Guidelines for Authors

(Revised January 2010)

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Objectives

The purpose of *Molecular Pharmaceutics* is to publish the results of original research that contributes significantly to the molecular mechanistic understanding of drug delivery and drug delivery systems. The journal encourages contributions describing research at the interface of drug discovery and drug development. Scientific areas within the scope of the journal include physical and pharmaceutical chemistry, biochemistry and biophysics, molecular and cellular biology, and polymer and materials science as they relate to drug and drug delivery system efficacy. Theoretical and experimental peer-reviewed communications, full-length research papers, brief articles, and critical reviews are welcomed. Submission of a manuscript to *Molecular Pharmaceutics* implies that the same work has not been previously published, including as part of a public electronic database, and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. In addition, there must be no legal restrictions to publication, e.g., patent activities, at the time of submission.

Articles

Full-length research manuscripts, consistent with the objectives of *Molecular Pharmaceutics*, are the principal focus of the journal. Authors must follow the instructions given below for preparation and submission of manuscripts.

Brief Articles

Definitive reports whose scope is more limited than that of articles but whose format is identical may be submitted as brief articles. They are subject to the same editorial appraisal as articles and should be of similar scientific quality.

Current Reviews

Concise focused reviews will be considered for publication in the journal. Reviews must be timely and objective and cover the described topic over a relevant and significant period. Broad lengthy reviews are discouraged. Authors are advised to contact one of the editors, with a topical outline and estimated length, to solicit journal interest before submitting a review for consideration for publication in the journal.

Communications

Editors will be extremely selective in accepting communications for review and consideration for publication. Communications of extremely timely and important research results will be considered for publication. Communications must provide enough information for the objective evaluation of the importance, significance, and validity of the report.

Editorial Organization

The Editor-in-Chief is appointed by the American Chemical Society (ACS) and has the final responsibility for all editorial decisions. The Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editors initially determine whether a manuscript's content falls within the scope of *Molecular Pharmaceutics*. Manuscripts that do not fall within the scope of the journal or would not be of interest to the general readers of the journal will be returned to the authors without review. Initial acceptance decisions will be made within one week of submission. This decision should be considered final.

Following acceptance for consideration, two independent reviewers will evaluate the manuscript. Reviewers are selected for their competence in specialized areas of *Molecular Pharmaceutics* from an existing database. They are expected to excuse themselves in cases of conflict of interest. Authors should recommend up to six (6) qualified reviewers who are not on the Editorial Advisory Board (EAB), and authors can request that certain EAB members not be chosen (not more than three). Should the reviewers disagree, the manuscript and the opinions of the reviewers are sent to an EAB member for arbitration.

If a manuscript is returned for revision, the author should respond to the specific recommendations of the reviewers. Recommendations of the reviewers should be given the strongest consideration. Revised manuscripts should be returned to the journal with a cover letter describing the changes and revisions to the manuscript. A clear, concise, and detailed letter of response, from the corresponding author, will significantly aid in acceptance of the revised manuscript for publication. If exceptions to the reviewers' recommendations are made, or the reviewers' recommendations are not followed, these issues must be described in detail in the letter. The manuscript will be returned to the reviewers for reconsideration, which will delay the final acceptance decision. Authors should return revised manuscripts within 60 days of receipt of the reviews. Failure to do so, without permission of the Editor, will result in the paper being considered a new submission.

Preparation of Electronic Manuscripts

The Guidelines for Authors and the ACS Copyright Status Form are available at http://pubs.acs.org/page/MPOHBP/submission/authors.html and http://pubs.acs.org/copyright, respectively. All manuscripts must be submitted as digital files using the ACS Paragon Plus Environment (see Submission). Currently acceptable word-processing packages are available at http://paragonplus.acs.org.

Authors should use the document mode or its equivalent in the word-processing program; i.e., files should not be saved in "Text Only" (ASCII) mode. If a non-Western version of the word-processing software is used, the file should be saved in rich-text format (RTF). Each file should be checked with an up-to-date virus detection program. The presence of a virus may delay publication.

It is best to use the fonts "Times" and "Symbol". Other fonts, particularly those that do not come bundled with the system software, may not translate properly. All special characters (e.g., Greek

characters, math symbols, etc.) must be present in the body of the text as characters and not as graphic representations. Tables may be created using a word processor's text mode or table format feature. The table format feature is preferred. Each data entry should be in its own table cell. If the text mode is used, columns should be separated with a single tab and a line feed (return) should be used at the end of each row.

Assembly of Manuscripts

Author Checklist

A complete manuscript submission contains the following items, which are discussed in more detail below:

- cover letter
- Copyright Status Form
- title page
- table of contents graphic
- abstract
- keywords
- Introduction
- Experimental Section
- Results
- Discussion
- Acknowledgment
- illustrations embedded in the manuscript
- Supporting Information (if necessary)

Publication of the paper may be delayed if any item is missing.

