

***Essays in Biochemistry* – Instructions to Authors**

Thank you for agreeing to write a mini-review for *Essays in Biochemistry*.

Essays in Biochemistry offers reviews from experts in the field highlighting recent hot topics in biochemistry, written to be accessible for those not yet immersed in the subject. Whether you are continuing your studies or moving into a new research area, the journal gives a complete picture in one place.

Each issue of *Essays in Biochemistry* (Essays) has a Guest Editor, and is thematic, with all content invited for submission.

The information provided below is given as guidance on preparing your article ready for submission and consideration by the journal.

Please contact editorial@portlandpress.com if you have any questions that are not answered in the information below.

1. Length of article:

Articles in Essays are approx. 2500–3500 words in length (excluding figure legends and references). Although slightly longer reviews can be considered, please do note that one of the key benefits to users/readers, is the short format mini-review style.

2. What to include in your article

a) Abstract

All articles submitted to Essays should contain an abstract. This will be published in the final Version of Record, and will also be the abstract that is used on PubMed and any other indexing services. Abstracts should be no more than 200 words in length.

b) Introduction

The introduction of the article should be written so as to set the scene for the rest of the article. It should stand alone, and should not be written assuming that the article might be part of a series.

c) Main body of the article

Section headings and sub-headings are useful in breaking up the main body of the article to aid understanding. Abbreviations can be used, and should be defined at first mention (and a separate abbreviations list should be provided). If possible, ‘jargon’ should be avoided; however, you should consider alternative ways to help the readership, for example, the use of a glossary or text boxes could be used to explain a concept.

d) Summary Points

Each article should contain 3–5 summary points, a bullet-pointed list summarizing the key points that the review article covers. Authors may consider including the importance of the field, a summary of the current thinking, and comments on future directions.

e) Figures and tables

You are encouraged to include between two and six figures. The use of colour in figures is encouraged, and there is no charge to authors to publish in colour. Each figure should be accompanied by an appropriate figure title and legend (where needed). Please note that if you are using a figure from a work that is already published, you are responsible for obtaining the necessary permissions to reuse the article, and an appropriate credit line should be included in the figure legend.

The use of tables is permitted, and these should be accompanied by an appropriate table title and legend (where needed).

f) References

References should be included in your article, cited throughout the text by sequential numbers, and listed at the end of your article in a reference list, listed in number order. In the reference list, six author names should be given before et al. The number of references included in articles can vary depending on the subject area, but on average, 50–100 references should be included. The majority of references cited should be from the past 2–5 years.

g) Conflicts of interest, acknowledgements, funding information and author contribution

Any potential conflicts of interest (for any authors listed on your article) should be declared. Examples of potential conflicts of interest that should be declared are (but not limited to): (i) employment (where you will receive financial gain), (ii) consultancy (where you will receive financial gain), (iii) personal relationships, and (iv) academic competition.

Any acknowledgements should be included in a statement at the end of your article, as should any funding information that you would like to include.

A statement indicating the contribution of each author to the article should be included. Portland Press endorses the Vancouver Guidelines on authorship as set out by the [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors](#). Full details on authorship can be found in the [Portland Press Editorial Policy](#). Contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in the Acknowledgements section.

3. Checklist for submission

When you are ready to submit your article for consideration, the following will be required for submission:

- a) Title and full author information
- b) Abstract (this will need to be added separately to the submission system as well as being included in the main article file)
- c) Main article file (the main article file should include the summary points)
- d) Figures and/or tables
- e) Supplementary material (if needed)

If you are submitting a revised paper for consideration, in addition to the above, you should also include:

- a) A response to the original reviewer report
- b) A marked document showing changes made during the revision

4. Useful links

Portland Press Editorial Policy (including information on the peer review process):

<http://www.portlandpresspublishing.com/content/editorial-policy>

Portland Press Open Access Policy: <http://www.portlandpresspublishing.com/content/open-access-policy>

Portland Press Rights and Permissions: <http://www.portlandpresspublishing.com/content/rights-and-permissions>

Essays in Biochemistry homepage: <http://essays.biochemistry.org/>

Portland Press Publishing homepage: www.portlandpresspublishing.org

Biochemical Society homepage: www.biochemistry.org