

## General

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- **Research paper:** presents new unpublished findings (of general or specialist interest).
- **Review paper:** including an extended literature review and a complete bibliography. It **can also emphasise authors' new unpublished findings** and, in an extended discussion, place the topic in its proper perspective. It can also be a complete bibliography of an author's own work, discussed in relation to the work of others.

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  - **Materials and Methods**
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  - **Acknowledgements**
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  - **Discussion with reviewers**
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- **Affiliations list:** each affiliation should include department, institution, city and country, preceded by the appropriate number in superscript (1, 2 *etc.*).
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- **Keywords:** up to 10 keywords. Do not use abbreviations in the keywords.
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- **Conclusions:** authors should state the conclusions and potential implications of the findings.
- **Acknowledgements:** authors should acknowledge all support received for the work: funding, equipment, materials, technicians or anyone who has contributed but has not been listed as an author. Any conflict of interest should also be stated here.

- **References**

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Begin each reference on a separate line; first line indented using a single tab.

### Reference list style

- For a paper from a journal: last names and initials of all authors (not "*et al.*"), year (in parentheses), full title of paper, name of publication (use only standard **Index Medicus** abbreviations – as used by PubMed; ; terminated by a period). Do not use any punctuation (nor "and" or "&" preceding last author's name), except for commas between authors' names. A period must be inserted at the end of the title (with the exception of titles ending with a question mark). Next, insert the volume-number (in bold), followed by a colon, a single space before the first page number and a period/full-stop following the last page number (separated from the first page number by a hyphen, not an 'en-dash' or 'em dash'). Then, insert the DOI (followed by a period). *e.g.* Modic MT, Steinberg PM, Ross JS, Masaryk TJ, Carter JR (1988) Degenerative disk disease: assessment of changes in vertebral body marrow with MR imaging. *Radiology* **66**: 193-199. DOI: 10.1148/radiology.166.1.3336678.
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previously, should be cited as follows: Johnson, 2003, additional reference.

## Style specifications

- **Text**
- **Headings**
- **Equations**
- **Symbols and abbreviations**
- **Tables**
- **Units**
- **Statistical tests**
- **Figures**
- **Figure legends**

- **Text:** For the correct use of tenses please check [here](#).

### Examples

Present tense is used to talk about general background information, *e.g.* "Osteoinduction by CaP bone grafts is material-dependent", "The structure of the bovine disc is similar to the young healthy human IVD" and "Rod-shaped nanoparticles have high affinity for endothelial cells".

*Past tense* is used to talk about actual results and procedures used, *e.g.* "A panel of 36 specific proteins was measured", "IVDs from the lumbar region were harvested" and "A staining diminution of around 60 % was observed". When referring to the content of a specific paper, past tense can be used, *e.g.* "Zhang *et al.* (2012) developed a composite HA-agarose material" and "Collins and Birkinshaw (2011) studied a series of HA scaffolds"; however, when referring directly to the publication *e.g.* "Zhang *et al.* (2012) describe a composite..." the present tense is more appropriate. In order to avoid confusion, it is essential that a clear distinction is always made between what is published information (present/present perfect tense) and that which represents a description of the current work being reported (past tense).

*Present perfect* tense is used when previous research is being discussed in general terms, *e.g.* "A number of groups have focused on".

The accepted convention for scientific writing should be used, where the text is written in the third person, *i.e.* it should not contain phrases like "I/we described X", "I/we did X", "I/we performed X", *etc.* In such instances, passive forms are to be used, such as "X was described", "X was performed" *etc.*

- **Headings:** do not number headings. **Major headings** should be typed in bold upper and lower case. **Subheadings:** should be typed in bold and place flush with the left margin of the text on a separate line. **Sub-subheadings:** print italic and place flush with the left margin of the text on a separate line.
- **Equations:** each equation must be centred on a separate line, consecutively numbered. Equation numbers, in parentheses, should be flush with the right margin. The equation should normally be prepared using 'Microsoft Equation Editor' and embedded in the MS Word file.
- **Symbols and abbreviations:** define each abbreviation in parentheses the first time it is used (even if it has already been defined in the Abstract). For more than 10 symbols include a separate table in the text defining symbols (with units, as applicable). For more than 10 abbreviations, include a list of abbreviations.
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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
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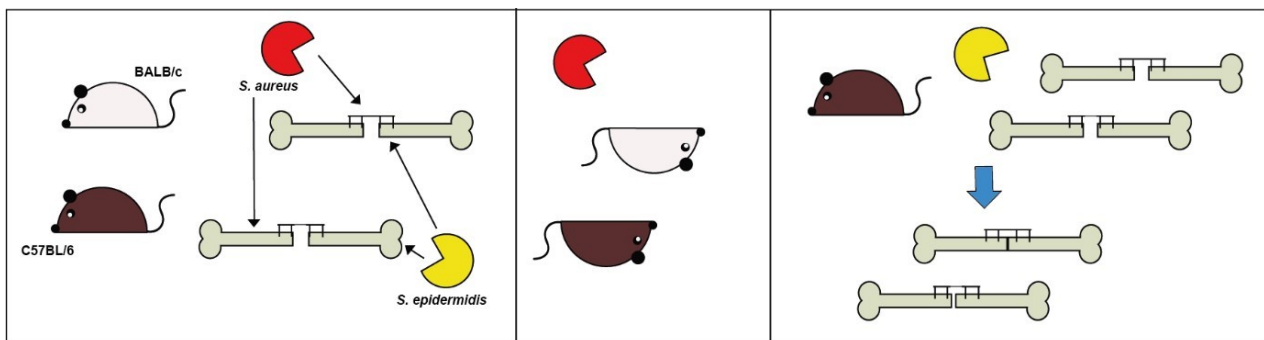
### Content

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

