

Physiology News guidelines for authors

June 2013

Editorial

Length: 800 words

A Society Trustee or someone invited to act as guest editor on a themed issue of Physiology News may be invited to write an editorial.

The editorial should set the content of an issue in context; whet the reader's appetite for the other content with observation and opinion around the issues covered and the contributors, and any topical matters relevant to this particular edition of Physiology News.

Pictures: Portrait required for by-line picture (head and shoulders (JPEG, TIFF, etc, ideally of 1mb or over). Let us know if any picture credit is required.

In depth

Length: 600-800 words

One-page, topical articles. Reporting on recent events or developments.

Pictures: One or two pictures can be published alongside shorter articles (JPEG, TIFF, etc, ideally of 1mb or over). Let us know if any picture credit is required.

Meeting preview

Length: 200-500 words

Giving date and location of event and a taste of the programme. Quotations from key speakers encouraged. Web link for registration, etc, is essential.

Pictures: Pictures of venues, locations, or past events encouraged (JPEG, TIFF, etc, ideally of 1mb or over). Let us know if any picture credit is required.

Meeting notes

Length: 200-500 words

Giving date and location of event, a brief description of the experience (personal impressions, the atmosphere, the size, the venue, the location, etc) and then a more detailed description of your scientific highlights and names of any prize-winners or individuals otherwise honoured. A short article cannot hope to adequately report on the content of any one presentation, let alone many. So aim to tell your reader what was interesting to you and why (perhaps including the response to a presentation – did it provoke interesting questions or subsequent debate? Was there anything controversial?) and give sufficient detail for them to follow up, should they wish to. If you were an organiser, or if you received a grant towards your attendance, don't forget to thank your sponsors.

Pictures: Please provide at least one or two high-resolution electronic files (JPEG, TIFF, etc, ideally of 1mb or over). Let us know if any picture credit is required.

Feature

Length: 1500-2500

Feature articles should aim to be an enjoyable read and accessible for physiologists from undergraduate level. Scientific articles can build on the results of the particular project that is the focus of the article, giving context and history, and the story behind the research. Features may also be historical in nature, about physiologists or institutions, or the ethics or environment of physiology.

Terminology, theory or background to particular aspects of an article may be best explained through a 'box out': an 'aside' from the main body of text, giving key information to those who may not be expert in the field. We encourage authors to use this device.

Feature articles should not present original data – only data that has already been published in a peer reviewed journal.

References are essential, but need not – indeed, should not – be extensive (no more than 12). Citations use the Harvard style, as in *The Journal of Physiology*.

Figures: Please provide figures as original files – not embedded in Word documents. PPT or PDF files are acceptable, as are image formats, such as JPEG, TIFF, etc. Be sure that, where these are not original, you have secured appropriate permission for reproduction.

Pictures: We encourage you to provide pictures (JPEG, TIFF, etc, ideally of 1mb or over). Let us know if any picture credit is required.

Feature: Opinion

Length: 1500-2500

Opinion articles should aim to be an enjoyable read and accessible for physiologists from undergraduate level.

Try to convey to the reader why they should care about the issue and why they should be interested in your point of view. State your case early on; support your case with evidence; address counter-arguments; conclude by summarising the case you have presented. Strength of feeling should be evident, but must not be allowed to confuse grammar or narrative, or cloud a cogent argument.

References are essential, but need not – indeed, should not – be extensive. Citations use the Harvard style, as in *The Journal of Physiology*.

Figures: Please provide figures as original files – not embedded in Word documents. PPT or PDF files are acceptable, as are image formats, such as JPEG, TIFF, etc. Be sure that, where these are not original, you have secured appropriate permission for reproduction.

Pictures: We encourage you to provide pictures (JPEG, TIFF, etc, ideally of 1mb or over). Let us know if any picture credit is required.

Member profile

Length: 600-1200 words

Member profiles should be a view of a career based around anecdote, rather than a full professional biography. A broad picture should be painted as an introduction, and detail provided in a succinct timeline to accompany the article.

