

Neuropsychopharmacology

At the Intersection of Brain, Behavior, and Therapeutics

Guide to Authors

About the Journal	1	Submission of Manuscripts	13
Editorial Policies	2	Further Information	16
Preparation of Manuscripts	7		

ABOUT THE JOURNAL

Aims and Scope

Neuropsychopharmacology is an international scientific journal and the official publication of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP). This journal focuses upon clinical and basic science contributions that advance our understanding of the brain and behavior, especially as related to the molecular, cellular, physiological and psychological properties of agents acting within the central nervous system and the identification of the new molecular targets for the development of the next generation of drugs. While original reports are preferred, mini-reviews and perspectives are invited by the editorial office. In view of the interdisciplinary nature of the field, particular emphasis is placed on:

- studies that advance the biological bases of normal and pathological behavior
- the nature, etiology and pathophysiology of neuropsychiatric disorders
- biologically relevant aspects of the epidemiology, diagnosis and treatment of these disorders
- the basic mechanisms by which psychopharmacological agents exert their effect

Journal Details:

Editor-in-Chief

William A. Carlezon Jr., PhD
 Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience
 Harvard Medical School
 McLean Hospital
 Belmont, MA
 USA

Editorial Office

5034 Thoroughbred Lane
 Brentwood, TN 37027
 USA

E-mail: journal@acnp.org

Tel: +1 615 324 2360

Fax: +1 615 523 3233

Submission site: <http://mts-npp.nature.com/>

EDITORIAL POLICIES

Neuropsychopharmacology is committed to maintaining high standards for the integrity of the published scientific record. Authors should take note and adhere to the journal editorial policies noted below. The journal will investigate any instances of suspected scientific fraud, image manipulation, plagiarism, duplicate publication, undocumented sources of funding or conflicts of interest, and other cases that compromise research ethics or the journal's scientific integrity. Depending on the investigation, the journal may opt to publish corrections, or in serious cases of scientific misconduct, request that the authors retract their paper or impose a retraction on the paper.

FUNDING AND DISCLOSURE

The Funding and Disclosure section is mandatory. In the interests of transparency and to help readers form their own judgments of potential bias, authors must declare sources of study funding including sponsorship (e.g. university, charity, commercial organization) and sources of material (e.g. novel drugs) not available commercially.

Authors must also declare in this section whether or not there are any competing financial interests in relation to the work described. When submitting a manuscript, the author is responsible for disclosing their own relevant interests in the work.

This information must be included in their cover letter and in the Funding and Disclosure section of their manuscript. In cases where the authors declare a competing financial interest, a statement to that effect is published as part of the article. If no such conflict exists, the statement will simply read that the authors have nothing to disclose.

For the purposes of this statement, competing interests are defined as those of a financial nature that, through their potential influence on behavior or content, or from perception of such potential influences, could undermine the objectivity, integrity or perceived value of a publication. They can include any of the following:

- Funding: Research support (including salaries, equipment, supplies, reimbursement for attending symposia, and other expenses) by organizations that may gain or lose financially through this publication. The role of the funding body in the design of the study, collection and analysis of data and decision to publish should be stated.
- Employment: Recent (while engaged in the research project), present or anticipated employment by any organization that may gain or lose financially through this publication.

- Personal financial interests: Stocks or shares in companies that may gain or lose financially through publication; consultation fees or other forms of remuneration from organizations that may gain or lose financially; patents or patent applications whose value may be affected by publication.

The statement must contain an explicit and unambiguous statement describing any potential conflict of interest, or lack thereof, for any of the authors as it relates to the subject of the report. Examples include "Dr. Smith receives compensation as a consultant for XYZ Company," "Dr. Jones and Dr. Smith have financial holdings in ABC Company," or "Dr. Jones owns a patent on the diagnostic device described in this report." These statements acknowledging or denying conflicts of interest must be included in the manuscript under the heading "Funding and Disclosure." In sum, the Funding and Disclosure statement appears in the cover letter, in the manuscript submission process and before the References section in the manuscript.

Following the conflict of interest declaration in the "Funding and Disclosure," there must be a listing for each author, detailing the names of organizations, institutions, companies, and individuals, including intermediaries such as sub-contractors or conference organizers, from whom they have received compensation for professional services in any of the previous three years, or from whom they anticipate receiving such compensation in the near future, whether or not these affiliations appear to have any relevance to the topic covered in the submission. Neither the precise amount received from each entity nor the aggregate income from these sources needs to be provided. Professional services include any activities for which the individual is, has been, or will be compensated with cash, royalties, fees, stock or stock options in exchange for work performed, advice or counsel provided, or for other services related to the author's professional knowledge and skills. This would include, but not necessarily be limited to, the identification of organizations from which the author received contracts or in which he or she holds an equity stake if professional services were provided in conjunction with the transaction.

The authors are expected to disclose any other financial holdings or considerations, such as stocks, bonds or donations of supplies or equipment that a reasonable person could construe as possibly influencing the objectivity of the report. When there is uncertainty about what should be listed, it is best to disclose all holdings or affiliations to ensure that there is no question about intent to withhold information. Authors should communicate with the editorial office (journal@acnp.org) if they have questions about this policy.

Examples of declarations are:

- Funding and Disclosure

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

- Funding and Disclosure

Dr. Brown's work has been funded by the NIH. He has received compensation as a member of the scientific advisory board of Rx Pharmaceutical and owns stock in the company. He also has consulted for BioScript and received compensation. Dr. Smith and Dr. Liu declare no potential conflict of interest.

Authorship Disclosure Form

Please note: As of November 2015, Authorship Disclosure forms are no longer required.

If subsequent to publication it is learned that relevant information was not disclosed, a corrigendum describing the infraction will be published in the journal and linked to the article in PubMed. Additional actions may be taken, including restrictions placed on future publications in the journal, at the discretion of the editor and Publications Committee. For information about the financial interests of our Associate Editors, please download this [PDF](#). For information about the financial interests of our Editorial Board, please download this [PDF](#).

