

Last updated: September 17, 2024 [View the latest guidelines online](#)

Scope of the Journal

ACS Applied Bio Materials is an interdisciplinary journal publishing original research covering all aspects of biomaterials and biointerfaces including and beyond the traditional biosensing, biomedical and therapeutic applications. The journal is devoted to reports of new and original experimental and theoretical research of an applied nature that integrate knowledge in the areas of materials, engineering, physics, bioscience, and chemistry into important bio applications. The journal is specifically interested in work that addresses the relationship between structure and function, and assesses the stability and degradation of materials under relevant environmental and biological conditions. Sample research topics that span the journal's scope are inorganic, hybrid and organic materials for bio applications including antibacterial/antimicrobial and anticancer materials, immune and inflammatory-responsive materials, biofouling and antifouling materials, biomolecular imaging/sensing materials, biomimetic materials, self-healing materials, bio-assembly materials, sustainable biomaterials, as well as novel approaches to synthesis of new and existing materials for drug delivery/targeting, photodynamic/photothermal therapy. Descriptions of the design and development of materials and devices that enable more rapid advancement of new bio applications in areas such as bioenergy, biocatalysis, bioaerosols, bioelectronics, bioprinting, environment, and water safety are encouraged.

Manuscripts that are essentially reporting data or applications of data are, in general, not suitable for publication in *ACS Applied Bio Materials*. All manuscripts are subject to critical, anonymous peer review. It is to be understood that the final decision relating to a manuscript's suitability rests solely with the Editor.

Manuscript Types

ACS Applied Bio Materials publishes 6 types of papers: Letters, Articles, Reviews, invited Spotlights on Applications, invited Forum Articles, and Comments.

A. Letters are short articles that report results whose immediate availability to the applied biological science and engineering community is deemed important. Letters are restricted to 2500 words or the equivalent (8 double-spaced word-processed pages of text and 3-4 figures), and no more than 30 references. A brief abstract of less than 100 words should be included. Letters are intended to provide rapid communication of important results and should be written in a form that is engaging and easy to follow. The narrative should flow continuously, without separate subsections, through introductory material, followed by a sufficient outline of the experiment to allow the reader to follow what was done, results presented and described in a way that captures their essential details, and concluding remarks. Experimental details that are not essential to the understanding of the Letter but that would be useful for those trying to reproduce the experiment or in providing helpful additional information for experts should be included as supporting information. Letters often will be complete publications, but follow-up publications may occasionally be justified when the research is continued and a more complete account of the work is deemed necessary. Special efforts will be made to expedite the reviewing and publication of Letters. The time for proof reading the galley proofs is relatively short. For this reason, authors of Letters should ensure that manuscripts are in final, error-free form when submitted.

B. Articles should cover their subjects with thoroughness, clarity, and completeness but should be as concise as possible.

Abstracts to Articles are limited to 300 words and should summarize the significant results and conclusions. Articles are scheduled for publication in the order of acceptance within limitations of available space.

Articles describing related work divided into two or more manuscripts (e.g., part 1, part 2...) submitted concurrently are strongly discouraged.

C. Reviews are usually invited by the Editor and are limited to a maximum of 10 journal pages (approximately 50 pages of double-spaced manuscript), including tables, figures, and references. Short Reviews focusing on the most recent developments are also considered. They are limited to 4-5 journal pages (approximately 20-25 pages of double-spaced manuscript), including tables, figures, and references (references limited to 30-50).

Reviews should constitute concise, yet complete, surveys of the literature written by experts for non-experts. Their purpose is to acquaint the readers of the journal with recent progress in key biological materials or interfaces research areas, with a focus on application. Reviews should be written for a more general audience of “materials scientists and engineers” and provide a balanced view of the topic in question. Exclusive (or near exclusive) focus on the author’s research is discouraged in Reviews. Reviews will be peer-reviewed in the same manner as research Articles.

