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MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

To facilitate the preparation of manuscripts to be submitted to *ACS Photonics* and to better comply with the journal's editorial policies, please refer to this [Author Checklist](#).

SCOPE OF THE JOURNAL

ACS Photonics is dedicated to publishing high-impact research in the rapidly evolving field of photonics. The journal seeks to be the primary publication avenue for work in the areas where photonics and optoelectronics are key enabling technologies. Interdisciplinary research and research addressing emerging issues in photonics are of particular interest. Areas of interest to the journal include:

- Molecular and nano-photonics
- Solid state inorganic materials for optoelectronics
- Polymer and organic optoelectronic materials
- Plasmonics and optical metamaterials
- Photonic crystals
- Mesoscale photonics and optoelectronics
- Nonlinear optics and materials
- Quantum optics and single-photon processes
- Flexible electronics and displays
- Silicon photonics
- Optical switching, memory, and data storage
- Lasers, quantum electronics, and optical amplifiers
- LEDs and solid-state lighting
- Photonics for energy materials
- Biophotonics
- Micro- and nano-optoelectromechanical systems
- Modeling and simulation of photonics processes

MANUSCRIPT TYPES

ACS Photonics publishes original Articles, Letters, Perspectives, and Reviews that highlight recent developments and that further the understanding of photonics.

Articles. Concise, yet comprehensive, original research presenting an advance of immediate, broad, and lasting impact. Articles are not intended to be follow-up manuscripts, unless they contain new and extensive information that will advance the understanding of the system. Articles are peer-reviewed and contain an unreferenced abstract of 250 words or less. Abstracts should not contain abbreviations or acronyms unless essential. A referenced introduction should expand on the background of the work. In general, Articles include 8–10 display items (figures/tables/schemes) and ~50 references. Supporting Information may be included. Articles include a graphical Table of Contents (TOC) entry and a list of up to six keywords. Articles should be in the range of 4-6 formatted Journal pages.

Letters. Brief reports of original research focused on an individual significant finding. Letters are peer-reviewed and begin with an unreferenced abstract of less than 150 words. Abstracts should not contain abbreviations or acronyms unless essential. Letters may include unheaded sections for the Introduction and combined Results and Discussion and a headed section for Methods that can also contain subsections. Letters should contain 4–6 display items (figures/tables/schemes) and ~30 references. Letters should include sufficient experimental detail to allow others to reproduce the findings

presented. Supporting Information is encouraged. Letters should be approximately 3 formatted Journal pages (~3000 words) or less in length, including the abstract, body text, methods, references, and figure/scheme legends. Letters include a graphical TOC entry and a list of up to six keywords.

Perspectives. Brief, focused reviews of a field or area. They are not intended to be comprehensive reviews of a field, but should highlight a particular emerging topic in photonics of interest to the community. Authors of Perspectives are asked to assess the current status of the field with an emphasis toward identifying key advances being made or those advances that are needed, and with an eye to the future. The Perspective should touch base with the current literature including key contributors and references, but will primarily serve to inspire and help direct future research efforts. Authors may be invited by the Editor to submit Perspectives. Authors interested in submitting a Perspective are strongly encouraged to contact the Editor prior to manuscript preparation and submission to seek conditional approval of the proposed topic. One-page proposals should be sent to the Editor, Dr. Harry Atwater (eic@photonics.acs.org), for consideration. Perspectives should be in the range of 5-8 formatted Journal pages.

Reviews. Topical, brief, and of general interest to the readership. Reviews are peer-reviewed and should contain an unreferenced abstract of 250 words or less. A good review critically evaluates existing work, provides a logical organization, and makes the material more easily available to those not expert in the area through clear text and figures. Reviews should contain ~100 references, and the use of graphics to illustrate key concepts is strongly encouraged. Reviews should include keywords and a graphical TOC entry consisting of a colorful figure that represents the topic of the review. Authors may choose to divide the review into sections preceded by headings. Reviews should be in the range of 8-12 formatted Journal pages.