CLINICAL TRIALS

As defined by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), a clinical trial is any research project that prospectively assigns human subjects to intervention and comparison groups to study the cause-and-effect relationship between a medical intervention and a health outcome. A medical intervention is any intervention used to modify a health outcome and includes but is not limited to drugs, surgical procedures, devices, behavioral treatments, and process-of-care changes. A trial must have at least one prospectively assigned concurrent control or comparison group in order to trigger the requirement for registration. Nonrandomized trials are not exempt from the registration requirement if they meet the above criteria.

When reporting experiments on human subjects, it must be indicated whether the procedures were in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional or regional) or with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975 (as revised in 1983). Include Institutional Review Board or Animal Care and Use Committee approvals.

All clinical trials must be registered in a public registry prior to submission. *Neuropsychopharmacology* subscribes to the trials registration policy of the ICMJE (www.ICMJE.org) and considers only trials that have been appropriately registered

before submission, regardless of when the trial closed to enrollment. Acceptable registries must meet the following ICMJE requirements:

1. Be publicly available, searchable, and open to all prospective registrants
2. Have a validation mechanism for registration data
3. Be managed by a not-for-profit organization

Examples of registries that meet these criteria include (1) the registry sponsored by the United States National Library of Medicine (<http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>); (2) the [International Standard Randomised Controlled Trial Number Registry](#); and (3) the European [Clinical Trials Database](#).

As of November 2015, all clinical trials submitted to *Neuropsychopharmacology* should be accompanied by a completed [CONSORT checklist](#) (Please submit as a "Related Manuscript File"). A CONSORT flowchart should also be provided as a Figure or as Supplemental Material. Please find the flowchart at <http://www.consort-statement.org/>.

Nature Publishing Group endorses the toolkits and guidelines produced by the following bodies:

- [Committee on Publication Ethics](#)
- [Good Publication Practice](#)
- [Medical Publishing Insights and Practices Initiative](#)

PEER REVIEW POLICY

All contributions that are selected for peer review are sent to two or more independent reviewers. The identity of reviewers is confidential and manuscripts are considered private information. Papers may be rejected without external review at the Editor's discretion. Authors are encouraged to suggest or recommend for exclusion reviewers at the time of submissions.

Anonymity

Reviewers' identities are not released to authors, except when reviewers specifically ask to be identified. If reviewers wish to reveal their identities while the manuscript is under consideration, this should be done through the Editor. Should a reviewer contact an author directly, we ask authors to inform the Editor as soon as possible. We prohibit any attempt by authors to confront reviewers or determine their identities. Our own policy is to neither confirm nor deny any speculation about reviewers' identities, and we encourage reviewers to adopt a similar policy.

Selection of peer reviewers

Reviewer selection is critical to the publication process, and we base our choices on many factors, including expertise, reputation, and specific recommendations.

Neuroscience Peer Review Consortium

NPP is a member of the Neuroscience Peer Review Consortium (NPRC). The purpose of the NPRC is to decrease the time and effort involved in the peer review process, and reduce the burden placed on reviewers. Authors of papers that have been rejected after review may request that NPP transfer reviews to other member journals, and or request member journals transfer requests to NPP.

Authors can request to have reviews transferred by contacting [NPP's editorial office](#). For a complete list of member journals, please see the [list on the NPRC website](#).

Authors who transfer a manuscript to NPP through the NPRC should:

1. Per the NPRC, contact the previous journal and ask the editorial office to send reviewer comments and reviewer identities to journal@acnp.org.
2. Include a rebuttal letter at initial submission to NPP to address previous reviews and outline changes or comments.
3. Include a note in the "Manuscript Comment" box indicating the paper is an NPRC transfer.

AUTHORSHIP

Requirements for all categories of articles largely conform to the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals," developed by the ICMJE. A manuscript will be considered for publication with the understanding that:

1. all named authors have agreed to its submission
2. it is not currently being considered for publication by another journal
3. if the paper is accepted, it will not subsequently be published in the same or similar form in any language without the consent of publisher

Each author must have contributed sufficiently to the intellectual content of the submission. The corresponding author should list all authors and their contributions to the work. Any changes to the author list after submission, such as a change in the order of the authors, or the deletion or addition of authors, must be approved by a signed letter from every author. By agreeing to be a corresponding author, the author affirms that he or she has had full access to the data in the study and final responsibility for the decision to submit for publication. To qualify as a contributing author, one must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Conceived and/or designed the work that led to the submission, acquired data, and/or played an important role in interpreting the results
2. Drafted or revised the manuscript
3. Approved the final version

Contributions by individuals who made direct contributions to the work but do not meet all of the above criteria should be noted in the Acknowledgments section of the manuscript.

Medical writers and industry employees can be contributors. Their roles, affiliations, and potential conflicts of interest should be included in the author list or noted in the Acknowledgments section concurrent with their contribution to the work submitted. Failure to acknowledge these contributors can be considered inappropriate, which conflicts with *Neuropsychopharmacology's* editorial policy.

COPYRIGHT

Authors are not required to grant the copyright in their articles to the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, Nature Publishing Group, or *Neuropsychopharmacology*. Instead, authors provide *Neuropsychopharmacology* with an exclusive license. Authors are free to reuse their own papers in any future published work and on their own website or institutional repository.

Copyright permissions

If a table or figure has been published previously, the authors must obtain written permission from the copyright owner to reproduce the material in both print and electronic formats. It is the authors' responsibility to secure all requisite permissions. This is applicable to quotes, illustrations and other materials taken from previously published works not in the public domain. The original source should be cited in the figure caption or table footnote. Color figures can be reproduced if necessary, but the authors will be expected to contribute toward the cost of publication.

PLAGIARISM AND FABRICATION

Plagiarism is when an author attempts to pass off someone else's work as his or her own. Duplicate publication, sometimes called self-plagiarism, occurs when an author reuses substantial parts of his or her own published work without providing the appropriate references. Plagiarism without dishonest intent is relatively frequent, for example, when an author reuses parts of an introduction from an earlier paper.

