

Instructions for Authors

ABOUT

Open Chemistry journal is a premier source of high quality research in fundamental chemistry where all authors despite of geography receive very good peer review service. Instead of subscriptions to a number of local journals, you can have all you need in one medium available for everyone – Open Chemistry.

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PUBLICATION FORMATS

OPEN CHEMISTRY considers submissions of:

- Research Articles
- Short Communications
- Rapid Communications*
- Review Articles
- Errata
- Retraction Notes

*Rapid Communications are intended to present information of exceptional novelty and extraordinary results of significant interest to the readers. Authors are asked to provide an explanation in the cover letter why their contribution should be handled *via* the rapid channel.

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

All submissions must be made *via* online submission system **Editorial Manager**.

Manuscripts submitted under multiple authorship are reviewed on the assumption that all listed authors contributed to the work and are responsible for its content; they had to agree to its publication and gave the corresponding author the authority to act on their behalf in all matters leading to publication. The corresponding author is responsible to inform the coauthors of the manuscript status throughout the submission, review, and production process.

Electronic Formats Allowed

We accept submission of text, tables and figures as separate files or as a composite file. For your initial submission, we recommend you to upload your entire manuscript, including tables and figures, as a single PDF file. If you are invited to submit a revised manuscript, please provide us with individual files: an editable text and publication-quality figures.

Text files can be submitted in the following formats: **MS Word - standard DOCUMENT (.DOC) or RICH TEXT FORMAT (.RTF)**; PDF (not applicable for re-submitted or accepted manuscripts, see below).

Tables should be submitted as **MS Word or PDF** (not applicable for re-submitted or accepted manuscripts, see below). Please note that an Excel file is not acceptable format.

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Any articles that have been prepared in LaTeX will be accepted for review, but only in PDF format. Post-acceptance, text files of the revised manuscript and tables are required for use in the production. Authors should clearly indicate the location(s) of tables and figures in the text if these elements are given separately or at the end of the manuscript. If this information is not provided to the editorial office, we will assume that they are placed at the end of the text.

First-time Submission of Manuscripts

It is important that authors include a cover letter with their manuscript. Please explain why you consider your manuscript to be suitable for publication in Open Chemistry, why your paper will inspire the other members of your field, and how it will drive research forward.

The letter should contain all important details such as:

- your full name (submitted by);
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- contact address, telephone/fax numbers of the corresponding author;
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- status: new, reviewed or accepted (with reference ID if reviewed or accepted).

The cover letter should explicitly state that the manuscript (or one with substantially the same content, by any of the authors) has not been previously published in any language anywhere and that it is not under simultaneous consideration or in press by another journal. If related work has been submitted, then we may require a preprint to be made available. Reviewers will be asked to comment on the overlap between the related submissions.

Manuscripts that have been previously rejected, or withdrawn after being returned for modification, may be resubmitted if the major criticisms have been addressed. The cover letter must state that the manuscript is a resubmission, and the former manuscript number should be provided.

To ensure fair and objective decision-making, authors must declare any associations that pose a conflict of interest in connection with evaluated manuscripts (see Editorial Policy for details). Authors may suggest up to two referees not to use, and in such cases additional justification should be provided in the cover letter. Authors are encouraged to recommend up to five reviewers who are not members of their institution(s) and have never been associated with them or their laboratory(ies); please provide contact information for suggested reviewers. The Editors reserve the right to select experts at their discretion.

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Resubmitted manuscripts should be accompanied by a letter outlining a point-by-point response to Editor's and reviewers' comments and giving details on the changes made to the manuscript. A copy of the original manuscript should be included for comparison if the Journal Editor requests one. If it is the first revision, authors need to return the revised manuscript within 60 days; if it is the second revision, authors need to return the revised manuscript within 14 days. Additional time for resubmission must be requested in advance. If the above mentioned deadlines are not met, the manuscript will be treated as a new submission.

For resubmitted manuscripts, please provide us with an editable text and publication-quality figures: Tables also need to be included within an editable article file or to be submitted separately as editable files. Supply any figures as separate high-resolution, print-ready digital versions.