ACS PUBLISHING CENTER

While this document will provide basic information on how to prepare and submit the manuscript as well as other critical information about publishing, we also encourage authors to visit the [ACS Publishing Center](#) for additional information on everything that is needed to prepare (and review) manuscripts for ACS journals, such as

- [Mastering the Art of Scientific Publication](#) which shares editor tips about a variety of topics including making your paper scientifically effective, preparing excellent graphics, and writing cover letters.
- Resources on [how to prepare and submit a manuscript](#) to ACS Paragon Plus, ACS Publications' manuscript submission and peer review environment.
- [Sharing your research](#) with the public through ACS Publications open access program

MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

Review Ready Submission

All ACS journals have simplified their formatting requirements in favor of a streamlined and standardized review-ready format for an initial manuscript submission. Read more about the requirements and the benefits these serves authors and reviewers [here](#). Manuscripts submitted for initial consideration must adhere to these standards:

- Submissions must be complete with clearly identified standard sections used to report original research, free of annotations or highlights, and include all numbered and labeled components.
- Figures, charts, tables, schemes, and equations should be embedded in the text at the point of relevance. Separate graphics can be supplied later at revision, if necessary.

- A two-column manuscript template is available and can be used for manuscripts submitted to any ACS journal. Templates are not required but may be useful to approximate how an article will compose. For manuscripts with word count limits, authors are not required to fit content into a page limit based on the template.
- References can be provided in any style, but they must be complete, including titles.
- Supporting Information should be submitted as a separate file(s).
- Author names and affiliations on the manuscript must match what is entered into ACS.

Document Templates and Format

General information on the preparation of manuscripts may also be found in [The ACS Style Guide](#).

Acceptable Software, File Designations, and TeX/LaTeX

See the list of [Acceptable Software](#) and appropriate [File Designations](#) to be sure your file types are compatible with ACS Paragon Plus. Information for manuscripts generated from [TeX/LaTeX](#) is also available.

Cover Letter

A cover letter must accompany every manuscript submission. During the submission process, you may type it or paste it into the submission system, or you may attach it as a file.

Manuscript Text Components

Title, Author List, Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Experimental Section or Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, Acknowledgement, and References.

Supporting Information

This information is provided to the reviewers during the peer-review process (for Review Only) and is available to readers of the published work (for Publication). Supporting Information must be submitted at the same time as the manuscript. See the list of [Acceptable Software by File Designation](#) and confirm that your Supporting Information is [viewable](#).

If the manuscript is accompanied by any supporting information files for publication, these files will be made available free of charge to readers. A brief description of each file is required, and the paragraph and descriptions should be placed at the end of the manuscript before the list of references. The appropriate format is as follows:

Supporting Information. Brief descriptions in nonsentence format listing the contents of the files supplied as Supporting Information.

When including supporting information for review only, include copies of references that are unpublished or in-press. These files are available only to editors and reviewers.

Language and Editing Services

A well-written paper helps share your results most clearly. ACS Publications' [English Editing Service](#) is designed to help scientists communicate their research effectively. Our subject-matter expert editors will edit your manuscript for grammar, spelling, and other language errors so your ideas are presented at their best.

Preparing Graphics

The quality of illustrations in ACS journals depends on the quality of the original files provided by the authors. Figures are not modified or enhanced by journal production staff. All graphics must be prepared and submitted in digital format.

Graphics should be inserted into the main body whenever possible. Please see Appendix 2 for additional information.

Any graphic (figure chart, scheme, or equation) that has appeared in an earlier publication should include a [credit line](#) citing the original source. Authors are responsible for [obtaining written permission](#) to re-use this material.

Figure and Illustration Services

The impact of your research is not limited to what you can express with words. Tables and figures such as graphs, photographs, illustrations, diagrams, and other visuals can play a significant role in effectively communicating your findings. Our [Figures service](#) generates publication-ready figures that conform to your chosen journal's specifications. This includes changes to file type, resolution, color space, font, scale, line weights, and layout (to improve readability and professional appearance).

PREPARING FOR SUBMISSION

Manuscripts, graphics, supporting information, and required forms, as well as manuscript revisions, must all be submitted in digital format through [ACS Paragon Plus](#), which requires an ACS ID to log in. Registering for an ACS ID is fast, free, and does not require an ACS membership. Please refer to Appendix 1 for additional information on preparing your submission.