CrossCheck is a multi-publisher initiative to screen published and submitted content for originality. *Neuropsychopharmacology* uses CrossCheck to detect instances of overlapping and similar

text in submitted manuscripts. To find out more about CrossCheck visit www.crossref.org/crosscheck.html.

If a case of plagiarism comes to light after a paper is published, the journal will conduct a preliminary investigation, utilizing the guidelines of the [Committee on Publication Ethics](#). If plagiarism is proven, the journal will contact the author's institute and funding agencies as appropriate. The paper containing the plagiarism may also be formally retracted or subject to correction.

DUPLICATE PUBLICATION

Papers must be original and not previously published or submitted for publication elsewhere. This rule also applies to non-English language publications. NPG allows and encourages prior publication on recognized community preprint servers for review by other scientists before formal submission to a journal. The details of the preprint server concerned and any accession numbers should be included in the cover letter accompanying manuscript submission. This policy does not extend to preprints available to the media or that are otherwise publicized outside the scientific community before or during the submission and consideration process.

IMAGE MANIPULATION

Images submitted with a manuscript for review should be minimally processed. Authors should retain their unprocessed data and metafiles, as Editors may require them to aid in manuscript evaluation. If unprocessed data is available, manuscript evaluation may be stalled until the issue is resolved.

A certain degree of image processing is acceptable for publication (and for some experiments, fields and techniques is unavoidable), but the final image must correctly represent the original data and conform to community standards. The guidelines below will aid in accurate data presentation at the image processing level.

- Authors should list all image acquisition tools and image processing software packages used. Authors should document key image-gathering settings and processing manipulations in the Materials and Methods section.
- Images gathered at different times or from different locations should not be combined into a single image, unless it is stated that the resultant image is a product of time-averaged data or a time-lapse sequence. If juxtaposing images is essential, the borders should be clearly demarcated in the figure and described in the legend.
- Touch-up tools, such as cloning and healing tools in Photoshop, or any feature that deliberately obscures manipulations are to be avoided.

- Processing (such as changing brightness and contrast) is appropriate only when it is applied equally across the entire image and is applied equally to controls. Contrast should not be adjusted so that data disappear. Excessive manipulations, such as processing to emphasize one region in the image at the expense of others (for example, through the use of a biased choice of threshold settings), is inappropriate, as is emphasizing experimental data relative to the control.

Positive and negative controls, as well as molecular size markers, should be included on each gel and blot - either in the main figure or an expanded data supplementary figure. The display of cropped gels and blots in the main paper is encouraged if it improves the clarity and conciseness of the presentation. In such cases, the cropping must be mentioned in the figure legend.

- Vertically sliced gels that juxtapose lanes that were not contiguous in the experiment must have a clear separation or a black line delineating the boundary between the gels.
- Cropped gels in the paper must retain important bands.
- Cropped blots in the body of the paper should retain at least six band widths above and below the band.
- High-contrast gels and blots are discouraged, as overexposure may mask additional bands. Authors should strive for exposures with gray backgrounds. Immunoblots should be surrounded by a black line to indicate the borders of the blot, if the background is faint.
- For quantitative comparisons, appropriate reagents, controls and imaging methods with linear signal ranges should be used.

Microscopy adjustments should be applied to the entire image. Threshold manipulation, expansion or contraction of signal ranges and the altering of high signals should be avoided. If pseudo coloring and nonlinear adjustment (for example, "gamma changes") is used, this must be disclosed. Adjustments of individual color channels are sometimes necessary on merged images, but this should be noted in the figure legend. We encourage inclusion of the following with the final revised version of the manuscript for publication:

- In the Materials and Methods section, specify the type of equipment (microscopes/objective lenses, cameras, detectors, filter model and batch number) and acquisition software used. Although we appreciate that there is some variation between instruments, equipment settings for critical measurements should also be listed.
- The display lookup table (LUT) and the quantitative map between the LUT and the bitmap should be

provided, especially when rainbow pseudo color is used. It should be stated if the LUT is linear and covers the full range of the data.

- Processing software should be named and manipulations indicated (such as type of deconvolution, three-dimensional reconstructions, surface and volume rendering, "gamma changes," filtering, thresholding and projection).
- Authors should state the measured resolution at which an image was acquired and any downstream processing or averaging that enhances the resolution of the image.

CORRECTION AND RETRACTION POLICY

We recognize our responsibility to correct errors. Content published online (as Advance Online Publication - AOP) or in a print issue is final and cannot be amended. The online and print versions are both part of the published record therefore the original version must be preserved and changes to the paper should be made as a formal correction. If an error is noticed in an AOP article, a correction should accompany the article when it publishes in print. An HTML (or full-text) version of the correction will also be created and linked to the original article. If the error is found in an article after print publication, the correction will be published online and in the next available print issue.

Please note the following policy for making corrections to print and online versions of peer-reviewed content:

- Erratum. Notification of an important error made by the journal or publisher that affects the publication record or the scientific integrity of the paper or the reputation of the authors, or of the journal.
- Corrigendum. Notification of an important error made by the author that affects the publication record or the scientific integrity of the paper or the reputation of the authors or the journal.
- Retraction. Notification of invalid results. All coauthors must sign a retraction specifying the error and stating briefly how the conclusions are affected.

Decisions about corrections are made by the Editor (sometimes with advice of peer reviewers) and this sometimes involves author consultation. Requests to make corrections that do not affect the paper in a significant way or impair the reader's understanding of the contribution (a spelling mistake or grammatical error, for example) are not considered.

In cases where coauthors disagree about a correction, the Editor will take advice from independent peer reviewers and impose the appropriate correction, noting the dissenting

author(s) in the text of the published version.

