

## GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

*Biological Psychiatry* is the official journal of the Society of Biological Psychiatry. The *Journal* rapidly publishes reports of novel results on a broad range of topics related to the pathophysiology and treatment of major neuropsychiatric disorders. Both basic and clinical neuroscience contributions are encouraged, particularly those addressing genetic and environmental risk factors, neural circuitry and neurochemistry, and important new therapeutic approaches. Except where explicitly stated otherwise, *Biological Psychiatry* conforms to the guidelines set forth by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) (see Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals [August 2013]: Available from <http://www.ICMJE.org>).

All new manuscripts must be submitted through the journal website: <http://ees.elsevier.com/bps>. Please direct questions to the Editorial Office at (214) 648-0880, or [Biol.Psych@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:Biol.Psych@utsouthwestern.edu).

**ARTICLE TYPES AND CONTENT** Our readership is diverse, and authors should consider that many of our readers are in specialty areas other than their own. It is important, therefore, to avoid jargon. A focused and clearly written manuscript is more likely to appeal to the readership. The brevity and clarity of the presentation will be taken into consideration by the Editors. In highly specialized areas, the introduction should be a concise primer.

**Archival Reports** are original research papers reporting novel results on a broad range of topics related to the pathophysiology and treatment of major neuropsychiatric disorders. Clear explication of methods and results is critical to facilitate review of papers and replicability of findings. The main text must be no more than 4000 words, and be structured with sections entitled and ordered as follows: Introduction, Methods and Materials, Results, Discussion. Abstracts should be 250 words or less, structured with sections entitled as follows: Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions. Figures, tables, and references should be included as necessary.

**Priority Communications** are Archival Reports that clearly document novel experimental findings of unusual and timely significance. These papers should represent a conceptual advance in the field and are not intended for publication of preliminary results. They are expected to be acceptable for publication in essentially the form submitted. Papers that require substantial revisions or do not fit the criteria will be considered as Archival Reports. See Archival Reports for structure, word length, and other requirements.

**Reviews** are concise (4000 words or less) and focus on current aspects of interest and research. Up to 150 references are allowed. Abstracts are unstructured and

limited to 250 words. Figures and tables should summarize or illustrate important points.

**Techniques and Methods** articles feature new, improved, or noteworthy comments about techniques or methods relevant to basic or clinical research in, or treatment of, psychiatric disorders. Maximum length is 3000 words (main body of text only); excludes acknowledgments, disclosures, legends, and references). Abstracts are unstructured and limited to 150 words. Figures and tables should illustrate important points and are limited to a half-page (typeset).

**Correspondence** is directly related to methods, procedures or interpretation of data presented in work recently published in our journal and uses new analysis of data presented, the support of previously published work, and/or scientific points to be addressed based on methodological issues. It may also present a case-report that clearly and unambiguously illustrates important new principles that have not yet been demonstrated in clinical trials. When warranted, a reply from author(s) of the original work is solicited. Correspondence is published online only as econtent. Maximum length is 1000 words (main body of text only). No abstract and no supplements are allowed. Figures and tables are not encouraged, but allowed to illustrate important points.

**Commentaries** and **Editorials** address points directly related to articles in the concurrent issue, and/or focus on topics of current research and interest. These are generally invited, but interested contributors are encouraged to contact the Editor. A summarizing figure or table is encouraged. Length is restricted to 1500 words with no more than 10 references.

**PREPARATION & SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS** All manuscripts must be submitted in electronic form through the *Biological Psychiatry* online submission and review website (<http://ees.elsevier.com/bps/>). Submission is a representation that all authors have personally reviewed and given final approval of the version submitted, and neither the manuscript nor its data have been previously published (except in abstract) or are currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. Authors must identify figures, tables and/or data that have been published elsewhere, and permission from the copyright holder must be obtained to reproduce or modify the materials.

Files (cover letter, text, figures) will be uploaded separately during the submission process, and should be labeled with appropriate and descriptive file names (e.g., SmithText.doc, Fig1.eps, Table3.doc). The system will then build a single PDF of the submission from the uploaded files.

Upon finalizing the submission, the corresponding author will immediately receive an e-mail notification that the submission has been received by the Editorial Office. If such documentation has not been received, then a problem likely occurred during the submission process and should be investigated. Any manuscripts not conforming to these guidelines will be returned to the author for correction before the manuscript is processed. The manuscript status is available to the corresponding author at all times by logging into the website.