Prior Publication Policy

Authors must use care in the disclosure of scientific results and conclusions contained in an *ACS Photonics* manuscript before the manuscript is published on the *ACS Photonics* "Just Accepted Manuscripts" or "Articles ASAP" Web site. *ACS Photonics* considers for publication only original work that has not been previously published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. Authors are allowed to deposit an initial draft of their manuscript in a preprint service prior to submission (e.g. ArXiv). Please note any use of a preprint server in the cover letter, and as appropriate, state how the manuscript has been adjusted/updated between deposition and submission. All other prior/redundant publication is forbidden.

Upon publication in *ACS Photonics*, authors are advised to add a link from the preprint to the published paper via the Digital Object Identifier (DOI). For further details, contact the [Editorial Office](#).

Editorial Policies

Peer Review Process

Editors evaluate submitted manuscripts, and only those judged to fall within the scope of the journal and to be of potential interest to readers are sent to two or more reviewers for evaluation. Reviewers will evaluate the originality, technical quality, clarity of presentation, and importance to the field and will suggest that a paper be published, revised, or rejected. The editors evaluate the reviewers' arguments in the context of the scope and aims of the journal and make the final decision on each manuscript.

Note that editorial decisions are based on many factors. Reviewers' concerns are considered very seriously. In cases when reviewers suggest differing decisions, additional information may be requested from the reviewers, other experts may be consulted, and/or the authors may be asked to clarify questionable sections. Reviewers may be asked to review subsequent versions of the manuscript, especially if new data have been added to the paper, to evaluate whether the authors have addressed the scientific concerns. In such cases, blind copies of all reviewer comments are normally sent to the reviewers. This practice allows the reviewers to obtain a clear understanding of the expectations of the editors. The editors will expedite any additional rounds of reviews to ensure timely publication.

ACS Photonics is committed to fair and rapid peer-review and expedited routes to manuscript publication. In that regard, we expect and anticipate authors to respond promptly to editorial guidance and feedback so as to expedite the publication process.

Providing Potential Reviewer Names

ACS Photonics requires authors to suggest six (6) reviewers at the time of submission. Authors are encouraged to avoid suggesting reviewers from the authors' institutions. Do not suggest reviewers who may have a [real or perceived conflict of interest](#). Whenever possible, suggest academic email addresses rather than personal email addresses.

Manuscript Transfer

If your submission is declined for publication by this journal, the editors might deem your work to be better suited for another ACS Publications journal and suggest that the authors consider transferring the submission. [Manuscript Transfer](#) simplifies and shortens the process of submitting to another ACS journal, as all the coauthors, suggested reviewers, manuscript files, and responses to submission questions are copied by ACS Paragon Plus to the new draft submission. Authors are free to accept or decline the transfer offer.

Note that each journal is editorially independent. Transferring a manuscript is not a guarantee that the manuscript will be accepted, as the final publication decision will belong to the editor of the next journal.

PRODUCTION AND PUBLICATION

Proofs via ACS Direct Correct

Correction of the galley proofs is the responsibility of the Corresponding Author. The Corresponding Author of an accepted manuscript will receive e-mail notification and complete instructions when page proofs are available for review via [ACS Direct Correct](#). Extensive or important changes on page proofs, including changes to the title or list of authors, are subject to review by the editor.

It is the responsibility of the Corresponding Author to ensure that all authors listed on the manuscript agree with the changes made on the proofs. Galley proofs should be returned within 48 hours in order to ensure timely publication of the manuscript.

Publication Date and Patent Dates

Accepted manuscripts will be published on the ACS Publications Web site as JAMs (see below) or as soon as page proofs are corrected and all author concerns are resolved. The first date on which the document is published on the Web is considered the publication date.

Publication of manuscripts on the Web may occur weeks in advance of the cover date of the issue of publication. Authors should take this into account when planning their patent and intellectual property activities related to a document and should ensure that all patent information is available at the time of first publication, whether Just Accepted, ASAP, or issue publication.

