Manuscript Submission Guidelines: Molecular Pain

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This Journal is a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics

This Journal recommends that authors follow the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals formulated by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)

Please read the guidelines below then visit the Journal’s submission site https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/molecularpain upload your manuscript. Please note that manuscripts not conforming to these guidelines may be returned.

Only manuscripts of sufficient quality that meet the aims and scope of Molecular Pain will be reviewed.

As part of the submission process you will be required to warrant that you are submitting your original work, that you have the rights in the work, that you are submitting the work for first publication in the Journal and that it is not being considered for publication elsewhere and has not already been published elsewhere, and that
you have obtained and can supply all necessary permissions for the reproduction of any copyright works not owned by you.

1. Open Access

*Molecular Pain* is an open access, peer-reviewed journal. Each article accepted by peer review is made freely available online immediately upon publication, is published under a Creative Commons license and will be hosted online in perpetuity. Publication costs of the journal are covered by the collection of Article Processing Charges which are paid by the funder, institution or author of each manuscript upon acceptance. There is no charge for submitting a paper to the journal.

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Full waivers will be given to authors who reside in the countries described by the Research4Life program.

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2. Article Processing Charge (APC)

If, after peer review, your manuscript is accepted for publication, a one-time Article Processing Charge (APC) is payable. This APC covers the cost of publication and ensures that your article will be freely available online in perpetuity under a Creative Commons license.

The Article Processing Charge (APC) is $2500.

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3. Article types

**Research:** reports of data from original research. We anticipate that a research article will contain 5-10 figures. Authors should try to limit the Background and Discussion sections to no more than 1000 and 1500 words respectively. Order sections as follows:

Abstract  
Keywords  
Introduction  
Materials and Methods  
Results  
Discussion  
Acknowledgment  
Author Contributions  
Declaration of Conflicting Interests  
References

**Review:** comprehensive, authoritative descriptions of any subject within the scope of the journal. Enquiries to the Molecular Pain Editors regarding the suitability of a proposed review prior to submission are encouraged.

**Commentary:** short, focused and opinionated articles on any subject within the scope of the journal. These articles are usually related to a contemporary issue, such as recent research findings. Enquiries to the Molecular Pain Editors regarding the suitability of a subject area prior to submission are encouraged.

**Conflicting report:** brief reports of data from original research that conflict with a recent key finding published in a high-impact, broad-scope journal, such as Science, Nature and Cell. A conflicting report can be a negative result that nulls the previous key finding. The main purpose of a conflicting report is to challenge an existing finding and to provide a different and/or opposite opinion or interpretation on a dominant view. This encourages scientific debates and helps to correct potential mistakes of a major article published in a high-impact journal. For a conflicting report, authors must clearly acknowledge the previous key finding, followed by their conflicting results. The format and length of a conflicting report are similar to that of a Molecular Pain short report.
**Meeting report**: a short description of a conference that the author has attended, which focuses on the key developments presented and discussed at the meeting.

**Methodology**: present a new experimental method, test or procedure. The method described may either be completely new, or may offer a better version of an existing method.

**Short report**: brief reports of data from original research that present very important findings in the field. A complex figure with several panels is encouraged.

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### 4. Editorial policies

#### 4.1 Peer review policy

Manuscripts submitted to Molecular Pain are assigned to an Editor (Reviewing Editor), who appoints two peer reviewers. Based on the reviews, the Reviewing Editor will make a recommendation to the co-Editors-in-Chief for rejection, revision or acceptance. It is expected that the review period will not exceed three weeks. Our electronic submission process is designed to facilitate rapid publication.

The journal’s policy is to have manuscripts reviewed by two expert reviewers. *Molecular Pain* utilizes a single-blind peer review process in which the reviewer’s name and information is withheld from the author. All manuscripts are reviewed as rapidly as possible, while maintaining rigor. Reviewers make comments to the author and recommendations to the Reviewing Editors who then makes the final decision.

As part of the submission process you will be asked to provide the names of up to 6 peers who could be called upon to review your manuscript. Recommended reviewers should be experts in their fields and should be able to provide an objective assessment of the manuscript. Please be aware of any conflicts of interest when recommending reviewers. Examples of conflicts of interest include (but are not limited to) the below:

- The reviewer should have no prior knowledge of your submission
- The reviewer should not have recently collaborated with any of the authors
- Reviewer nominees from the same institution as any of the authors are not permitted

Please note that the Editors are not obliged to invite any recommended/opposed reviewers to assess your manuscript.