RESEARCH DATA POLICY

We strongly encourage that all datasets on which the conclusions of the paper rely should be available to readers. We encourage authors to ensure that their datasets are either deposited in publicly available repositories (where available and appropriate) or presented in the main manuscript or additional supporting files whenever possible. Where one does not exist, the information must be made available to referees at submission and to readers promptly upon request. Any restrictions on material availability or other relevant information must be disclosed in the manuscript's Methods section and should include details of how materials and information may be obtained.

Please see the journal's guidelines on Research Data policy [here](#).

GENE NOMENCLATURE

Authors should use approved nomenclature for gene symbols, and use symbols rather than italicized full names (Ttn, not titin). Please consult the appropriate nomenclature databases for correct gene names and symbols. Approved human gene symbols are provided by HUGO Gene Nomenclature Committee (HGNC), e-mail: nome@galton.ucl.ac.uk; see also <http://www.genenames.org>. Approved mouse symbols are provided by The Jackson Laboratory, e-mail: nomen@informatics.jax.org; see also <http://www.informatics.jax.org/mgihome/nomen>. For proposed gene names that are not already approved, please submit the gene symbols to the appropriate nomenclature committees as soon as possible, as these must be deposited and approved before publication of an article. Avoid listing multiple names of genes (or proteins) separated by a slash, as in 'Oct4/Pou5f1', as this is ambiguous (it could mean a ratio, a complex, alternative names or different subunits). Use one name throughout and include the other at first mention: 'Oct4 (also known as Pou5f1)'.

BIOETHICS

Human and other animal experiments

For primary research manuscripts reporting experiments on live vertebrates and/or higher invertebrates, the corresponding author must confirm that all experiments were performed in accordance with relevant guidelines and regulations. The manuscript must include a statement identifying the institutional and/or licensing committee approving the experiments, including any relevant details regarding animal welfare, patient anonymity, drug side effects and informed consent.

For experiments involving human subjects, authors must identify the committee approving the experiments and include

with their submission a statement confirming that informed consent was obtained from all subjects.

Biosecurity policy

The Editor may also seek advice about submitted papers that raise concerns. These may include, for example, ethical issues or issues of data or materials access. Very occasionally, concerns may also relate to the implications of publishing a paper to the society, including threats to security. In such circumstances, advice will usually be sought simultaneously with the technical peer-review process. As in all publishing decisions, the decision whether to publish is at the discretion of the Editor.

COMMUNICATION

Correspondence with the journal

Named corresponding authors are to be the sole representative of the listed authors, streamlining and directing communications to their fellow authors as appropriate, as well as fielding materials requests, technical comments and so on. *Neuropsychopharmacology* requires that only one person be named as such.

It is this author's responsibility to inform all coauthors of matters arising during the course of the process and to ensure such matters are dealt with promptly. After acceptance for publication, proofs are e-mailed to this corresponding author,

who should circulate the proofs to all coauthors and coordinate corrections among them.

Communication with the media

Material submitted must not be discussed with the media. We reserve the right to halt the consideration or publication of a paper if this condition is broken. If a paper is particularly newsworthy, Nature Publishing Group may send a press release to our list of journalists in advance of publication with an embargo that forbids any coverage of the manuscript, or the findings of the manuscript, until the time and date clearly stated, which will coincide with when the paper is publishing online. Authors whose papers are scheduled for publication may also arrange their own publicity (for instance, through their institution's press offices), but they must strictly adhere to the online publication press embargo and are advised to coordinate their own publicity with NPG's press office.

Communication between scientists

Neuropsychopharmacology does not wish to hinder communication between scientists. You are free to communicate with other researchers as much as you wish, whether on a recognized community preprint server by discussion at scientific meetings or by online collaborative sites such as wikis, but we do not encourage premature publication by discussion with the press (beyond a formal presentation, if at a conference).

PREPARATION OF MANUSCRIPTS

Neuropsychopharmacology publishes:

- Original Articles
- Review Articles
- Correspondence (Letters to the Editor)
- Commentaries
- Perspectives
- Editorials

MANUSCRIPT SPECIFICATIONS BY ARTICLE TYPE

Article Type	Abstract	Word Count	Display Items (Figures and tables)	References (maximum)
Original Article	Yes	4000	5	50
Review Article *	Yes	4000	5	50
Correspondence (LTE)	No	500	1	6
NPPR Review Article *	By invitation only: authors will receive editorial guidelines upon invitation.			

NPPR Hot Topic *	By invitation only: authors will receive editorial guidelines upon invitation.			
Editorial *	No	1000	1	6
Commentary *	No	1000	1	6
Perspective *	No	1000	1	6

* By invitation or pre-submission approval only.

Neuropsychopharmacology does not consider Case Reports, Proceedings, Brief Reports or Rapid Communications for publication.

PREPARATION OF SUBMISSIONS

Papers should be formatted as follows:

1. Rebuttal letter (for revisions and NPPR transfers ONLY)
2. Cover letter (Must include a Funding and Disclosure section. Please note: do not submit rebuttal letters as cover letters.)
3. Source or Article File* (Must contain items a-j.)
 - a. Title page (title, running title, list of authors and affiliations - should exclude Funding and Disclosure)
 - b. Abstract (unstructured)
 - c. Introduction
 - d. Materials (or patients) and Methods
 - e. Results
 - f. Discussion
 - g. Funding and Disclosure (covers all authors and sources of funding listed for the manuscript)
 - h. Acknowledgments (includes special thanks, contributions, or dedications)
 - i. References (listed alphabetically, not numbered)
 - j. Figure legends (Figures should be uploaded as separate attachments.)
4. Tables
5. Figures
6. Supplemental Material (Will be published online only. See "SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION" section below.)
7. For all clinical trials: A completed CONSORT checklist (Please submit as a "Related Manuscript File")

Rebuttal letter

For revised submissions (or original submissions transferred through the NPPR), responses to reviewers' critiques must be included in a rebuttal letter. Responses should NOT be submitted as a cover letter, as reviewers do not have access to cover letters.

