



Future Medicinal Chemistry Author Guidelines

This document outlines how to prepare articles for submission. We recommend you read these guidelines in full before submitting your article or making an article proposal.

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Journal aims & scope

Medicinal chemistry has evolved rapidly into a highly interdisciplinary field, enriched by the collaborative efforts of experts from a wide spectrum of specialist areas, from chemoinformaticians and physical chemists to molecular biologists and pharmacologists. *Future Medicinal Chemistry* provides a monthly point of access to commentary and debate for this ever expanding and diversifying community. The journal showcases milestones in pharmaceutical R&D and features expert analysis of emerging research from the identification of targets, through to the discovery, design, synthesis and evaluation of small molecule bioactive agents.

There has never been more pressure to produce potent and safe compounds faster and more efficiently. *Future Medicinal Chemistry* offers a forum for the rapid publication of original research and critical reviews of the latest milestones in the field. Strong emphasis is placed on ensuring that the journal stimulates awareness of issues that are anticipated to play an increasingly central role in influencing the future direction of pharmaceutical chemistry. Where relevant, contributions are also actively encouraged on areas as diverse as biotechnology, enzymology, green chemistry, genomics, immunology, materials science, neglected diseases and orphan drugs, pharmacogenomics, proteomics and toxicology.

In addition to its core content of Reviews, Perspectives and Original Research, the journal also features enlightened commentary and opinion on topical areas of debate relevant to academia and industry, as well as conference reports, interviews and more.

Principal themes include:

- Drug discovery technologies
- Design and synthesis of novel lead compounds
- Computational approaches to synthesis and modelling
- Biophysical techniques for structural characterization of relevant ligands and targets with the aim of studying molecular recognition
- Molecular biological studies to investigate new potential drug targets and improve understanding of molecular recognition
- Overviews of novel therapeutic strategies and emerging targets
- Design of synthetic drug-delivery carriers and chemical entities to aid drug targeting and delivery
- ADME/Tox investigations
- Commentary on science policy, economic and IP issues

Audience

The *Future Medicinal Chemistry* audience consists of research scientists, decision-makers and other professionals. By remaining highly responsive to emerging themes, and providing in-depth analysis of agents of medicinal interest and therapeutic approaches, the journal will act as a valuable reference, not only for medicinal chemists, but for all those interested in the advancement of pharmaceutical science. Future Science Group articles have been engineered specifically for the time-constrained professional. The structure is designed to draw the reader's attention directly to the information that they require.

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At-a-glance article formatting checklist

	Word count range	Abstract	Keywords	Future Perspective & Summary	Reference limit	Figures & Tables permitted	Supporting cover letter required
Editorial	1000–1500	✗	✓	✗	20	✗	✗
Commentary	1500–3000	✗	✓	✗	20	✗	✗
Opinion	1000–1500	✗	✓	✗	20	✗	✗
Letter to the Editor	1500	✗	✗	✗	20	✗	✗
Conference Report	1000–3000	✓	✗	✗	20	✗	✗
Special Report	3000–5000	✓	✓	✓	50	✓	✗
Review	4000–8000	✓	✓	✓	150	✓	✗
Perspective	4000–8000	✓	✓	✓	150	✓	✗
Patent Review	4000–8000	✓	✓	✓	150	✓	✗
Primary Research	5000–7000	✓	✓	✓	150	✓	✓
Short communication	3000–5000	✓	✓	✓	50	✓	✓
Preliminary Communication	3000–5000	✓	✓	✓	50	✓	✓
Methodology	3000–5000	✓	✓	✓	50	✓	✓

Article types

Future Medicinal Chemistry publishes a range of article types, descriptions of which are outlined below. Authors are encouraged to consult the '**At-a-glance article formatting checklist**' for details on word counts and other formatting requirements.

Editorials

Editorials are short articles that provide an insight into, or snapshot of issues of topical importance to the journal's target audience or researchers and other professionals. The intention is that the article should offer an expert perspective on a topic of recent interest. More detailed discussions can take the form of **Commentary** articles.

Word limit: 1000–1500 words (excluding references).

Commentaries

Commentaries are short articles that are similar to Editorials, yet provide a more detailed discussion of a topic.