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#### 4.2 Authorship

Papers should only be submitted for consideration once consent is given by all contributing authors. Those submitting papers should carefully check that all those whose work contributed to the paper are acknowledged as contributing authors.

The list of authors should include all those who can legitimately claim authorship. This is all those who:

- Made a substantial contribution to the concept and design, acquisition of data or analysis and interpretation of data,
- Drafted the article or revised it critically for important intellectual content,
- Approved the version to be published.

Authors should meet the conditions of all of the points above. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content.

When a large, multicentre group has conducted the work, the group should identify the individuals who accept direct responsibility for the manuscript. These individuals should fully meet the criteria for authorship.

Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group alone does not constitute authorship, although all contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in the Acknowledgments section. Please refer to the [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) authorship guidelines](https://www.icmje.org) for more information on authorship.
4.3 Acknowledgements
All contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in an Acknowledgements section. Examples of those who might be acknowledged include a person who provided purely technical help, or a department chair who provided only general support.

4.3.1 Writing assistance
Individuals who provided writing assistance, e.g. from a specialist communications company, do not qualify as authors and so should be included in the Acknowledgements section. Authors must disclose any writing assistance – including the individual’s name, company and level of input – and identify the entity that paid for this assistance”.
It is not necessary to disclose use of language polishing services.

Any acknowledgements should appear first at the end of your article prior to your Declaration of Conflicting Interests (if applicable), any notes and your References.

4.4 Funding
Molecular Pain requires all authors to acknowledge their funding in a consistent fashion under a separate heading. Please visit the Funding Acknowledgements page on the SAGE Journal Author Gateway to confirm the format of the acknowledgment text in the event of funding, or state that: This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

4.5 Declaration of conflicting interests
It is the policy of Molecular Pain to require a declaration of conflicting interests from all authors enabling a statement to be carried within the paginated pages of all published articles.

Please ensure that a ‘Declaration of Conflicting Interests’ statement is included at the end of your manuscript, after any acknowledgements and prior to the references. If no conflict exists, please state that ‘The Author(s) declare(s) that there is no conflict of interest’.

For guidance on conflict of interest statements, please see the ICMJE recommendations.

4.6 Research ethics and patient consent
Medical research involving human subjects must be conducted according to the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki.

Submitted manuscripts should conform to the ICMJE Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals, and all papers reporting animal and/or human studies must state in the methods section that the relevant Ethics Committee or Institutional Review Board provided (or waived) approval. Please ensure that you have provided the full name and institution of the review committee, in addition to the approval number.

For research articles, authors are also required to state in the methods section whether participants provided informed consent and whether the consent was written or verbal.

Information on informed consent to report individual cases or case series should be included in the manuscript text. A statement is required regarding whether written informed consent for patient information and images to be published was provided by the patient(s) or a legally authorized representative.
Please also refer to the ICMJE Recommendations for the Protection of Research Participants.

All research involving animals submitted for publication must be approved by an ethics committee with oversight of the facility in which the studies were conducted. The journal has adopted the Consensus Author Guidelines on Animal Ethics and Welfare for Veterinary Journals published by the International Association of Veterinary Editors.

4.7 Clinical trials

Molecular Pain conforms to the ICMJE requirement that clinical trials are registered in a WHO-approved public trials registry at or before the time of first patient enrolment as a condition of consideration for publication. The trial registry name and URL, and registration number must be included at the end of the abstract.

4.8 Reporting guidelines

The relevant EQUATOR Network reporting guidelines should be followed depending on the type of study. For example, all randomized controlled trials submitted for publication should include a completed Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) flow chart as a cited figure, and a completed CONSORT checklist as a supplementary file.

Other resources can be found at NLM’s Research Reporting Guidelines and Initiatives.

5. Publishing policies

5.1 Publication ethics

SAGE is committed to upholding the integrity of the academic record. We encourage authors to refer to the Committee on Publication Ethics’ International Standards for Authors and view the Publication Ethics page on the SAGE Author Gateway.

5.1.1 Plagiarism

Molecular Pain and SAGE take issues of copyright infringement, plagiarism or other breaches of best practice in publication very seriously. We seek to protect the rights of our authors and we always investigate claims of plagiarism or misuse of articles published in the journal. Equally, we seek to protect the reputation of the journal against malpractice. Submitted articles may be checked using duplication-checking software. Where an article is found to have plagiarised other work or included third-party copyright material without permission or with insufficient acknowledgement, or where authorship of the article is contested, we reserve the right to take action including, but not limited to: publishing an erratum or corrigendum (correction); retracting the article (removing it from the journal); taking up the matter with the head of department or dean of the author’s institution and/or relevant academic bodies or societies; banning the author from publication in the journal or all SAGE journals, or appropriate legal action.