Authors interested in contributing a Review must submit a single document that includes the following for consideration (eic@abm.acs.org):

- Proposed title
- Corresponding author names, affiliations, and websites
- A short (~400-word) description of the focused topic
- A list of 5–10 lead references that might form the foundation of the final manuscript
- A list of recent review articles published on this topic written by the submitting authors or others, and how the proposed review will differ in focus and advance the literature on the subject.

Reviews will be considered only if they are approved and invited for submission by the Editor. A review invitation does not guarantee that a review will be peer-reviewed or published. It is incumbent on authors to submit copyright permissions for material that is being reproduced from other sources.

D. Spotlights on Applications are usually invited by the Editor and will be so designated. By focusing on active research areas, these articles are not intended to be standard reviews of the literature. The author will be asked to provide a clear, concise, and critical status report of the field as an introduction, and the author’s own contribution to the field should constitute the main body of the article. An emphasis should be placed on drawing a clear relationship between biological materials synthesis, structure, and/or properties and the application that is the focus of the Spotlight. Authors in important active research fields in the area of applied biological materials are encouraged to propose Spotlights. One-page proposals should be sent to the Deputy Editor’s office (eic@abm.acs.org) for consideration.

E. Forum Articles. Occasionally a group of manuscripts that are focused in a particular topical area

will be published as a Forum, which is essentially a “virtual symposium”. Scientists and engineers in important active research fields in the area of applied biological materials are encouraged to propose Forum topics. One-page proposals should be sent to the Deputy Editor’s office (eic@abm.acs.org) for consideration.

F. Comments are technical contributions providing, with supporting material, a respectful but alternative point of view to one that has appeared in *ACS Applied Bio Materials*.

ACS Researcher Resources

While this document will provide basic information on how to prepare and submit the manuscript as well as other critical information about publishing, we also encourage authors to visit [ACS Researcher Resources](#) for additional information on everything that is needed to prepare (and review) manuscripts for ACS journals and partner journals, such as

- [Mastering the Art of Scientific Publication](#), which shares editor tips about a variety of topics including making your paper scientifically effective, preparing excellent graphics, and writing cover letters.
- Resources on [how to prepare and submit a manuscript](#) to ACS Paragon Plus, ACS Publications’ manuscript submission and peer review environment, including details on selecting the applicable [Journal Publishing Agreement](#).
- [Sharing your research](#) with the public through the ACS Publications open access program.
- [ACS Reviewer Lab](#), a free online course covering best practices for peer review and related ethical considerations.
- [ACS Author Lab](#), a free online course that empowers authors to prepare and submit strong manuscripts, avoiding errors that could lead to delays in the publication process.
- [ACS Inclusivity Style Guide](#), a guide that helps researchers communicate in ways that recognize and respect diversity in all its forms.

Manuscript Preparation

Submit with Fast Format

All ACS journals and partner journals have simplified their formatting requirements in favor of a streamlined and standardized format for an initial manuscript submission. Read more about the requirements and the benefits these serves authors and reviewers [here](#).

Manuscripts submitted for initial consideration must adhere to these standards:

- Submissions must be complete with clearly identified standard sections used to report original research, free of annotations or highlights, and include all numbered and labeled components.
- Figures, charts, tables, schemes, and equations should be embedded in the text at the point of relevance. Separate graphics can be supplied later at revision, if necessary.
- When required by a journal's structure or length limitations, manuscript templates should be used.
- References can be provided in any style, but they must be complete, including titles. For information about the required components of different reference types, please refer to the [ACS Style Quick Guide](#).
- Supporting Information must be submitted as a separate file(s).

Document Templates and Format

The templates facilitate the peer review process by allowing authors to place artwork and tables close to the point where they are discussed within the text. Learn more about document templates [here](#).

General information on the preparation of manuscripts may also be found in the [ACS Guide to Scholarly Communication](#).

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See the list of [Acceptable Software](#) and appropriate [File Designations](#) to be sure your file types are compatible with ACS Paragon Plus. Information for manuscripts generated from [TeX/LaTeX](#) is also available.

Cover Letter

A cover letter must accompany every manuscript submission. During the submission process, you may type it or paste it into the submission system, or you may attach it as a file.