*Note on Revised submissions

For your article, please upload your file showing all new text in the revision in blue font (note: do not use track changes to mark-up your changes). If you do not provide your revision with this blue font your manuscript will be returned to you to update. If your manuscript is accepted the blue font will be removed by the typesetter before your manuscript is placed online

Cover letter

The cover letter must state the material is original research, has not been previously published and has not been submitted for publication elsewhere while under consideration. The cover letter must also contain a Funding and Disclosure statement (see [Editorial Policy section](#)). Please note that cover letters should not contain a response to reviewers' comments for revised manuscripts. Responses should be submitted as a rebuttal letter, so that reviewers can access the file.

Title page

The title page should bear the title of the paper, the full names of all the authors, highest academic degree obtained, and their affiliations, together with the name, full postal address, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address of the author to whom correspondence and offprint requests are to be sent (This information is also asked for on the electronic submission form). The title should be brief, informative, of 150 characters or less and should not make a statement or conclusion. The running title should consist of not more than 50 letters and spaces. It should be as brief as possible, convey the essential message of the paper and contain no abbreviations.

Abstract

The abstract should be 150-250 words in length.

Keywords

Please note that *NPP* no longer collects keywords. To ensure that your manuscript is easily searchable in PubMed and other

repositories, be sure to include any relevant keywords in the title or abstract of your manuscript.

Introduction

The introduction should assume that the reader is knowledgeable in the field and should therefore be as brief as possible but can include a short historical review where desirable. For original articles, the introduction should be limited to 750 words.

Materials (or patients) and Methods

This section should contain sufficient detail, so that all experimental procedures can be reproduced, and include references. Methods, however, that have been published in detail elsewhere should not be described in detail. Authors should provide the name of the manufacturer and their location for any specifically named medical equipment and instruments, and all drugs should be identified by their pharmaceutical names, and by their trade name if relevant. For original articles, the Materials (or patients) and Methods section should be limited to 1500 words.

Results and Discussion

The Results section should briefly present the experimental data in text, tables or figures. Tables and figures should not be described extensively in the text, either. The Discussion should focus on the interpretation and the significance of the findings with concise objective comments that describe their relation to other work in the area. It should not repeat information in the results. The final paragraph should highlight the main conclusion(s), and provide some indication of the direction future research should take.

Funding and Disclosure

The Funding and Disclosure section is mandatory. Authors must declare sources of study funding including sponsorship (e.g. university, charity, commercial organization) and sources of material (e.g. novel drugs) not available commercially. They must also declare in this section whether or not there are any competing financial interests in relation to the work described. This information must be included at this stage and will be published as part of the paper. Funding and Disclosure information should also be noted on the cover letter and as part of the submission process. See the Funding and Disclosure documentation in the Editorial Policy section for detailed information and requirements.

Acknowledgements

The Acknowledgements section is optional. Acknowledgements should include, if desired, author contributions, special thanks, or dedications. Work done by a

contributor or medical writer that does not qualify him/her for authorship, but which warrants acknowledgement, should be noted here.

References

Only papers directly related to the article should be cited. Exhaustive lists should be avoided. List references alphabetically by author, on a separate page(s), at the end of the article, and cite them in text parenthetically using authors' name and year of publication. If there are one or two authors, cite as shown: Smith, 1984; Jones and Brown, 1985. If there are more than two authors, list the first author followed by et al (e.g., Jason *et al*, 1986). In the reference list, list all authors up to six. If there are more than six authors, list the first six followed by *et al*. Periodical abbreviations should follow those used by *Index Medicus*.

References should be styled as follows:

Journal. Barbosa MDFS, Ngyen QA, Tchernev VT, Ashley JA, Detter JC, Blaydes SM *et al* (1996). Identification of the homologous beige and Chediak-Higashi syndrome genes. *Nature* 382: 262-265.

Book. Relman RS, Wilson JS, Franks LF (1997). *Fundamentals of Neuropsychopharmacology*, 3rd edn. CRC Press: Boca Raton, FL.

Chapter in edited book. Mully AG Jr (1990). Equity and variability in modern health care. In: Andersen TF, Mooney G (eds). *The Challenges of Medical Practice Variations*. Palgrave: New York, pp 145-286.

Online document. World Health Organization (2001). Summary Report of the Meeting to Revise ICD-10. http://www.who.int/mental_health/advisory_group_meeting.pdf.

Online publication ahead of print. Meador-Woodruff JH, Davis KL, Haroutunian V (2000). Abnormal kainate receptor expression in pre-frontal cortex in schizophrenia. *Neuropsychopharmacology*; e-pub ahead of print 7 August 2000. doi:10.1038/npp.2010.87.

Personal communications must be allocated a number and included in the list of references in the usual way or simply referred to in the text; the authors may choose which method to use. In either case authors must obtain permission from the individual concerned to quote his/her unpublished work.

[EndNote](#) users should select the *Neuropsychopharmacology* output style for the correct reference style.

ARTWORK GUIDELINES

Detailed guidelines for submitting artwork can be found by downloading the [artwork guidelines PDF](#). Using the

guidelines, please submit production quality artwork with your initial online submission. If you have followed the guidelines, we will not require the artwork to be resubmitted following the peer-review process, if your paper is accepted for publication.

Figures

Figures and images should be labeled sequentially, numbered, and cited in the text. Figure legends should be brief, specific and appear on a separate manuscript page after the References section. Refer to (and cite) figures specifically in the text of the paper. Figures should not be embedded within the text. If a

table or figure has been published before, the authors must obtain written permission to reproduce the material in both print and electronic formats from the copyright owner and submit it with the manuscript. This follows for quotes, illustrations and other materials taken from previously published works not in the public domain. The original source should be cited in the figure caption or table footnote. The use of three-dimensional histograms is strongly discouraged when the addition of the third dimension gives no extra information. Scale markers should be used in the image for electron micrographs, and indicate the type of stain used. Detailed guidelines for submitting artwork can be found by downloading the [artwork guidelines PDF](#).

Color figures

Authors are invoiced for color figures in print and PDF files at the following rates. If provided in color, figures will appear in color for free in the Accepted Article Preview (AAP) and HTML versions. Please note: If authors do not choose color for their figures, it is important they ensure the readability and meaning of the images are easily discernible in black and white.

