new sensing concept, indicate why it is preferable to already known sensors. If the manuscript describes the improved sensing of a substance, the competing methods must be referenced and compared. Absence of appropriate literature references may be grounds for rejection of the manuscript.

2.2.8 Experimental Section

Include a clear, unambiguous description of materials, methods, and equipment in sufficient detail to permit repetition of the work elsewhere. Be consistent in voice and tense. For apparatus, list only devices of a specialized nature. List and describe preparation of special reagents only. Do not list those normally found in the laboratory or preparations described in standard handbooks and texts. Because procedures are intended as instructions to permit work to be repeated by others, give adequate details of critical steps. Describe all safety considerations, including any procedures that are hazardous, any

reagents that are toxic, and any procedures requiring special precautions, in enough detail so that workers in the laboratory repeating the experiments can take appropriate safety measures.

Procedures and references for the neutralization, deactivation, and ultimate disposal of unusual byproducts should be included. Published procedures should be cited but not described, except where the presentation involves substantial modifications. While an experimental section is required to be in the main article and should provide sufficient detail to understand the experiments, additional details and procedures may be presented in the Supporting Information.

Safety. Authors must emphasize any unexpected, new, and/or significant hazards or risks associated with the reported work. This information should be in the experimental section of the full Article or Letter.

2.2.9 Results and Discussion

The results may be presented in tables or figures; however, many simple findings can be presented directly in the text with no need for tables or figures. The discussion should be concise and deal with the interpretation of the results.

2.2.10 Conclusions

Use the conclusion section only for interpretation and not to summarize information already presented in the text or abstract.

2.2.11 References

References should be numbered in one consecutive series by order of mention in the text with each reference individually numbered. Reference numbers in the text must be superscripted. The accuracy and completeness of the references are the authors' responsibility. Unnecessarily long lists of references should be avoided, and excessive self- citation is not permitted. Use Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index abbreviations for journal names (http://cassi.cas.org/search.jsp) and provide article title, publication, year, volume, and page number (inclusive pagination is recommended). Chemical Abstracts reference information for foreign publications that are not readily available should also be supplied.

List submitted articles as "in press" only if formally accepted for publication, and give the volume number and year, if known. Otherwise, use "unpublished work" with the name of the place where the work was done and the date. Include name, affiliation, and date for "personal communications". For work published online (ASAP, Just Accepted, in press), the DOI should be furnished in addition to the standard bibliographic information.

Examples of the reference format:

- (1) Cuartero, M.; Crespo, G. A.; Bakker, E. Paper-Based Thin-Layer Coulometric Sensor for Halide Determination. *Anal. Chem.* **2015**, *87*, 1981–1990.
- (2) Bard, A. J.; Faulker, L. R. *Electrochemical Methods*, 2nd ed.; Wiley: New York, 2001.

- (3) Francesconi, K. A.; Kuehnelt, D. In *Environmental Chemistry of Arsenic*; Frankenberger, W. T., Jr., Ed.; Marcel Dekker: New York, 2002; pp 51–94.
- (4) Safaei, T. S.; Mohamadi, R. M.; Sargent, E. H.; Kelley, S. O. In Situ Electrochemical ELISA for Specific Identification of Captured Cancer Cells. *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces*, **2015**, DOI: 10.1021/acsami.5b02404.

2.2.12 Acknowledgments

Authors may acknowledge technical assistance, gifts, the source of special materials, financial support, meeting presentation information, and the auspices under which work was done, including permission to publish. During manuscript submission, the submitting author is asked to select funding sources from the list of agencies included in the FundRef Registry https://www.crossref.org/fundref/.

If the article is dedicated to another scholar, a brief statement, such as "This article is dedicated to [name]", may be included.

Statements about author contributions to the work or equal contributions of work should be included as a separate statement.

2.2.13 Conflict of Interest Disclosure

A statement describing any financial conflicts of interest or lack thereof is published with each manuscript. During the submission process, the corresponding author must provide this statement on behalf of all authors of the manuscript. The statement 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 <u>ACS Ethical Guidelines</u>). The statement will be published in the final article. If no conflict of interest is declared, the following statement will be published in the article: "The authors declare no competing financial interest."

2.3 Graphics

Major graphics may take four forms, as described below. Each type of graphic should be numbered consecutively and independently. Each graphic should be embedded within the text in the ACS Sensors template after first mention. During submission, indicate those graphics that require special attention during production.