- A paragraph explaining why your manuscript is appropriate for *ACS Applied Bio Materials*. This paragraph should clearly indicate what application is described in the work.
- If the manuscript was previously rejected by *ACS Applied Bio Materials*, provide the manuscript number of the rejected manuscript and a detailed response to each reviewer's comments. As noted above, a consent to re-submit must be obtained from the editor who handled the previous version. For more information, see the section on Editorial Policies.
- If the manuscript was previously rejected by any other ACS journal, provide the name of the journal, the manuscript number, an explanation of the basis for the rejection, and a statement granting *ACS Applied Bio Materials* permission to obtain the Editor's decision letter and review for the rejected manuscript. Also indicate if the newly submitted manuscript has been revised based on the previous reviews. If so, provide a detailed response to each reviewer's comments.
- A statement confirming the manuscript, or its contents in some other form, has not been published previously by any of the authors and/or is not under consideration for publication in another journal at the time of submission.
- A description of any Supporting Information and/or Review-Only Material.
- If the manuscript was invited, whether as part of a Forum, special issue, or as an individual contribution, this should be noted in the cover letter.

Manuscript Text Components

All sections of the paper must be presented in a clear and concise manner. Authors should include an introductory statement outlining the scientific motivation for the research. The statement should clearly specify the relevance of the present work to applications, the problems it has solved or the practical advances it will enable. In Articles (but not Letters), the Introduction should be a separate section of the paper. In the Results and Discussion section, the author should discuss the significance of his/her observations, measurements, or computations and their implications for the applications outlined in the Introduction. An extensive review of prior work is not appropriate in Letters and Articles, and documentation of the literature should be selective rather than exhaustive, particularly if reviews can be cited. Tabulation of experimental results is encouraged

whenever it leads to a more effective presentation or economical use of space. Authors are encouraged to make extensive use of the Supporting Information format, because this material is now widely available on the Web at <http://pubs.acs.org>. Figure captions should be concise and easy to read but should be sufficiently detailed to provide a reasonable understanding of the figures without reference to the main text. For example, in a graph the caption should include enough information to readily distinguish between different datasets, provide an indication of the statistics used to derive error bars, and indicate briefly any trend that is shown. In the case of an image, the sample, imaging technique, and scale should be clearly provided.

Supporting Information

This information is provided to the reviewers during the peer-review process (for Review Only) and is available to readers of the published work (for Publication). Supporting Information must be submitted at the same time as the manuscript. See the list of [Acceptable Software by File Designation](#) and confirm that your Supporting Information is [viewable](#).

If the manuscript is accompanied by any supporting information files for publication, these files will be made available free of charge to readers. A brief, nonsentence description of the actual contents of each file, including the file type extension, is required. This description should be labeled Supporting Information and should appear before the Acknowledgement and Reference sections. Examples of sufficient and insufficient descriptions are as follows:

Examples of sufficient descriptions: “Supporting Information: ^1H NMR spectra for all compounds (PDF)” or “Additional experimental details, materials, and methods, including photographs of experimental setup (DOC)”.

Examples of insufficient descriptions: “Supporting Information: Figures S1-S3” or “Additional figures as mentioned in the text”.

When including supporting information for review only, include copies of references that are unpublished or in-press. These files are available only to editors and reviewers.

Research Data Policy

All ACS journals strongly encourage authors to make the research data underlying their articles publicly available at the time of publication.

Research data is defined as materials and information used in the experiments that enable the validation of the conclusions drawn in the article, including primary data produced by the authors for the study being reported, secondary data reused or analyzed by the authors for the study, and any other materials necessary to reproduce or replicate the results.

The [ACS Research Data Policy](#) provides additional information on Data Availability Statements, Data Citation, and Data Repositories.

