

Molecular BioSystems

Guidelines for Authors†

Also see: www.rsc.org/authorguidelines

CONTENTS

1.0 General policy

2.0 Article types

- 2.1 Communications
- 2.2 Full Papers
- 2.3 Methods
- 2.4 Reviews
- 2.5 Highlights
- 2.6 Opinions
- 2.7 Tutorial Reviews

3.0 Submission

- 3.1 Initial submission
- 3.2 Submission of revised articles and material for proof preparation

4.0 Administration

- 4.1 Editorial policy
- 4.2 Licence to Publish
- 4.3 Reprints

1.0 General policy

Molecular BioSystems is a monthly journal publishing reviews and important original research in the form of communications, methods and papers covering the interface between chemistry and biology. It publishes high quality chemical biology research with a particular focus at the interface between chemistry and the -omic sciences and systems biology.

Main research areas include:

- **Chemical biology** approaches including small molecule probes of biological structure and activity, chemical genetics, enzymology, directed evolution, protein engineering, display technologies, combinatorial chemistry, and diversity-oriented synthesis.
- **Systems biology** approaches including simulation and modelling, data manipulation, integration and analysis techniques, and high-throughput technologies.
- **Proteomics and genomics** approaches including structural and functional proteomics and genomics, spectroscopic and

chromatographic techniques, chip-based technologies, and array technologies.

- **Cellular processes** including signalling pathways and mechanisms of signal transduction, molecular recognition and interactions, transport and secretion, cell-cycling and division, and cell death.
- **Metabolism** including bioenergetics and energy transfer, endogenous and exogenous metabolic processes, micro- and macrometabolism, metabolic control, and metabonomics.

Further notes on RSC policy on the initial assessment of submissions, and details of criteria for publication, can be found on ReSource.‡

2.0 Article types

2.1 Communications

Communications in *Molecular BioSystems* contain novel scientific work of such importance and interest that rapid publication is required. Communications are concise and should not exceed four journal pages (*ca.* 2000 words) in length; they may be accompanied by Electronic Supplementary Information. Communications should be submitted using the RSC template, and should start with a brief unreferenced abstract and not contain any section headings. The number of references should be limited to *ca.* 15. A short justification statement must be included with the submission outlining why the work merits rapid publication.

2.2 Full Papers

Full Papers in *Molecular BioSystems* present original high quality primary research that has not been previously published. However, work that has appeared in print in a short form such as a Communication is normally acceptable. Please note that the RSC strongly discourages the fragmentation of a substantial body of work into a number of short publications. Papers start with a brief unreferenced abstract and contain an introduction, results and discussion, experimental, and notes and references sections.

2.3 Methods

Methods in *Molecular BioSystems* are primary research articles reporting useful new methodology relevant to the scope of the journal. The advantages of the reported work must be clearly presented, for example by comparison with established techniques. Methods should be no more than 3000 words in length, start with a brief unreferenced abstract and contain an introduction, results and discussion, experimental, and notes and references sections.

† For more detailed information on this topic, including guidelines for article layout, preparation of illustrations, presentation of experimental data, and supplementary information deposition, as well as links to useful websites, templates and other software resources, and authoring tools, see: <http://www.rsc.org/authorguidelines>.

‡ See <http://www.rsc.org/resource>.

2.4 Reviews

Reviews in *Molecular BioSystems* are critical reviews of a topical and significant area of research. They are typically up to 6000 words in length and include a short biography of the author(s). Reviews are normally invited by the *Molecular BioSystems* Editorial Board. However, suggestions from authors are welcome and enquiries regarding the submission of these articles should be directed to the Editor.

2.5 Highlights

Highlights in *Molecular BioSystems* are short updates of a developing area of research. They are typically up to 3000 words in length and include a short biography of the author(s). Highlights are normally invited by the *Molecular BioSystems* Editorial Board. However, suggestions from authors are welcome and enquiries regarding the submission of these articles should be directed to the Editor.

