

Instructions for Authors of Focus

Focus articles at *Science Signaling* are short, lively commentary on research typically published in the same issue of *Science Signaling*.

Focus include a 1-3 sentence Abstract (~125 words) that mentions the highlighted article. The Abstract will be visible in PubMed and, thus, will lead many readers to your article.

Format: Focus have an upper limit of 1200 words and should cite at most 10 references. Because we want to make this page visually engaging as well as informative, we would like each Focus to include one figure.

Writing your Focus: The ideal Focus begins with an introductory paragraph that immediately presents the issues in a way that captures the reader's interest. The highlighted paper should be mentioned in this first paragraph. Your introduction should be general enough to orient the reader not familiar with the specifics of your field. Here, and throughout the article, you should avoid the jargon and special terms of your field or system. If the language of specialists is necessary, define terms for the general reader.

The body of the text should, in the limited space available, develop your discussion in a lively manner. By "lively" we don't mean hype and oversimplification. Rather, the editors seek clear, declarative writing that avoids the passive tense, tangled constructions, and needless detail.

The final paragraph should draw the piece to a concise conclusion, without simply restating the text. It should be a conclusion and not a summary. Tell the reader about future prospects and implications. What are the unanswered questions? Where is the field going?

References, cited by consecutive numbers in the text, should be given in a full format. Avoid lengthy notes, details, or asides that interrupt the flow of the text.

The Figure: The figure should illustrate the essential message of the Focus. It can be a graph, chart, table, or photograph. The point is to catch the eye while informing the reader. You can submit finished artwork, a sketch, or even a rough written idea for the figure. With the help of our art department, we will refine or modify the figure as needed. See accompanying instructions for submission of electronic art. See the next page with instructions for electronic transmission of manuscripts for details on preferred file types and file naming.

The Editor's Role: We expect that authors will do their best to meet our criteria for a good Focus, but you should be prepared for extensive editing, perhaps even rewriting, if the editors find it necessary. The editors will show you see the changes and you will be asked to check the galleys before publication.

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Author Checklist for *Science Signaling* Focus

Have you included an Abstract without cited references?	
Are all authors listed correctly along with their affiliations and the corresponding author indicated?	
Have you included at least one figure or table?	
Have you obtained any permissions for re-use of any of previously published figures that you wish to use?	
Have you included legends for all figures and tables?	
Does your article cite 10 or fewer references?	
Are the references complete? Each citation should include full article title, journal title, journal volume, year of publication, and first and last page. Please include all authors (no <i>et al.s</i>).	

General Instructions for the Preparation and Submission of Text and Figures

Please submit your text and figures through the *Science* Journals Submission and Information Portal at <https://cts.sciencemag.org>. Note that our submission site will automatically rename your files upon upload, so it is not necessary to follow a particular naming convention for your files.

Text

Text files must be in Microsoft Word .docx format. Include text, as well as any figure captions, references and all tables, in this single Microsoft Word .docx file.

Figures

Figure files should be compatible with Macintosh computer Adobe Illustrator (Version 3.0 to 9.0) and Adobe Photoshop (version 2.0 to 6.0). Figures prepared in PowerPoint will be redrawn by our art department to achieve the necessary resolution. Our submission system can handle files up to 25 MB. We can accept figures in the following formats (in descending order of preference):

- Illustrator EPS (Encapsulated Postscript) or AI (Adobe Illustrator)
- Photoshop PSD (Photoshop - with active text layers, do not flatten and do not rasterize text layers) PDF, TIF, PicT, JPG, GIF
- Files prepared in Corel Draw or Macromedia Freehand, which must be saved as EPS files
- PowerPoint PPT files

Supplementary Materials

Text and figures. Although Supplementary Materials are discouraged for Focus, if necessary, include them (materials and methods, tables and figures plus captions) at the end of the main manuscript file, in a separate section titled Supplementary Materials.

Video and audio files. Acceptable formats for videos or animations are Quicktime, MPEG, animated GIF and Flash. Keep videos short and the display window small to minimize the file

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size of the video. Supply caption information with the videos. Edit longer sequences into several small pieces with captions specific to each video sequence. Acceptable formats for audio files are .wav, .aiff and .au. Supply caption information with the audio files. Upload these file types as Auxiliary Supplementary Materials on our submission site. Our system can handle files up to 25 MB.

Other files types. All other file types can be uploaded as Auxiliary Supplementary Materials on our submission site. Our system can handle files up to 25 MB.

If your files are extremely large or if you have other questions, please email the *Science Signaling* editors at sciencesignalingeditors@aaas.org.

Citation style

Symbols, abbreviations, and acronyms should be defined the first time they are used.

Units of measure should be given in SI units. If measurements were made in English units, give metric equivalents.

References and notes are numbered in the order in which they are cited, first through the text, then through the table and figure legends. List a reference only one time. Any references to in-press manuscripts or personal communications should be given a number in the text and placed, in correct sequence, in the references and notes. Such references should not, however, be used to support claims or conclusions. We do not allow references to unpublished data in support of claims or conclusions; necessary data should be included in the manuscript, its Supporting Online Material, or an approved archival database. The abbreviations for journal names are taken from the *Bibliographic Guide for Editors and Authors (BGEA)* or *Serial Sources for the BIOSIS Data Base (BIOSIS)*, a more recent publication. When in doubt, provide the journal's complete name. Spell out cities that are listed after a journal name: *Acta Zool. (Stockholm)*. Do not use *op. cit.*, *ibid.*, 3-m dashes, en dashes, or *et al.* (in place of the complete list of authors' names). For author names with Jr. or 2nd, etc. see example number 4 in the *Journals* section. Publisher's names are given in shortened form. "Press" and the like are usually dropped, except Academic Press ["Academic" is an adjective], University Park Press, CRC Press, MIT Press, and Cambridge Univ. Press [for university presses, to distinguish them from the university itself]. Only one publisher's location is needed. A few world-renowned cities (for example, Amsterdam, London, Philadelphia, Chicago, New York, Baltimore) can be listed without state or country; less well-known cities and those with names that could be confused take state abbreviations (Cambridge alone for the city in the U.K., but Cambridge, MA). Inclusive pages numbers or chapter number must be given when specific articles are referred to within an edited volume.