Title Page

The title must reflect the purposes and findings of the work in a manner that assists in classification and indexing. Abbreviations and trade names should be avoided. Titles should be followed by the names of the authors and by the addresses of all contributing laboratories. The name of the author to whom inquiries should be directed should be marked with an asterisk (*). The full address together with the telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address of the corresponding author should be given in a footnote, using an asterisk. A running title of no more than 50 characters should briefly describe the manuscript.

Table of Contents Graphic

A graphic must be included with each manuscript for the Table of Contents (TOC). This graphic should capture the reader's attention and, in conjunction with the manuscript title, should give the reader a quick visual impression of the topic described in the manuscript. The TOC graphic should be furnished at the actual size at which it is intended to appear in the issue and may be up to 8.9 cm wide and 3.6 cm tall. Text should be limited to labels. The use of standard abbreviations and unambiguous molecular formulas is encouraged.

Abstract

Abstracts should accompany all manuscripts and should explain concisely the objective, methods, and most important results and conclusions in the report. Any references should be

cited in full, and footnotes and abbreviations should be avoided to prevent ambiguity in cases where only the abstract is published (e.g., *Chemical Abstracts*). Initial acceptance of manuscripts for consideration will be primarily based on review of the abstract.

Keywords

Significant keywords that aid the reader in literature retrieval should be included. They are published immediately before the text, following the abstract.

Abbreviations

Standard abbreviations should be used throughout the manuscript. The preferred forms for some of the more commonly used abbreviations are given in *The ACS Style Guide*, 3rd ed. (2006) (http://pubs.acs.org/page/books/styleguide/index.html), available from Oxford University Press, Order Department, 201 Evans Rd., Cary, NC 27513. Units are abbreviated in table column heads and when used with numbers, not otherwise.

Introduction

The purpose of the study and its relation to and extension of previous work in the field should be included. Detailed or lengthy descriptions of routine experimental or theoretical procedures should be avoided. Extensive literature reviews should also be excluded.

Experimental Section

Experimental descriptions should be as concise as possible. Novel experimental procedures should be described in detail, while published procedures should be cited by reference number only. General reaction conditions should be given only once. Special attention should be called to hazardous reactions or toxic compounds.

Results

Text, tables, and figures can be used to describe the results as necessary. However, data should appear in only one format. Only the most significant and representative data should be included in the body of the manuscript. Extended or supplemental results that support the main findings of the paper should appear as Supporting Information, which is published on the Web.

Discussion

Authors should use this section for their interpretation of the results and examination of their relation to and extension of the existing body of literature. Information given elsewhere, e.g., in the Results or Introduction, should not be repeated. Highly speculative suggestions should also be excluded.

Acknowledgment

Mention of technical assistance, advice from colleagues, gifts, etc. should be made. Financial support should also be described in detail in this section.

Supporting Information (SI)

Authors are encouraged to use this section in cases where manuscripts contain extensive tabulations of data that are of interest to particular readers. The pages of SI should be numbered sequentially, should be labeled as SI, and should be readily legible. The production staff will not alter the appearance of Supporting Information. A paragraph that briefly describes the

Supporting Information should be included and should be terminated as follows: This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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.

References

Literature references and notes must be numbered in one consecutive series by order of mention in the text. They should be cited in the text with superscript numbers. The accuracy of the references is the responsibility of the author. Because, in the Web edition, references are linked to various electronic sources, the accuracy of the references is critical. Titles of periodicals are abbreviated according to *Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index*. Reference formats are as follows.

For journals:

> Rich, D. H.; Green, J.; Toth, M. V.; Marshall, G. R.; Kent, S. B. H. Hydroxyethylamine Analogues of the p17/p24 Substrate Cleavage Site Are Tight-Binding Inhibitors of HIV Protease. *J. Med. Chem.* **1990**, *33*, 1285–1288.

For monographs:

> Casy, A. F.; Parfitt, R. T. *Opioid Analgesics*; Plenum Press: New York, 1986; pp 333–384.

For edited books:

> Rall, T. W.; Schleifer, L. S. Drugs Effective in the Therapy of the Epilepsies. In *The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics*, 7th ed.; Gilman, A. G., Goodman, L. S., Rall, T. W., Murad, F., Eds.; Macmillan Publishing Co.: NewYork, 1985; pp 446–472.

Submitted manuscripts should be listed as “in press” only if formally accepted for publication; otherwise, “unpublished results” should be used after the names of authors. Authors must receive written permission to use unpublished work of others or to use material taken directly from a copyrighted publication. Any footnotes to the text should be incorporated in the correct numerical sequence with the references.

Tables

Tabulation of experimental results is encouraged when this leads to more effective presentation or to more economical use of space. A descriptive title that, together with column headings, makes the table self-explanatory should be included. Units of measure should be included. Footnotes in tables should be given italic lowercase letter designations and cited in the table as superscripts. If a reference is cited in both the table and text, a lettered footnote should be inserted in the table to refer to the numbered reference in the text.

