

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

1. ABOUT OBSU

Obesity Surgery is published by Springer Science+Business Media LLC and is the official journal of the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and metabolic disorders (IFSO). Obesity Surgery publishes concise articles on Original Contributions, New Concepts, How I Do It, Review Articles, Brief Communications, Letters to the Editor and dedicated Video Submissions. Requirements are in accordance with the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts submitted to Biomedical Journals" www.icmje.org.

All manuscripts submitted to OBSU are received, blind-reviewed and decided upon through the online Editorial Manager (EM) System center. URL: <http://www.editorialmanager.com/obsu>. Articles that are accepted for publication are done so with the understanding that they, or their substantive contents, have not been and will not be submitted to any other publication.

2. SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Authors: Make sure that all of the items below are ready and available when you submit.

TITLE PAGE REQUIRES:

- Full Title, and Short Title for Running Head
- All Contributing Authors, Full Names/Degrees, and Email Addresses/Affiliations
- "Correspond To" Information
- Detailed Acknowledgments, Grant Information, and non-blinded COI Statement

MAIN MANUSCRIPT TEXT REQUIRES:

- Blinded Text
- Abstract (N/A for Letters to the Editor; optional for Brief Communications)
- Required Ethical, COI, and Human/Animal Rights Statements (blinded)
- References in PubMed style
- Tables (Optional)
- Figure Legends (if providing figures)

FIGURES/IMAGES:

- For vector graphics, the preferred format is EPS; for halftones, use TIFF format.
- Figure width should be 39 mm, 84 mm, 129 mm or 174 mm, and no higher than 234 mm
- No identifying information about patients
- Patient and/or publisher permissions, if needed

VIDEO/ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL:

- Any Video or multimedia in either .MP4 or .MOV file format
- Supplementary videos not to exceed 2 MB in size
- Narration in English

REQUIRED OFFICIAL ICMJE CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORM(S):

- One form completed by each author (ex: 5 authors = forms)

REQUIRED FOR REVISIONS ONLY:

- One copy of clean, revised text, tables and figures
- One copy of annotated, revised text, tables and figures
- Point-by-Point Reply to Reviewer Comments

3. IMPORTANT SUBMISSION INFORMATION

3a. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Authors will need the following items in order to use EM:

- Internet access
- A current Adobe Acrobat browser plug-in
- Electronic files of all required documents.

3b. YOUR AUTHOR ACCOUNT

Authors entering the journal's EM site for the first time can create a new account at <http://www.edmgr.com/obsu/> by clicking “Register Now,” and then following the online prompts in order to create your account and submit a manuscript. NOTE: If you have previously accessed the system, *always use your existing account* for ALL subsequent submissions. If you have forgotten your Username or Password, use the “Send Login Details” link at the OBSU Login Page.

3c. ONLINE SUBMISSION

After you have logged into your account and entered your Submission Center, EM will lead you through a step-by-step manuscript submission process. The required documents for all online submissions include the main, blinded manuscript document, a separate Title Page document, and a Conflict of Interest (COI) form, which must be completed by each contributing author.

Note: Always keep original copies of your word-processing, graphic, video, and COI files.

Make sure that all required online fields are completed before attempting to submit; the system won't allow you to submit if any required fields are not completed. If you cannot finish your submission in one visit, you can save a draft and later re-enter the process at the same step by clicking on the “Incomplete Submissions” link in your Author Main Menu.

3d. SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

If you have questions or need assistance at any point during the submission and review process, contact our OBSU Managing Editor:

Attn: Deana Rodriguez
Managing Editor, OBSU Editorial
Office Phone: +001 (562) 961-9928
E-mail: obsu.rodriquez@gmail.com

4. MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

4a. MANUSCRIPT TERMINOLOGY

Please make note of the required manuscript terminology standards.

Mandatory

- Weight loss must be expressed as change in BMI or % total weight loss (%TWL) Optional
- Weight loss can be expressed as % Excess Weight Loss (%EWL), with the calculation of ideal body weight as that equivalent to a BMI of 25 kg/m² and/or % Excess BMI Lost (%EBMIL) with excess BMI > 25 kg/m² **as well as** % total body weight loss.
- Data extending beyond 30 days **must include** lost to follow-up information in the Abstract and Results section, including all tables and figures, with the denominator provided as to how many

patients were available at **each time point** and the number of patients actually seen.

