

General

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- **Acknowledgements:** authors should acknowledge all support received for the work: funding, equipment, drugs, technicians or anyone who has contributed but has not been listed as an author. Any conflict of interest should also be stated here.
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Graphical abstract

General

The graphical abstract is one single-panel, horizontal (landscape orientation) **rectangular** image that is designed to give readers an immediate understanding of the take-home message of the paper. It should be simple, but informative.

Technical requirements are as follows:

- Size: 858 × 229 pixels (X-Y axes) at 400 dpi.
- Font style: Arial
- Font size: 10-16
- Accepted file type: PNG, JPG
- Content: the abstract should summarise the findings of the manuscript
- Colours: Effective use of colour is encouraged for increasing the aesthetic quality of the graphical abstracts and directing the reader's attention to focal points of interest
- The graphical abstracts should be drawn within a box of the indicated size (858 × 229 pixels)

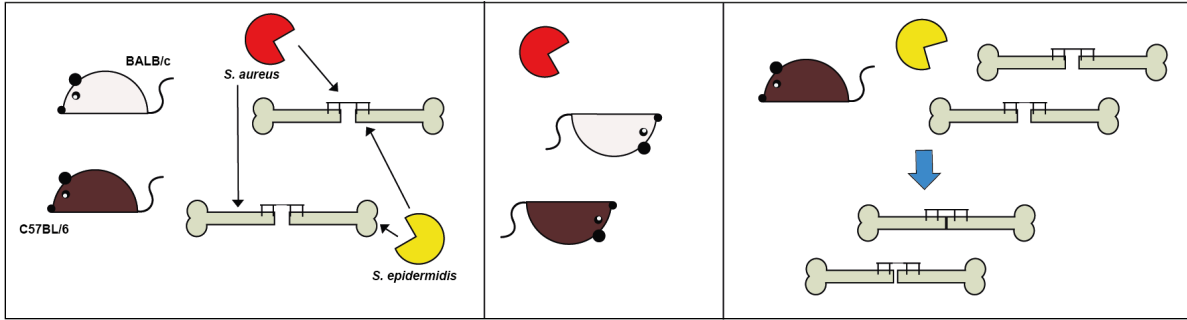
Content

The graphical abstract should:

- Have a clear start and end, "reading" from left to right
- Emphasise the take-home message of the paper
- Not include data items of any type; all the content should be in a graphical form
- Use simple labels
- The use of text should be limited

Example 1.

- The panel tells a story from left to right
- Names are present only in the first panel for designation of the objects
- Italics font is used for bacteria names (or any Latin-origin name)



Example 2.

- The panel tells a story from left to right
- The bottom legend clarifies the meaning of the abstract objects

