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## ABOUT THE JOURNAL

### Aims and Scope

*Signal Transduction and Targeted Therapy* is an international, peer-reviewed, open-access journal that publishes original research articles and review articles related to all aspects of signal transduction in physiological and pathological processes, as well as signal transduction-targeted therapeutics in the form of biological agents and small molecular drugs used to treat human diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases, autoimmune diseases, nervous system diseases, and others. This journal focuses on cutting-edge advances both experimentally and clinically.

### Journal Details

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## ARTICLE TYPES

| Article Description   | Abstract   | Word Limit  | Tables/<br>Figures | References<br>guideline  |
|---|--|---|--------------------|--|
| <b>Article</b><br>Articles describe original research, and should be 3000-6000 words (excluding the abstract, tables, figure legends and references) and contain no more than 8 display items (such as figures or tables).  | Unstructured abstract;<br>max word limit: <b>250</b> | <b>6,000</b> words<br>excluding<br>abstract,<br>references,<br>figures and tables | Max of <b>6</b>    | <b>Max of 50.</b><br>Please use<br>as current<br>as possible.                    |
| <b>Correspondence</b><br>The Editors will occasionally consider the publication of correspondence developing the debate relating to a particular journal article that has already been published in the journal. These would usually be published alongside a reply from the authors of the original article. | None   | <b>800</b> words<br>excluding,<br>references,<br>figures and tables               | None               | <b>Max of 5,</b><br>not<br>including<br>reference to<br>the original<br>article. |
| <b>Comment</b><br>Comments are an analysis of recently published papers of particular interest. This is a commission-only section.  | None   | <b>1,000</b> words<br>excluding<br>references                                     | Max of <b>1</b>    | <b>Max of 5</b>  |

|  |   |  |          |           |
|--|---|--|----------|-----------|
| <p><b>Editorial</b><br/>The editors invite editorials to discuss a topical issue or a paper published in the journal and set the problems addressed by the paper in the wider context of the field. These are usually commissioned, but unsolicited editorial submissions are considered for publication.</p>  | None  | 1,000 words excluding references                           | Max of 2 | Max of 5  |
| <p><b>Letter</b><br/>Letters provide rapid and concise report of a novel finding that is brief in nature but is of general interest to the field. There should be no more than 5 authors.</p>  | None  | 1,000 words max excluding, references, figures and tables. | Max of 1 | Max of 5  |
| <p><b>Perspective</b><br/>Perspective is a format for scholarly reviews and discussions of the primary research literature that are too technical for a Commentary but do not meet the criteria for a Review – either because the scope is too narrow, or because the author is advocating a controversial position or a speculative hypothesis or discussing work primarily from one group. Two reviews advocating opposite sides in a research controversy are normally published as Perspectives.</p> | Unstructured abstract; max word limit: 250        | 3,000 words max excluding, references, figures and tables  | Max of 4 | Max of 70 |
| <p><b>Research Highlight</b><br/>Research Highlights discuss the main advances made by the paper as well as putting the finds of the study into the proper context of the field.</p>   | A brief stand first of only one or two sentences. | 1,000 words max excluding, references, figures and tables. | Max of 1 | Max of 5  |
| <p><b>Review Article</b><br/>A comprehensive synthesis and/or analysis of specific topics. A short Introduction giving the rationale for the review should be followed by sections with appropriate subheadings, followed by a conclusions section at the end. The standard footer headings (Acknowledgements, Contributions, Competing Interests, Funding) are required. All invited reviews will undergo peer review prior to acceptance.</p>  | Unstructured abstract; max word limit: 250        | No limit   | Max of 8 | No limit  |

### Word, Figure, Table and reference limits

Word, Figure, Table and reference limits are provided for guidance only. The Editors will consider submissions that exceed the recommended limit, subject to feedback received during peer review.

## PREPARATION OF ARTICLES

Please note that Articles must contain the following components in the order stated. Please see below for further details.

- Title page
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Results
- Discussion
- Materials and methods
- Acknowledgements
- Conflict of interests
- Contributions
- References

- Figure legends
- Tables
- Figures

### Article Requirements

#### Cover letter

Each manuscript must be accompanied by a cover letter including statements that:

- Highlight of the current manuscript should be limited to no more than 2 short sentences;
- All authors agree with the submission;

- The work has not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere, either completely or in part, or in another form or language;
- If material has been reproduced from another source, the authors have authorization from the copyright holder (usually the Publisher) to use it, and have included this authorization with their submission;
- Conflict of Interest Statement

## Organization of manuscript

For first submissions (i.e. not revised manuscripts), authors may choose to incorporate the manuscript text and figures into a single file (Microsoft Word or TeX/LaTeX) – the figures may be inserted within the text at the appropriate positions. Article should include continuous line number. Supplementary Information should be combined and supplied as a separate file, preferably in Word format.

