MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of Biophysical Journal (BJ) is to publish the highest quality biophysical research that elucidates important biological, chemical, or physical mechanisms and provides quantitative insight into fundamental problems at the molecular, cellular, systems, and whole-organism levels. Articles published in BJ should be of general interest to quantitative biologists, regardless of their research specialty.

SCOPE
BJ publishes original articles, letters, and perspectives on important problems in modern biophysics. The articles should be written so as to be of interest to a broad community of biophysicists. BJ welcomes experimental studies that employ quantitative physical approaches for the study of biological systems, including or spanning scales from molecule to whole organism. Experimental studies of a purely descriptive or phenomenological nature, with no theoretical or mechanistic underpinning, are not appropriate for publication in BJ. Theoretical studies should offer new insights into the understanding of experimental results or suggest new experimentally testable hypotheses. Articles reporting significant methodological or technological advances, which have potential to open new areas of biophysical investigation, are also suitable for publication in BJ. Manuscripts describing improvements in accuracy or speed of existing methods or extra detail within methods described previously are not suitable for BJ.

Manuscripts are handled by an Editorial Board of more than 110 scientists who solicit reviewers with the requisite expertise. The Editorial Board is lead by nine associate editors, whose expertise serve to detail the scope of science published by BJ:

**Vasanthi Jayaraman:** *Channels and Transporters.* Mechanistic studies of the structure, function, and regulation of membrane transport proteins and signaling receptors. The emphasis is on studies employing experimental and/or computational methods. Papers that focus on the interaction of these proteins with the membrane should be submitted to Claudia Steinem.

**Jason Kahn:** *Nucleic Acids.* Investigations of the structure, dynamics, and function of DNA, RNA, and their complexes with other molecules using experimental and computational techniques.

**Anne Kenworthy:** *Cell Biophysics.* Biophysical studies that further our understanding of molecular function and interactions within and between cells, and elucidate how these mechanisms are regulated within the cellular milieu. Papers with a significant component of in vitro studies of cellular components are often better suited for editors in the areas above. Papers that focus on complex signaling or metabolic networks, whole organisms, tissues, or organ physiology are often better suited for Stanislav Shvartsman.

**E. Michael Ostap:** *Molecular Machines, Motors, and Nanoscale Biophysics.* Biophysical studies of molecular motors (cytoskeletal and non-cytoskeletal), cytoskeletal assemblies, muscle contraction, and studies utilizing single-molecule tracking, force spectroscopy, and other nanoscale techniques. Papers focused on general biophysical properties of nucleic acids, proteins, and membranes are better suited for Jason Kahn, Elizabeth Rhoades, and Claudia Steinem respectively.

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Elizabeth Rhoades: *Proteins*. Biophysics of protein structure, function, and interactions. The emphasis is on molecular biophysics encompassing experimental, computational, and theoretical approaches. Papers that focus on membrane transport proteins or receptors or molecular motors and cytoskeletal proteins are more appropriate for Vasanthi Jayaraman and Michael Ostap, respectively.

Brian Salzberg: *Biophysical Perspectives — Invited Only*. Perspectives are invited and are solicited by the Editor-in-Chief and the Associate Editors. Perspectives are brief, cover topics of current interest in biophysics, and are intended to provide a unique perspective on the current state and future of a field, rather than a comprehensive review. These articles are typically written by authorities in the field and are directed to a broad range of scientists who wish to keep abreast of the best current research. Comprehensive Reviews and BJ Classics are also invited features.

Tamar Schlick: *Genome Biophysics*. Biophysical aspects of genome organization and related cellular functions such as transcription, translation, development, and gene regulation. Of particular interest are the structural states, folding, and function of chromatin and chromosomes, as well as the dynamic organization of the nucleus.

Stanislav Shvartsman: *Systems Biophysics*. The analysis of collective properties in systems of interacting components, including biomolecular networks, organelles, tissues, organs and whole organisms. Special emphasis is placed on studies that link multiple levels of biological organization, from gene sequence to nonlinear and network-level phenomena, such as pattern formation, metabolism, and signal transduction. Papers that focus on a cell biological mechanism are better directed to Anne Kenworthy.

Claudia Steinem: *Membranes*. Analysis of the structure, organization, and function of artificial and biological membranes via state-of-the art experimental and theoretical biophysics approaches. Please send papers that focus on the entire cellular response to Anne Kenworthy. Papers that mainly tackle the molecular structure and function of membrane channels and transporters should be sent to Vasanthi Jayaraman.