Word limit: 1500–3000 words (excluding references).

Opinions

Opinion articles should typically be informed, agenda-setting and authoritative. If addressing a problem, they should also present coherent argued solutions. They can address issues relating to scientific research, or peripheral areas of debate affecting industry and academia of concern to the journal's scope.

Word limit: 1000–1500 words (excluding references).

For Editorials, Commentaries and Opinions:

Required sections: (for a more detailed description of these sections see [Article sections](#))

- Title
- Author(s) names & affiliations
- Photo (headshot) of corresponding author (and up to one co-author) if desired
- Keywords
- Body of article
- References: limit of 20 references
- Financial disclosure/Acknowledgements
- **Please note:** No figures, tables or boxes are permitted for these article types

Letters to the Editor

Readers may submit letters to the Editor, commenting on an article published in the journal. Where appropriate, letters to the Editor will be sent to the author of the original article, who will have 28 days to provide a response. Acceptance of letters to the Editor for publication is at the discretion of the Editor and Editorial Board.

Word limit: 1500 words maximum (excluding references).

Conference Report

Conference reports aim to summarize the most important research presented at a recent relevant meeting or event. It is not usually feasible to attempt comprehensive coverage of the conference; authors should therefore focus on those presentations that are most topical, interesting or thought-provoking. Reports should be submitted within **6 weeks** of the end of the conference.

Word limit: 1000–3000 words (excluding references).

Required sections: (for a more detailed description of these sections see [Article sections](#))

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- Title
- Author(s) names & affiliations
- Abstract
- Body of article
- References: limit of 20 references
- Financial disclosure/Acknowledgements
- **Please note:** No figures, tables or boxes are permitted in conference reports.

Special Reports

Special reports are short review-style articles that highlight a particular niche area, be it a specific emerging field, novel hypotheses or method. Articles are categorized as Special Reports at the discretion of the Editorial team.

Word limit: 3000–5000 words (excluding abstract, executive summary and references).

Required sections:

- Title
- Author(s) names & affiliations
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Body of article
- Future perspective
- Executive summary
- References: limit of 50 references
- Reference annotations
- Financial disclosure/Acknowledgements
- There is a combined limit of 8 figures and tables. Any additional tables and figures must be submitted as supplementary information, which will be available online only.

Reviews

Reviews aim to highlight recent significant advances in research, ongoing challenges and unmet needs; authors should be concise and critical in their appraisal of the subject matter, and strive for clarity. The focus should be on key, defining developments rather than providing a comprehensive literature survey. Reviews should provide balanced coverage of the field and not focus predominantly on the author's own research. Authors are encouraged to include their own perspective on current trends and future directions.

Word limit: 4000–8000 words (excluding abstract, keywords, executive summary and references).

Required sections:

- Title
- Author(s) names & affiliations
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Body of article
- Future perspective
- Executive summary
- References: limit of 150 references
- Reference annotations
- Financial disclosure/Acknowledgements
- There is a combined limit of 15 figures and tables. Any additional tables and figures must be submitted as supplementary information, which will be available online only.

Perspectives

Perspectives have the same basic structure and length as review articles; however, they should be more speculative and forward-looking, even visionary. They offer the author the opportunity to present criticism, address controversy or provide a personal angle on a significant issue. Authors of perspectives are encouraged to be opinionated, with all positions concisely and clearly argued and referenced. Referees will be briefed to review these articles for quality and relevance of argument only. They will not necessarily be expected to agree with the author's position.

Word limit: 4000–8000 words (excluding abstract, keywords, executive summary and references).

Required sections:

- Title
- Author(s) names & affiliations
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Body of article
- Future perspective
- Executive summary
- References: limit of 150 references
- Reference annotations
- Financial disclosure/Acknowledgements
- There is a combined limit of 15 figures and tables. Any additional tables and figures must be submitted as supplementary information, which will be available online only.