Alternatively authors can follow the guidelines outlined below, which must be followed when submitting files for revisions.

All textual content should be provided in a single file, prepared using either Microsoft Word or TeX/LaTeX; figures should be provided in individual files. The manuscript text file should include the following parts, in order: a title page with author affiliations and contact information (the corresponding author should be identified with an asterisk); the sections required for each content type (see information for different content types) then References, Acknowledgements (optional), Author Contributions (Articles only), Competing Financial Interests statement, Figure Legends and Tables. Footnotes to the text are not allowed and any such material should be incorporated into the text as parenthetical matter.

### (i) Title page

The title page should include a succinct title (less than 200 characters); a concise running title (which should normally not exceed 50 characters); the full names of all authors including their given names; the affiliations (including city, state, country and zip code) of all authors; the official email addresses of all authors, and the full contact details of the corresponding author (including telephone and fax numbers).

### (ii) Abstract

A brief abstract (maximum 250 words) should state the purpose, basic procedures, main findings and principal conclusions of the study. The abstract should not contain abbreviations or references and should not be structured.

### (iii) Introduction

The Introduction should summarize the rationale for the study and outline pertinent background material. The Introduction should not contain either results or conclusions.

### (iv) Results

The Results should be presented in a logical sequence in the text, tables and figures; repetitive presentation of the same data in different forms should be avoided. The Results should not include material appropriate to the Discussion.

### (v) Discussion

The Discussion should not reiterate Results, but rather should consider them in relation to any hypotheses advanced in the Introduction. This may include an evaluation of methodology and the relationship of new information to the existing body of knowledge in that field.

### (vi) Materials and methods

Materials and Methods should be described in sufficient detail to allow the experimental work to be reproduced in another laboratory, and to leave the reader in no doubt as to how the results were derived.

**Availability of data, materials and methods:** An inherent principle of publication is that others should be able to replicate and build upon the authors' published claims. A condition of publication is that authors [are required to make materials, data, code](#), and associated protocols promptly available to readers without undue qualifications.

Submission of a manuscript to *Signal Transduction and Targeted Therapy* implies that materials described in the manuscript, including all relevant raw data, will be freely available to any scientist wishing to use them for non-commercial purposes, without breaching participant confidentiality.

**Data availability statements:** Data availability statements provide a statement about where data supporting the results reported in a published article can be found - including, where applicable, hyperlinks to publicly archived datasets analysed or generated during the study. For all original research articles, we require the provision of data availability statements, examples and details can be seen on our [data policy](#) web page. The statement should be placed at the end of the Methods section (titled, 'Data availability'), after the code availability statement if one is present. For further guidance, please refer to the Data availability and data citations [policy information](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

*Signal Transduction and Targeted Therapy* strongly encourages 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. Please see Springer Nature's [information on recommended repositories](#). General repositories - for all types of research data - such as [figshare](#) and [Dryad](#) may be used where appropriate.

Where a widely established research community expectation for data archiving in public repositories exists, submission to a community-endorsed, public repository is [mandatory](#). Persistent identifiers (such as DOIs and

accession numbers) for relevant datasets must be provided in the paper.

*(vii) Acknowledgments*

Authors should acknowledge the source of financial grants and other funding, and declare any industrial links or affiliations. The contribution of colleagues or institutions should also be acknowledged. Personal thanks and thanks to anonymous reviewers should not be included.

*(viii) Conflict of interests*

A conflict of interest statement must be included for each contributing author. Please see the Conflict of Interest guidelines in the Editorial Policies section for more information and for guidelines on what constitutes a conflict of interest.

*(ix) References*

References: All necessary references should be included in order to credit previous work directly relevant to the article. References should follow the *Nature* style available in most reference management software. In the text they should appear as superscript numbers starting at 1 and at the end of the paper they should be listed (double-spaced) in numerical order corresponding to the order of citation in the text.

All authors should be listed for papers with up to five authors; for papers with more than five authors, the first only should be listed, followed by *et al.* Abbreviations for titles of medical periodicals should conform to those used in the latest edition of Index Medicus. The first and last page numbers for each reference should be provided. Abstracts must be identified as such. Papers in press and preprints hosted on a recognized server may be included in the list of references.

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.

Examples:

*Journal article, up to five authors:*

Belkaid, Y. & Rouse, B. T. Natural regulatory T cells in infectious disease. *Nat. Immunol.* **6**, 353–360 (2005).

