

## Instructions for Authors

### AIMS AND SCOPE

*The International Journal of Developmental Biology* (ISSN: 0214-6282) is an independent, scholarly journal, published by scientists, for scientists. The *Int. J. Dev. Biol.* publishes papers which throw light on our understanding of animal and plant developmental mechanisms in health and disease, and in particular, research which elucidates the developmental principles underlying stem cell properties and cancer. Technical, historical or theoretical approaches also fall within the scope of the journal. **Criteria for acceptance** include scientific excellence, novelty and quality of presentation of data and illustrations. **Advantages of publishing in the journal** include: rapid publication; free unlimited color reproduction; no page charges; free publication of online supplementary material; free publication of audio files (MP3 type); one-to-one personalized attention at all stages during the editorial process; an easy online submission facility and an open online access option, by means of which papers can be published without any access restrictions. In keeping with its mission, the journal offers free online subscriptions to academic institutions in developing countries.

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### MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

Papers can be submitted as one of the following article types with the indicated principal headings:

**Original Article:** Abstract, Introduction, Results, Discussion, Materials & Methods, Acknowledgements, References, Tables and Figure Legends.

**Review:** Abstract, Text, Acknowledgements, References, Tables and Figure Legends.

**Short Communication:** Same format as Original Article, but presenting preliminary results with potentially outstanding relevance. Should not exceed 4 journal pages (approx. 800 words per page) including illustrations and references.

**Developmental Expression Pattern:** Same format as Original Article, but presenting concise descriptions of a new developmentally relevant gene or protein and discussing its potential relevance for development. DNA and amino acid sequences and corresponding accession numbers should be provided.

**Technical Article:** Abstract, Introduction, Experimental Protocols, Results & Discussion, Acknowledgements, References, Tables and Figure Legends.

**Essay, Special Contribution, Developmental Perspective or Meeting Report:** There are no structural restrictions, but an Abstract must be provided. Essays typically include theoretical considerations, whereas Special Contributions are devoted, for instance, to the update of tables of development of different organisms.

**No detailed formatting requirements have to be fulfilled for manuscripts initially submitted for publication.** They should simply conform with the following points.

#### 1. Manuscript

\***Title page:** specifying the title of the paper, names of authors (including full first names), abbreviated institutional affiliations, running title (not more than 50 characters), key words (max. 5), DDBJ/EMBL/GenBank or Pathbase accession numbers (if applicable) and the contact details (postal address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail, Web URL) of the corresponding author.

\***The e-mail addresses of all authors.**

\***Abstract:** Must be structured to contain the following sections: Background, Methods, Results, Conclusion. Maximum of 250 words.

\***Text of manuscript:** must be written in clear, concise English. Non-English speaking authors should have their papers revised by a native English speaking scientist. Our Editorial Office can facilitate contact with recommended agencies if required. Manuscripts should be checked with your software "Spelling" function, to detect typographical errors, before submitting to the Editorial Office. Avoid complex formatting as this will be done by our copy editors.

\* **References:** no specific format is required for initial submissions.

\* **Illustrations.** Should be of sufficient quality for the referee to appreciate the relevant details. Please use color (free of charge) to enhance visual quality.

#### 2. Cover letter including:

- **list of 5 candidate referees.** You should indicate the names, addresses and e-mails of 5 referees who you consider would be competent to independently evaluate your work. They should preferably be cited in the References. You should not have co-authored papers with them in the last 5 years. Separate document.

- **ethical statement** that the manuscript has not been, nor will be, simultaneously submitted to other journals while under review at the *Int. J. Dev. Biol.*

**3. Electronic Supplementary Material** (if appropriate): videos, podcasts, long nucleotide or peptide sequences and other complementary material can be considered for electronic publishing on the Web of the journal. The format and application used to view the material should be specified.

## INITIAL SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPTS

**NOTE 1:** It is usually not necessary to send big, highest quality image files for your initial submission. Images which you consider to be of **sufficient quality in PDF format** are usually acceptable for peer review. Highest quality images are only required once a paper is finally accepted for publication.

**NOTE 2:** Manuscripts should be submitted to our central Editorial Office in Bilbao by **e-mail attach as a single PDF document** (< 10 Mb) to [ijdb@ehu.es](mailto:ijdb@ehu.es). A version of the text of the manuscript in Word format (or similar) should also be submitted. If you prefer to submit your paper in a different format, please contact our Editorial Office in Bilbao ([ijdb@ehu.es](mailto:ijdb@ehu.es)) for personalized help. **Your paper will be handled by the Editor-in-Chief, unless you specify an Associate Editor (listed below) whom you would prefer to manage the peer review of your paper.**

**NOTE 3:** Manuscripts will be peer-reviewed on the understanding that they have not been simultaneously submitted to other journals.

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## REVISED MANUSCRIPTS

Please re-submit the revised version of your manuscript as a PDF document directly to the Editor who handled the peer review of your paper. This final version of the manuscript must now be carefully formatted in accordance with our revised ms. checklist (see: <http://www.intjdevbiol.com/web/files/mschecklist.pdf>).

## PAPERS ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION, PROOFS AND REPRINTS

For definitively accepted papers, you should send the complete final text and highest quality image files for publishing to the Editorial Office in Bilbao, Spain ([ijdb@ehu.es](mailto:ijdb@ehu.es)). If image files are large, they can be sent by FTP (simply request a password from [ijdb@ehu.es](mailto:ijdb@ehu.es)).

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**Rejection Policy** Peer-review has occasionally been reported to be susceptible to personal bias and subjectivity. If you feel your paper has been unfairly rejected, please do consider appealing the decision, by concisely stating why you think the evaluation of your paper has been unfair. When such appeals are accompanied by sufficient evidence, the Editor-in-Chief may seek further evaluations of your work.

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