

Submission Guidelines

To give your manuscript the best chance of publication on *Photonic Sensors*, follow these editorial policies and formatting guidelines.

Our 3-step submission process

1. Before you submit

Before you submit, we recommend familiarizing yourself with the following.

- Make sure you are submitting to the most suitable journal (see “Aims and scope”)
- Make sure your manuscript is accurate and readable
- Understand the copyright agreement (see “Copyright and License Agreement”)

2. Ready to submit

To give your manuscript the best chance of publication, follow these editorial policies and formatting guidelines.

- **Cover letter and Declarations**

Please make sure you have the following information available before you submit your manuscript. Cover letter and declaration section should be put in one separate file including the following information.

Cover letter should include the (a) Letter to Editor and (b) Title page

(a) Letter to the Editor

An explanation of why your manuscript should be published in *Photonic Sensors* or an explanation of any issues relating to the manuscript, such as response to comment.

(b) Title page

- Present a title that includes, if appropriate, the research design or for non-research studies: a description of what the article reports.
- List the full names, institutional addresses and email addresses for all authors, and indicate the corresponding author.
- If a collaboration group should be listed as an author, please list the group name as an author and include the names of the individual members of the group in the “Acknowledgements” section in accordance with the instructions below and indicate the corresponding author.

Declarations include the following sections:

- **Availability of data and material.** Authors should make readily reproducible materials described in the manuscript, including new software, databases and all relevant raw data, freely available to any scientist wishing to use them, without breaching participant confidentiality. Authors should make their new software, databases, application/tool described in the manuscript available for testing by reviewers in a way that preserves the reviewers’ anonymity. If this sub-section does not apply to your manuscript, please state ‘Not applicable’ beneath the relevant sub-heading. If you do not wish to share your data, please state that data will not be shared, and state the reason.
- **Competing interests.** Authors should declare all competing interests in relation to their work. All submitted manuscripts must include a ‘competing interests’ section at the end of the

manuscript listing all competing interests ([financial] and [non-financial]). Where authors have no competing interests, the statement should read “The author(s) declare(s) that they have no competing interests”.

- **Funding.** All sources of funding for the research reported should be declared. The role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript should be declared. If this sub-section does not apply to your manuscript, please state ‘Not applicable’ beneath the relevant sub-heading.
- **Authors' contributions.** The individual contributions of authors to the manuscript should be specified in this section. The following kind of format (please use initials to refer to each author's contribution) is suggested: “AB carried out the molecular genetic studies, participated in the sequence alignment and drafted the manuscript. JY carried out the immunoassays. MT participated in the sequence alignment. ES participated in the design of the study and performed the statistical analysis. FG conceived of the study, and participated in its design and coordination and helped to draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript. If this sub-section does not apply to your manuscript, please state ‘Not applicable’ beneath the relevant sub-heading.
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- **Authors' information (optional).** You may choose to use this section to include any relevant information about the author(s) that may aid the reader's interpretation of the article, and understand the standpoint of the author(s). This may include details about the authors' qualifications, current positions they hold at institutions or societies, or any other relevant background information. Please refer to authors using their initials. Note this section should not be used to describe any competing interests.
- **Suggested reviewers**

You are encouraged to provide information (name, e-mail and institute) of 5 experts in your research area, as candidate reviewers of your manuscript. The editor would select reviewers of your manuscript from or outside the list. This is not required, however, it will help the editors to accelerate reviewing procedure.
- **Blinded manuscript preparation**

The acceptable manuscripts should be prepared in MS WORD and the manuscript should be one column. As the journal operates a double-blind peer review process, please kindly remove author's information, funding, acknowledgements, etc. on the main manuscript. The requirements of the main manuscripts are listed below.

 - **Title.** A title that includes, if appropriate, the research design or for non-research studies: a description of what the article reports.
 - **Abstract.** The abstract should briefly summarize the aim, findings or purpose of the article. Please minimize the use of abbreviations and do not cite references in the abstract.
 - **Keywords.** Three to ten keywords representing the main content of the article.
 - **Main text.** This should contain the body of the article, and may also be broken into subsections with short, informative headings.

- **Conclusions.** This should state clearly the main conclusions and include an explanation of their relevance or importance to the field.
- **Figures.** Figures should be provided as separate files, not embedded in the main manuscript file. Upload the figures as separate figure files via the online submission system only (submit by choosing “figures” not “supplementary”). Also, please include a separate figure title and legend section after the reference list (i.e. Figure 1, Figure 2 etc.). Multi-panel figures (those with parts a, b, c, d etc.) should be submitted as a single composite file that contains all parts of the figure.
- **Tables.** Table can be placed in the appropriate location within the manuscript and should be numbered and cited in the text in sequence using Arabic numerals (i.e. Table 1, Table 2 etc.).
- **Equations.** Equations should be created by using Mathtype.
- **References.** Only articles, clinical trial registration records and abstracts that have been published or are in press, or are available through public e-print/preprint servers, may be cited. References should be numbered and cited in the text in sequence using Arabic numerals.
- **Abbreviations.** If abbreviations are used in the text they should be defined in the text at first use.

3. Submit after acceptance

After acceptance, we provide support so your article gains maximum impact in the scientific community and beyond.

- Who decides whether my work will be accepted?
Peer-review is the system used to assess the quality of a manuscript before it is published. Independent researchers in the relevant research area assess submitted manuscripts for originality, validity and significance to help editors determine whether the manuscript should be published in their journal.
- Spreading the word.
Articles are widely promoted through email updates, table of contents, email alerts, postings on the SpringerOpen homepage, and press releases to the general and scientific press - all resulting in increasing levels of accesses for each article. SpringerOpen journals are also promoted at many major scientific conferences to bring your work to the attention of professionals in your field. You can also promote your article via your own email lists, online links, listservs, distribution at conferences and any other innovative techniques you wish to adopt.



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