5.2 Contributor’s publishing agreement

Before publication SAGE requires the author as the rights holder to sign a Journal Contributor’s Publishing Agreement. Molecular Pain publishes manuscripts under Creative Commons licenses. The standard Molecular Pain license is Creative Commons by Attribution Non-Commercial (CC BY-NC 3.0), which allows
Alternative license arrangements are available, for example, to meet particular funder mandates, made at the author’s request.

5.3 Permissions
Authors are responsible for obtaining permission from copyright holders for reproducing any illustrations, tables, figures or lengthy quotations previously published elsewhere. For further information including guidance on fair dealing for criticism and review, please visit our Frequently Asked Questions on the SAGE Journal Author Gateway.

6. Preparing your manuscript

6.1 Word processing formats
Preferred formats for the text and tables of your manuscript are Word DOC, RTF, XLS. LaTeX files are also accepted. The text should be double-spaced throughout and with a minimum of 3cm for left and right hand margins and 5cm at head and foot. Text should be standard 10 or 12 point. Word and (La)Tex templates are available on the Manuscript Submission Guidelines page of our Author Gateway.

6.2 Artwork, figures and other graphics
For guidance on the preparation of illustrations, pictures and graphs in electronic format, please visit SAGE’s Manuscript Submission Guidelines.

Figures supplied in color will appear in color online.

6.3 Supplementary material
This journal is able to host additional materials online (e.g. datasets, podcasts, videos, images etc) alongside the full-text of the article. These will be subjected to peer-review alongside the article. For more information please refer to our guidelines on submitting supplementary files, which can be found within our Manuscript Submission Guidelines page.

6.4 Journal layout

Molecular Pain conforms to the SAGE house style. Click here to review guidelines on SAGE House Style.

6.5 Reference style
References are listed in numerical order, and in the same order in which they are cited in text. All authors should be included in the reference, surname first, followed by first initial. Abbreviate journal titles using the NLM catalog style. The reference list appears at the end of the paper and should only include those references cited in the text.
For example:


Click here to download the Endnote output style for Molecular Pain.

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6.6 English language editing services
Authors seeking assistance with English language editing, translation, or figure and manuscript formatting to fit the journal’s specifications should consider using SAGE Language Services. Visit SAGE Language Services on our Journal Author Gateway for further information.

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7. Submitting your manuscript

7.1 How to submit your manuscript
Molecular Pain is hosted on SAGE Track, a web based online submission and peer review system powered by ScholarOne™ Manuscripts. Visit https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/molecularpain to login and submit your article online.

IMPORTANT: Please check whether you already have an account in the system before trying to create a new one. If you have reviewed or authored for the journal in the past year it is likely that you will have had an account created. For further guidance on submitting your manuscript online please visit ScholarOne Online Help.

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7.2 Title, keywords and abstracts
Please supply a title, short title, an abstract and keywords to accompany your article. The title, keywords and abstract are key to ensuring readers find your article online through online search engines such as Google. Please refer to the information and guidance on how best to title your article, write your abstract and select your keywords by visiting the SAGE Journal Author Gateway for guidelines on How to Help Readers Find Your Article Online.

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7.3 Corresponding author contact details
Provide full contact details for the corresponding author including email, mailing address and telephone numbers. Academic affiliations are required for all co-authors. These details should be presented separately to the main text of the article to facilitate anonymous peer review.

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8. On acceptance and publication
If your paper is accepted for publication after peer review, you will first be asked to complete the contributor’s publishing agreement. Once your manuscript files have been check for SAGE Production, the corresponding author will be asked to pay the Article Processing Charge (APC) via a payment link. Once the APC has been processed, your article will be prepared for publication. The accepted version of your article will be published online within 48 hours. The final, typeset version of your article will be published within 3 weeks. Please note that no production work will occur on your paper until the APC has been received.
8.1 SAGE Production
Your SAGE Production Editor will keep you informed as to your article’s progress throughout the production process. Proofs will be sent by PDF to the corresponding author and should be returned promptly.

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8.3 How to cite Molecular Pain Articles
Molecular Pain publishes continuously by volume, and each article receives an e-location ID (see bold text below) that must be included in the citation:
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Functional and structural characterization of axonal opioid receptors as targets for analgesia
doi:10.1177/1744806916628734

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9. Further Information
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