The Journal of Biological Chemistry: Editorial Policies and Practices and Instructions to Authors

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Communications are intended to present new ideas, new data of special interest and importance, or novel insights into biochemical phenomena that are judged to be of special interest to readers of the Journal. They are not designed to be short versions of a regular paper. Because of the special nature of Communications, the Editors will try to decide very quickly on their suitability for publication. An Associate Editor decides whether a Communication is suitable for further review. If it is unsuitable the authors may request that it be considered as a regular paper.

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Manuscripts must be typed on 8.5 × 11 high-quality paper in double or triple spacing throughout with at least one-inch margins on all sides. The text must be typed in a font size of at least ten points. The manuscript is to be arranged in the following order: (a) title, author(s), and complete name(s) of institution(s); (b) running title; (c) summary; (d) introduction; (e) experimental procedures; (f) results; (g) discussion; (h) references; (i) footnotes; (j) figure legends; (k) tables; and (l) figures. Number all pages with the title page as page 1. Begin each section on a new page. Indicate by marginal notes the suggested location in the text of each figure and table.

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abbreviations, when necessary, should be defined in the legend. Each column in a table must have a heading, and the abbreviations used in the text must be defined in a single footnote inserted in the text immediately after the first abbreviation is cited. The abbreviations of some important biochemical compounds, e.g. ATP, NADH, DNA and amino acids in proteins, need not be defined. Phrases such as “central nervous system” or “red blood cells” should not be abbreviated. Names of enzymes are usually not abbreviated except in terms of the substrates for which there are accepted abbreviations, e.g. ATPase and RNase.

The trivial and systematic names of enzymes should be those recommended by the Nomenclature Committee of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB) in “Enzyme Nomenclature, Recommendations, 1992 (1992, Academic Press).

Tables and Figures

The number of tables and figures used to present data essential to illustrate or prove a point should be kept to a minimum. Very complex or large tables and figures should be submitted in “camera ready” format typed or drawn in single space. For example, amino acid or nucleic acid sequences should always be prepared for direct photographic reproduction to avoid errors. Tables should have titles and sufficient experimental detail in a legend immediately following the title to be understandable without reference to the text. Each column in a table must have a heading, and abbreviations, when necessary, should be defined in the legend.

Figures should have titles and explanatory legends that contain sufficient detail to make the figure easily understood. All legends should be typed consecutively in a separate section of the manuscript. All figures will be printed in a single column (8.4 cm in width) or less. Thus, numbers, letters, and symbols should be drawn so that after reduction and printing they are between 1.5 to 3.0 mm high. The abscissa and ordinate should be clearly labeled, and the units of measurement given. Scales for plotting the data should be marked by short index lines, but every index line need not be numbered. Use standard symbols, if possible, in the following order of preference: , , , , , . The symbols and curves can be identified in the legend or in the figure.

On submission of the manuscript, a complete set of figures on paper about the same size as the manuscript pages should be included with each copy of the manuscript. Indicate on the back of each figure its TOP, the authors’ names, and the figure number. Only one set of top quality figures as line drawings is needed for the printer; other copies may be photographic prints or photocopies, except for electron micrographs or halftone figures where good quality prints must be supplied with each copy of the manuscript.

There will be a charge for publication of halftone illustrations, electron micrographs, color plates, some stereoscopic figures, and special illustrations. Stereoscopic illustrations must be submitted in the exact size they are to appear in The Journal.

Chemical and Mathematical Usage

Table I lists the abbreviations for units of measurement and certain physical and chemical quantities used by The Journal without definition. Also listed are the prefixes that can be added to names of units and the multipliers indicated by each prefix.

Chemical equations, structural formulas, and mathematical equations should be placed between successive lines of text. They should also be prepared the same way as figures for direct photographic reproduction and included at the end of the manuscript. In general, the rules and recommendations of the IUBMB and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) will be used for abbreviation of chemical names, nomenclature of chemical compounds, enzyme nomenclature, isotopic compounds, optically active isomers, and spectroscopic data. Table II lists references to publications of the rules and recommendations of the International Scientific Unions that may be consulted for detailed information.

Protein and Nucleic Acid Sequences

Authors of accepted papers containing nucleotide sequences should submit the sequence data, preferably in computer-readable form or by electronic mail, and a copy of the paper to either GenBank, GenBank Submissions, National Center for Biotechnology Information, 8600 Rockville Pike, Building 38A, Room 8N-806, Bethesda, MD 20894. Tel.: (301) 496-2475; Electronic mail (submissions) gbsub@ncbi.nlm.nih.gov; Electronic mail (information) info@ncbi.nlm.nih.gov; or EMBL Nucleotide Sequence Library: Postfach 10.2209, Meyerhofstrasse 1, 6900 Heidelberg, Germany 6221-387-258; Tel.: +49 (6221) 387258; Electronic mail datasubst@embl-heidelberg.de. An accession number must be obtained before the manuscript is sent to the printer. A footnote will be included in the paper indicating that such a deposit has been made. Submission to either data bank is sufficient to ensure entry in both. When nucleotide probes are used, the ends of the probes should be explicitly identified by reference to published nucleotide number or restriction maps, or, if unpublished, the information should be included in the Experimental Procedures section.

