

Last updated: March 26, 2024 [View the latest guidelines online](#)

Manuscript Submissions Requirements Checklist

- Cover letter. 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.
- Author list with affiliations: must match between electronic entry and manuscript file
- Abstract
- Title: Titles should be clear and concise; they must match between manuscript file and electronic submission.
- Manuscript File: Clean with no highlighting or comments and all changes accepted. Articles should be **no more than 40,000 total characters and ~5 figures**. Written in a style accessible to our broad audience.
- (Highly encouraged) Have a colleague in another field read as test for accessibility.
- (Optional for main text, required in the Supporting Information) an experimental section located after the results and discussion; includes safety comment. In your Experimental/Methods section, please include a safety statement (if appropriate) that emphasizes either: “no unexpected or unusually high safety hazards were encountered” OR explaining any unexpected, new, and/or significant hazards or risks associated with the reported work and how they were mitigated.
- Tables/Schemes/Figures: Text should be clear and legible, with fonts no smaller than 8 pt.
- Figures: must be labeled sequentially and match numbered references in article (manuscript and Supporting Information). Where appropriate, label all subsections by letter.
- Supporting Information (if any) must be included in the electronic submission.
- Table of Contents (TOC) Graphic
- Synopsis: The synopsis should be no more than 200 characters (including spaces) and should reasonably correlate with the TOC graphic. The synopsis is intended to explain the importance of the article to a broader readership across the sciences. Please place your synopsis in the manuscript file after the TOC graphic.
- References: no specific format required, but must be sufficient to aid referees in their reviewing duties.

Scope of the Journal

[ACS Central Science](#) publishes the most compelling, important primary reports on research in chemistry and in allied fields across the sciences where chemistry plays a role. It is the first fully open access journal published by the American Chemical Society, and all content is openly accessible immediately. *ACS Central Science* is a diamond open access journal, entirely open with absolutely no subscription fees or article publishing charges. Authors publishing in *ACS Central Science* retain copyright of their article through publishing under a Creative Commons CC BY license.

The journal seeks to address important advances in fundamental areas of chemistry, as well as applied and interdisciplinary research highlighting the seminal role of chemistry in a wide range of other scientific disciplines. The Editors place a premium on articles deemed to be of exceptional

scientific quality, originality, significance, and breadth of interest to the global chemistry community.

Manuscript Types

ACS *Central Science* publishes original **Articles**, **Outlooks** (reviews, by invitation), **In Focus** (community resources, by invitation) and commissions highlights called **First Reactions** to advance understanding of the articles published. Submissions are based on original work not previously published. The Editors welcome submissions for Articles and proposals for Outlooks and In Focus manuscripts.

Articles. Reports of original research focused on an individual significant finding or an advance of immediate and lasting impact that is of broad interest to the scientific community. **No minimum length requirement** is imposed for original submissions, noting that for ACS *Central Science*, content traditionally considered letters or rapid communications as well as full articles all fall into the category Articles. The Editors request authors explain their findings concisely and accurately, **no more than 40,000 characters** (including spaces, graphics, tables, and equations), excluding Supporting Information (SI). Authors are encouraged to use Supporting Information as appropriate.

Outlooks (Reviews). **Outlooks are invited by the Editors.** Interested authors may submit proposals for Outlooks to eic@centralscience.acs.org with the subject line, "Outlook Proposal". Outlooks are topical, brief (typically 4-6 pages with a maximum length of ~25,000 characters, including spaces, graphics, tables, and equations) featured reviews that are visionary, forward-looking, accessible and of general interest to the broad readership of ACS *Central Science*.

First Reactions (Commentary). **First Reactions are invited by the Editors.** These are short, general pieces (no more than 1000 words) that help relate the articles to the world at large. The Editors especially encourage a forward-looking view.

In Focus (Community Resources). **In Focus are invited by the Editors.** These are resources of broad significance to the chemistry community or of public interest. The format is intended to be digestible for a broad audience and foster uptake and wide dissemination of the work to bridge communities and accelerate scientific advancement. More information can be found in this introductory Editorial: <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acscentsci.0c00390>. Interested authors may submit proposals for *In Focus* to eic@centralscience.acs.org with the subject line, "In Focus Proposal". *In Focus* manuscripts require a significance statement (60 words maximum) that details the significance of the work understandable to researchers outside their field of specialty.