**GENERAL POLICIES**

**RESEARCH TRANSPARENCY AND MATERIALS AND DATA AVAILABILITY**

The Biophysical Society, publisher of BJ, agrees fully with the intent of the National Institutes of Health Principles and Guidelines for Reporting Preclinical Research [https://www.nih.gov/research-training/ rigor-reproducibility/principles-guidelines-reporting-preclinical-research](https://www.nih.gov/research-training/ rigor-reproducibility/principles-guidelines-reporting-preclinical-research) to encourage reproducible, robust, and transparent research.


**PRIOR PUBLICATION**

Manuscripts submitted to BJ must be original; except for the specific exception noted below, manuscripts and Supplemental Information that have already been published or are concurrently submitted elsewhere for publication are not acceptable for submission.

If some part of the work has appeared, or will appear, elsewhere, the authors must give the specific details of such appearances in the cover letter accompanying the BJ submission. If previously published illustrative material, such as figures or tables, must be included, the authors are responsible for obtaining the appropriate permissions from the publisher(s) before the material may be published in BJ.

**PREPRINTS**

Some authors prefer to post their manuscripts to preprint servers before submitting them to primary research

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journals. BJ will consider for publication manuscripts that have been posted informally on a private website or on arXiv or bioRxiv, but will not consider manuscripts that have been posted on other preprint servers or "virtual journal" websites. Questions related to this policy should be directed to the Editorial Office (BJ@biophysics.org). Users of bioRxiv may submit to BJ directly from the preprint server. Conversely, submissions to BJ may be uploaded to bioRxiv during the submission process. If submitting a manuscript to BJ that has a preprint in arXiv, have your arXiv identification number ready and the system will auto-populate the metadata. Authors may opt to include the following statement with their manuscript: A preliminary version of this work, [doi], was deposited in [name of preprint server] on [date]. This is styled as a footnote and is optional. Please include this wording in your manuscript file before the abstract.

RELATED WORKS
Authors are required to include with their manuscript submission related manuscripts under review at other journals. If a manuscript is heavily dependent on information in a prior publication by the author(s), the authors are advised to include such publication(s) along with their manuscript submission. Failure to include this information may delay the editorial decision because the handling editor can be expected to request these materials from the author(s).

REVIEWERS
Manuscripts typically are reviewed by two to three reviewers, who are solicited by the handling editor. At submission, authors are required to suggest four appropriate reviewers, who should be experts in the subject matter and who cannot have collaborated with the author(s) within the last three years. In the case of cross-disciplinary studies using modeling, novel methods, or theory applied to a biophysical research problem, authors are encouraged to suggest potential referees with the requisite expertise to assess both the technical/theoretical merits and the significance of potential applications of the work. Suggested reviewers are contacted at the discretion of the handling editor and there is no guarantee that suggested reviewers will be used. The final decision regarding acceptance of a manuscript for publication will be made by the handling editor. Reviewers are asked to judge whether the manuscript is suitable for BJ and whether revisions are needed. Referees are asked to refrain from including comments regarding the suitability of the manuscript for publication in the Comments to the Author section. Any such comments will be removed.

ENGLISH USAGE
All submitted manuscripts should be written with the use of proper English. For assistance with writing and editing, visit https://www.biophysics.org/publication-resources.

PAGE LIMITS
Authors should use the link below to estimate the number of published pages for their manuscript. For Regular Articles, we encourage manuscripts of a maximum of 12 published pages (including figures and references). Manuscripts longer than 12 published pages may be submitted, but will be assessed at higher page charges for each page above 12. See the chart below for all page limits.

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PAGE ESTIMATION LINK
Use the page estimation tool at [http://www.biophysics.org/tabid/556/default.aspx](http://www.biophysics.org/tabid/556/default.aspx) to determine the likely length of the manuscript being submitted. Use the “characters (with spaces)” count. The count should include the title page, abstract, article text, appendices, table and figure legends, and references. Figures larger than 3.25 inches wide by 4 inches high should be counted as two in the formula.

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The author who submits a manuscript for publication accepts the full responsibility for including as co-authors all appropriate persons. The submitting author must previously have sent each co-author a draft copy of the manuscript and obtained the co-authors’ agreement to be co-authors. All authors will be notified that the manuscript has been submitted. To ensure acknowledgment of submission, current email addresses must be provided for all authors on a manuscript.