All articles published ahead of print receive a unique Digital Object Identifier (DOI) number, which is used to cite the manuscript before and after the paper appears in an issue. Additionally, any supplemental information submitted along with the manuscript will automatically be assigned a DOI and hosted on Figshare to promote open data discoverability and use of your research outputs.

Just Accepted Manuscripts (JAMs)

Just Accepted manuscripts (JAMs) are peer-reviewed, accepted manuscripts that are posted on the ACS Publications Web site prior to technical editing, formatting for publication, and author proofing—usually within 30 minutes to 24 hours of acceptance by the editorial office. During the manuscript submission process, Authors can choose to have their manuscript posted online as JAMs. If an author chooses to have a manuscript published online as a JAM, it is considered published when this version appears on the Web.

ASAP Publication

Manuscripts will be published on the “Articles ASAP” page on the Web as soon as page proofs are corrected and all author concerns are resolved. ASAP publication usually occurs within a few working days of receipt of page proof corrections, which can be several weeks in advance of the cover date of the issue.

Post-Publication Policies

The American Chemical Society follows guidance from the [Committee on Publication Ethics](#) (COPE) when considering any ethical concerns regarding a published article, Retractions, and Expressions of Concern.

Additions and Corrections

Additions and Corrections may be requested by the author(s) or initiated by the Editor to address important issues or correct errors and omissions of consequence that arise after publication of an article. All Additions and Corrections are subject to approval by the Editor, and should bring new and directly relevant information and corrections that fix scientific facts. Minor corrections and additions will not be published. Readers who detect errors of consequence in the work of others should contact the corresponding author of that work.

Additions and Corrections must be submitted as new manuscripts via ACS Paragon Plus by the Corresponding Author for publication in the “Addition/Correction” section of the Journal. The corresponding author should obtain approval from all coauthors prior to submitting or provide evidence that such approval has been solicited. The manuscript should include the original article title and author list, citation including DOI, and details of the correction.

Retractions

Articles may be retracted for scientific or ethical reasons and may be requested by the article author(s) or by the journal Editor(s), but are ultimately published at the discretion of the Editor. Articles that contain seriously flawed or erroneous data such that their findings and conclusions cannot be relied upon may be retracted in order to correct the scientific record. When an article is retracted, a notice of

Retraction will be published containing information about the reason for the Retraction. The originally published article will remain online except in extraordinary circumstances (e.g. where deemed legally necessary, or if the availability of the published content poses public health risks).

Expressions of Concern

Expressions of Concern may be issued at the discretion of the Editor if:

- there is inconclusive evidence of research or publication misconduct by the authors;
- there is evidence that the findings are unreliable but the authors' institution will not investigate the case;
- an investigation into alleged misconduct related to the publication either has not been, or would not be, fair and impartial or conclusive;
- an investigation is underway but a judgment will not be available for a considerable time.
- Upon completion of any related investigation, and when a final determination is made about the outcome of the article, the Expression of Concern may be replaced with a Retraction notice or Correction.

Sharing Your Published Article

At ACS Publications, we know it is important for you to be able to share your peer reviewed, published work with colleagues in the global community of scientists. As sharing on sites known as scholarly collaboration networks (SCNs) is becoming increasingly prevalent in today's scholarly research ecosystem, we would like to remind you of the many ways in which you, a valued ACS author, can [share your published work](#).

Publishing open access makes it easy to share your work with friends, colleagues, and family members. In addition, ACS Publications makes it easy to share your newly published research with ACS Articles on Request (see below). Don't forget to promote your research and related data on social media, at conferences, and through scholarly communication networks. Increase the impact of your research using the following resources: [Altmetrics](#), [Figshare](#), [ACS Certified Deposit](#).

E-Prints

When your article is published in an ACS journal, corresponding authors are provided with a link that offers up to 50 free digital prints of the final published work. This link is valid for the first 12 months following online publication, and can be shared via email or an author's website. After one year, the access restrictions to your article will be lifted, and you can share the [Articles on Request](#) URL on social media and other channels. To access all your Articles on Request links, log in to your ACS Publishing Center account and visit the "My Published Manuscripts" page.

Reprints

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Appendix 1: PREPARING FOR SUBMISSION

We've developed ACS' publishing and editorial policies in consultation with the research communities that we serve, including authors and librarians. Browse our policies below to learn more.