Correspondence/Rebuttal. These papers are critical or significant remarks on previously published works in the journal. Correspondence is a technical contribution providing, with supporting material, a respectful but alternative point of view to a publication that has appeared in ACS *Central Science*. The author of the original publication may be invited to write a Rebuttal. The Correspondence and Rebuttal will appear in the same issue of the journal, when possible.

Transparent Peer Review

ACS *Central Science* offers authors of new *In Focus*, Outlook, and Article manuscripts submitted after November 3, 2021 an opportunity to participate in transparent peer review. Transparent peer

review allows the reader to see the exchange between authors and reviewers. If the author chooses to participate in transparent peer review, the anonymous reviews and the author's response to the reviewers' comments will be published as supporting information, freely available alongside the article at the time of publication. Reviewers will remain anonymous unless they choose to sign their reviewer report and the editor agrees to disclose this information. More information about transparent peer review can be found [here](#) or at a [recently published editorial](#).

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 and partner 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, including details on selecting the applicable [Journal Publishing Agreement](#).
- [Sharing your research](#) with the public through the ACS Publications open access program.
- [ACS Reviewer Lab](#), a free online course covering best practices for peer review and related ethical considerations.
- [ACS Author Lab](#), a free online course that empowers authors to prepare and submit strong manuscripts, avoiding errors that could lead to delays in the publication process.
- [ACS Inclusivity Style Guide](#), a guide that helps researchers communicate in ways that recognize and respect diversity in all its forms.

Manuscript Preparation

Submit with Fast Format

All ACS journals and partner journals have simplified their formatting requirements in favor of a streamlined and standardized format for an initial manuscript submission. Read more about the requirements and the benefits these serves authors and reviewers [here](#).

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- 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.
- When required by a journal's structure or length limitations, manuscript templates should be used.
- References can be provided in any style, but they must be complete, including titles. For information about the required components of different reference types, please refer to the [ACS Style Quick Guide](#).
- Supporting Information must be submitted as a separate file(s).

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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.

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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.

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- title
- name of the corresponding author
- name(s) of any other coauthor(s)
- the type of manuscript submitted
- a paragraph explaining why the article appeals to the broad audience *ACS Central Science* serves
- a description of any Supporting Information and/or Review-Only Material
- note any use of a preprint server, and as appropriate, state how the manuscript has been adjusted/updated between deposition and submission

Manuscript Text Components

The Editor's objective when considering your initial submission is to evaluate the science presented. As a result, some details may be handled later in the process should your Article be advanced; these include stylistic formatting, reference formatting, synopses, and a graphic for the journal table of contents. For the convenience of authors, the preferred options are presented below. *It is important to note that upon revision submissions, such formatting and stylistic matters must be addressed.*

Title. Titles should clearly and concisely reflect the emphasis and content of the paper and be accessible to a broad audience. Titles are one of the most important tools for current awareness and information retrieval—they provide readers a first opportunity to understand the purpose of the article.

Author List. Include all who have made substantial contributions to the work. To facilitate indexing and retrieval and for unique identification of an author, use first names, initials, and surnames (e.g., Katherine M. Jones) or first initials, second names, and surnames (e.g., K. Mary Jones). At least one author must be designated with an asterisk as the person to whom correspondence should be addressed.

Abstract. All Articles and Outlooks should contain an abstract. An abstract provides a succinct, informative summation of the most important results and conclusions. In Focus manuscripts require a significance statement (60 words maximum) in lieu of an Abstract that details the significance of the work understandable to researchers outside their field of specialty.

Introduction. Clearly state the purpose and significance of the research, and put it into the context of earlier work in the area, aiming for brevity.

Results and Discussion. Explain the motivation for the work and how it involves chemistry. Present results concisely. The discussion should interpret the results and relate them to existing knowledge in the field, and explain the significant advance made by these results. To conserve space, please submit supplemental information in a separate file for online Supporting Information (note, all content submitted is subject to review).