NPP will waive all color charges for Circumspective articles (by invitation only).

Color illustrations	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+
Cost	\$969	\$1,444	\$1,919	\$2,207	\$2,497	\$2,745	\$248 per additional color figure

Color charges will not apply to authors who choose to pay an article processing charge to make their paper open access. Color figures must be supplied in the following format.

Minimum resolutions:

Halftone images	300 dpi (dots per inch)
Color images	300 dpi saved as CMYK
Images containing text	400 dpi
Line art	1000 dpi

Sizes:

Figure width – single image	86 mm (should be able to fit into a single column of the printed journal)
Figure width – multi-part image	178 mm (should be able to fit into a double column of the printed journal)
Text size	8 point (should be readable after reduction – avoid large type or thick lines)
Line width	Between 0.5 and 1 point

Note: Authors will be required to pay the cost of color illustrations published in print

Color on the web

Authors who wish their articles to have FREE color figures on the web (only available in the AAP and HTML, full text version of manuscripts) must supply separate files in the following format. These files should be submitted as
For single images:

Width	500 pixels (authors should select "constrain proportions", or equivalent instructions, to allow the application to set the correct height automatically.)
Resolution	125 dpi (dots per inch)
Format	JPEG for photographs GIF for line drawings or charts
Filenaming	Please save image with .jpg or .gif extension to ensure it can be read by all platforms and graphics packages.

supplementary information and authors are asked to mention that they would like color figures on the web in their submission letter.

For multi-part images:

Width	900 pixels (authors should select "constrain proportions", or equivalent instructions, to allow the application to set the correct height automatically.)
Resolution	125 dpi (dots per inch)
Format	JPEG for photographs GIF for line drawings or charts
Filenaming	Please save image with .jpg or .gif extension to ensure it can be read by all platforms and graphics packages.

Black and white images

- Image resolution of at least 300 dpi at publication size
- Images should be scanned at a minimum of 300 dpi
- During software manipulation of images, care should be taken that resolution is maintained
- Images may be rotated or scaled, but this must be the same in the x and y dimensions
- Contrast and brightness can be adjusted, but this must be uniform across the entire image, and must not result in the loss of any feature, band or spot. The background should still be visible
- If lanes are removed, and once separate parts of an image are joined together, a black, white or grey line should indicate clearly where the image was cut
- If black borders are drawn around the image, the lines should correspond to all edges where the image was cut

- Protein molecular weights or DNA fragment sizes should be indicated for all figure panels showing gel electrophoresis

Graphs, histograms and statistics

- Error bars must be described in the figure legend
- Axes on graphs should extend to zero, except for log axes
- Statistical analyses (including error bars and p values) should only be shown for independently repeated experiments, and must not be shown for replicates of a single experiment
- The number of times an experiment was repeated (N) must be stated in the legend

Tables

These should be labeled sequentially as Table 1, Table 2, etc. Each table should be typed on a separate page, numbered and titled, and cited in the text. Reference to table footnotes should be made by means of Arabic numerals. Tables should not duplicate the content of the text. They should consist of at least two columns; columns should always have headings. Authors should ensure that the data in the tables are consistent with those cited in the relevant places in the text, totals add up correctly, and percentages have been calculated correctly. Unlike figures or images, tables may be either included in the article file itself, but at the end of the manuscript, or supplied as separate files.

House style

As the electronic submission will provide the basic material for typesetting, it is important that papers are prepared in the general editorial style of the journal.

- See the artwork guidelines for information on labeling of figures
- Do not make rules thinner than 1pt (0.36mm)
- Use a coarse hatching pattern rather than shading for tints in graphs
- Color should be distinct when being used as an identifying tool
- Use SI units throughout
- Spaces, not commas, should be used to separate thousands
- Abbreviations should be preceded by the words for which they stand in the first instance of use
- Text should be double spacing with a wide margin
- Use a common word-processing package (such as Microsoft Word) for the text. Embed tables converted into images at the end of the Word document, or as a separate file in whichever program you used to generate them
- If you submit raw data, this can be done in Excel, or tab/comma delimited format
- At first mention of a manufacturer the town, (state if USA) and country should be provided.

English Language Support

For editors and reviewers to accurately assess the work presented in your manuscript you need to ensure the English language is of sufficient quality to be understood. If you need help with writing in English you should consider:

- Asking a colleague who is a native English speaker to review your manuscript for clarity.
- Visiting the [English language tutorial](#) which covers the common mistakes when writing in English.

- Using a professional language editing service where editors will improve the English to ensure that your meaning is clear and identify problems that require your review. Two such services are provided by our affiliates [Nature Research Editing Service](#) and [American Journal Experts](#).

Please note that the use of a language editing service is not a requirement for publication in this journal and does not imply or guarantee that the article will be selected for peer review or accepted.

If your manuscript is accepted it will be checked by our copyeditors for spelling and formal style before publication.

[American Journal Experts](#)

[Inter-Biotech](#)

Inter-Biotech also provides a free online writing course to help biomedical scientists whose first language is not English to write and publish their papers in English-language journals.

[SPI Professional Editing Services](#)

[Write Science Right](#)

FILE FORMATS

File formats for manuscript files, figures and tables that are acceptable for our electronic manuscript submission process are given on the online forms. Further advice on file types is also available from the [Tips](#) webpage. Please follow our [artwork guidelines](#) for submitting figures, and use a common word-processing package (such as Microsoft Word) for the text. Either embed tables converted into images at the end of your Word document, or as a separate files in which ever program you used to generate them. If you submit raw data, this can be done in Excel, or tab/comma delimited format.

Saving files with Microsoft Office 2007

Microsoft Office 2007 saves files in an XML format by default (file extensions .docx, .pptx and .xlsx). Files saved in this format cannot be accepted for publication.