**COVER LETTER** A cover letter is required for submissions designated as Priority Communications to outline the significance of the work; it is optional for all other submissions. A cover letter must be uploaded as a separate file.

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**Style** Manuscripts should be double-spaced. Pages must be numbered and include the first author's name. Acronyms must be spelled out on first use in both the abstract and the text, and where used in tables or figures, in each of their legends. American spellings should be used. The location (city and state or country) of all manufacturers should be provided. Gene symbols should be italicized and differentiated by species. Human symbols should be all uppercase, whereas symbols for rodents and other species should be lowercase using only an initial capital. Protein products, regardless of species, are not italicized and use all uppercase letters. Accepted manuscripts are copyedited to conform to the *AMA Manual of Style*.

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**Acknowledgments** This section should precede the References, and should include acknowledgments for personal and technical assistance, in addition to detailed information regarding all sources of funding, including grant and other material or financial support. The role of study sponsor(s), if any, should also be detailed. If a research group is listed as an author, then the individual members of the research team must be named in this section. Written permission should be obtained from all individuals named here. Data that was published previously, such as in an abstract or poster, should also be identified here.

**Financial Disclosures** This section **must** include the required conflict of interest statements for each author (see section on disclosure, below).

**References** References should be numbered and listed by their order of appearance in the text. Refer to references in the text with the appropriate number in parentheses. References in tables and figures should also be numbered. List all authors; if there are more than seven authors, list the first six then *et al*. Periodical abbreviations should follow those used by Index Medicus. The following are sample references for a journal article (1), a book (2), and an edited book (3).

1. Krystal JH, Carter CS, Geschwind D, Manji HK, March JS, Nestler EJ, *et al*. (2008): It is time to take a stand for medical research and against terrorism targeting medical scientists. *Biol Psychiatry* 63:725-727.
2. American Psychiatric Association (1994): *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th ed*. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Press.
3. Martin JH (1985): Properties of cortical neurons, the EEG, and the mechanisms of epilepsy. In: Kandel ER, Schwartz JH, editors. *Principles of Neural Science, 2nd ed*. New York: Elsevier, 461-471.

**FIGURES AND TABLES** Figures and tables should be cited in the text, numbered consecutively (i.e., 1, 2, 3) in the order of their mention, and have brief descriptions. If not included in the manuscript file, tables should be uploaded individually in an editable format, such as DOC. Table footnotes should use superscript lowercase letters, rather than symbols.

The preferred file format for figures and graphics is EPS, TIFF, or PDF. Please upload high quality versions of each figure individually (i.e., two figures should be uploaded separately as Figure 1 and Figure 2). Parts/panels in composite figures should be labeled with capital letters (A, B, C). Each figure should be consistent in color, size, and font and be designed proportionally so that each item within it is to scale (particularly numbers, letters, and symbols) so it can later be sized as needed without loss of legibility or quality. Figure titles and legends should be included as text in the manuscript file and not in the figure file itself. Complete instructions for electronic artwork preparation and submission can be found at <http://www.elsevier.com/artwork>.

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neuroimaging datasets; zoom, rotate and pan the 3D brain reconstruction; cut through the volume; change opacity and color mapping; switch between 3D and 2D projected views; and download the data. The viewer supports both single (.nii) and dual (.hdr and .img) NIFTI file formats. Recommended size of a single uncompressed dataset is ≤100 MB. Multiple datasets can be submitted. Each dataset should be zipped and uploaded separately. Please provide a short informative description for each dataset by filling in the "Description" field when uploading a dataset. If an article is accepted, all uploaded datasets will be available for download from the online article on ScienceDirect. If you have concerns about your data being downloadable, please provide a video instead. For more information, see: <http://www.elsevier.com/3DNeuroimaging>.

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**REFEREE SUGGESTIONS** For all new submissions (except Commentaries and Correspondence), authors will be required to include the full names and contact information (affiliation, e-mail, and telephone number) of 6 individuals who are especially qualified to referee the work and would not have a conflict of interest in

**REVIEW PROCESS** The actual selection of reviewers will be made by the editors. As a general rule, papers will be evaluated by three independent reviewers and, on occasion, an additional review for statistical adequacy may also be obtained. The comments of the reviewers are generally communicated to the authors within 30-45 days of submission. Authors should contact the Editorial Office if the delay has been longer.

*Biological Psychiatry* excludes reviewers who work at the same institution as any author, or those who have any other obvious conflict of interest. The identity of individual reviewers remains confidential to all parties except the Editorial Office.

