Guidelines for Authors
(Revised January 2017)

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Objectives

Molecular Pharmaceutics publishes original research that contributes significantly to the molecular mechanistic understanding of drug delivery and drug delivery systems. The journal encourages contributions describing research at the interface of drug discovery and drug development. Scientific areas within the scope of the journal include physical and pharmaceutical chemistry, biochemistry and biophysics, molecular and cellular biology, and polymer and materials science as they relate to drug and drug delivery system efficacy. Theoretical and experimental peer-reviewed communications, full-length research papers, brief articles, and critical reviews are welcomed. Submission of a manuscript to Molecular Pharmaceutics implies that the same work has not been previously published, including as part of a public electronic database, and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. In addition, there must be no legal restrictions to publication, e.g., patent activities, at the time of submission.

Manuscript Types

Articles

Full-length research manuscripts, consistent with the objectives of Molecular Pharmaceutics, are the principal focus of the journal. Authors must follow the instructions given below for preparation and submission of manuscripts.

Brief Articles

Definitive reports whose scope is more limited than that of articles but whose format is identical may be submitted as brief articles. They are subject to the same editorial appraisal as articles and should be of similar scientific quality.
**Current Reviews**

*Molecular Pharmaceutics* considers current short reviews of the most recent innovative advances in the science. Concise focused reviews will be considered for publication in the journal. Reviews must be timely and objective and cover the described topic over a relevant period. Broad lengthy reviews are discouraged. **Before** submitting a review article for consideration of publication the authors are advised to contact the Office of the Editor-in-Chief to obtain presubmission approval. The Editor will determine if the topic is timely and of current interest to the Journal audience. Authors should provide a topical outline and estimated length and a current biosketch including publications (for editors’ use only) with the cover letter.

**Communications**

Editors will be extremely selective in accepting communications for review and consideration for publication. Communications of extremely timely and important research results will be considered for publication. Communications must provide enough information for the objective evaluation of the importance, significance, and validity of the report.

**Additions and Corrections**

Additions and Corrections may be used to address important issues or correct errors and omissions of consequence that arise after publication of an article. Additions and Corrections may be requested by the author(s) or initiated by the Editor after discussions with the corresponding author. Readers who detect errors of consequence in the work of others should contact the corresponding author of that work. All Additions and Corrections are subject to approval by the Editor, and minor corrections and additions will not be published. Additions and Corrections from authors should be submitted via the ACS Paragon Plus environment by the corresponding author for publication in the “Addition/Correction” section of the Journal. The corresponding author should obtain approval from all of the article coauthors prior to submitting an Addition and Correction, or provide evidence that such approval has been solicited. The Addition and Correction should include the original article title and author list, citation including DOI, and details of the correction. For proper formatting, see examples in a current issue of the Journal.

**Retractions**

Articles may be retracted for scientific or ethical reasons. Articles that contain seriously flawed or erroneous data such that their findings and conclusions cannot be relied upon may be retracted in order to correct the scientific record. Retractions may be requested by the article author(s) or by the journal Editor(s), but are ultimately published at the discretion of the Editor. When an article is retracted, a notice of Retraction will be published containing information about the original article title, author list, and the reason for the Retraction. Retracted articles will be accompanied by the related Retraction notice and will be marked as “Retracted”. The originally published article will remain on the web except in extraordinary circumstances (e.g. where deemed legally necessary, or if the availability of the published content poses public health risks). The American Chemical Society follows guidance from the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) when considering retractions; for more information see: [http://publicationethics.org/](http://publicationethics.org/).
Editorial Organization

The Editor-in-Chief is appointed by the American Chemical Society (ACS) and has the final responsibility for all editorial decisions. The Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editors initially determine whether a manuscript’s content falls within the scope of Molecular Pharmaceutics. Manuscripts that do not fall within the scope of the journal or would not be of interest to the general readers of the journal will be returned to the authors without review. Initial acceptance decisions will be made within one week of submission. This decision should be considered final.

Following acceptance for consideration, independent external reviewers will evaluate the manuscript. Reviewers are selected for their competence in specialized areas of Molecular Pharmaceutics from an existing database. They are expected to excuse themselves in cases of conflict of interest. Authors should recommend up to six (6) potential reviewers based on their area of expertise who are not Editors or on the Editorial Advisory Board (EAB). If the reviews are conflicting, the manuscript and the opinions of the reviewers may be sent to an EAB member for adjudication if necessary.