Save Word documents using the file extension .doc

- Select the Office Button in the upper left corner of the Word 2007 Window and choose "Save As"
- Select "Word 97-2003 Document"
- Enter a file name and select "Save"

These instructions also apply for the new versions of Excel and PowerPoint.

Equations in Word must be created using Equation Editor 3.0

Equations created using the new equation editor in Word 2007 and saved as a "Word 97-2003 Document" (.doc) are converted to graphics and can no longer be edited. To insert or change an equation with the previous equation editor:

- Select "Object" on the "Text" section of the "Insert" tab
- In the drop-down menu - select "Equation Editor 3.0"

Do not use the "Equation" button in the "Symbols" section of the "Insert" tab.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Supplementary information is peer-reviewed material directly relevant to the conclusion of an article that cannot be included in the printed version owing to space or format constraints. It is posted on the journal's web site and linked to the article when the article is published. It may consist of data files, graphics, movies, or extensive tables.

The printed article must be complete and self-explanatory without the supplementary information. Supplementary information enhances a reader's understanding of the paper but is not essential to that understanding.

Supplementary information must be supplied to the editorial office in its final form for peer review.

To ensure that the contents of the supplementary information files can be viewed by the editor(s), referees, and readers, please also submit a 'read-me' file containing brief instructions on how to use the file.

Supplementary information should be cited in the text as "Figure S1, S2, etc," "Table S1, S2, etc," or "Supplementary Materials and Methods."

Supplying supplementary information files Authors should ensure that supplementary information is supplied in its FINAL format because it is not subedited and will appear online exactly as originally submitted. It cannot be altered, nor new supplementary information added, after the paper has been accepted for publication.

Please supply the supplementary information via eJP, the electronic manuscript submission and tracking system, in an acceptable file format (see below).

Authors should:

- Include a text summary (no more than 50 words) to describe the contents of each file.
- Identify the types of files (file formats) submitted.
- Include the text 'Supplementary information is available at the *Neuropsychopharmacology* website' at the end of the article and before the References section.

Accepted file formats

- Quick Time files (.mov)
- Graphical image files (.gif)
- HTML files (.html)
- MPEG movie files (.mpg)
- JPEG image files (.jpg)
- Sound files (.wav)
- Plain ASCII text (.txt)
- Acrobat files (.pdf)
- MS Word documents (.doc)
- Postscript files (.ps)
- PowerPoint files (.ppt)
- MS Excel spreadsheet documents (.xls)

We cannot accept TeX or LaTeX.

File sizes must be as small as possible, so that they can be downloaded quickly. Images should not exceed 640 x 480 pixels (9 x 6.8 inches at 72 pixels per inch) but we would recommend 480 x 360 pixels as the maximum frame size for movies. We would also recommend a frame rate of 15 frames per second. If applicable to the presentation of the supplementary information, use a 256 color palette. Please consider the use of the lower specification for all of these points if the supplementary information can still be represented clearly. Our recommended maximum data rate is 150 KB/s.

The number of files should be limited to eight, and the total file size should not exceed 8 MB. Individual files should not exceed 1 MB in size. Please seek advice from the editorial office before sending files larger than our maximum size to avoid delays in publication.

Further questions about the submission or preparation of supplementary information should be directed to the editorial office.

SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPTS

The first thing you need to do, if you have not already done so, is [register for an account](#). After this, please consult the instructions below to enable you to submit your article through our secure server.

For optimum performance, your browser should be either Netscape 4.7 or above, or Internet Explorer 5.0 and above. Make sure that your browser is set to accept cookies. Our tracking system requires cookies for proper operation. (If you have Windows XP the defaults will need changing. For more details on this, please refer to the 'Tips' function on this site.)

NAVIGATING THE SYSTEM

When you first access our tracking system, you will be taken to your Home page, where different categories of tasks are listed. If you are required to perform a pending action item or task, there will be a **red arrow** next to a "Manuscript" link. Throughout the system, **red arrows** reflect pending action items which you should address. If there are no red arrows visible on your home page, then you are finished and have no outstanding tasks to complete. At any time you can press [HOME](#) to go to the submission home page.

What you will need:

You will need to have the following details for all authors to submit your paper online. Items in parenthesis are not essential for co-authors:

- Email addresses
- First and last names
- Institution
- (Full postal address)
- (Work telephone numbers)
- Fax numbers

In addition you will need:

- Cover letter (including Conflict of Interest statement)
- Title and Running Title (you can copy and paste this from your manuscript)
- Abstract (you can copy and paste this from your manuscript)
- Manuscript files in Word, WordPerfect, text or any RTF format
- Figures/Images in external files in TIFF or JPEG, in either grayscale or CMYK color, not in RGB
- Tables in Excel (preferred) as separate files or included at the end of the manuscript file

THE SUBMISSION PROCESS

The manuscript submission process is broken down into a series of four primary tasks that gather detailed information

about your manuscript and allow you to upload the pertinent text and figure/image files. The sequence of screens is as follows:

1. The 'Files' primary task allows you to select the actual file locations (via an open file dialogue). You will be able to 'Browse' for the relevant files on your computer. Please include the figure number in the title line for each figure. On the completion screen, you will be asked to specify the order in which you want the individual files to appear in the merged document. Editors and/or reviewers will also be able to look at the individual PDF files if necessary. For more information on accepted file types, view the [Artwork Guidelines PDF](#)
2. The 'Manuscript Information' primary task asks for author details, the manuscript title, abstract, other associated manuscript information and types/number of files to be submitted. Please note: if you are the corresponding author, please submit your details in the corresponding author fields; DO NOT re-enter the same details in the contributing author fields.
3. The 'Validate' primary task gives you the opportunity to check and verify the manuscript files and manuscript information uploaded. If you are submitting manuscript files separately, we create a merged PDF containing your manuscript text, figures and tables to simplify the handling of your paper. You will need to approve the merged PDF file, and a PDF or any other file not included in the merge, to submit your manuscript. You may also update and/or change manuscript files and manuscript information by clicking on the 'Change' or 'Fix' links respectively.
4. The 'Submit' primary task is the last step in the manuscript submission process. At this stage the Manuscript Tracking System will perform a final check to ensure that all mandatory fields have been completed. Any incomplete fields will be flagged by a red arrow and highlighted by a red box. Click on the 'Fix' link to return to relevant section for completion. Once your manuscript has been finalized, click on the 'Approve Submission' button to submit your manuscript for consideration. A 'Manuscript Approved' message will display on your author desktop to confirm the submission.