Data Requirements

Particular attention should be given to ensuring that experimental procedures are reported in sufficient detail to allow full understanding by the expert reader to the extent that would allow ready reproduction of the experiments. (References to methods used in previous publications may be used, provided the details are very similar.) Technical details that are not essential, but would nevertheless be useful to anyone wanting to fully understand the experiments may be included as

Supporting Information. (This may be especially useful in the case of Letters, where succinct communication in the main text is paramount.) Rigorous attention to the control and measurement of experimental parameters should be described, including considerations of possible sources of systematic and statistical errors, such that the conclusions of the article may be fully justified. Careful consideration of significant figures (the number of [digits](#) that carry meaning relevant to the resolution of the measurement) should be given when reporting data in the abstract, text, and tables. It is especially important when describing device characterization to indicate how many devices were characterized and to differentiate between average, typical, and best-case results. The [Virtual Issue on best practices for reporting the properties of materials and devices](#) provides useful guidance.

For information about carrying out and reporting on Human and Animal Studies, please refer to the Biological Data section of the [ACS Research Data Guidelines](#).

As part of the Supporting Information, authors must provide an electronic copy of the structural data as a Crystallographic Information File (CIF) and must clearly notify the Editor in the cover letter that the manuscript contains structural data. (See the journal homepage for further instructions.) A checkcif file for each structure should also be uploaded as supporting information for review (<https://checkcif.iucr.org>). Authors must confirm that the data in the CIF file correspond to the structures reported in the manuscript. During the review process, the CIFs will be available only to the reviewers of the manuscript and will remain confidential. Authors should note that the ACS does not forward coordinates to crystallographic databases such as the Fachinformationszentrum Karlsruhe (FIZ) or the Cambridge Structural Database (CSD). This is the responsibility of the author.

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Graphics should be inserted into the main body whenever possible. Please see Appendix 2 for additional information.

Any graphic (figure chart, scheme, or equation) that has appeared in an earlier publication should include a [credit line](#) citing the original source. Authors are responsible for [obtaining written permission](#) to re-use this material.

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Preparing for Submission

Manuscripts, graphics, supporting information, and required forms, as well as manuscript revisions, must all be submitted in digital format through [ACS Paragon Plus](#), which requires an ACS ID to log in. Registering for an ACS ID is fast, free, and does not require an ACS membership. Please refer to Appendix 1 for additional information on preparing your submission

Prior Publication Policy

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Revised Manuscripts

A manuscript sent back to an author for revision should be returned to the Editor as soon as possible. If a revision is not received within **21 days**, it will be considered withdrawn. Revised manuscripts are sometimes sent back to the original reviewers, who are asked to comment on the revisions. If only minor revisions are involved, the Editor will examine the revised manuscript in light of the recommendations of the reviewers without seeking further opinions.

On resubmission, two copies of the final manuscript file will be required: (a) The final revised manuscript file that does not contain any highlighting or editing marks. This file should be uploaded as the primary manuscript document file; (b) A marked copy of the revised manuscript that shows changes made on revision clearly highlighted. This file should be uploaded separately from the manuscript file as Supporting Information for Review.

A letter from the author must also accompany the revised manuscript and provide a detailed account of how the author has responded to the reviewer’s and Editor’s comments, addressing each comment point-by-point. The dates of receipt of the original and revised manuscripts will both appear in the publication.

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Please suggest 5 reviewers, including their current affiliation, email and justification for being suggested as a reviewer. Authors are encouraged to avoid suggesting reviewers from the authors’

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Additions and Corrections must be submitted as new manuscripts via ACS Paragon Plus by the Corresponding Author for publication in the “Addition/Correction” section of the Journal. The corresponding author should obtain approval from all coauthors prior to submitting or provide evidence that such approval has been solicited. The manuscript should include the original article title and author list, citation including DOI, and details of the correction.

Retractions

Articles may be retracted for scientific or ethical reasons and may be requested by the article author(s) or by the journal Editor(s), but are ultimately published at the discretion of the Editor. 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. When an article is retracted, a notice of Retraction will be published containing information about the reason for the Retraction. The originally published article will remain online except in extraordinary circumstances (e.g. where deemed legally necessary, or if the availability of the published content poses public health risks).

