

Abstract style and formatting guidance

WORD LIMIT: 450.

DO NOT INCLUDE: Charts, diagrams, figures, references, or tables.

Abbreviations and acronyms. Define these the first time used in the text (do not use in the title). In general, follow the full term with the abbreviation/acronym in parentheses—e.g., polymerase chain reaction (PCR). It is not necessary to define commonly used chemicals (DNA, cDNA, mRNA, cAMP, ATP, etc.). Please use kD, not kDa to abbreviate kilodalton.

Author affiliations. Use superscript numbers and not symbols to indicate affiliations. For example:

SREBPs: activators of the complete program of cholesterol and fatty acid synthesis in the liver

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Capitalization in titles. Capitalize the initial letter of the first word and proper nouns. Do not capitalize Latin species names, lowercase Greek letters, or lowercase names of genes.

Charge/chemical formulas/isotopes. Use superscript for a single charge, multiple charge, or isotope number (e.g., Na⁺, Ca²⁺, ¹²⁵I). Use subscripts as necessary (e.g., H₂O, Na₂SO₄, G₀).

Fractions. Hyphenate fractions that are spelled out (e.g., two-thirds of those present).

Genetic nomenclature. Italicize full names and abbreviations of genes and oncogenes, except where standard usage for the organism differs. Follow standard usage for capitalization. For protein products of genes, follow standard usage (generally, do not italicize).

Genus, species, etc. In expressing taxa, use italics from genus on down (*Escherichia coli*, *Drosophila melanogaster*, etc.). Use roman type for higher taxa, and capitalize from genus on up. After spelling out the genus and species once, use a single capital letter for the genus (*E. coli*, *D. melanogaster*). The common name for a category of organism (streptococcus, mycobacterium, chordate, etc.) is spelled without a capital letter or italics. For common organisms, use the Anglicized form unless you need to specify the Latinized, capitalized taxon (*Streptococcus*, *Mycobacterium*, Chordata).

Greek letters. Use symbols to represent Greek letters (e.g., α , β , γ , δ ; μ l for microliter; μ m for millimicron).

Hyphenation. If in doubt whether a term should be hyphenated or solid, consult a dictionary. Follow a dictionary or the common usage in your field for prefixes and suffixes that are sometimes hyphenated, sometimes written solid—e.g., twofold (but 10-fold), preselected, xyz-sensitive, proinsulin, nonlymphoid, subunit, vitamin-like. Hyphenate to avoid misreading: re-creation, re-form, trans-activation, human-mouse hybrid. Do not hyphenate chemical terms (e.g., sodium chloride solution). Do not hyphenate modifiers unless required for clarity or compliance with standard usage (a 7-percent solution, a well-blended mixture).

Latin phrases. Do not italicize *in vivo*, *in vitro*, *in situ*, *in utero*. Use regular type for other common Latin terms (per annum, per se, percent, a priori, ipso facto, ergo, etc.).

Mathematical symbols. Insert spaces as shown: $2 + 2 = 4$; 7 ± 2 ; $p < 0.05$; < 5 ; > 6 . Leave a space between numbers and units (2 mg NaCl).

Be careful to distinguish 1 (one) from l (el), and 0 (zero) from O (oh). Be sure that superscripts and subscripts are large enough to be legible. Do not use an apostrophe for the prime symbol (e.g., 5')

Numbered phrases. For enumeration in running text, use Arabic numbers in closed parentheses—e.g., This guide includes (1) words, (2) numbers, and (3) symbols.

Numbers. Write a number as a word if it starts a sentence (or rewrite the sentence). Spell out numbers under 10. Use numerals for all numbers of two or more digits and for one-digit numbers designating units of money, time, or measurement. In large numbers use commas to separate thousands (e.g., 4,321). For numbers less than zero, place a zero before the decimal point (e.g., 0.05).

Paragraphs. Use a hard return to indicate a new paragraph. Do not use the space bar to indent a paragraph.

Percent. Use the percent symbol (e.g., 80%).

Sections. Do not indicate sections within your abstract such as Background, Aims, Goals, Introduction, Discussion, Methods, or Conclusion.

Series comma. Place a comma before the conjunction (and, or) in a series of three or more items (The flag is red, white, and blue).

Symbols linked to technical terms. Usage varies in linking symbols, numbers, and letters to technical terms. A hyphen is usually used with symbols or numbers: β -thalassemia, 5 α -pregnane, x-ray, interleukin-2, interferon- α , INF- α , IL-2, HIV-1, HTLV-I; but not with SV40, class I MHC genes, chromosome 2. Do not use a hyphen with capital letters: T cell, T cell receptor, B lymphocyte, G protein, N terminus; but hyphenate chemical names as shown in *Chemical Abstracts* (1 H-imidazole-4-ethanamine). Follow standard usage in your field.

Temperature. Use the $^{\circ}$ symbol with C and F (32 $^{\circ}$ F) but not with K. In expressing range, use 45 to 65 $^{\circ}$ F, NOT 45 $^{\circ}$ to 65 $^{\circ}$ F.

Title. Present in sentence case, capitalizing only the first word, proper nouns, and terms normally capitalized.