*Journal article, e-pub ahead of print:*

Bonin, M. *et al.* F-ara-A pharmacokinetics during reduced-intensity conditioning therapy with fludarabine and busulfan. *Bone Marrow Transplant.* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/sj.bmt.1705565> (2007).

*Journal article, in press:*

Gallardo, R. L., Juneja, H. S. & Gardner, F. H. Normal human marrow stromal cells induce clonal growth of human malignant T-lymphoblasts. *Int. J. Cell Cloning* (in the press).

*Complete book:*

Atkinson, K. *et al.* (eds) *Clinical Bone Marrow and Blood Stem Cell Transplantation* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2004).

*Chapter in book:*

Harley, N. H. & Vivian, L. in *Mechanisms of Disease* 4th edn, Vol. 2 (eds Sodeman, W. A. & Smith, A.) Ch. 3 (Saunders, 1974).

*Abstract:*

Feig, S. A. *et al.* Bone marrow transplantation for neuroblastoma. *Exp. Hematol.* **13**, abstr. 102 (1985).

*Preprint:*

Starrfelt, J. & Liow, L.H. How many dinosaur species were there? Fossil bias and true richness estimated using a Poisson sampling model (TRiPS). Preprint at <http://biorxiv.org/content/early/2015/12/04/025940> (2015).

*Research dataset:*

Hao, Z., AghaKouchak, A., Nakhjiri, N. & Farahmand, A. Global Integrated Drought Monitoring and Prediction System (GIDMaPS) Data sets. figshare. <http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.853801> (2014).

*(x) Figures*

Figures and images should be labelled sequentially, numbered and cited in the text. Production-quality figures are not required at initial submission, but to avoid potential substantial revisions at later stages you may wish to note some of the guidelines below even at the initial submission stage.

It is recommended that you convert all your figures to JPEG before generating PDFs or uploading individual files. This will reduce the file sizes and the amount of time it takes the files to upload to our submission site and will also give you a closer approximation to the way your figures will appear on our site. If you choose to submit your files in PowerPoint format, please do not make a JPEG of these within PowerPoint. The conversion is more successful when a raw PowerPoint file is submitted.

### General Figure Guidelines

Use distinct colours with comparable visibility and consider colour-blind individuals by avoiding the use of red and green for contrast. Recoloring primary data, such as fluorescence images, to colour-safe combinations such as green and magenta, turquoise and red, yellow and blue or other accessible colour palettes is strongly encouraged. Use of the rainbow colour scale should be avoided. Use solid colour for filling objects and avoid hatch patterns. Avoid background shading. Figures divided into parts should be labelled with a lower-case, boldface 'a', 'b', etc. in the top left-hand corner. Labelling of axes, keys and so on should be in 'sentence case' (first word capitalized only) with no full stop. Units must have a space between the number and the unit, and follow the nomenclature common to your field. Commas should be used to separate thousands. Unusual units or abbreviations should be spelled out in full, or defined in the legend.

## Final Figure Submission Guidelines

Should your manuscript be accepted, you will receive more extensive instructions for final submission of display items. However, a summary of our guidelines for final figure preparation are included here.

- Each figure should be saved in a separate file. Figures including multiple parts (e.g. Fig.1a, 1b, 1c) should be saved in a single file (e.g. Figure1a-c). The figure number should be placed above each figure. Figure legends should be inserted in the article's text file.
- Images should be saved in RGB color mode at 300 dpi or higher resolution.
- Use the same typeface (Arial or Helvetica) for all figures. Use symbol font for Greek letters.
- We prefer vector files with editable layers. Acceptable formats are: .ai, .eps, .pdf, .ps, .svg for fully editable vector-based art; layered .psd or .tiff for editable layered art; .psd, .tif, .jpeg or .png for bitmap images; .ppt if fully editable and without styling effects; ChemDraw (.cdx) for chemical structures.
- Figures are best prepared at the size you would expect them to appear in print. At this size, the optimum font size is 8pt and no lines should be thinner than 0.25 pt (0.09 mm).

Display items that contain chemical structures should be produced using ChemDraw or a similar program. Authors using ChemDraw should use our ChemDraw Template and submit the final files at 100% as .cdx files. All chemical compounds must be assigned a bold, Arabic numeral in the order in which the compounds are presented in the manuscript text.

### (xi) Tables

Tables should be labelled sequentially as Table 1, Table 2, etc. Each table should be numbered, titled and cited in the text. Reference to table footnotes should be made by using Arabic numerals. Tables should not duplicate the content of the text. They should consist of at least two columns, and each column should have a heading. 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 embedded into the main manuscript file if necessary, or supplied as separate electronic files.

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 also applies 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.

## Artwork Guidelines

### Color figures

Color figures must be supplied in the following format.