Figure Captions

The descriptions of the illustrations should be brief yet informative and should be understandable without reference to the text. Symbols not defined in the artwork must be included in the caption to avoid ambiguity. Symbols not readily available as text characters should be defined in the artwork.

Illustrations: Figures, Schemes, etc.

General Considerations. Each version of a manuscript must be accompanied by a complete set of illustrations. All color should be removed from graphics, except for those graphics that authors would like to have considered for publication in color. Artwork must be embedded in the manuscript.

Quality. The quality of the illustrations in the published manuscript wholly depends on the quality of the graphics files provided. Figures are not modified or enhanced by the journal production staff. The use of error bars is recommended.

Size. For efficient use of journal space, single-column (<8.25 cm or 3.25 in.) illustrations are preferred over double-column (10.48–17.77 cm or 4.13–7 in.). The maximum height is 24 cm or 9.5 in. For best results, illustrations should be submitted at the actual size at which they should be published. Reduction of graphics may compromise quality. Lettering should be no smaller than 4.5 points. Lines should be no thinner than 0.5 point. Lettering and lines should be of uniform density. If artwork must be submitted at a size that must be reduced for publication, larger lettering and thicker lines should be used so that, when reduced, the artwork meets the above-mentioned parameters.

Color. Color illustrations should be submitted only if essential for clarity of communication. Color reproduction, if approved by the Editor, will be provided at no cost to the author. A surcharge of $100 per 100 reprints will be added to the standard cost of reprints.

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	120º
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%

Other drawing packages should, as much as possible, be modified so that the parameters reflect the above guidelines.

Nomenclature

It is the responsibility of the authors to provide correct nomenclature. Nomenclature should conform with current American usage. Insofar as possible, authors should use systematic names, either Chemical Abstracts Service or IUPAC, in the Experimental Section. *Chemical Abstracts* (*CA*) nomenclature rules are described in Appendix IV of the *Chemical Abstracts Index Guide*. For *CA* nomenclature advice, authors should 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; fax (614) 447-3747; or e-mail answers@cas.org. It is also acceptable to use semisynthetic or generic names for certain specialized classes of compounds. In such a case, the name should conform to the generally accepted nomenclature conventions for the compound class. Chemical names for drugs are preferred. If these are not practical, generic names, or names approved by the U.S. Adopted Names Council (USAN), or those approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) may be used. Registered trademark names or code numbers for drugs can be included in parentheses after a descriptive term in the title and should be used only once in the text; subsequently, their chemical names or compound numbers should be used. In certain cases, compounds that are widely employed as research tools and recognized primarily by code numbers may be designated by their code numbers. If a generic name is employed, its chemical name or structural formula should be given at the point of first citation.

Software

Software used as a part of computer-aided drug design (e.g., molecular modeling, QSAR, etc.) should be readily available from reliable sources, and the authors should specify where the software can be obtained. When conformational calculations are included, the parameters employed for the relevant potential functions should be given. All details needed to reproduce the numbers in the manuscript should be indicated in the paper or as Supporting Information.

Coordinate Deposition

Atomic coordinates of macromolecules must be deposited with the Protein Data Bank (PDB) at Rutgers University (http://rcsb-deposit.rutgers.edu). It is the responsibility of the author to obtain a file name for the macromolecule. The file name must appear in the manuscript. PDB file names should be added to the galley proof if necessary. PDB entries will be linked to the coordinate file in the Web edition.

Submission

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 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.

Copyright

A properly completed ACS Copyright Status Form must be provided for each submitted manuscript. A copy of this form can be found at http://pubs.acs.org/copyright. The ACS Copyright Status Form is a legal document and must be signed manually. Authors are encouraged to upload a PDF or TIF version of the signed copyright form at the time of submission. The "Completed and Signed Copyright Form" file designation should be selected. Alternatively, the signed form may be faxed promptly to the Editor assigned to the manuscript.

Publication

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. Correction of the proofs is the responsibility of the corresponding author. 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.

"Just Accepted" Manuscripts"

In January 2009, The American Chemical Society began a pilot program offering the posting of "Just Accepted" manuscripts for *Molecular Pharmaceutics*. "Just Accepted" manuscripts are peer-reviewed, accepted manuscripts that have not yet undergone technical editing or formatting for publication. Authors may opt-in to have their manuscripts posted online within 3 days of acceptance. For further information, please refer to the "Just Accepted" FAQ.

ASAP Publication

Accepted manuscripts will be published on the "Articles ASAP" page on the journal's Web site as soon as page proofs are corrected and all author concerns are resolved. Publication on the Web usually occurs within 4 working days of receipt of page proof corrections, and this can be anywhere from 2 to 11 weeks in advance of the cover date of the issue. Manuscripts assigned to a special issue often remain published ASAP for several months. Authors should take this schedule into account when planning intellectual and patent activities related to a manuscript. 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.

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