Patent Reviews

Patent Reviews should provide an objective and concise appraisal of a selection of patents in a chosen area. Discussions should be placed within the context of the relevant wider R&D landscape. Authors are expected to offer a commentary on the significance, potential and essential content of the patents under discussion. The patents reviewed should be from a variety of companies/assignees, and should be timely (i.e. ideally granted within the past 1–4 years). The majority of the references cited in the article should be taken from the patent literature. Patent Reviews should provide balanced coverage of the field and not focus predominantly on the author's own research. Where the controversial or novel ideas are presented, opposing viewpoints should be briefly mentioned and appraised. Authors are encouraged to include their own perspective on current trends and future directions.

Word limit: 4000–8000 words (excluding abstract, keywords, executive summary and references).

Required sections:

- Title
- Author(s) names & affiliations
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Body of article
- Future perspective
- Executive summary
- References: limit of 150 references
- Reference annotations
- Financial disclosure/Acknowledgements
- There is a combined limit of 15 figures and tables. Any additional tables and figures must be submitted as supplementary information, which will be available online only.

Original Research Articles

Authors of original research **must** provide a supporting cover letter on submission briefly detailing:

- Relevance to the journal's audience;
- Where the novelty in the study lies;
- How the study advances understanding of the field;
- Direct and potential implications of the findings.

NB. All Future Medicinal Chemistry will consider studies presenting positive, negative or inconclusive data.

Experimental details:

Only where a novel experimental procedure has been employed full details must be provided, such that a skilled scientist would be able to reproduce the results presented. Details of routine or previously reported experimental procedures should be provided via references only.

Experimental procedures running to more than two A4 document pages should be placed in a supplementary information file.

Data deposition: where data have been deposited in a public repository, authors should state at the end of the abstract the data set name, repository name and accession number.

Word limit: Dependent on article type. See below for more details.

Figure/table limit: there is a combined limit of 8 figures and tables. Any additional tables and figures must be submitted as supplementary information, which will be available online only.

Required sections: (for a more detailed description of these sections see [Article sections](#)):

- Title
- Author(s) names & affiliations
- Structured abstract
- Graphical abstract (optional)
- Keywords
- Introduction
 - The rationale and objectives of the research should be discussed here
 - Should only cite directly pertinent references
 - Should not include data of conclusions from the work being reported
- Materials & methods/Experimental
 - General reaction conditions should be given only once
 - A general introductory section should include general procedures, standard techniques, and instruments employed (e.g., determination of purity, chromatography, NMR spectra, mass spectra, including names of equipment) in the synthesis and characterization of compounds described
 - Statistical methods and measures should be defined: There is no need to describe very common tests, but more complex techniques should be described in full
 - Where an organization was paid or otherwise contracted to help conduct the research (e.g., data collection and management), this should be detailed
 - Should include information indicating that the research was approved or exempted from the need for review by the responsible review committee (institutional or national). Where no formal ethics committee is available, a statement indicating that the research was conducted according to the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki should be included
- Results & Discussion
 - You may include synthetic schemes and tables of biological data in this section

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- Statistical test results should be included (e.g., *P* values)
- Error bars (e.g., s.d. or s.e.m. or c.i.) should be defined
- The statistical significance of the results should be discussed, where applicable
- Authors should avoid claiming priority or alluding to work that has not been completed
- Conclusions
- Future perspective
- Summary Points
- References
- Reference annotations
- Financial disclosure/Acknowledgements
- Ethical conduct of research

Four types of research article are accepted:

1. *Primary research articles*

Research articles should present novel work that makes a significant impact within the scope of the journal, and which represents an important advancement in knowledge or understanding. Routine or incremental work is not suitable for full research papers. Research should be reported succinctly; the inclusion of detailed background discussion is to be avoided. Supporting data or further experimental details can be submitted as Supplementary Information. Adequate mention of safety issues/precautions should be included. If requested by the Editor or reviewers, authors should be able to provide additional relevant original data underpinning their research.

Word limit: 5000–8000 words (excluding abstract, keywords, summary points and references).

Required sections: See above.

2. *Short communication*

Short communication articles are short, peer-reviewed articles that build on a previously published study, document partial research results from an ongoing study, or discuss results from studies limited in scope.

Word limit: 3000–5000 words (excluding abstract, keywords, summary points and references).

Required sections: See above.