For Single Images:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Width</b>      | <b>500 pixels</b> (authors should select "constrain proportions", or equivalent instructions, to allow the application to set the correct height automatically.) |
| <b>Resolution</b> | <b>300 dpi</b> (dots per inch)   |
| <b>Format</b>     | <b>JPEG</b> for photographs<br><b>GIF</b> for line drawings or charts  |
| <b>Filenaming</b> | Please save image with .jpg or .gif extension to ensure it can be read by all platforms and graphics packages.   |

For Multi-part Images:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Width</b>      | <b>900 pixels</b> (authors should select "constrain proportions", or equivalent instructions, to allow the application to set the correct height automatically.) |
| <b>Resolution</b> | <b>300 dpi</b> (dots per inch)   |
| <b>Format</b>     | <b>JPEG</b> for photographs<br><b>GIF</b> for line drawings or charts  |
| <b>Filenaming</b> | 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

- Error bars must be displayed including distinct dots for each measurement
- 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

### **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.

1. Do not make rules thinner than 1 pt (0.36 mm)
2. Use a coarse hatching pattern rather than shading for tints in graphs
3. Color should be distinct when being used as an identifying tool
4. Use SI units throughout
5. Abbreviations should be preceded by the words for which they stand in the first instance of use and should not be used for terms used fewer than 4 times
6. Text should be double spacing with a wide margin
7. 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
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10. All pages and lines are to be numbered. To add page numbers in MS Word, go to Insert then Page Numbers. To add line numbers go to File, Page Setup, then click the Layout tab. In the Apply to box, select Whole document, click Line Numbers then select the Add line numbering check box, followed by Continuous.

### **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 the artwork guidelines above 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 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.

### **Supplementary information**

Supplementary information is peer-reviewed material directly relevant to the conclusions of an article that cannot

be included in the printed version owing to space or format constraints. It is posted on the journal's website and linked to the article when the article is published and may consist of data files, graphics, movies or extensive tables.

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

Supplementary information must be supplied to the Editorial Office in its final form for peer review. On acceptance the final version of the peer reviewed supplementary information should be submitted with the accepted manuscript.

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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 can neither be altered, nor added to, 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 accompanies the manuscript on the *Signal Transduction and Targeted Therapy* website <http://www.nature.com/sigtrans>' at the end of the article and before the references.

### **Accepted file formats**

- Quick Time files (.mov)
- HTML files (.html)
- MPEG movie files (.mpg)
- JPEG image files (.jpg)
- Sound files (.wav)
- Plain ASCII text (.txt)
- Acrobat files (.pdf)
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- Postscript files (.ps)
- MS Excel spreadsheet documents (.xls)
- TeX or LaTeX (.tex) files

File sizes must be as small as possible, so that they can be downloaded quickly. Images should not exceed 640 x 480 pixels (approximately 23 x 17 cm at 72dpi), and we would recommend 480 x 360 pixels as the maximum frame size for movies. We 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 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. Please seek advice from the Editorial Office before sending files larger than our maximum size to avoid delays in publication.

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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:

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- 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](#).

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### Online Submission

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### Submission of Revisions

Authors submitting a revised manuscript after review are asked to include the following:

- (1) A rebuttal letter, indicating point-by-point how you have addressed the comments raised by the reviewers. If you disagree with any of the points raised, please provide adequate justification in your letter.
- (2) A marked-up version of the manuscript that highlights changes made in response to the reviewers' comments in order to aid the Editors and reviewers.
- (3) A 'clean' (non-highlighted) version of the manuscript.

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The corresponding author will receive an e-mail containing a URL linking to the proofing site. Proof corrections must be returned within 48 hours of receipt. Failure to do so may result in delayed publication. Extensive changes cannot be made at this stage.

## Final Publication

The final version of the manuscript is published online and represents the official version of the manuscript.

## Self-Archiving

Authors are encouraged to submit the final version of the accepted, peer-reviewed manuscript to their funding body's archive for public release immediately upon publication and to deposit the final version on their institution's repository. Authors should cite the publication

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Researchers should conduct their research – from research proposal to publication – in line with best practices and codes of conduct of relevant professional bodies and/or national and international regulatory bodies.

Springer Nature is committed to upholding the integrity of the scientific record. As a member of the [Committee on Publication Ethics](#) (COPE), *Signal Transduction and Targeted Therapy* abides by COPE's principles on how to deal with potential acts of misconduct, which includes formal investigation of all perceived transgressions.

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Requirements for all categories of articles should conform to the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals," developed by the ICMJE ([www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org)).

The corresponding author should list all authors and their contributions to the work. Each author must have contributed sufficiently to the intellectual content of the submission. The corresponding author must confirm 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.
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