**AUTHORSHIP** To qualify for authorship, an individual must have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for all or part of the content, given final approval of the submitted version, and made substantive intellectual contributions to the submitted work in the form of: 1) conception and design, and/or acquisition of data, and/or analysis of data; and 2) drafting the article, and/or revising it critically for important intellectual content. Authorship also requires agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of

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**ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS** Authors should consider all ethical issues relevant to their research. In the Methods and Materials section of the manuscript, authors should identify the institutional and/or licensing committee that approved the experiment(s) and confirm that all experiments were performed in accordance with relevant guidelines and regulations. Authors of reports on human studies should include detailed information on the informed consent process, including the method(s) used to assess the subject's capacity to give informed consent, and safeguards included in the study design for protection of human subjects. When relevant patient follow-up data are available, this should also be reported. When reporting experiments on animals, authors should indicate that institutional and national guidelines for the care and use of laboratory animals were followed.

**CLINICAL TRIALS REGISTRATION** In concordance with the ICMJE, *Biological Psychiatry* requires the registration of all clinical trials whose primary purpose is to affect clinical practice as a condition of submission and consideration for publication. For this purpose, a clinical trial is defined as any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes. Health-related interventions include any intervention used to modify a biomedical or health-related outcome (for example, drugs, surgical procedures, devices, behavioral treatments, dietary interventions, and process-of-care changes). Health outcomes include any biomedical or health-related measures obtained in patients or participants, including pharmacokinetic measures and adverse events.

reviewing the manuscript. Affiliations of the suggested referees should all be different, and none should have the same affiliation as any of the authors. Editors are not appropriate to suggest as a reviewer.

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Reviewers are expected to treat manuscripts under peer review with the strictest confidentiality.

Authors should be aware that manuscripts may be returned without outside review when the editors deem that the paper is of insufficient general interest for the broad readership of *Biological Psychiatry*, or that the scientific priority is such that it is unlikely to receive favorable reviews. Editorial rejection is done to speed up the editorial process and to allow the authors' papers to be promptly submitted and reviewed elsewhere. All submissions (with the general exception of Editorials, Commentaries, and Correspondence) will be subject to peer review.

any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved. All individuals who meet criteria for authorship must be named as authors, and all individuals named as authors must meet all authorship criteria. If authorship is attributed to a group (either solely or in addition to 1 or more individual authors), all members of the group must meet the full criteria and requirements for authorship as described above. Requests to change the corresponding author or to add/delete any authors must be submitted directly to the Editorial Office.

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or concerns, but should err on the side of inclusion when in doubt. The following is a sample text:

Dr. Einstein reports having received lecture fees from EMC Laboratories, and research funding from Quantum Enterprises. Dr. Curie disclosed consulting fees from RA Inc. Dr. Newton reported his patent on "Newtonian physics". Dr. Archimedes reported no biomedical financial interests or potential conflicts of interest.

All authors are required to acknowledge that the conflicts of interest and financial disclosures are complete for both themselves and their co-authors, to the best of their knowledge, when completing the Manuscript Submission Form. Manuscripts that fail to include the complete statements of all authors upon submission will be returned to the corresponding author and will delay the processing and evaluation of the manuscript.

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Purely observational studies (those in which the assignment of the medical intervention is not at the discretion of the investigator) will not require registration.

All clinical trials, *regardless of when they were completed*, and secondary analyses of original clinical trials must be registered before submission of a manuscript based on the trial. Trials must have been registered at or before the onset of patient enrollment for any clinical trial that began patient enrollment on or after February 1, 2007. The trial name, URL, and registration number should be included at the end of the abstract. Acceptable registries are ClinicalTrials.gov (<http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/>) or any primary registries in the World Health Organization International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (<http://www.who.int/ictpr/network/primary/en/index.html>).

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**RESEARCH AND DATA REPORTING GUIDELINES** *Biological Psychiatry* supports initiatives aimed at improving the reporting of biomedical research. Checklists have been developed for a number of study designs, including randomized controlled trials (CONSORT), systematic reviews (PRISMA), meta-analyses of observational studies (MOOSE), diagnostic accuracy studies (STARD), and animal research (ARRIVE). The Minimum Information for Biological and Biomedical Investigations (MIBBI) portal also provides data-reporting standards, such as MIAME for microarray experiments. A comprehensive list of reporting guidelines is

available from the EQUATOR Network Library (<http://www.equator-network.org>). Authors should make use of the appropriate guidelines when drafting their papers. Peer reviewers are asked to refer to these checklists when evaluating these studies.