Do not use graphics that duplicate each other or material already in the text. Do not include graphics that have already been published without clear citation and copyright acknowledgement. If the use of a large number of figures is desired to illustrate a phenomenon, the figures should be placed in the Supporting Information.

If any graphics have appeared previously or are adapted from other publications, please indicate this in the Cover Letter and obtain permission to reproduce the graphic (http://pubs.acs.org/page/copyright/permissions otherpub.html).

The quality of the graphics in *ACS Sensors* depends on the quality of the artwork provided by the author. Figures cannot be modified or enhanced by the journal production staff.

- The preferred submission procedure is to embed graphic files in a Word document at the final production size, ensuring the artwork is clear and legible at this size.
- Acceptable file formats are TIFF, PDF, EPS (vector artwork), or CDX (ChemDraw file). If submitting individual graphic files in addition to embedding them in a Word document, ensure the files are named based on the graphic function (i.e. Scheme 1, Figure 2, Chart 3). Labeling of all figure parts should be present and the parts should be assembled into a single graphic. Consistently sizing letters and labels in graphics throughout the manuscript will help ensure consistent graphic presentation for publication.
 - o EPS files: Ensure that all fonts are converted to outlines or embedded in the graphic file. The document settings should be in RGB mode.

NOTE: While EPS files are accepted, the vector-based graphics will be rasterized for production.

Each graphic should be placed at the end of the manuscript text with figure captions in order to facilitate review. Individual graphic files, created by the author according to the following guidelines, will be used for production and can be submitted to the ACS Paragon Plus environment with the submitted manuscript:

Minimum resolution requirements are as follows:

Black and white line art 1200 dpi Grayscale art 600 dpi Color art 300 dpi

- The RGB and resolution requirements are essential for producing high-quality graphics within the published manuscript. Graphics submitted in CMYK or at lower resolutions may be used; however, the colors may not be consistent and graphics of poor quality may not be able to be improved.
- Most graphic programs provide an option for changing the resolution when you are saving the image. Best practice is to save the graphic file at the final resolution and size in the program used to create the graphic.

For more information, please visit http://pubs.acs.org/page/4authors/submission/index.html.

2.3.1 Figures

A caption giving the figure number and a brief description must be included below each figure. The caption should be understandable without reference to the text. It is preferable to place any key to symbols used in the artwork itself, not in the caption. Ensure that any symbols and abbreviations used in the text agree with those in the artwork.

2.3.2 Tables

Each table must have a brief (one phrase or sentence) title that describes the contents. The title should be understandable without reference to the text. Details should be put in footnotes, not in the title. Tables should be used when the data cannot be presented clearly in the narrative, when many numbers must be presented, or when more meaningful inter- relationships can be conveyed by the tabular format. Tables should supplement, not duplicate, information presented in the text and figures. Tables should be simple and concise.

2.3.3 Schemes

Each scheme (sequences of reactions) may have a brief caption describing its contents.

2.3.4 Charts

Charts (groups of structures that do not show reactions) may have a brief caption describing its contents.

2.3.5 Table of Contents (TOC)

A TOC graphic is required for all manuscript types except Comments and Additions and Corrections. The TOC graphic dimensions are as follows: its width is 8.47 cm (3.33 in or 240 points) and height is 4.76 cm (1.88 in or 135 points). This graphic is used for multiple purposes, including the document abstract graphic and other situations where a representative graphic is required. This graphic should give the reader a quick visual representation of the essence of the paper without providing specific details. The best images for these uses are simple, relatively free of text and technical characters, and make use of color for visual impact. Provide the TOC graphic as the last page of the submitted manuscript, labeled as "for TOC only".

2.4 Calculating Manuscript Length

Manuscript length refers to the final production length, including all text, and graphics (the TOC graphic is the only component that is not considered in the length calculation). To estimate length, assume 1000 words/page. If using Microsoft Word, use the word count tool to highlight all of the text elements, including citations, to get the total word count. Size all graphics to their final production size. The effective length of graphics can be approximated by counting single-column graphics as 250 words and double-column graphics as 500 words (assuming that when sized at the final production size, they are ¼ and ½ page, respectively).