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Manuscripts that refer to information in a public database (such as structures in the RCSB Data Bank) must cite the publication, if available, in which the original information was reported. If the data are not derived from a publication, the authors and Digital Object Identifier (DOI) of the data should be cited. If a DOI is not available, the reference must include the author names, title of the structure, and the PDB ID.

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CSE's White Paper on Promoting Integrity in Scientific Journal Publications
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If the manuscript reports results of studies conducted on vertebrate animals, it should state in the Materials and Methods section that the study was approved by the appropriate institutional animal use committee (IACUC).

USE OF HUMAN SUBJECTS
If the manuscript reports results of studies of either human subjects or materials obtained from human subjects, it should state in the Materials and Methods section that the study was approved by the appropriate institutional review board (IRB) and that appropriate informed consent was obtained from human subjects.

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NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH AND HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE

Under BJ’s 12-month embargo policy, the Journal automatically submits the final published article on behalf of the author to PubMed Central. Therefore, all articles published in BJ are in compliance with the National Institutes of Health and Howard Hughes Medical Institute policies.

TYPES OF ARTICLES

REGULAR ARTICLES

BJ will accept for initial review well-prepared manuscripts in any format. The page estimating tool, however, will be most accurate if the text is one column and the font is Times New Roman size 12 point for regular text and Symbol for Greek and mathematical symbols.

BJ has partnered with Overleaf to provide an easy to use LaTex template in which you can compose and edit your manuscript and submit directly to BJ. The LaTex template is found at: https://www.overleaf.com/articles/biophysical-journal-template/pxxcptphxdhv

If your manuscript is accepted for publication you will be required to meet BJ’s specific formatting requirements prior to publication. See Final File Formats.

ORDER OF MANUSCRIPT SECTIONS

1. Title Page Includes article title and author names. (For initial submissions: Please list author names with initials of given names followed by surnames; do not list affiliations, addresses or email address.)
2. Abstract
3. Statement of Significance
4. Main Text (Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion [or Results and Discussion], Conclusion)
   Theoretical manuscripts may include just a Methods Section and do not require Materials. It is preferable if figures or tables, along with their titles and captions, are embedded in the text as they are referenced in the manuscript when submitting for review.
5. Author Contributions
6. Acknowledgments
7. References (numbered)
8. Supplemental Information (movies, database files, etc. may be uploaded as separate files). Instructions for Supplemental Information are available at the following link: Supplemental Information.pdf

STYLE

Manuscripts are to follow the conventions of Scientific Style and Format, the Council of Science Editors Style Manual (except for references).

TITLE

The title of each manuscript should identify the content of the article; clarity and conciseness are essential for indexing, abstracting, and retrieval. No more than 100 characters and spaces should be used. A condensed running title of no more than 40 characters (including spaces) must be provided on the title page.

KEYWORDS

Up to three keywords or phrases and up to three techniques must be provided from a predetermined list.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
The Biophysical Journal is now requiring authors to supply a Statement of Significance along with their manuscript. Authors must submit a 120-word-maximum statement about the significance of their research paper written at a level understandable to a scientist outside their field of specialty. The primary goal of the Significance Statement is to explain the relevance of the work to a broad readership. The Significance Statement is required for all Regular (research) Articles, Letters, and Computational Tools. It should be placed just below the Abstract.

ABSTRACTS
Each manuscript must be accompanied by an informative abstract of no more than 300 words. Abstracts should describe the substance of the manuscript in language non-specialists can understand, and must make clear the biological significance of the research. Reference citations are not allowed in the Abstract of a manuscript.

FOOTNOTES
The only footnotes should be on the title page (used within the author list to denote affiliations) or in tables (defined within the table legend).

Author list footnotes should be numbered (1, 2, 3, etc.), and table footnotes should be lettered (a, b, c, etc.). Please do not use the range format to indicate multiple footnotes; instead, list each footnote individually (e.g., 1,2,3,4, not 1–4; and a,b,c,d, not a–d).

ABBREVIATIONS
Abbreviations should be defined in the text at first mention.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
Capitalize trade names and give manufacturers' full names and addresses (city and state).

MATH AND EQUATIONS
Equations are to be typewritten. Clearly indicate capital and lowercase letters. Label Greek and unusual symbols the first time they appear. Use fractional exponents instead of root signs. The solidus (/) for fractions will save vertical space. Equation numbers should be cited in the text without parentheses (e.g., Eq. 9, Eq. 10). Do not cite equations numerically only, but be sure to add the "Eq." Do not cite equations in the Abstract.