3. *Preliminary communication*

Preliminary communication articles are intended for short reports of studies that present promising improvements or developments on existing areas of research. The significance and potential implications of the developments must be explicit.

Word limit: 3000–5000 words (excluding abstract, keywords, summary points and references).

Required sections: See above.

4. *Methodology*

Methodology articles should provide an overview of a new experimental or computational method, test or procedure. The method described may be either completely novel, or may offer a demonstrable improvement on an existing method. The significance and potential implications of the developments must be explicit.

Word limit: 3000–5000 words (excluding abstract, keywords, summary points and references).

Required sections: See above. Article sections

The following list provides notes on the key article sections; authors should consult the 'at-a-glance formatting checklist' to determine which sections are required for their submission.

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Title

Concisely and clearly conveys the scope/novelty of the article; not more than 120 characters.

Author(s) names & affiliations

Including full name, postal address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address. Note: we can only list one corresponding author.

Guidance on author sequence:

Author sequence is at the authors' discretion; however, Future Science Group journals suggest following the recommendations in GPP3 Appendix Table 2 (<http://www.ismpp.org/gpp3>), whereby authors are listed either in order of the level of their contribution, or alphabetically. The corresponding author should always be indicated.

Guidance on a change of affiliation during writing:

Where an author has changed their affiliation prior to the publication of an article, the affiliation should reflect where the major part of the work was completed. Current affiliation and contact information should be listed in an acknowledgement.

Abstract

Not more than 120 words; no references should be cited in the abstract. The abstract should highlight the importance of the field under discussion within the journal's scope, and clearly define the parameters of the article.

Structured abstract (for research articles)

Not more than 120 words, for all **research articles only**, the abstract must be structured into three sections:

- Background: Brief overview of the context, purpose and novelty of the study.
- Results/Methodology (as appropriate): A succinct summary of the experimental procedure and key findings.
- Conclusions: A summary of the main conclusions of the study and any implications for the field.

Graphical abstract (for research articles)

This is a single, concise, visual summary of the key findings of the article. Do not include this in the figure list.

Abbreviations

- In the **Abstract** all terms commonly abbreviated should be given in full with the abbreviation in parenthesis.
- In the **Main Body** of the article full terms should be given on the first use only, with abbreviations used thereafter.
- Please note: we do not require a separate list of abbreviations used in the manuscript.

Keywords

Required for all articles except Letters to the Editor and Conference Reports; a selection of 5-10 words that encapsulate the scope of the article.

Body of the article

The article content should be arranged under relevant headings and subheadings to assist the reader.

Future perspective

A speculative viewpoint on how the field will evolve in 5–10 years' time.

Executive summary (for reviews and review style articles)

Bulleted summary points that illustrate the main conclusions made throughout the article. Where appropriate, relevant headings that correspond to those in the manuscript should be inserted.

Example:

Executive summary
<p>Off-target promiscuity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drugs often hit several, often unrelated, protein targets. ▪ Pharmacological efficacy is often driven by interaction of drugs with multiple rather than single targets. ▪ Clinically relevant adverse effects of drugs can often be explained by off-target interactions. <p>In-vitro off-target profiling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>In vitro</i> approaches to test for interaction with off-targets are an important tools in pharmaceutical research. ▪ Industrial off-target screening strategies often apply cascaded sets of assays, accounting for promiscuity and relevance of off-targets. <p>In-silico approaches to off-target profiling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diverse ligand-based (employing ligand data) and structure-based (using protein structures) approaches have been developed to analyse and predict off-target interactions. ▪ Data-driven approaches are versatile and capitalize from large collections of quality structure–activity relationship data, which are growing quickly with the public release of data from sharing initiatives. ▪ Most critical for successful industrial applications is the neatless alignment of <i>in silico</i> profiling to <i>in vitro</i> assays and capabilities. ▪ <i>In-silico</i> off-target profiling supports drug safety profiling along the pharmaceutical value chain and has particular value in multidimensional compound optimization in drug discovery.

Summary Points (for research articles)

8–10 bullet point sentences highlighting the key points of the article.