4b. MANUSCRIPT SECTIONS AND FILE ITEMS

When you upload your manuscript documents to EM, the system will ask you to indicate the manuscript file “Item.” Your manuscript should be submitted in various parts; for example, your blinded “Manuscript” should be uploaded separately from the “Title Page” and “Official Conflict of Interest Form.” Images should be submitted separately, as should any electronic supplementary material (or “Other”) and videos (either as supplementary videos or as dedicated video submissions).

Use the following text format guidelines.

- Use a normal, plain font (e.g., 12-point Times Roman) for text.
- Double-space the text, and set page borders at one inch.
- Use italics for emphasis.
- Use the automatic page numbering function to number the pages.
- Do not use field functions.
- Use tab stops or other commands for indents; do not use the space bar for indents.

i. File Item: Title Page (required)

In the “File Upload” section of EM, your Title Page should be submitted separately from the blinded text of the manuscript, under the category, “Title Page.” This page will not be viewable to reviewers and should include the following:

- Complete title of the article, and a shortened title (max 30 characters, incl spaces between words).
- Manuscript type.
- Complete names, titles, departments and institutional addresses of each contributing.
- “Correspondence to” followed by the name and contact information for the corresponding author.
- At the bottom of the page, any detailed grant information and an acknowledgment of grant support.
- Acknowledgments: Individuals, other than authors, who directly participated in the work.
- A non-blinded version of your Conflict of Interest statement.

Formatted: Font: (Default) Times New Roman, 11 pt,
Complex Script Font: Times New Roman, 11 pt

ii. File Item: Blinded Manuscript – Main Text (required)

In the “Attach Files” step (final step) of your submission, the “Manuscript” file should include the Main Text (which should include blinded statements regarding conflict of interest, consent and ethics), References, and Figure Legends (if any). Tables may also be included at the end of the text document, or submitted separately.

Main Text

The main text document should be double-spaced and for most submissions include: Abstract (required for all but Letters; optional for Brief Communications); Introduction/Purpose; Materials and Methods; Results; Conclusion; Blinded Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement; Statements regarding ethics and consent (see details below), and References (see details below). If your submission includes figures, then include a Figure Legend after the References. Any Tables that you provide should be included at the end of the text. Additional format requirements and details for specific manuscript *types* are included in the “Manuscript Types and Formats” section below.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure, Ethical Statement and Consent Statement

Three required statements are required just before the list of References. For each author, the blinded COI statement must declare potential conflict of interest for each author (“author 1, author 2,” etc.), or state, “no conflict of interest.” For more information, refer to “Ethical Responsibilities of Authors” below.

References

- Use Medline®/Pubmed® Style. Visit the following website for sample

references: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html.

- Type references double-spaced; list them in consecutive, numerical order as they appear in the text.
- Identify reference citations in the text by numbers in square brackets (e.g., [1]). Once a reference is cited, all subsequent citations should be to the original number.
- Cite all references within the text or tables.
- Papers that have been accepted for publication or are in press may be listed in the References, but OBSU does not reference unpublished data or personal communications.

Tables

- Use the table function (not spreadsheets) to make tables.
- Number all tables using Arabic numerals.
- Always cite tables in the text in consecutive, numerical order.
- For each table, supply a title; it should explain clearly and concisely the components of the table.
- Footnotes to tables should be indicated by superscript lower-case letters (or asterisks for significance values and other statistical data) and included beneath the table body.
- All tables should be on separate page(s) at the end of the main document, and be cited in the text.

iii. File Item: Official Conflict of Interest Form – (required)

Every contributing author must electronically complete the official ICMJE Conflict of Interest (COI) form. Click on http://www.icmje.org/coi_disclosure.pdf to download a PDF of the form. During submission, please make sure that you upload all COI forms at the end of your submitted document list.