You may use LaTeX, MathType, Equation Builder, or Microsoft Equation 3.0 (also known as Equation Editor). BJ has partnered with Overleaf to provide an easy to use LaTeX template in which you can compose and edit your manuscript and submit directly to BJ. The LaTeX template is found at: https://www.overleaf.com/articles/biophysical-journal-template/pxxcptphxdhv

Equation Builder is found at:
- PC, Word 2007 or later: far right end of the Insert tab on the ribbon
- MAC, Word 2011: toolbar Insert/Equation

Microsoft Equation is found at:
- MAC, Word 2008: toolbar/Insert/Object/Microsoft Equation

REFERENCES
References are cited in numerical order in the text and are designated by that reference number in parentheses. The numbers, in parentheses, can be repeated at each citation of the referenced material. References appearing solely in

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figure legends and tables follow those in the text. Reference citations are not allowed in the Abstract. The following is an example of numbered citations:

Membrane channels with large aqueous pores are traditionally regarded as “molecular sieves” that discriminate between different molecules based on their size (1,2). This simplified view, however, contradicts emerging experimental evidence that permeation through these structures involves intimate molecular interactions (3–5). Metabolite-specific channels exhibit affinity to their metabolites; permeating molecules do not just slip through the pore, but feel strong attraction to the pore-lining residues. The now classical example is bacterial porin LamB (6), where the existence of an extended binding zone for oligosaccharides is firmly established. More recent examples include ATP interactions with VDAC (3) and penicillin antibiotic interactions with the general bacterial porin OmpF (4,6–8).

UNPUBLISHED DATA AND PERSONAL COMMUNICATION
Citations such as “unpublished data” and “personal communication” should be included parenthetically in the text, with all authors’ initials and last names, and must not appear in the reference section. For personal communications, include cited author’s institutional affiliation and date of communication. Provide written permission to use the material cited when submitting the manuscript.

SUPPORTING REFERENCES
All unique supporting references must be included at the end of the main-text reference list. Please see Supplemental Information Instructions for more information.

ADDING AND DELETING REFERENCES
If references are added in the proof stage, they and their corresponding citations must be inserted per their proper numerical order and the rest of the citations/references renumbered accordingly. References deleted in the proof stage will read, for example, “3. Reference deleted in proof.” Their corresponding numbers will remain in the text.

REFERENCE FORMATS
For the reference list, follow the style of the examples listed here, noting that each reference is numbered according to the number in which it appears in the text.

JOURNAL ARTICLES
For references to journal articles, include all authors' names (invert only the first author’s last name and initials; do not use “et al.”), year, complete article titles, volume number, journal name, and inclusive page numbers. Abbreviate the names of journals as in the Serial Sources for the Biosis Data Base; spell out the names of unlisted journals.

See the examples below:


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PREPRINTS


INFORMATION IN PUBLIC REPOSITORIES
Manuscripts that refer to information in a public database (such as structures in the RCSB Data Bank) must cite the publication, if available, in which the original information was reported as well as the database serial number.

ABSTRACTS

COMPLETE BOOKS

ARTICLES IN BOOKS

COMMERCIAL SOFTWARE
All commercial software and products should provide the name and location of the manufacturer. MATLAB (The MathWorks, Natick, MA).

WEBSITES
Web references should be treated no differently than other references, and should appear as shown below.

TABLES
All tables should be double-spaced and carry a title. Do not use vertical rules. Tables must be in black and white.

BIOPHYSICAL LETTERS
Biophysical Letters are short articles in diverse areas that report exceptionally important results in an accelerated manner. A Letter should be of interest to a wide variety of readers, and should potentially change the way the reader thinks about an important topic or address a critical question. A letter should tell a complete story without needing extensive data analysis, and it is not meant to serve as a means of publishing preliminary results. The criteria for acceptance of a Letter are more stringent than for Regular Articles, and particular attention will be paid to the significance of the results.

Letters must not exceed five published pages (including figures and references). There will be no exceptions to this length limit. Letters are required to have an Abstract, a Statement of Significance, and an Author Contributions

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Section. They are not required to follow traditional manuscript organization (Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion).