The body of the article should focus on one aspect or one period in your career, presenting engaging stories pertaining to your experiences as a physiologist, your research, your colleagues, significant experiences or people who have inspired you.

Member profiles should not be marketing for The Society, but the reader, a fellow Member, will want to understand your relationship with The Society. Where appropriate, please touch on this. Has a contact made through The Society been especially important in your career? Have experiences at Society events or papers in our publications shaped your career? Has The Society provided funds to support your career, or have you actively supported Society activities?

Pictures: Please provide at least one high-resolution electronic file (JPEG, TIFF, etc, ideally of 1mb or over). Let us know if any picture credit is required.

My top ten papers

Length: 600-1200 words

Reference and describe the ten papers that have contributed the most to your career. The personal impact on you and your career is the most important aspect, rather than your detailed recollection of the data presented in a paper. Some questions you might consider: Were there techniques you took from the paper, results you tried to replicate, or were you just inspired by their writing or the science? Why does it still resonate with you? Where were you in your career when you read it? Has it had any influence on where your career or a particular project went subsequently? Are there some papers that have stuck not because of the quality of their content, but because of an associated anecdote?

A very short introduction and conclusion should explain your choices: Do readers need to understand the circumstances of your career to appreciate your choices? Did you take a particular approach to choosing your top ten? What impression might people take from your choices?

Pictures: Please provide at one high-resolution electronic file (JPEG, TIFF, etc, ideally of 1mb or over). Let us know if any picture credit is required.

Lab profile

Length: 750 words

Lab profiles should describe the personnel and projects currently undertaken in your laboratory. Is the laboratory operating under peculiar, challenging or especially beneficial circumstances? Where is your practice unusual or innovative? What facilities exist in your laboratory that others might not have? What techniques do you use in your research, and do your colleagues use, that might be of interest to other physiologists? The science is the primary focus of a lab profile, but the article will be more engaging if it can also offer a snapshot of the personalities, relationships, team dynamics and everyday life within the lab.

Pictures: Please provide at least one high-resolution electronic file (JPEG, TIFF, etc, ideally of 1mb or over). Let us know if any picture credit is required.

A day/week/month in the life of ...

Length: 600-1000 words

A day in the life of ... articles need not faithfully report the minutiae of one real day/week/month, but should look to paint an engaging picture of a 'typical' period. This type of article is suitable to cover projects that are outside of the normal, everyday experience of most Members

The article should contain real anecdotes – things that have happened, on one particular occasion – as well as events likely to happen on a 'typical' day. It should describe the personalities and the activities that come together on the project. It should describe the challenges encountered and the satisfactions derived from being a part of the project. It should describe the conditions of work – the physical environment, the atmosphere and the team dynamics. It should be engaging, amusing and perhaps even inspiring.

Pictures: Please provide at least two high-resolution electronic file (JPEG, TIFF, etc, ideally of 1mb or over). Let us know if any picture credit is required.

Book review

Length: 500 words

What is your interest in the book? What are the circumstances of its publication (e.g. is it one of a number of recent books on this subject)? What do you know of the author's background? Who is the book aimed at? What does it cover and what does it not cover? Is it successful in its intent and why/why not? Is it a useful or enjoyable book for you? What are your recommendations (for the author or for readers – should a follow-up be produced, or a new edition addressing failings; should Members of The Society read the book)?

Obituary

Length: 550 words

As complete a professional biography as the word limit allows. How did the deceased come to a career in physiology? Describe the course of their career, their close collaborators, and, of course, their major achievements. Did you know them? Give an indication as to their personality and their standing: They might have said something that stuck with you, or someone else might have said something about the deceased. How and when did they die? What is their legacy, personal and professional?

A fuller obituary can be published online – usually up to 2500 words – if you are happy to provide two versions of the article.

Pictures: Please provide a portrait of the deceased or provide a contact who might be able to help us to source one. Images should be provided as high-resolution electronic files (JPEG, TIFF, etc, ideally of 1mb or over). Let us know if any picture credit is required.