Ethical Guidelines

ACS editors have provided [Ethical Guidelines](#) for persons engaged in the publication of chemical research—specifically, for editors, authors, and reviewers. Each journal also has a specific [policy on prior publication](#).

Safety Considerations

Authors must emphasize any unexpected, new, and/or significant hazards or risks associated with the reported work. This information should be in the Experimental Section of the full article and included in the main text of a letter.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

A statement describing any financial conflicts of interest or lack thereof is published in each ACS journal article.

During the submission process, the Corresponding Author must provide a statement on behalf of all authors of the manuscript, describing all potential sources of bias, including affiliations, funding sources, and financial or management relationships, that may constitute conflicts of interest. If the manuscript is accepted, the statement will be published in the final article.

If the manuscript is accepted and no conflict of interest has been declared, the following statement will be published in the final article: “The authors declare no competing financial interest.”

Plagiarism

In publishing only original research, ACS is committed to deterring plagiarism, including self-plagiarism. ACS Publications uses CrossCheck's iThenticate software to screen submitted manuscripts for similarity to published material. Note that your manuscript may be screened during the submission process. Further information about plagiarism can be found in Part B of the [Ethical Guidelines to Publication of Chemical Research](#). See also the [Press Release](#) regarding ACS' participation in the CrossCheck initiative.

Author List and Coauthor Notification

Authors are required to obtain the consent of all their coauthors prior to submitting a manuscript. The submitting author accepts the responsibility of notifying all coauthors that the manuscript is being submitted.

If any change in authorship is necessary after a manuscript has been submitted, the Corresponding Author must e-mail a signed letter to the Editor-in-Chief confirming that all of the original coauthors have been notified and have agreed to the change. If the change involves the removal of a coauthor's name, the Corresponding Author must, in addition, arrange for the coauthor involved to e-mail a separate signed letter to the Editor-in-Chief consenting to the change. No changes in the author list will be permitted after a manuscript has been accepted.

During manuscript submission, the submitting author must provide contact information (full name, email address, institutional affiliation, and mailing address) for all of the coauthors. Because all of the author names are automatically imported into the electronic Journal Publishing Agreement, the names must be entered into ACS Paragon Plus in the same sequence as they appear on the first page of the manuscript. (Note that coauthors are not required to register in ACS Paragon Plus.)

Patent Activities and Intellectual Property

Authors are responsible for ensuring that all patent activities and intellectual property issues are satisfactorily resolved prior to first publication (Just Accepted, ASAP, or in issue). Acceptance and publication will not be delayed for pending or unresolved issues of this nature.

Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID)

Authors submitting manuscript revisions are required to provide their own personal, validated ORCID iD before completing the submission, if an ORCID iD is not already associated with their ACS Paragon Plus user profiles. This ID may be provided during original manuscript submission or when submitting the manuscript revision. All authors are strongly encouraged to register for an ORCID iD, a unique researcher identifier. The ORCID iD will be displayed in the published article for any author on a manuscript who has a validated ORCID iD associated with ACS when the manuscript is accepted.

ORCID iDs should not be typed into the manuscript. ACS publishes only those ORCID iDs that have been properly verified and linked **before the manuscript is accepted**. After your ORCID iD is linked, it will be displayed automatically in all subsequently accepted manuscripts for any/all ACS journals. We do not publish ORCID iDs provided during proof review or via other communications after a manuscript is accepted for publication.

With an ORCID iD, you can create a profile of your research activities to distinguish yourself from other researchers with similar names, and make it easier for your colleagues to find your publications. If you do not yet have an ORCID iD, or you wish to associate your existing ORCID iD with your ACS Paragon Plus account, you may do so by clicking on “Edit Your Profile” from your ACS Paragon Plus account homepage and following the ORCID-related links. Learn more at <http://www.orcid.org>.

Copyright and Permissions

To obtain forms and guidelines for copyright transfer, obtaining permissions from copyright owners, and to explore a Copyright Learning Module for chemists, click [here](#).