Crystallographic Studies

Authors of papers describing new structure determinations must submit to the Protein Data Bank at Brookhaven National Laboratory all structural data required to validate the discussion, including both x-ray amplitudes and phases and the derived atomic coordinates. For NMR structures, data deposited should include resonance assignments and all restraints used in structure determination (NOEs, spin-spin coupling constants, amide exchange rates, etc.), and the derived atomic coordinates for both an individual structure and for a family of acceptable structures. A footnote will be inserted in the manuscript saying that the necessary data have been deposited. If the paper discusses a protein structure only at the level of the main chain u-carbon atoms, only u-carbon coordinates need be deposited. If the discussion involves higher resolution data, for example, all atoms in the active site of an enzyme, the full set of x-ray data, and the coordinate list must be deposited. After completion of the editorial process, the manuscript will not be accepted until confirmation has been received from the author, if not initially supplied, that the required information has been sent to the Protein Data Bank.
# Abbreviations of units of measurement and of physical and chemical quantities

(These abbreviations may be used without definition. They are not followed by periods. The same form is used in the plural.)

The Journal recommends the use of the International System of Units (SI) (Page, C. H., and Vigoureux, P., Editors, NBS Special Publication 330, U.S. Government Printing Office; see also the IUPAC Manual of Symbols and Terminology for Physicochemical Quantities and Units (1979) Pergamon Press). However, it will continue to accept certain units as listed here (e.g. Ångstrom, calorie, minute) even though they are not part of the SI. Note that wavelength should be expressed in nanometers or in Ångstrom units; millimicron is specifically unacceptable.

## Prefixes to the Names of Units

| Multiplier | Prefix | Symbol | Multiplier | Prefix | Symbol |
|------------|--------|--------|------------|--------|--------|
| $10^{-1}$  | deci   | d      | $10^1$     | deca   | da     |
| $10^{-2}$  | centi  | c      | $10^2$     | hecto  | h      |
| $10^{-3}$  | milli  | m      | $10^3$     | kilo   | k      |
| $10^{-6}$  | micro  | µ      | $10^6$     | mega   | M      |
| $10^{-9}$  | nano   | n      | $10^9$     | giga   | G      |
| $10^{-12}$ | pico   | p      | $10^{12}$  | tera   | T      |
| $10^{-15}$ | femto  | f      | $10^{15}$  | peta   | P      |
| $10^{-18}$ | atto   | a      | $10^{18}$  | exa    | E      |

## Units of Concentration*

| Multiplier | Prefix | Symbol | Multiplier | Prefix | Symbol |
|------------|--------|--------|------------|--------|--------|
| 1          | mole   | mol    | $10^3$     | kilogram | kg     |
| $10^{-3}$  | millimolar | mmol (rather than $10^{-3}$ M) | $10^3$ | 1 mol/l | 1 M    |
| $10^{-6}$  | micromolar | micromoles/liter | $10^6$ | 1 mmol/l | 1 mM   |
| $10^{-9}$  | nanomolar | nanomoles/liter | $10^9$ | 1 nmol/l | 1 nM   |
| $10^{-12}$ | picomolar | picomoles/liter | $10^{12}$ | 1 pmol/l | 1 pM   |

## Units of Length

| Prefix | Symbol | Multiplier | Prefix | Symbol |
|--------|--------|------------|--------|--------|
| m      | meter  | $10^0$    | km     | kilometer |
| cm     | centimeter | $10^{-2}$ | mm     | millimeter |
| µm     | micrometer | $10^{-6}$ | nm     | nanometer |
| pm     | picometer | $10^{-12}$ | Å      | Ångstrom |
| Å      | Ångstrom | $10^{-13}$ | s      | second |

## Units of Area and Volume

| Prefix | Symbol | Multiplier | Prefix | Symbol |
|--------|--------|------------|--------|--------|
| cm²    | square centimeter | $10^0$ | mm²   | millimeter² |
| cm³    | cubic centimeter | $10^3$ | mm³   | millimeter³ |
| ml     | milliliter | $10^{-3}$ | µl    | microliter |

## Units of Mass

| Multiplier | Prefix | Symbol | Multiplier | Prefix | Symbol |
|------------|--------|--------|------------|--------|--------|
| g         | gram   | $10^0$ | mg         | milligram | $10^{-3}$ |
| µg        | microgram | $10^{-6}$ | ng       | nanogram |

## Units of Time

| Multiplier | Prefix | Symbol | Multiplier | Prefix | Symbol |
|------------|--------|--------|------------|--------|--------|
| s         | second | $10^0$ | min       | minute | $10^1$ |
| h         | hour   | $10^1$ |            |        |        |

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* Terms such as milligram percent (mg%) should not be used. Weight concentrations should be given as g/ml, g/100 ml, etc.

† The letter k is not an abbreviation for kilo; it is reserved for kilogram. Use km for 10⁻³ and µm for 10⁻⁶. Avoid designating concentrations as µmol per ml. The designation should, in this case, properly be mm (i.e. millimolar). Maintain consistency in the use of units in situations where they are to be compared (e.g. do not juxtapose $10^{-4}$ M and $10^{-5}$ M).