In addition to the editorial remarks, authors are asked to take care that they have prepared the revised version according to the Journal's style. Please adopt numbered citation (citation-sequence) style referencing.

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It is essential that contributors prepare their manuscripts according to the instructions and specifications presented below.

General rules for writing

The work must demonstrate its novelty, importance to the field of chemistry and its interest to chemists in general. Conclusions must be justified by the study; please make your argumentation complete and be self-critical as you review your drafts.

Open Chemistry encourages the submission of both substantial full-length bodies of work and shorter manuscripts that report novel findings that might be based on a more limited range of experiments. There are no specific length restrictions for the overall manuscript or individual sections; however, we urge the authors to present and discuss their findings in a concise and accessible manner.

Use simple, declarative sentences and commonly understood terms; avoid long sentences and idle words. Please use active voice while writing your manuscript; e.g. 'we measured snout-vent length' rather than 'snout-vent length was measured'. We recommend that for clarity you use the past tense to narrate particular events in the past, including the procedures, observations, and data of the study that you are reporting. Use the present tense for your own general conclusions, the conclusions of previous researchers, and generally accepted facts. Thus, most of the Abstract, Experimental Procedure, and Results should be in the past tense, and most of the Introduction and some of the Discussion should be in the present tense. Editors may make suggestions for how to improve clarity and readability, as well as to strengthen the argument.

Organization of the Manuscript

Articles should be organized into the following sections:

- Title page with: Title (and running title)
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Introduction
- Experimental Procedure/Theoretical details/ Calculating details
- Results
- Discussion / Results and Discussion
- Conclusions
- Acknowledgments
- References
- Figure Legends and Table Captions
- Tables
- Figures
- Supplementary data (if applicable)

Each of these elements is detailed below. We pay particular attention to the importance of careful preparation of the title, keywords and abstract, as these elements are indicators of the manuscript content in bibliographic databases and search engines.

Title

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- Department
- University or organization
- City
- Postal code
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One of the authors should be assigned as a corresponding author to whom inquiries regarding the paper should be directed. It is the corresponding author's responsibility to ensure that the author list and the summary of the author contributions to the study are accurate and complete. Place an asterisk after the name of the corresponding author and provide us with a valid e-mail address. Please note that a change in authorship (order

of listing, addition or deletion of a name, or a corresponding author designation) after submission of the manuscript will be implemented only after receipt of signed statement of all parties involved. Footnotes can be used to present additional information (for example: permanent, adequate, present postal addresses). If the article has been submitted on behalf of a consortium, all consortium members and affiliations should be listed after Acknowledgments section.

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Authors may provide a striking image to accompany their article, if one is available. If the image (photo, graph, scheme) is judged by the editors to be suitable for publication, it may be featured on the web to highlight the paper online. It is preferable, but not essential, that these should be related strictly to the subject reported in the manuscript. The image could originate from the experimental findings reported in the manuscript but does not have to constitute a part of the original work and need not be reprinted in the article. Images must be original and should be submitted as separate files of high resolution.

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List keywords for the work presented (maximum 5), separated by commas. We suggest that keywords do not replicate those used in the title. Authors should use keywords that are specific and emphasize what is essential in the presented study.

Introduction

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Experimental Procedure

This section should include sufficient technical information to enable the experiments to be reproduced. Protocols for new Experimental Procedure or significant modifications to existing Experimental Procedure should be included, while previously published or well-established protocols should only be referenced. Describe new Experimental Procedure completely and give sources of unusual chemicals, equipment, strains etc. Studies presented should comply with our recommendations for distribution of materials and data (see below). In theoretical papers comprising the computational analyses, technical details (Experimental Procedure, models applied or newly developed) should be provided to enable the readers to reproduce the calculations.