ADOBE ACROBAT

Best results are achieved if you have access to Adobe Acrobat Reader (6.0 or above). The program is FREE and is downloadable from the link [here](#). (Once the download is complete, you should amend the default settings. Select: Edit - Preferences - Web Capture, and select Open Web links: In Acrobat. This will open PDF files in Acrobat Reader rather than in your browser. The amendment will not affect functionality of either Acrobat Reader or your browser.) If the

site replicates your details on screen, then your paper was successfully submitted. Once the files are submitted, the system will convert them to PDF. The conversion process can take up to 10 minutes before the PDF is ready for approval. Please note the manuscript will not move to the next stage and progress to the editorial office until you have approved the converted files.

GETTING HELP

If you need additional help, you can click on help signs available throughout the system and a box will appear with context sensitive help. If further assistance is required, then please contact the MTS helpdesk.

MANUSCRIPT STATUS

After your manuscript is approved, you will receive an email acknowledgement. You can check the manuscript's status at any time in the review process by:

1. Accessing the system with your password or via the link provided in the acknowledgement email.
2. Clicking on the link represented by your manuscript tracking number and abbreviated title on your homepage.
3. Clicking on the "Check Status" link at the bottom of the displayed page.

This procedure will display tracking information about where your manuscript is in the submission/peer-review process. See Navigating the System in the Submission of Manuscripts section for more information.

REVIEWER RECOMMENDATIONS

Authors may suggest 3-5 reviewers who are especially qualified to referee the work and would not have a conflict of interest. Please include the reviewers' names, email addresses, and institutions on the online submission form. Manuscripts will be reviewed by at least two external reviewers for content, originality, importance to the field, appropriateness of statistical analysis, and derivation of conclusions. Authors should note, however, that manuscripts may be returned after initial review by the editorial office if the paper is deemed unlikely to be reviewed favorably by virtue of size restrictions and/or general interest for the readership. This rapid rejection process enables the author to promptly submit for publication elsewhere.

LICENSE TO PUBLISH

The corresponding author must complete and sign the [License to Publish \(LTP\) form](#) upon acceptance of the manuscript and return it to the editorial office. Failure to do so will result in delays to the publication of your paper.

ACNP does not require authors of original research papers to assign copyright of their published contributions. Authors grant NPG an exclusive license to publish, in return for which they can re-use their papers in their future printed work. NPG's [author license page](#) provides details of the policy and a sample form.

ADVANCE ONLINE PUBLICATION

All original articles are published ahead of print on Advance Online Publication. This will be the final version of the manuscript and will subsequently appear, unchanged, in print.

PROOFS

An e-mail will be sent to the corresponding author with a URL link where proofs will be available. Proofs must be returned by fax within 48 hours of receipt. Failure to do so may result in a delay to publication. Extensive corrections cannot be made at this stage.

OFFPRINTS

Offprints may be ordered using the order form accompanying the proofs.

OPEN ACCESS AND SELF-ARCHIVING

[Self-archiving and manuscript deposition \(green open access\)](#)

Authors of original research articles are encouraged to submit the author's version of the accepted paper (the unedited manuscript) to a repository for public release six months after publication. Nature Publishing Group (NPG) also offers a free, opt-in Manuscript Deposition Service for original research articles in order to help authors fulfill funder and institutional mandates.

[Learn more about self-archiving and manuscript deposition.](#)

[Open access publication \(gold open access\)](#)

Upon acceptance, authors can indicate whether they wish to make their article open access online immediately upon publication, an option which will incur a fee or "Article Processing Charge" (APC). Open access articles are published under Creative Commons licenses, which allow authors to retain copyright to their work while making it open to readers.

To facilitate self-archiving NPG deposits open access articles in PubMed Central and Europe PubMed Central on publication. Authors are also permitted to post the final, published PDF of

their article on a website, institutional repository or other free public server, immediately on publication.

Visit our [open research site](#) for further information about licenses, APCs, and our free OA funding support service:

- [Creative Commons licensing](#)
- [Creative Commons license options and APCs for the journal](#)
- [APC payment FAQs](#)
- [Help in identifying funding for APCs](#)
- [Editorial process for OA publication in hybrid journals](#)
- [Self-archiving and deposition of papers published OA](#)

If authors opt to publish via the open access route, then the corresponding author must complete and sign the APC payment form and an LTP form on behalf of all authors, and return these to the editorial office. These forms will be provided upon acceptance of the article. Failure to promptly return forms will result in delay of publication.

Government employees from the United States, UK, and Canada are required to sign and submit the relevant government open access licence to publish form.

Please note with regards to payment that usual credit terms are 30 days from receipt of invoice. Failure to pay your invoice within the stated credit term may result in the Open Access status of the paper being rescinded, with the paper being placed behind the paywall. You may also be subject to such penalties as restrictions on your ability to publish with Nature Publishing Group in the future, involvement of a third party debt collection agency and legal proceedings.

Compliance with open access mandates NPG's open access journals allow authors to comply with all funders' open access policies worldwide. Authors may need to take specific actions to achieve compliance with funder and institutional open access mandates.

[Learn more about open access compliance.](#)

FURTHER INFORMATION

BUSINESS MATTERS

For contact information regarding business correspondence and inquiries related to advertising, subscriptions, permissions, papers in production, or publishing a supplement, please visit our publisher's [contacts page](#).

Alternatively, you can write to: *Neuropsychopharmacology*, Academic Journals Division, Nature Publishing Group, One New York Plaza, Suite 4500, New York, NY 10004-1562, USA