Note: If you have trouble viewing the ICMJE COI form after you have downloaded it, make sure that you open and view the PDF directly from your “downloads” folder via Adobe Reader rather than by way of your online internet browser. Also, once uploaded to the submission site, the forms may not appear clearly in the PDF, depending on your browser. Please simply make sure that a completed form has been uploaded for each contributing author before you complete your submission.

If any contributing author's COI form is missing from the submission, it will be returned to the author for correction prior to review. Each author must complete the form even if no conflict of interest exists. All details in the ICMJE COI forms must correspond with the COI Disclosure Statement included in the manuscript text.

iv. File Item: Figure / Image (optional)

Common graphics files such as GIF, JPEG, EPS, TIFF and many others are supported. *Do not upload figures as PDF files, or in PowerPoint.*

All figures are to be numbered using Arabic numerals. Figure parts should be denoted by lowercase letters. Figures should always be cited in text in consecutive numerical order. For each figure, include the figure legends at the end of the manuscript text.

Photographs of patients in which the subject is identifiable must either have the face masked out, or be accompanied by written permission from the individual in the photograph for publication.

For detailed submission guidelines regarding Line Art, Halftone Art, Combination Art, Color Art, and other artwork details, click here for Artwork Instructions:

<http://www.springer.com/authors/manuscript+guidelines?SGWID=0-40162-12-331200-0>

v. File Item: Other (optional)

If your submission file does not fit any of the above file designations, you may submit it as “Other.”

vi. File Item: Multimedia Article (video)

Multimedia Articles may consist of information that cannot be printed: animations, video clips, sound recordings; or information that is more convenient in electronic form: sequences, spectral data, or large original data (e.g. additional tables, illustrations, etc.). If supplying any multimedia, the text must make specific mention of the material as a citation (e.g., "as shown in Animation 3").

Requirements for Supplementary Videos and Dedicated Video Submissions

Upon submission of articles that include video, the author(s) will be required to submit according to the following specifications:

- Always use either .mp4 or .mov files.
- Keep the video length/ size as precise as possible. Some reviewers may experience problems when downloading or viewing larger files.
- For Supplementary video files, video clips should not exceed one minute or 2MB. Anything exceeding one minute must be submitted in separate videos.
- Dedicated video submissions must be accompanied by a textual Abstract.
- All narration should be in English.

4c. MANUSCRIPT TYPES AND FORMATS

The manuscript types for submission include Original Contributions, New Concepts, How I Do It, Review Articles, Brief Communications, Letters to the Editor, and Dedicated Video Submissions. There is also an "Other" category, for submissions that do not particularly fit the above options (e.g., systematic reviews, meta-analyses, etc.). You may submit your manuscript either as T type I, II, or III (detailed below).

Each of the manuscript types requires a specific submission format. The specific format for each type can be found in the Table below. When required by the nature of the report, manuscripts that do not follow the specific formats below may be accepted. Please note that the page, word and figure/image limits listed below should be used as a guideline rather than a rule. Please remain succinct in your wording.

TABLE: Manuscript Formats - Note: The double-spaced page and word counts below are a guideline rather than a rule. **References, figures, and tables are not considered in the page/word counts below.**

FORMAT I	Description	Pp/wds	Main Text	Figure	COI Forms
Original Contribution	Papers involving clinical or basic science research	8pp / 2400 words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title only Structured Abstract, includes subheadings (250 words) Key Words Introduction/Purpose Materials/ Methods/ Results/ Conclusion Blinded COI/Ethics/ Consent Statements References Figure Legends (if any) Tables (if any) 	Up to 6	Official ICMJE Conflict of Interest forms must be completed by each contributing author (these are not viewable in the PDF Proof for reviewers) http://www.icmje.org/coi_disclosure.pdf
New Concept	All innovative technologies, devices, procedures or treatment protocols; should include a detailed description of the procedure and the results.				
How I Do It	A description of a technique or operative procedure of interest.				