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- an investigation into alleged misconduct related to the publication either has not been, or would not be, fair and impartial or conclusive;
- an investigation is underway but a judgment will not be available for a considerable time.

Upon completion of any related investigation, and when a final determination is made about the outcome of the article, the Expression of Concern may be replaced with a Retraction notice or

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Ethical Guidelines

ACS editors have provided [Ethical Guidelines](#) for persons engaged in the publication of chemical research—specifically, for editors, authors, and reviewers. Each journal also has a specific [policy on prior publication](#).

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Appendix 2: Preparing Graphics

Resolution

Digital graphics pasted into manuscripts should have the following minimum resolutions:

- Black and white line art, 1200 dpi
- Grayscale art, 600 dpi
- Color art, 300 dpi

Size

Graphics must fit a one- or two-column format. Single-column graphics can be sized up to 240 points wide (3.33 in.) and double-column graphics must be sized between 300 and 504 points (4.167 in. and 7 in.). The maximum depth for all graphics is 660 points (9.167 in.) including the caption (allow 12 pts. For each line of caption text). Lettering should be no smaller than 4.5 points in the final published format. The text should be legible when the graphic is viewed full-size. Helvetica or Arial fonts work well for lettering. Lines should be no thinner than 0.5 point.

Color

Color may be used to enhance the clarity of complex structures, figures, spectra, and schemes, etc., and color reproduction of graphics is provided at no additional cost to the author. Graphics intended to appear in black and white or grayscale should not be submitted in color.

Type of Graphics

Table of Contents (TOC)/Abstract Graphic

Consult the Guidelines for [Table of Contents/Abstract Graphics](#) for specifications.

Our team of subject-matter experts and graphical designers can also help generate a compelling TOC graphic to convey your key findings. Learn more about our [Graphical Abstract service](#).

Figures

A caption giving the figure number and a brief description must be included below each figure. The caption should be understandable without reference to the text. It is preferable to place any key to symbols used in the artwork itself, not in the caption. Ensure that any symbols and abbreviations used in the text agree with those in the artwork.

Charts

Charts (groups of structures that do not show reactions) may have a brief caption describing their contents.

Tables

Each table must have a brief (one phrase or sentence) title that describes the contents. The title should be understandable without reference to the text. Details should be put in footnotes, not in the title. Tables should be used when the data cannot be presented clearly in the narrative, when many numbers must be presented, or when more meaningful inter-relationships can be conveyed by the tabular format. Tables should supplement, not duplicate, information presented in the text and figures. Tables should be simple and concise.

Schemes

Each scheme (sequences of reactions) may have a brief caption describing its contents.

Chemical Structures

Chemical structures should be produced with the use of a drawing program such as ChemDraw.

Cover Art

ACS Applied Bio Materials authors are encouraged to submit images to be considered for use on the journal's front cover or [Supplementary Covers](#) at the time of the submission of their revised manuscript. If your article is accepted for publication, your suggestion may be selected for use on one of the journal's covers. Images chosen for the front cover will be published at no cost to the author, those of supplementary covers will be charged \$1650 (or \$1425 if any author is an ACS Premium Member). If your art is selected for front cover, ACS will send you information about how to request one complimentary 18" by 24" printed poster featuring your work.

Cover image submissions should be colorful and visually engaging, with minimal text. The cover image should not resemble a graphical abstract or data figure, but rather should be an artistic and scientifically accurate representation of the manuscript.

Image files should be submitted as TIF, JPG, PNG or EPS files with a resolution of at least 300 dpi for pixel-based images. Images should be 8.19 in × 8.47 in. (or 20.80 cm × 21.51 cm). Authors should submit the cover image, along with a short, clear legend (less than 50 words) explaining the image, as supplementary files to ACS Paragon Plus with their revised manuscript.

If you wish to be considered only for the front cover, and not a paid supplementary cover, please respond NO accordingly to the Journal Covers question in ACS Paragon Plus. For more information on the Supplementary Covers program, please [see this webpage](#). All arts submitted for consideration for a supplementary cover will also be considered for a front cover.

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