If a manuscript is returned for revision, the author should respond to the specific recommendations of the reviewers. Recommendations of the reviewers should be given the strongest consideration. Revised manuscripts should be submitted to the journal with a cover letter describing the changes and revisions to the manuscript. The changes made during the revision should be shown within the manuscript by highlight, color font, or a tracked changes feature. Authors should also include a clear, concise, and detailed point-by-point response to the reviewer concerns. If exceptions to the reviewers’ recommendations are made, or the reviewers’ recommendations are not followed, these issues must be described in detail in the response. The manuscript may be returned to the reviewers for reconsideration. Authors should submit revised manuscripts within the time frame indicated in the decision letter. Failure to do so, without permission of the Editor, may result in the paper being considered a new submission.

Preparation of Electronic Manuscripts

The Guidelines for Authors and the Journal Publishing Agreement form are available at http://pubs.acs.org/page/MPOHBP/submission/authors.html and http://pubs.acs.org/page/copyright/journals/index.html, respectively. All manuscripts must be submitted as digital files using the ACS Paragon Plus Environment (see Submission). Currently acceptable word-processing packages are available at http://paragonplus.acs.org.

Authors should use the document mode or its equivalent in the word-processing program; i.e., files should not be saved in “Text Only” (ASCII) mode. If a non-Western version of the word-processing software is used, the file should be saved in rich-text format (RTF). Each file should be checked with an up-to-date virus detection program. The presence of a virus may delay publication.

It is best to use the fonts “Times” and “Symbol”. Other fonts, particularly those that do not come bundled with the system software, may not translate properly. All special characters (e.g., Greek characters, math symbols, etc.) must be present in the body of the text as characters and not as graphic representations. Tables may be created using a word processor’s text mode or table format feature. The table format feature is preferred. Each data entry should be in its own table cell. If the text mode is used, columns should be separated with a single tab and a line feed (return) should be used at the end of each row.
Assembly of Manuscripts

Author Checklist
A complete manuscript submission contains the following items, which are discussed in more detail below:

- cover letter
- Journal Publishing Agreement
- title page
- table of contents graphic
- abstract
- keywords
- Introduction
- Experimental Section
- Results
- Discussion
- Acknowledgment
- illustrations embedded in the manuscript
- Supporting Information (if necessary)

Publication of the paper may be delayed if any item is missing.

Cover Letter
Please include anything you feel may be pertinent in the cover letter. Also, please share with us your Twitter Handle and that of your Institution/Company or Department by including it in your cover letter when you submit your manuscript. We may post a tweet about your paper if it is accepted. You can follow Molecular Pharmaceutics on Twitter, Twitter Handle: @Mol_Phrarm.

Title Page
The title must reflect the purposes and findings of the work in a manner that assists in classification and indexing. Abbreviations and trade names should be avoided. Titles should be followed by the names of the authors and by the addresses of all contributing laboratories. The name of the author to whom inquiries should be directed should be marked with an asterisk (*). The full address together with the telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address of the corresponding author should be given in a footnote, using an asterisk.

Table of Contents/Abstract Graphic
A graphic must be included with each manuscript for dual use in the Table of Contents (TOC) and the abstract. This graphic should capture the reader’s attention and, in conjunction with the manuscript title, should give the reader a quick visual impression of the topic described in the manuscript. The TOC/abstract graphic should be furnished at the actual size at which it is intended to appear in the issue and may be up to 8.9 cm wide and 3.6 cm tall. Text should be limited to labels. The use of standard abbreviations and unambiguous molecular formulas is encouraged.
Abstract
Abstracts should accompany all manuscripts and should explain concisely the objective, methods, and most important results and conclusions in the report. Any references should be cited in full, and footnotes and abbreviations should be avoided to prevent ambiguity in cases where only the abstract is published (e.g., Chemical Abstracts). Initial acceptance of manuscripts for consideration will be based primarily on review of the abstract.

Keywords
Significant keywords that aid the reader in literature retrieval should be included. They are published immediately after the abstract.