Funder Reporting Requirement

Authors are [required to report funding sources](#) and grant/award numbers. Enter **ALL** sources of funding for ALL authors in **BOTH** the Funder Registry Tool in ACS Paragon Plus and in your manuscript to meet this requirement.

Open Access Compliance

ACS offers options by which authors can fulfill the requirements of manuscript deposit for research funded by the [National Institutes of Health](#), the [Wellcome Trust](#), and the [Austrian Science Fund](#).

ACS offers options by which authors can fulfill the requirements for open access and deposition into repositories for funded research. Read more about [Open Access Compliance](#) and [ACS Open Access initiatives](#).

Appendix 2: Preparing Graphics Resolution

Digital graphics pasted into manuscripts should have the following minimum resolutions:

- Black and white line art 1200 dpi
- Grayscale art 600 dpi
- Color art 300 dpi

Size

Graphics must fit a one- or two-column format. Single-column graphics can be sized up to 240 points wide (3.33 in.) and double-column graphics must be sized between 300 and 504 points (4.167 in. and 7 in.). The maximum depth for all graphics is 660 points (9.167 in.) including the caption (allow 12 pts. For each line of caption text). Lettering should be no smaller than 4.5 points in the final published format. The text should be legible when the graphic is viewed full-size. Helvetica or Arial fonts work well for lettering. Lines should be no thinner than 0.5 point.

Color

Color may be used to enhance the clarity of complex structures, figures, spectra, and schemes, etc., and color reproduction of graphics is provided at no cost to the author. Graphics intended to appear in black and white or grayscale should not be submitted in color.

Type of Graphics

Table of Contents (TOC)/Abstract Graphic

Consult the [Guidelines for Table of Contents/Abstract Graphics](#) for specifications.

Figures

A caption giving the figure number and a brief description must be included below each figure. The caption should be understandable without reference to the text. It is preferable to place any key to symbols used in the artwork itself, not in the caption. Ensure that any symbols and abbreviations used in the text agree with those in the artwork.

Charts

Charts (groups of structures that do not show reactions) may have a brief caption describing its contents

Tables

Each table must have a brief (one phrase or sentence) title that describes the contents. The title should be understandable without reference to the text. Details should be put in footnotes, not in the title. Tables should be used when the data cannot be presented clearly in the narrative, when many numbers must be presented, or when more meaningful inter-relationships can be conveyed by the tabular format. Tables should supplement, not duplicate, information presented in the text and figures. Tables should be simple and concise.

Schemes

Each scheme (sequences of reactions) may have a brief caption describing its contents.

Chemical Structures

Chemical structures should be produced with the use of a drawing program such as ChemDraw.

Cover Art

ACS Photonics will feature a different image on the cover of each issue, and images chosen for the cover will be printed at no cost to the author. After favorable manuscript review, authors are invited to submit artwork suitable for consideration as a cover graphic. Cover art should be colorful and eye-catching and must convey the importance and significance of the research. Graphics in EPS, TIFF, JPEG, or PNG format (not PDF) should be 7.4 inches wide and 8.1 inches high, with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi (2100 ×

2400 pixels), and submission of “layered” artwork is encouraged. Cover art files, as well as a short (<50-word), clear caption explaining the image, may be uploaded to ACS Paragon Plus as “Supporting Information for Review Only” during the final revision process. Requests for cover art should be sent to the Associate Editor who handled the manuscript or directly to the Editor, Dr. Harry Atwater (eic@photonics.acs.org) for consideration. Submitted images are evaluated and final selection is made by the editors. These images may be modified or enhanced by an ACS graphic artist. Selection of cover art may delay issue publication of the associated manuscript; however, ASAP publication will not be delayed.

<ACS Photonics> also offers authors to promote their work through [Supplementary Covers](#). Submit your cover idea, artwork, and caption when submitting your manuscript revision in ACS Paragon Plus. If your article is accepted for publication, your suggestion may be selected for use on one of the journal’s supplementary covers.

Web Enhanced Objects (WEO)

The Web editions of ACS journals allow readers to view multimedia attachments such as animations and movies that complement understanding of the research being reported.

WEOs should be uploaded in ACS Paragon Plus with ‘Web Enhanced Object’ selected as the file designation. Consult the list of [compatible WEO formats](#).