

Biological Psychiatry

A Journal of Psychiatric Neuroscience and Therapeutics

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 (December 2016): 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.

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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.

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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.

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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 single summarizing figure or table is encouraged. Length is restricted to 1500 words with no more than 10 references.

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Acknowledgments This section should include acknowledgments for non-author contributors/collaborators and individuals who provided 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 provided. If a research group is listed as an author, then the individual members of the research team must be named here. Written permission should be obtained from all individuals named in this section. Data that was published previously, such as in an abstract or poster, should also be identified.

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. It is not appropriate to reference papers that have not yet been published (i.e., are submitted or under review). 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, pp 461-471.

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NOMENCLATURE

Psychopharmacology *Biological Psychiatry* supports the Neuroscience-based Nomenclature (NbN) project (<http://nbnomenclature.org/>), which aims to promote the use of mechanism-based nomenclature that is pharmacologically-driven, rather than indication-based. The NbN system characterizes medications based on their pharmacological domain and mode(s) of action. Authors should use NbN's glossary or official apps in order to translate between the old and new nomenclature.

Genetics 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.

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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://](http://www.equator-network.org)

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.

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

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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.

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.

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

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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.

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

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.

GenBank/EMBL accession numbers for primary nucleotide and amino acid

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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.

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.

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