Results

This section should provide statistical analyses of all of the experiments that are required to support the conclusions of the paper. Reserve extensive interpretation of the results for the Discussion section. Details of experiments that are peripheral to the main thrust of the article and that detract from the focus of the article should not be included. Present the results as concisely as possible in text, table(s), or figure(s) (see below). Avoid extensive use of graphs to present data that might be more concisely presented in the text or tables. Graphs illustrating Experimental Procedure

commonly used need not to be shown except in unusual circumstances. Limit photographs to those that are absolutely necessary to show the experimental findings. Number figures and tables in the order in which they are cited in the text, and be sure to cite all figures and tables. Styles and fonts should match those in the main body of the article. Large datasets, including raw data, should be submitted as supporting files. The section may be divided into subsections, each with a concise subheading.

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The Discussion should provide an interpretation of the results in relation to previously published work and to the experimental system used. It should not contain extensive repetition of the Results or reiteration of the Introduction. The discussion should be concise and tightly argued.

Conclusions

This section should spell out the major conclusions of the work along with certain explanation or speculation on the significance of these statements.

Acknowledgments

This section should describe sources of funding that have supported the work. Please also describe the role of the study sponsor(s), if any, in study design; collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; writing of the paper; and decision to submit it for publication. Recognition of personal assistance should be given as a separate paragraph: people who contributed to the work, but do not fit the criteria for authors should be listed along with their contributions. You must ensure that anyone named in the acknowledgments agrees to be mentioned there.

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Because all references will be linked electronically to the papers they cite, proper formatting of the references is crucial. A complete reference should give the reader enough information to find the relevant article. Please pay particular attention to spelling, capitalization and punctuation. **Completeness of references is the responsibility of the authors.**

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- (J. Smith, unpublished data),
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- (J. Smith and P. Brown, presented at the 4th Symposium on Food Microbiology, Overton, IL, 13 - 15 June 1989),
- (J. C. Odell, April 1970, Process for batch culturing, U.S. patent 484,363,770),
- (J. Smith, 20 June 1999, Australian Patent Office),
- ... from the GenBank database (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Genbank/index.html>),
- ... using ABC software (version 2.2; Department of Microbiology, State University, <http://www.stu.micro>),

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- Kulig P., Zabel B.A., Dubin G., Allen S.J., Ohyama T., Potempa J., et al., Stafopaina B *Staphylococcus aureus*, aktywator chemeryny osoczowej, *J. Immunol.*, 2007, 178, 3713-3720, (in Polish).

Accepted Papers

- Kulig P., Zabel B.A., Dubin G., Allen S.J., Ohyama T., Potempa J., et al., *Staphylococcus aureus*-derived staphopain B, a potent cysteine protease activator of plasma chemerin, *J. Immunol.*, (in press), DOI: 12.3412/01.
- Kulig P., Zabel B.A., Dubin G., Allen S.J., Ohyama T., Potempa J., et al., Stafopaina B *Staphylococcus aureus*, aktywator chemeryny osoczowej, *J. Immunol.*, (in press, in Polish), DOI: 12.3412/01.

Electronic Journal Articles

- Dionne M.S., Schneider D.S., Screening the immune system, *Genome Biol.*, 2002, <http://genomebiology.com/2002/3/4/reviews/1010>.

Books and book chapters

- Sambrook J., Russell D.W., *Molecular cloning - a laboratory manual*, 3rd ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, 2001.
- Sambrook J., Cloning and sequencing, In: Sambrook J., Russell D.W. (Eds.), *Molecular cloning - a laboratory manual*, 3rd ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, 2001

Theses

- Agutter A.J., Analysis of sigma factors in *S. aureus*, PhD thesis, Edinburgh University, Edinburgh, UK, 1995.
- Agutter A.J., Analiza czynnikow sigma *S. aureus*, PhD thesis, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland, 1995, (in Polish).

Conference proceedings

- Smith J., Brown P., Reference style guide, In: M. Scott (Ed.), *Proceedings of Biochemical Society Conference* (11-13 July 2007, Warszawa, Poland), Versita Warsaw, 2007, 1335-1791.

Newspaper articles

- Sherwin A., The post-genomic era, *The Times*, 13 July 2007, 1-2.