2.6 Opinions

Opinions in *Molecular BioSystems* are typically 2000 words in length and provide a personal, often speculative, viewpoint or hypothesis on a topic of current interest to the scientific community. Provided that they are not defamatory to the work of others they can be controversial and stimulate counter-opinion. They can include a short biography of the author(s). Opinions are normally invited by the *Molecular BioSystems* Editorial Board. However, suggestions from authors are welcome and enquiries regarding the submission of these articles should be directed to the Editor.

2.7 Tutorial Reviews

Tutorial Reviews in *Molecular BioSystems* review techniques or methodology. They are reference guides or “how to...” articles targeted at readers who want to use the particular technique described but have little or no experience of it. They are typically 6000 words in length and include a short biography of the author(s).

3.0 Submission

3.1 Initial submission

Articles should be submitted using the RSC file upload service, ReSource.‡

On submitting their manuscripts, authors are encouraged to supply the names and addresses of 2–3 potential referees.

Rapid publication is aided by careful preparation of text and illustrations. Particular attention is drawn to the use of (i) SI units and associated conventions, (ii) IUPAC nomenclature for compounds and (iii) standard methods of literature citation. Publication of colour images is free where it is deemed scientifically justified.

The RSC ReSource service allows any number of files to be uploaded. All files relating to a single manuscript should be uploaded simultaneously during one transaction. Files uploaded separately will result in more than one manuscript number being assigned and may subsequently be lost.

All authors submitting work for publication are required to agree a Licence to Publish. Authors submitting online will be asked to agree a Licence to Publish as part of the process. Alternatively, a downloadable PDF version is available,‡ which can be completed and forwarded to the Editorial Office.

After submission your file will be acknowledged by the Editorial Office as soon as possible. Authors should contact the Editorial Office if they have not received an acknowledgement within four

working days. Authors should not forward more than one version of their manuscript or submit the manuscript by post or e-mail to avoid errors in manuscript handling by the Editorial Office.

3.2 Submission of revised articles and material for proof preparation

Revised manuscripts should be sent to the Editorial Office by file upload via ReSource.‡

Please check the manuscript carefully for consistency, particularly in the representation of chemical formulae, compound names and words with alternative spellings.

Successful use of your electronic files should speed up the production process and avoid errors being introduced. Authors should ensure that files submitted at this stage contain the final version of their manuscript. Proof corrections should only correct errors from the Production process and should not be used to make general changes to the text.

We will try to use the supplied data in our production process, but mathematical equations and tables in particular may be re-keyed by the typesetter. It is imperative that authors check their proofs (including any tabulated data and figures) very carefully. Papers are published as Advance Articles on the web as soon as possible after the return of proof corrections. Late corrections cannot be incorporated after publication of the Advance Article.

4.0 Administration

Receipt of a paper will be acknowledged, and the paper will be given a reference number which authors are asked to quote on all their subsequent correspondence. If no such acknowledgement has been received after four working days, authors should check with the Editorial Office as to whether the paper or the acknowledgement has gone astray.

4.1 Editorial policy

All manuscripts will be processed in an efficient, fair and timely manner. RSC policy on the initial assessment of submissions, and details of criteria for publication, can be found on ReSource.‡ Papers that are accepted must not be published elsewhere except by permission of the Royal Society of Chemistry. Submission of a manuscript will be regarded as an undertaking that the same material is not being considered for publication by another journal. Conditions governing acceptance are available via ReSource.‡

4.2 Licence to Publish

The whole of the literary matter (including tables, figures, diagrams and photographs) in *Molecular BioSystems* is subject to a Licence to Publish and may not be reproduced without permission from the Royal Society of Chemistry and such other owner of the copyright as may be indicated. However, the owner may reproduce/republish portions of the Work without seeking permission, provided any reproduction is accompanied by an acknowledgement in the form:

(original citation) – Reproduced by permission of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

To republish/reproduce the whole Work, the copyright Owner must submit a written request to the RSC. The RSC will agree to any reasonable request, provided that the owner ensures that any such replication is accompanied by an acknowledgement (in the above form) of first publication of the Work by the RSC.

4.3 Reprints

A PDF reprint of each paper will be supplied free of charge.