FORMAT II	Description	Pp/wd	Main Text	Figure	COI Forms
Review Article	A scholarly literature review of a current topic. May be solicited or unsolicited.	10pp / 3000 words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title only One-Paragraph Abstract (125 words) Typically these are invited submissions; format varies based on topic. Blinded COI/Ethics/ Consent Statements References Figure Legends (if any) 	Up to 6	Official ICMJE Conflict of Interest forms must be completed by each contributing author (these are not viewable in the PDF Proof for reviewers) http://www.icmje.org/coi_disclosure.pdf
Brief Communication	A short report that can present research, an innovated concept or procedure, or a small case series with important, but very straightforward results.	5pp / 1500 words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title only One-Paragraph Abstract (Optional; 125 wds) Intro /Methods /Results/ Conclusion Blinded COI/Ethics/ Consent Statements Limit references to ten (10) Figure Legends (if any) 	Up to 2	
Letter to the Editor	A brief report of an opinion or unstructured comment on a published paper. The editors reserve the right to accept, reject or excerpt letters without changing the views expressed by the author(s).	4pp / 1200 words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title only No Abstract required Unstructured Blinded COI/Ethics/ Consent Statements Limited number of references 	Up to 3	

FORMAT III	Description	Pp/wd	Main Text	Figure	COI Forms
Dedicated Video	Manuscripts submitted as dedicated video submissions must be accompanied by a textual Abstract that briefly describes the video.	2pp / 500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textual Abstract includes blinded Title page, Introduction, Materials/ Methods/ Results/ Conclusion/Blinded Statements, Refs (if any) Blinded video(s) in .mp4 or .mov format only; not to exceed 10 minutes, with narration in English. 	N/A	Official ICMJE Conflict of Interest forms must be completed by each contributing author (these are not viewable to reviewers) http://www.icmje.org/coi_disclosure.pdf

4d. ADDITIONAL SUBMISSION DETAILS

i. Language Editing Services

Language Editing Services, when needed, can be acquired through the Springer author service <http://authorservices.springernature.com/> and via American Journal Experts <http://www.aje.com/us/> (a Research Square service).

ii. Special Characters

The Journal does not assume responsibility for errors in conversion of customized software, newly released software, and special characters. Indicate any special characters used in the file (e.g., Greek, math symbols) by using a symbol code (e.g., <ga> for Greek alpha), and defining these codes at the end of your paper.

iii. Abbreviations, Drug Names, Digits

Use the standard **abbreviations** and units listed in *Scientific Style and Format: The CBE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers*, Sixth Edition (Reston, Va., Council of Biology Editors, 1994). The first time an uncommon abbreviation appears in the text, it should be preceded by the full name for which it stands. **Generic names** for drugs and chemicals should be used the first time the drug or chemical is mentioned in the text and, preferably, thereafter. If an author wishes, the trade name may be inserted in parentheses following the generic name the first time the generic name appears, and the manufacturer name and city should also be included. Express **digits** as numerals except when they are the first word in a sentence, and decimals should be written in North American format. Express units of measurement in the metric system whenever possible, and abbreviate them when used with numbers.

iv. Other Required Forms

Copyright forms and color publication payment details are now handled online *after* an article is accepted for publication. When proofs are ready for viewing, the author is contacted via e-mail by the typesetter, and sent a website address that will provide the author with forms/orders/proofs procedures.

5. ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF AUTHORS

This journal is committed to upholding the integrity of the scientific record. As a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) the journal will follow the COPE guidelines on how to address potential acts of misconduct.

Authors should refrain from misrepresenting research results that could damage the trust in the journal and ultimately the entire scientific endeavor. Maintaining integrity of the research and its presentation can be achieved by following the rules of good scientific practice, which includes:

- The manuscript has not been submitted to more than one journal for simultaneous consideration.
- The manuscript has not been published previously (partly or in full), unless the new work concerns an expansion of previous work (provide transparency on the re-use of material to avoid the hint of text-recycling (“self-plagiarism”).
- A single study is not split up into several parts to increase the quantity of submissions and submitted to various journals or to one journal over time (e.g. “salami-publishing”).
- No data have been fabricated or manipulated (including images) to support your conclusions
- No data, text, or theories by others are presented as if they were the authors own (“plagiarism”). Proper acknowledgements to other works must be given (this includes material that is closely

- copied (near verbatim), summarized and/or paraphrased), quotation marks are used for verbatim copying of material, and permissions are secured for material that is copyrighted.
- Important note: the journal may use software to screen for plagiarism.
- Consent to submit has been received from all co-authors and responsible authorities at the institute/organization where the work has been carried out *before* the work is submitted.
- Authors whose names appear on the submission have contributed sufficiently to the scientific work and therefore share collective responsibility and accountability for the results.