Abbreviations
Standard abbreviations should be used throughout the manuscript. The preferred forms for some of the more commonly used abbreviations are given in The ACS Style Guide, 3rd ed. (2006) (http://pubs.acs.org/page/books/styleguide/index.html), available from Oxford University Press, Order Department, 201 Evans Rd., Cary, NC 27513. Units are abbreviated in table column heads and when used with numbers, not otherwise.

Introduction
The purpose of the study and its relation to and extension of previous work in the field should be included. Detailed or lengthy descriptions of routine experimental or theoretical procedures should be avoided. Extensive literature reviews should also be excluded.

Experimental Section
Experimental descriptions should be as concise as possible. Novel experimental procedures should be described in detail, while published procedures should be cited by reference number only. General reaction conditions should be given only once. Authors must emphasize any unexpected, new, and/or significant hazards or risks associated with the reported work. This information should be in the experimental details section of the full article or communication.

Results
Text, tables, and figures can be used to describe the results as necessary. However, data should appear in only one format. Only the most significant and representative data should be included in the body of the manuscript. Extended or supplemental results that support the main findings of the paper should appear as Supporting Information, which is published on the Web.

Discussion
Authors should use this section for their interpretation of the results and examination of their relation to and extension of the existing body of literature. Information given elsewhere, e.g., in the Results or Introduction, should not be repeated. Highly speculative suggestions should also be excluded.

Acknowledgment
Mention of technical assistance, advice from colleagues, gifts, etc. should be made. Financial support should also be described in detail in this section.
Supporting Information

Authors are encouraged to use this section in cases where manuscripts contain extensive tabulations of data that are of interest to particular readers. The pages of Supporting Information should be numbered sequentially, should be labeled as Supporting Information, and should be readily legible. The production staff will not alter the appearance of Supporting Information. If the manuscript is accompanied by any Supporting Information files for publication, a brief description of each file is required. The paragraph and descriptions should be placed at the end of the manuscript before the list of references. The appropriate format is:

**Supporting Information.** Brief descriptions in nonsentence format listing the contents of the files supplied as Supporting Information.

Supporting Information must be submitted at the same time as the manuscript and uploaded separately to the ACS Paragon Plus Environment. A list of acceptable file types is available on the Web. All Supporting Information files of the same type should be prepared as a single file (rather than submitting a series of files containing individual images or structures). For example, all Supporting Information available as PDF files should be contained in one PDF file.

**Do not upload figures and tables that are to be published in the article into the Supporting Information file.**

**References**

Literature references and notes must be numbered in one consecutive series by order of mention in the text, and article titles should be included in the reference list. They should be cited in the text with superscript numbers. The accuracy of the references is the responsibility of the author. Because, in the Web edition, references are linked to various electronic sources, the accuracy of the references is critical. Titles of periodicals are abbreviated according to *Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index*. Reference formats are as follows.

For journals:


For monographs:


For edited books:


Submitted manuscripts should be listed as “in press” only if formally accepted for publication; otherwise, “unpublished results” should be used after the names of authors. Published work for which pagination is unavailable may be cited by the Digital Object Identifier (DOI). Authors must receive written permission to use unpublished work of others or to use material taken
directly from a copyrighted publication. Any footnotes to the text should be incorporated in the correct numerical sequence with the references.

**Tables**
Tabulation of experimental results is encouraged when this leads to more effective presentation or to more economical use of space. A descriptive title that, together with column headings, makes the table self-explanatory should be included. Units of measure should be included. Footnotes in tables should be given italic lowercase letter designations and cited in the table as superscripts.

**Figure Captions**
The descriptions of the illustrations should be brief yet informative and should be understandable without reference to the text. Symbols not readily available as text characters should be defined in the artwork. Symbols not defined in the artwork must be included in the caption to avoid ambiguity.

**Illustrations: Figures, Schemes, etc.**

*General Considerations*. Each version of a manuscript must contain a complete set of illustrations. All color should be removed from graphics, except for those graphics that authors would like to have considered for publication in color. Artwork must be embedded in the manuscript.

*Quality*. The quality of the illustrations in the published manuscript wholly depends on the quality of the graphics files provided. TIFF files (either embedded in a Word doc or submitted as individual files) should have the following resolution requirements: black & white line art, 1200 dpi; grayscale art (a monochromatic image containing shades of gray), 600 dpi; color art (RGB color mode), 300 dpi. Figures are not modified or enhanced by the journal production staff. The use of error bars is recommended.