Only one revision cycle is allowed for Letters and revisions will be due within 30 days (rather than 90 days allowed for Regular Articles). The author of a Letter requiring major revision will be invited to resubmit the work as a Regular Article. Letters are published online ahead of print as soon as corrected proof has been generated.

BJ CLASSICS
These invited manuscripts celebrate seminal articles originally published in BJ. The invited manuscripts are written by the original authors, their colleagues, and/or their students and explain how the original article has influenced the field and is still relevant today. The manuscript should be accessible to scientists outside the field and to students. BJ Classics should be limited to five published pages in length (including figures and references) and the number of references should be limited to no more than 60 recent publications. There are no page charges associated with an accepted BJ Classic article. Color figures will be online only color unless the author specifies otherwise and incurs the cost of print color.

COMMENTS TO THE EDITOR
These are short commentaries on an article published earlier in BJ. These are NOT short original articles. In order for a submission to qualify as a Comment, it must not contain unpublished data and must be entirely free of polemic. Comments to the Editor may be rebutted by the authors of the previously published article. Comments and any rebuttals are subject to review. Abstracts, Significance Statements, and Author Contributions are not required for Comments.

COMPUTATIONAL TOOLS
Computational Tool articles are limited to five published pages in length (including figures and references) and describe software for analysis of experimental data, modeling/simulation software, or database services. The tool should be new or the manuscript should describe a significant new feature in an existing computational resource. The manuscript should also describe how the computational tool could be applied to a biophysical problem, preferably with an example. Any new algorithms implemented in the software should also be described. All computational tools will have to be freely accessible and open to the research community. The manuscript should describe what the tool does, but should not take the place of a user guide, which, together with any requisite download instructions, should be available on the authors' website. In addition to the usual review criteria of novelty and importance, reviewers will be asked to test-drive the computational tool and judge its usability.

Authors must declare the location and accessibility of any custom code and software central to the main claims of their manuscript. We recommend deposition of source code on GitHub (https://github.com/) together with a listing on Zenodo (https://zenodo.org/), which will assign a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) to make the upload uniquely citable; this DOI should be reported in the manuscript.

NEW AND NOTABLES
These commentaries, which highlight Regular Articles appearing in the same issue of BJ, are solicited by the handling editor. They are expected within 10 days of solicitation to facilitate rapid peer review and publication. Abstracts, Significance Statements, and Author Contributions are not required for New and Notable articles.

A New and Notable gives the writer some leeway to highlight whatever he/she thinks is relevant as opposed to an inclusive overview. A New and Notable can mention some of the limitations of the relevant article and thus where questions and controversies still lie and where future research can provide the next steps forward. Therefore, it

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**PERSPECTIVES IN BIOPHYSICS**

Perspectives in Biophysics are short reviews covering topics of current interest in biophysics; they are intended to provide a unique perspective on the current state and future of a field, rather than a comprehensive review. They generally do not present new data, but can offer fresh syntheses of the results in a field. These articles are typically written by authorities in the field and are directed to a broad range of scientists who wish to keep abreast of the best current research. All Perspectives in Biophysics are invited and are solicited by the Editor-in-Chief and the Associate Editors, but nominations from outside the Editorial Board are welcomed. These suggestions will then be considered by the Associate Editor for Perspectives in Biophysics in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief, and if accepted, an invitation will be sent to the proposed author to submit a review. Perspectives should be approximately five published pages, including figures and references, and the number of references should be limited to roughly 60 recent publications. There are no page charges associated with an accepted Perspective. Color figures will be online only color unless the author specifies otherwise and incurs the cost of print color.

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At the initial submission stage, BJ will accept for review well-prepared manuscripts in any format. However, as noted above, the title page should contain only the article title and the list of authors, using only initials for the authors’ given names as well as their full surnames; do not include author affiliations or email addresses.

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If your manuscript is accepted, you will be asked to provide the manuscript and figures as separate files to allow for editing and composition of the manuscript during the production process (see below). At that point, a title page with full author names, affiliations, and email address of the corresponding author will also be required.

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MANUSCRIPT TEXT
The final version of the manuscript text must be submitted as a single-column Word document or LaTeX file. LaTeX users should submit the .bbl file and a final PDF version of the manuscript as well. The PDF version MUST include the reference section to ensure accuracy of the .bbl file.

As noted above: LaTeX manuscripts must be converted to .doc format by our composition team. As a result, approximately 1 week will be added to the production timeline for LaTeX manuscripts. (See “Math and Equations” in the "Regular Articles" section above for more information.)

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