§ 1 becquerel = 1 disintegration per second or 60 dpm. 1 Ci = 3.7 × 10¹⁰ Bq. Note: becquerel is the preferred term in the International System of Units (SI).

¶ For thermodynamic terms see the Recommendations of the Interunion Commission on Biothermodynamics ([1976] J. Biol. Chem. 251, 6879–6886).

** Molecular mass (symbol m) is expressed in daltons (Da); one dalton is 1/12 of the mass of carbon 12. Molecular weight (Mw, relative molecular mass) is the ratio of the mass of a molecule to 1/12 of the mass of carbon 12 and is dimensionless. Hence, it is not correct to express Mw in daltons.
TABLE II
Tentative Rules and Recommendations of International Scientific Unions

| Group                      | Title                                                        | May be found in* |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| General                    | Abbreviations and symbols for chemical names of special interest in biological chemistry | (1966) J. Biol. Chem. 241, 527-533 |
|                            | Abbreviations and symbols: a compilation (1976)              |                  |
|                            | Citation of bibliographic references in biochemical journals |                  |
| Biothermodynamics          | Recommendations for the measurement and presentation of biochemical equilibrium data |                  |
|                            | Recommendations for the presentation of thermodynamic and related data in biology (1985) | (1985) Eur. J. Biochem. 153, 429-434 |
| Labeled compounds          | Isotopically modified compounds\(^b\)                        |                  |
| Stereochimistry            | Fundamental stereochemistry\(^c\)                            |                  |
| Enzymes                    | Enzyme nomenclature. Recommendations (1992)                 |                  |
|                            | The nomenclature of multiple forms of enzymes                |                  |
| Catalytic activity         | Units of enzyme activity (1978)                              |                  |
| Amino acids, peptides, and proteins | Abbreviations and symbols for the description of the conformation of polypeptide chains | (1970) J. Biol. Chem. 245, 6489-6497 |
|                            | Nomenclature of iron-sulfur proteins                        |                  |
|                            | Corrections                                                  |                  |
|                            | Nomenclature of peptide hormones                             |                  |
|                            | Nomenclature of human immunoglobulins                        |                  |
|                            | Nomenclature of glycoproteins, glycopeptides, and peptidoglycans. Recommendations (1985) |                  |
|                            | Nomenclature of electron-transfer proteins. Recommendations (1989) |                  |
| Carbohydrates              | Tentative rules for carbohydrate nomenclature. Part 1. (1969) Corrections |                  |
| Nucleotides and nucleic acids | The nomenclature of lipids. Recommendations (1976) |                  |
|                            | Abbreviations and symbols for nucleic acids, polynucleotides and their constituents Corrents |                  |
|                            | Abbreviations and symbols for the description of conformations of polynucleotide chains |                  |
|                            | Nomenclature for incompletely specified bases in nucleic acid sequences. Recommendations (1984) |                  |
|                            | Nomenclature of junctions and branch points in nucleic acids. Recommendations (1994) |                  |
| Phosphorus                 | Nomenclature of phosphorus-containing compounds of biochemical importance. Recommendations (1976) | (1977) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 74, 2222-2230 |
| Steroids                   | The nomenclature of steroids. Revised tentative rules\(^d\) Amendments (1971) and corrections |                  |
| Quinones                   | Nomenclature of quinones with isoprenoid side chains         |                  |
| Carotenoids                | Tentative rules for the nomenclature of carotenoids. Revision\(^e\) |                  |
| Cyclitols                  | The nomenclature of cyclitols. Recommendations (1973)        |                  |
| Folic acid                 | Nomenclature and symbols for folic acid and related compounds |                  |
| Corrinoids                 | Nomenclature of corrinoids                                  |                  |
| Retinoids                  | Nomenclature of retinoids                                   |                  |
| Tetrapyrroles              | The nomenclature of tetrapyrroles                            |                  |
| Tocopherols                | Nomenclature of tocopherols and related compounds (1981)     |                  |
| Miscellaneous (vitamins)   | Trivial names of miscellaneous compounds of importance in biochemistry |                  |
| Vitamin B6                 | Nomenclature for vitamin B6 and related compounds            |                  |
| Vitamin D                  | Nomenclature of vitamin D (1981)                            |                  |

* Most of these documents have also been published in other journals, e.g. Biochemistry, Biochem. J., Eur. J. Biochem., Biochim. Biophys. Acta, Arch. Biochem. Biophys.

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\(^a\) The final version may be found in (1979) Pure Appl. Chem. 51, 353–380.

\(^b\) The final version may be found in (1976) Pure Appl. Chem. 45, 11–30.

\(^c\) The definitive rules for nomenclature of steroids may be found in (1972) Pure Appl. Chem. 31, 285–322.

\(^d\) The definitive rules for nomenclature of steroids may be found in (1972) Pure Appl. Chem. 31, 285–322.

\(^e\) The definitive rules may be found in (1975) Pure Appl. Chem. 41, 407–431.
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