Financial disclosure/Acknowledgements

Disclosing any financial and/or material support that was received for the research or the creation of the work. Also disclosing any relationships any authors have (personal, academic or financial relationships that could influence their actions) or financial involvement with an organization or entity with a financial interest in or financial conflict with the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript. If writing assistance has been used in the creation of the manuscript, this should also be stated and any sources of funding for such assistance clearly identified.

Ethical conduct of research

For studies involving data relating to human or animal experimental investigations, authors should obtain appropriate institutional review board approval and state this within the article (for those investigators who do not have formal ethics review committees, the principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki should be followed). In addition, for investigations involving human subjects, authors should obtain informed consent from the participants involved and include an explanation of how this was obtained in the manuscript.

References

Key points

- Authors should focus on recent papers and papers older than 5 years should not be included except for an over-riding purpose.
- Primary literature references, and any patents or websites, should be numerically listed in the reference section in the order that they occur in the text (including any references that only appear in figures/tables/boxes).

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- Information from manuscripts submitted but not accepted should be cited in the text as “unpublished observations” with written permission from the source.
- Avoid citing a “personal communication” unless it provides essential information not available from a public source, in which case the name of the person and date of communication should be cited in the text, with written permission from the source.
- References should be denoted numerically and in sequence in the text, using Arabic numerals placed in square brackets, i.e., [12].
- Reference annotations: 6–8 references should be highlighted that are of particular significance to the subject under review as “* of interest” or “** of considerable interest”, along with a brief (1–2 line) synopsis.
- Instructions for authors and links to our Future Science Group Reference Manager and EndNote styles can be found on our website at: <http://www.future-science.com/page/authors.jsp#References>

Format

- Author’s names should appear **without** full stops in their initials
- List up to six authors’ names. If there are more than six authors, then quote the first three only followed by *et al.*
- A full stop follows authors’ names
- Article title given in full
- Journal name should be in italics and abbreviated to standard format
- Volume number, with the issue number in brackets (if available), followed by comma, not bold
- Page number range separated by a hyphen with no spaces, followed by the year in brackets, and then a full stop

Examples

Journal example:

Kusakabe K, Ide N, Daigo Y *et al.* A unique hinge binder of extremely selective aminopyridine-based Mps1 (TTK) kinase inhibitors with cellular activity. *Bioorg. Med.Chem.* 23(9), 2247–2260 (2015).

Book example:

De Groat WC, Booth AM, Yoshimura N. Neurophysiology of micturition and its modification in animal models of human disease. In: *The Autonomic Nervous System (Volume 6)*. Andrews WR (Ed.), Harwood Academic Publishers, London, UK, 227–289 (1993).

Meeting abstract example:

Smith AB, Jones CD. Recent progress in the pharmacotherapy of diseases of the lower urinary tract. Presented at: *13th International Symposium on Medicinal Chemistry*. Atlanta, GA, USA, 28 November–2 December 1994.

Patent example:

Merck Frosst Canada, Inc. WO9714691 (1997).

(Use the following formats for patent numbers issued by the World, US and European patent offices, respectively: WO1234567, US1234567, EP-123456-A).

Website example (organization homepage):

US Food and Drug Association.

www.fda.gov

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Website example (specific webpage/document):

American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2015.

www.cancer.org/research/cancerfactsstatistics/cancerfactsfigures2015/index

Milenkovic M, Russo CA, Elixhauser A. Hospital stays for prostate cancer, 2004. HCUP Statistical Brief #30. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, MD, USA (2007).

www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb30.pdf

Symposia/meetings/conferences:

Smith AB, Jones CD. Recent progress in the pharmacotherapy of diseases of the lower urinary tract. *Proceedings of the 13th International Symposium on Medicinal Chemistry*. Atlanta, GA, USA, 2–6 October 2014.

Reference annotations

Papers or of particular interest should be identified using one or two asterisk symbols:

- * = of interest
- ** = of considerable interest

Each of the chosen references should be annotated with a brief sentence explaining why the reference is considered to be of interest/particular interest.

Reference Manager style

1. Download the Future Science Group Reference Manager Style [here](#).
2. Once the file is downloaded to your desktop, copy the file to the appropriate folder in your program directory (usually located in C:\Program Files\Reference Manager\Styles).