In addition:

- Changes of authorship or in the order of authors are not accepted *after* acceptance of a manuscript.
- Requests to add or delete authors at revision stage or after publication is a serious matter, and may be considered only after receipt of written approval from all authors and detailed explanation about the role/deletion of the new/deleted author. The decision on accepting the change rests with the Editor-in-Chief of the journal.
- Upon request authors should be prepared to send relevant documentation or data in order to verify the validity of the results. This could be in the form of raw data, samples, records, etc.

If there is a suspicion of misconduct, the journal will carry out an investigation following the COPE guidelines. If, after investigation, the allegation seems to raise valid concerns, the accused author will be contacted and given an opportunity to address the issue. If misconduct has been proven, this may result in the Editor-in-Chief's implementation of the following measures, including, but not limited to:

- If the article is still under consideration, it may be rejected and returned to the author.
- If the article has already been published online, depending on the nature and severity of the infraction, either an erratum will be placed with the article or in severe cases complete retraction of the article will occur. The reason must be given in the published erratum or retraction note.
- The author's institution may be informed.

5a. DISCLOSURE OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Authors must disclose all relationships or interests that could influence or bias the work. Although an author may not feel there are conflicts, disclosure of relationships and interests affords a more transparent process, leading to an accurate and objective assessment of the work. Awareness of real or perceived conflicts of interests is a perspective to which the readers are entitled and is not meant to imply that a financial relationship with an organization that sponsored the research or compensation for consultancy work is inappropriate. Examples of potential conflicts of interests *that are directly or indirectly related to the research* may include but are not limited to the following:

- Research grants from funding agencies (give the research funder and the grant number)
- Honoraria for speaking at symposia
- Financial support for attending symposia
- Financial support for educational programs
- Employment or consultation
- Support from a project sponsor
- Position on advisory board or board of directors or other type of management relationships
- Multiple affiliations
- Financial relationships, for example equity ownership or investment interest
- Intellectual property rights (e.g. patents, copyrights and royalties from such rights)
- Holdings of spouse and/or children that may have financial interest in the work

In addition, interests that go beyond financial interests and compensation (non-financial interests) that may be important to readers should be disclosed. These may include but are not limited to personal

relationships or competing interests directly or indirectly tied to this research, or professional interests or personal beliefs that may influence your research.

The corresponding author collects the conflict of interest disclosure forms from all authors. In author collaborations where formal agreements for representation allow it, it is sufficient for the corresponding author to sign the disclosure form on behalf of all authors.

The corresponding author will include a blinded summary statement in the text of the manuscript in a separate section before the reference list that reflects what is recorded in the potential conflict of interest disclosure form(s). For review purposes, the affiliations may be identified, but the authors may not.

See below for examples of disclosures:

“**Funding:** This study was funded by X (grant number X).”

“**Conflict of Interest:** Author 1 has received research grants from Company A. Author 2 has received a speaker honorarium from Company B and owns stock in Company C. Author 3 is a member of committee D.”

If no conflict exists, the authors should state:

“**Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.”

5b. STATEMENT OF HUMAN AND ANIMAL RIGHTS

When reporting studies that involve human participants, authors should include a statement that the studies have been approved by the appropriate institutional and/or national research ethics committee and have been performed in accordance with the ethical standards as laid down in the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.

If doubt exists whether the research was conducted in accordance with the 1964 Helsinki Declaration or comparable standards, the authors must explain the reasons for their approach, and demonstrate that the independent ethics committee or institutional review board explicitly approved the doubtful aspects of the study.

The following statements should be included in the text before the References section:

i. Ethical Approval

“All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.”

The welfare of animals used for research must be respected. When reporting experiments on animals, authors should indicate whether the institutional and/or national guidelines for the care and use of animals were followed.

For studies with animals, the following statement should be included:

“All applicable institutional and/or national guidelines for the care and use of animals were followed.”