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Citations

Please use full citations in the following format:

Journals

1. E. J. Neer, T. Kozasa, Sites for G α binding on the G protein β subunit overlap with sites for regulation of phospholipase C β and adenylyl cyclase. *J. Biol. Chem.* **273**, 16265-16272 (1998).
2. D. J. Mangelsdorf, C. Thummel, M. Beato, P. Herrlich, G. Schütz, K. Umesono, B. Blumberg, P. Kastner, M. Mark, P. Chambon, R. M. Evans, The nuclear receptor superfamily: The second decade. *Cell* **83**, 835-839 (1995).
3. J. J. Tesmer, R. K. Sunahara, A. G. Gilman, S. R. Sprang, Crystal structure of the catalytic domains of adenylyl cyclase in a complex with Gs·GTP- γ -S. *Science* **278**, 1907-1916 (1997).
4. J. D. Brown, M. R. DiChiara, K. R. Anderson, M. A. Gimbrone, Jr., J. N. Topper, MEKK-1, a component of the stress (stress-activated protein kinase/c-Jun N-terminal kinase) pathway, can selectively activate Smad2-mediated transcriptional activation in endothelial cells. *J. Biol. Chem.* **274**, 8797-8805 (1999).
5. J. Burton, C. K. Goldman, P. Rao, M. Moos, T. A. Waldmann, Association of intercellular adhesion molecule 1 with the multichain high-affinity interleukin 2 receptor. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **87**, 7329-7333 (1990).
6. A. Miyawaki, R. Tsien, Monitoring protein conformations and interactions by fluorescence resonance energy transfer between mutants of green fluorescent protein. *Methods Enzymol.*, in press.
7. F. Watson, R. S. Kiernan, D. G. Deavall, A. Varro, R. Dimaline, Transcriptional activation of the rat vesicular monoamine transporter 2 promoter in gastric epithelial cells: Regulation by gastrin. *J. Biol. Chem.* Papers in Press, published 2000 as 10.1074/jbc.M006697200.
8. K. L. Clark, P. B. Larsen, X. Wang, C. Chang, Association of the *Arabidopsis* CTR1 Raf-like kinase with the ETR1 and ERS ethylene receptors. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **95**, 5401-5406 (1998) [published erratum appears in *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **95**, 9060 (1998)]. [style for published erratum]
9. L. C. Cantley, PI3K pathway. *Sci. Signal.* (Connections Map in the Database of Cell Signaling, as seen February 2001), http://www.stke.org/cgi/cm/CMP_6557. [style for citing a pathway in the Database of Cell Signaling at *Science Signaling*]
10. H. R. de Jonge, B. Hogema, B. C. Tilly, Protein N-myristoylation: Critical role in apoptosis and salt tolerance. *Sci. STKE* **2000**, pe1 (2000). [style for citing a *Science's STKE* paper; note: volume and year are the same]
11. E. Canalis, Notch signaling in osteoblasts. *Sci. Signal.* **1**, pe17 (2008). [style for citing a *Science Signaling* article published following title change in January 2008]

– When published in *Science Express* but not yet in print:

1. W. Jones, B. Smith, Location and function of DNA binding proteins. *Science* 20 December 2000 (10.4444/science.1054678).

– When published in *Science Express* and in print:

1. W. Jones, B. Smith, Location and function of DNA binding proteins. *Science* **252**, 1056 (2001); published online 20 December 2000 (10.4444/science.1054678).

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Technical reports

1. D. E. Shaw, *Technical Report CUCS-29-82* (Columbia University, New York, 1982).
2. F. Press, *A Report on the Computational Needs for Physics* (National Science Foundation, Washington, DC, 1981). [unpublished or access by title]
3. *Assessment of the Carcinogenicity and Mutagenicity of Chemicals* (WHO Technical Report Series No. 556, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 1974).

Proceedings

1. *Title of Symposium Published as a Book*, sponsoring organization, city and state of meeting, inclusive dates and year (publisher, publisher's city and state, year).

Paper presented at a meeting (not published)

1. M. Konishi, paper presented at the 14th Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, Anaheim, CA, 10 to 14 October 1984. [sponsoring organization should be mentioned if it is not part of the meeting name]

Theses and unpublished material

1. B. Smith, thesis, Georgetown University, Washington, DC (1973).
2. J. A. Norton, unpublished material.

Books

1. A. M. Lister, *Fundamentals of Operating Systems* (Springer-Verlag, New York, ed. 3, 1984). [third edition]
2. J. B. Carroll, Ed., *Language, Thought and Reality, Selected Writings of Benjamin Lee Whorf* (MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 1956).
3. R. Davis, J. King, in *Machine Intelligence*, E. Acock and R. Michie, Eds. (Wiley, New York, 1976), vol. 8, chap. 3.
4. D. Curtis, in *Clinical Neurology of Development*, B. Walters, Ed. (Oxford Univ. Press, New York, 1983), pp. 60-73.
5. *Principles and Procedures for Evaluating the Toxicity of Household Substances* (National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC, 1977). [organization as author and publisher]

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