*Biological Psychiatry* requires the inclusion of the CONSORT materials (flow diagram and checklist) at submission for all randomized controlled trials. Authors of other study designs are encouraged, but not required, to include the relevant checklists at submission. All such materials will be published as supplemental information.

**GENETIC ASSOCIATION STUDIES** The ability to perform a replication of experiments performed by other investigators is a fundamental concept in scientific and biomedical research. Therefore, the failure to replicate the majority of genetic association studies is troubling and provides a challenge for journals attempting to publish work that will stand the test of time, or at the very least, not lead other investigators in non-productive research directions. At the same time, the difficulty in balancing type I error with type II error is a key issue in association studies of neuropsychiatric disease, where sample sizes are often constrained by practicality and the fact that effect sizes due to any single genetic risk factor may be small. Given these tradeoffs, it is often difficult for authors to know what level of proof is acceptable for publication in a given journal, leading to multiple resubmissions and publication delays. We have adopted the following editorial policies to provide guidelines for those submitting manuscripts involving genetic association studies.

We realize that independent replication of an initial finding in the same manuscript may not be feasible in every case, but studies providing such replication of findings in an independent sample will be given highest priority. Confirmation of the functional consequences of a common disease-associated variant is useful information, but does not substitute for a rigorous demonstration of a statistically significant association. Analysis of pathways or candidate regional analysis is encouraged over single gene studies. Candidate gene studies must have strong positional or biological rationale or precedents in the literature that motivate gene choice.

*Biological Psychiatry* is interested in Genetics/Association studies that are replicable and generalizable. The following guidelines are offered in pursuit of this goal. 1) Studies need to be sufficiently large. 2) Information about subject ethnicity, and how it was determined, should be provided. The use of an analytic strategy that controls for potential stratification, such as family-controlled association, or structured association, is encouraged. 3) There must be a clear description of how the phenotype was ascertained. 4) Negative studies should always include estimates of power.

For studies of anonymous variants, there should generally be sufficiently dense marker coverage to allow a relatively comprehensive analysis of common variants within a gene or genes. Analysis of the extent of marker coverage using standard methods to assess linkage disequilibrium should be presented. If rare variants are being tested, the same method of assessment (sequencing, copy number assessment, etc.) should be used in both case and control groups.

We will consider both negative and positive association studies, as well as large replication studies. Negative studies should be based on an attempt to replicate previous studies. Power calculations considering reasonable effect sizes must be provided to show that the study had sufficient power to be informative.

**MATERIALS AND GENES** Upon publication, it is expected that authors willingly distribute to qualified academic researchers any materials (such as viruses, organisms, antibodies, nucleic acids and cell lines) that were utilized in the course of the research and that are not commercially available.

Authors should use approved nomenclature for gene symbols by consulting the appropriate public databases for correct gene names and symbols. Please use symbols (e.g., *SLC6A4*, *DISC1*), as opposed to italicized full names and avoid listing multiple names separated by a slash, such as '*Oct4/Pou5f1*'. Use one name throughout and include any alias(es) upon the first reference. Approved human gene symbols are available from HUGO Gene Nomenclature Committee (HGNC) at <http://www.genenames.org/>. Approved mouse symbols are provided by The Jackson Laboratory at <http://www.informatics.jax.org/mgihome/nomen>. Authors should submit proposed gene names that are not already approved to the appropriate nomenclature committees as soon as possible. It is the authors' responsibility to ensure these are deposited and approved before publication of an article.

GenBank/EMBL accession numbers for primary nucleotide and amino acid sequence data should be included in the manuscript at the end of the Methods and Materials section. All microarray data (proteomic, expression arrays, chromatin arrays, etc.) must be deposited in the appropriate public database and must be accessible without restriction from the date of publication. An entry name or accession number must be included in the Methods and Materials section.

**REPOSITORY DATA** A growing number of private and public repositories are accumulating demographic and clinical data, genetic and genetic analysis data, DNA, and other biomaterials for use in medical research. Manuscripts submitted for publication in *Biological Psychiatry* that employ repository data and/or biomaterials must be in full compliance with the rules developed by the respective repository governing the correct citation of the repository, funding agencies, and investigators who contributed to the

repository. Any other stipulation by the repository governing publications using repository data and/or biomaterials must also be followed. Authors must provide sufficient information in the manuscript for the Editor and reviewers to determine that these conditions have been met and that the repository has been established and maintained according to current ethical standards. The Editors may require authors to provide additional documentation regarding the repository during the review process.

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