If articles do not contain studies with human participants or animals by any of the authors, Springer recommends including the following sentence:

“This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.”

For retrospective studies, add the following sentence: “For this type of study formal consent is not required.”

ii. Informed Consent

All individuals have individual rights that are not to be infringed. Individual participants in studies e.g. have the right to decide what happens to the (identifiable) personal data gathered and to what they have said e.g. during a study or an interview as well as to any photograph that was taken. Hence it is important that all participants gave their informed consent in writing prior to inclusion in the study. Identifying details (names, dates of birth, identity numbers and other information) of the participants that were studied should not be published in written descriptions, photographs, and genetic profiles unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the participant (or parent or guardian if the participant is incapable) has given written informed consent for publication. Complete anonymity is difficult to achieve in some cases, and informed consent should be obtained if there is any doubt. For example, masking the eye region in photographs of participants is inadequate protection of anonymity. If identifying characteristics are altered to protect anonymity, such as in genetic profiles, authors should provide assurance that alterations do not distort scientific meaning.

The following statement should be included:

Informed consent: “Informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study.”

If identifying information about participants is available in the article, the following statement should also be included:

“Additional informed consent was obtained from all individual participants for whom identifying information is included in this article.”

6. MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION

6a. SUBMISSION STEPS

i. Submission Process

Please view a copy of the Submission Checklist at the beginning of this document. We recommend that you have all items listed in the checklist complete and ready for upload before starting your online submission. Make sure to submit a separate title page that includes complete authors' names, affiliations, and addresses in proper author order. Please submit all other documents first (main text, figures, tables, etc.) before uploading your COI forms.

ii. Review Your Submission

After uploading the files for your submission, the system will convert the files to PDF. Make sure to review the PDF of your submission before you confirm your submission. Please note that documents that are not viewable to reviewers (cover letter, title page, COI forms, etc.) may not appear in your PDF proof; simply make sure that they have been successfully uploaded in your list of uploaded documents. Once you have reviewed your PDF document for completeness, click “Submit” and all contributing authors will receive an emailed confirmation. If the submission is not complete when the editorial office receives it, it will be returned to your Author Center, with an e-mail notification indicating the need for additional information or correction. Once a complete manuscript is correctly submitted, your manuscript will be properly reviewed.

6b. KEEPING TRACK

After submission, you may monitor the progress of your submission through the review process. Only the submitting author can view the submission, and *must enter the same User Name and Password that was originally used to submit the manuscript to access the submission details.*

6c. EDITORIAL REVIEW AND ACTION

The editorial staff examines submitted manuscripts for accuracy and completeness and will customarily send most manuscript submissions to two reviewers. We aim for quick reviewer turnaround times, and rely on the promptness and thoroughness of our volunteer reviewers.

7. AFTER ACCEPTANCE

If your manuscript is accepted, you will receive a link to the special Springer web page with questions related to:

7a. AUTHOR PROOFS

After a submission is accepted and forwarded to Production, the author receives e-mailed notification from the Springer Production Office. After the author replies to the necessary questions, a proof of the article is made available to the author. The author is solely responsible for ensuring that the author-approved proofs are complete and accurate before approving them. Substantial changes in content are not allowed at the proofs stage, and no changes can be made after an article proof has been approved and has been officially published Online First.

7b. OPEN CHOICE

In addition to the normal publication process (whereby an article is submitted to the journal and access to that article is granted to customers who have purchased a subscription), Springer provides an alternative publishing option: Springer Open Choice. A Springer Open Choice article receives all the benefits of a regular subscription-based article, but in addition is made available publicly through Springer's online platform SpringerLink. Regretfully, Springer Open Choice cannot be ordered for published articles. Go to: <http://www.springer.com/gp/open-access/springer-open-choice> for more information about this option.

7c. PUBLICATION OF COLOR FIGURES

Color figures may be used without charge for the electronic version of the journal that is published online via SpringerLink. However, color figures will appear in the print version of the Journal at the author's expense of \$1,150 per article. You may provide your choice at the Springer web page.

7d. OFFPRINTS/ REPRINTS

Can be ordered via the Springer web page.