EndNote style

Follow the instructions that are appropriate for your version of EndNote as listed below:

Installing the style into EndNote X2 and later:

1. Download the Future Science Group EndNote style for references [here](#) (compatible with Mac EndNote 9).
2. In Windows, or using your Macintosh Finder, browse to the location where you downloaded the style. Double-click on the style file to open it. It should open in the EndNote program.
3. In EndNote, go to the "File Menu" and choose "Save as."
4. Remove the word "copy" from the end of your style's name, and then click the Save button.
5. Click on the "File Menu" and choose "Close Style."

Installing the style into EndNote 8, 9, X, or X1:

1. Download the Future Science Group EndNote style for references [here](#) (compatible with Mac EndNote 9).
2. Using Windows, or using your Macintosh Finder, browse to the location where you downloaded the style. Right-click on the style file and select Copy.
3. Browse to your Endnote Styles folder. This will typically be in following location: Windows: C:\Program Files\EndNote #\Styles (Where # is the version number for EndNote)Mac OS:

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Applications\EndNote #\Styles (Where # is the version number for EndNote)Note: If you modify the EndNote preferences, you can set this to another location. To check this setting, go to the "Edit" menu or EndNote menu on the Mac and select "Preferences." Click on the Folder Locations option to see the custom Style folder location and modify as needed. Keep in mind that the default location for the Styles folder may cause problems when trying to save or edit in Windows Vista and 7 with versions prior to EndNote X2. Please see this article for more information on this issue.

4. Right-click in this folder and choose Paste. Your style should now be installed in the EndNote program.

Figures, tables & boxes

Figures, tables and boxes are encouraged wherever relevant (see above section on [Article types](#) for details on which articles can include figures/tables/boxes). The author should include illustrations to condense and illustrate the information they wish to convey.

- *Future Medicinal Chemistry* has combined limits of figures/ tables/boxes – please see the article types above for more details.
- If any of the figures or tables used in the manuscript require permission from the original publisher, it is the author's responsibility to obtain this. More details on obtaining permissions can be found in the **copyright section** below.
 - If a figure/table/box has been reproduced please label as 'Reproduced with permission from [ref.]'.
 - If a figure/table/box has been adapted from the original, please label as 'Adapted with permission from [ref.]'.
- All figures, tables and boxes should be submitted in an **editable format**. Ideally these should be sent as Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel or Adobe Illustrator files. If you are uncertain whether the format of your files is appropriate, please check with the Commissioning Editor.
- It is unnecessary to incorporate copies into the body of the manuscript; however, they should be included at the end of the document where possible.
- All figures/tables/boxes should be clearly referred to in the text (including supplementary information.)

Figure legends and table/box titles

- Figures, tables and boxes should be numbered consecutively according to the order in which they have been first cited in the text.
- If a figure/table consists of more than one part (i.e. 1A, 1B), in addition to a general figure label, each part must have its own description.
 - Published example:
- All abbreviations used within figures/tables/boxes should be defined in the legend/title.
- Legends/tables should describe the figure/table/box sufficiently such that it may be understood independently from the main text. Word limit (300)

Supplementary information

Figure, tables and boxes larger than one A4 page will be included as online-only supplementary information. At the Editor's discretion data or experimental details can also be included.

Color figure charge

We have no page charges. However, Future Science Group has a charge for the printing of color figures (i.e. each color figures) in the print issue of the journal. This charge does not apply to the online (including PDF) version of articles, where all figures appear in color at no charge.

Chemical structures

Where possible, please submit structures as ChemDraw files (cdx). Please bear in mind that chemical structures can be redrawn in-house. Please use the following conventions:

- Always indicate stereochemistry where necessary – use the wedge and hash bond convention for chiral centers and mark cis/trans bonds as such.
- Draw small peptides (up to five amino acids) in full; use amino acid abbreviations (Gly, Val, Leu, etc.) for larger peptides.
- Refer to each structure with a number in the text.

Electronic files

Please submit any other illustrations/schemes in an editable electronic format such as Illustrator, PowerPoint, Excel or as postscripted/encapsulated postscripted (.ps/.eps) files.

Photos should be provided at a resolution of 600 dpi, or as high as possible.

Copyright

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