If the total estimated length is close to the length limit for the manuscript type or if the figures and tables are large, then a more accurate estimate may be needed and can be determined as follows (maximum height for all graphics is 9 in., including the caption; please allow 12 pts for each line of caption text).

- Single-column graphics (preferred): Maximum width is 240 points (3.33 in). Measure the height of the graphic (point or inches), divide by 1320 points (18 in), and multiply by 1000 for the word equivalent. Example (in inches) for a single-column figure measuring 4.5 in. high: $4.5/18 = .25 \times 1000 = 250$ words.
- **Double-column graphics:** Size can range from 300 to a maximum of 504 points (4.17 to 7 in) wide. Measure the height of the graphic (points or inches), divide by 660 points (or 9 in), and multiply by 1000 for the word equivalent. Example (in inches) for a double-column figure measuring 4.5 in. high: $4.5/9 = .5 \times 1000 = 500$ words.
- If you submit graphics in **landscape orientation** greater than 3.3 in wide (and thus cannot be presented in a single-column, portrait orientation), an entire page of text (or 1000 words) will be displaced in order to accommodate the landscape presentation.

More details and examples on calculating length of a graphic are available at http://pubs.acs.org/page/ascefj/submission/authors.html

2.5 Supporting Information

In the interest of more concise and readable articles, authors should publish certain types of material in an appendix called Supporting Information (SI). This material can include additional examples of experimental and theoretical figures that are similar in form to figures in the article, novel algorithms, extensive tabular data, extensive figures connected with computational modeling, analytical characterization data, and extensive instrument and circuit diagrams. Detailed mathematical derivations, computational procedures, and programs should be presented in the SI. Like the primary manuscript, SI is subject to peer review. SI is also indexed and abstracted by the Chemical Abstracts Service.

The first page of the SI should be a cover page (labeled page S-1) that lists the authors' names and affiliations, the full title of the primary article, and an abstract that describes the nature of the materials therein and/or a table of contents. Then, as needed, the SI should include any further discussion germane to the primary research article or novel SI material, such as video clips or other imagery; any expanded description of experimental procedures; any supplementary experimental or theoretical results, given as figures or tables with legends and captions that contain the same level of detail as those in the primary research manuscript and that convey the significance of the result; and supplementary references for either the primary article or SI. Page, figure, and table numbers in the SI should be preceded by "S-" (Figure S-2, Table S-1, etc.). Captions to figures and tables should appear on the same page as the figure or table and should provide full details. Preferable page size is 22 cm × 28 cm (8.5 × 11 in.), with material aligned parallel to the 22 cm dimension.

SI must be submitted in a separate electronic file at the same time as the manuscript and be designated as "Supporting Information for Publication". A <u>list of acceptable file types</u> is available on the Web. All SI files of the same type should be prepared as a single file (rather than submitting a series of files containing individual images or structures). The material should be provided in a form suitable for immediate reproduction, **because the SI file is not edited by ACS** and is posted to the Web as it is received.

A paragraph should appear at the end of the paper indicating the nature of the material and the means by which the interested reader may obtain copies directly. Use the following format:

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When new or original algorithms are presented or used to process data on which the conclusions of the paper are based, sufficient detail must be provided (in the paper or SI) to either duplicate the algorithms or ensure public access to the algorithms.

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The use of acronyms, apart from established acronyms well known in the field, is strongly discouraged. Whenever possible, use systematic nomenclature as recommended by IUPAC and IUBMB for chemical compounds and biomolecules, respectively. Names of organisms should comply with genetic conventions, with genus and species names written in italics and spelled out in full on first appearance.

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General information about ACS publications is given in <u>The ACS Style Guide</u> (2006), available from Oxford University Press, Order Department, 201 Evans Rd., Cary, NC 27513. Updated instructions are available at the Author & Reviewer Resource Center homepage at http://pubs.acs.org/4authors.

3 Post Acceptance and Open Access

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The corresponding author of an accepted manuscript will receive email notification and complete instructions when galley proofs are available for review via a secure Web site. Authors will access the secure site through ACS ChemWorx and will need an ACS ID. To obtain an ACS ID or to reset your password, go to www.acschemworx.org.

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Articles may be retracted for scientific or ethical reasons. Articles that contain seriously flawed or erroneous data such that their findings and conclusions cannot be relied upon may be retracted in order to correct the scientific record. Retractions may be requested by the article author(s) or by the journal

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