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Tables and Table Captions

Tables must include enough information to warrant table format and should be used only where information cannot be presented in the text. Please use MS Word's Table tool to create tables in your manuscript. Avoid formatting table using spaces or tabulations, please do not use graphics software to create tables. Tables occupying more than one printed page should be avoided, if possible; larger tables can be published as an appendix. Do not use picture elements, text boxes, tabs, or returns in tables. Tables that contain artwork, chemical structures, or shading must be submitted as illustrations. Tables should be numbered consecutively using Arabic numerals and referred to in the text by number. Table legends should follow the main text, each on a separate page. Each table should have an explanatory caption which should be as concise as possible. The headings should be sufficiently clear so that the meaning of the data is understandable without reference to the text. Footnotes can be used to explain abbreviations but should not include detailed descriptions of the experiment. Citations should be indicated using the same style as outlined above.

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Please keep abbreviations to a minimum. In addition to abbreviations for Systeme International d'Unités (SI) units of measurement, other common units (*e.g.*, bp, kb, and Da), and chemical symbols for the elements, the following should be used without definition: DNA; cDNA; RNA; cRNA; RNase; DNase; rRNA; mRNA; tRNA; AMP, ADP, ATP, dAMP, ddATP, GTP, *etc.*; ATPase, dGTPase, *etc.*; NAD; NAD⁺; NADH; NADP; NADPH; NADP⁺; poly(A), poly(dT), *etc.*; oligo(dT), *etc.*; UV; PFU; CFU; MIC; Tris; DEAE; EDTA; EGTA; HEPES; PCR; and AIDS. Abbreviations for cell lines (*e.g.*, HeLa) as well as viruses (*e.g.*, HIV-1, JC virus, BK virus) also need not be defined. Non-standard abbreviations should not be used unless they appear at least three times in the text. List all non-standard abbreviations, acronyms and symbols in alphabetical order, along with their expanded form, at the end of the text. Define them as well upon first use in the text.

Supplementary Material

We encourage authors to submit essential supplementary files that additionally support the authors' conclusions along with their manuscripts (the principal conclusions should be completely fully without referral to the supplemental material). Supplemental material will always remain associated with its article and is not subject to any modifications after publication. The decision to publish the material with the article if it is accepted will be made by the Editor. Supporting files of no more than 10 MB may be submitted in a variety of formats, but should be publication-ready, as these files will be published exactly as supplied. Material must be restricted to large or complex data sets or results that cannot be readily displayed because of space or technical limitations. Material that has been published previously is not acceptable for posting as supplementary material.

Supporting files should fall into one of the following categories:

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- Text
- Protocol
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If the software required for users to view/use the supplementary material is not embedded in the file, you are urged to use shareware or generally available/easily accessible programs. To prevent any misunderstandings, we request that authors submit a text file (instruction.txt) containing a brief instruction on how to use the files supplied. All supporting information should be referred to in the manuscript, with titles (and, if desired, legends) for all files listed under the heading 'Supporting Information'.

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The recognized authority for the names of chemical compounds is Chemical Abstracts. For guidelines to the use of biochemical terminology, consult Biochemical Nomenclature and Related Documents. Do not express molecular weight in Daltons: molecular weight is a unitless ratio; molecular mass is expressed in daltons. For enzymes, use the recommended names assigned by the Nomenclature Committee of the International Union of Biochemistry. Use the EC number when one has been assigned.

For genes, proteins, strains, clones etc. use the recommended name prescribed by the appropriate genetic nomenclature database. Genes, mutations, genotypes, and alleles should be indicated in italics; protein products of the loci are not italicized. It is sometimes advisable to indicate the synonyms for the gene the first time it appears in the text. Gene prefixes such as those used for oncogenes or cellular localization should be shown in roman: v-fes, c-MYC, etc.

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The publication of an article in the journal is subject to the commitment that authors will make all data and associated protocols available to readers on request. The Experimental Procedure section should include details of how materials and information may be obtained. In cases of dispute, authors may be required to make any primary data available to the Managing Editor.

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- Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO)
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- Protein Data Bank (<http://rcsb-deposit.rutgers.edu> and <http://pdbdep.protein.osaka-u.ac.jp>)
- UniProtKB/Swiss-Prot

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