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*Color*. Color illustrations should be submitted only if essential for clarity of communication. Color reproduction, if approved by the Editor, will be provided at no cost to the author. The RGB and resolution requirements are essential for producing high-quality graphics within the published manuscript. Graphics submitted in CMYK or at lower resolutions may be used, however, the colors may not be consistent and graphics of poor quality may not be able to be improved.

*Chemical Structures*. Structures should be produced with the use of a drawing program such as ChemDraw. Structure drawing preferences (preset in the ACS Stylesheet in ChemDraw) are as follows:
(1) As drawing settings select:

- chain angle 120º
- bond spacing 18% of width
- fixed length 14.4 pt (0.508 cm, 0.2 in.)
- bold width 2.0 pt (0.071 cm, 0.0278 in.)
- line width 0.6 pt (0.021 cm, 0.0084 in.)
- margin width 1.6 pt (0.056 cm, 0.0222 in.)
- hash spacing 2.5 pt (0.088 cm, 0.0347 in.)

(2) As text settings select:

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- size 10 pt

(3) Under the preferences choose:

- units points
- tolerances 5 pixels

(4) Under page setup choose:

- Paper US Letter
- Scale 100%

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**Nomenclature**

It is the responsibility of the authors to provide correct nomenclature. Nomenclature should conform with current American usage. Insofar as possible, authors should use systematic names, either Chemical Abstracts Service or IUPAC, in the Experimental Section. Chemical Abstracts (CA) nomenclature rules are described in Appendix IV of the *Chemical Abstracts Index Guide*. For CA nomenclature advice, authors should consult the Manager of Nomenclature Services, Chemical Abstracts Service, P.O. Box 3012, Columbus, OH 43210-0012. A name generation service is available for a fee through CAS Client Services, 2540 Olentangy River Road, P.O. Box 3343, Columbus, OH 43210-0334; telephone (614) 447-3870; fax (614) 447-3747; or e-mail answers@cas.org. It is also acceptable to use semisynthetic or generic names for certain specialized classes of compounds. In such a case, the name should conform to the generally accepted nomenclature conventions for the compound class. Chemical names for drugs are preferred. If these are not practical, generic names, or names approved by the U.S. Adopted Names Council (USAN), or those approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) may be used. Registered trademark names or code numbers for drugs can be included in parentheses after a descriptive term in the title and should be used only once in the text; subsequently, their chemical names or compound numbers should be used. In certain cases, compounds that are widely employed as research tools and recognized primarily by code numbers may be designated by their code numbers. If a generic name is employed, its chemical name or structural formula should be given at the point of first citation.
Software
Software used as a part of computer-aided drug design (e.g., molecular modeling, QSAR, etc.) should be readily available from reliable sources, and the authors should specify where the software can be obtained. When conformational calculations are included, the parameters employed for the relevant potential functions should be given. All details needed to reproduce the numbers in the manuscript should be indicated in the paper or as Supporting Information.

Coordinate Deposition
Atomic coordinates of macromolecules must be deposited with the Protein Data Bank (PDB) at Rutgers University (http://rcsb-deposit.rutgers.edu). It is the responsibility of the author to obtain a file name for the macromolecule. The file name must appear in the manuscript. PDB file names should be added to the galley proof if necessary. PDB entries will be linked to the coordinate file in the Web edition.

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Publication

Proofs

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It is the responsibility of the corresponding author to ensure that all authors listed on the manuscript agree with the changes made on the proofs. Galley proofs should be returned within 48 h of receipt in order to ensure timely publication of the manuscript.

Just Accepted Manuscripts

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Policy Summary on Prior Publication
Molecular Pharmaceutics authors are allowed to deposit an initial draft of their manuscript in a preprint service such as ChemRxiv, arXiv, or bioRxiv. Please note any use of a preprint server in the cover letter, and as appropriate, state how the manuscript has been adjusted/updated between deposition and submission. All other prior/redundant publication is forbidden. Upon publication in Molecular Pharmaceutics, authors are advised to add a link from the preprint to the published paper via the Digital Object Identifier (DOI).

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