Methods (Optional for Main Text). Provide a clear, unambiguous description of materials, methods, and equipment in sufficient detail to permit repetition of the research. Describe novel experimental procedures in detail, but published procedures may be referred to by literature citation of both the original and any published modifications. Articles reporting data from experiments on live animals must include a statement identifying the approving committee and certifying that such experiments were performed in accordance with all national or local guidelines and regulations. Results from experiments involving humans or tissue samples must additionally include a statement that informed consent was obtained from the subject or from the next of kin. Authors must emphasize any unexpected, new, and/or significant hazards or risks associated with the reported work. This information should be in the experimental details section. For experimental papers, a statement must be included emphasizing either:

- “no unexpected or unusually high safety hazards were encountered” OR
- explaining any unexpected, new, and/or significant hazards or risks associated with the reported work and how they were mitigated.

Acknowledgment. Include financial support, technical assistance, advice from colleagues, gifts, etc. Be precise and thorough when acknowledging funders, and include grant numbers where appropriate.

References. Compile all references together in a list at the end of the manuscript text. Many references will link directly to the cited article or other Web sites. It is crucial that authors verify the accuracy of references cited. Literature references should be numbered with Arabic numerals in the order of their first citation in the text and the corresponding superscripted numbers inserted at the appropriate locations in the text. *ACS Central Science will use the following reference style, but authors are not required to submit in this format.* As long as all components of references are provided consistently, references will be properly formatted during the technical editing process. Articles accepted for publication should be cited as “in press”; the DOI should be given if the paper is published online only. Cite papers that are in preparation or have been submitted but not yet accepted in the text as unpublished experiments or personal communications. Titles of journals are abbreviated according to [Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index](#) (CASSI).

For journals:

1. Moreau, P.; Anizon, F.; Sancelme, M.; Prudhomme, M.; Bailly, C.; Severe, D.; Riou, J.-F.; Fabbro, D.; Meyer, T.; Aubertin, A.-M. Syntheses and biological activities of rebeccamycin analogues. Introduction of a halogenoacetyl substituent. *J. Med. Chem.* **1999**, *42*, 584–592.

For journal articles published online ahead of print or online only, the DOI should be used:

2. Liu, C.; Yang, S. Synthesis of angstrom-scale anatase titania atomic wires. *ACS Nano* **2009**, DOI: 10.1021/nn900157r.

For books:

3. Fierke, C. A.; Hammes, G. G. Transient kinetic approaches to enzyme mechanisms. In *Contemporary Enzyme Kinetics and Mechanism*, 2nd ed.; Purich, D., Ed.; Academic Press: New

York, 1996; pp 1–35.

Nomenclature. Use abbreviations and acronyms sparingly, and all usage should be defined at the first occurrence in the text. Use systematic and standard nomenclature appropriate for your field of study.

Text. Manuscripts must be prepared using accepted word-processing software [as defined here](#). LaTeX users should follow the detailed guidelines available at [this site](#).

Hero Image. Every Article and Outlook published is invited to be highlighted for several days on the Web page with a large focal image. These images are different than the TOC graphic, in that their aim is not necessarily to educate readers about the conclusions or experimental set-up of the paper, but rather to be incredibly visually pleasing and eye-catching to direct traffic to the story. At revision, we appreciate input about visual representation of your paper (draft image, sketch, or text description of desired image). The best results are obtained by submitting artwork that will fit into the 2.87:1 aspect ratio at 72 dpi (minimum **1034 x 360 px**) and RGB color mode. Alternatively, figures may be cropped or enlarged to fit that proportion. Pixel based images may be supplied as layered Photoshop files (PSD), uncompressed JPEG, or TIF. Vector images may be submitted as Adobe Illustrator (AI), EPS or PDF.

Naming and Numbering. Name your graphics Figure 1, Figure 2, etc. (Arabic numerals), consecutively, and for figures not embedded in the text, place a call-out in the main manuscript text where the graphic should be located. Boldface Arabic numerals should be used for numbering structures.

Lettering. Lettering should be 6 points, and lines should have 0.5-point thickness at final printed size. Lettering and lines should be of uniform density.

Titles, Footnotes, Captions, Legends. Schemes may have titles and footnotes. Figures must have captions. To save space, place legends for graphs within the main body of the graphic, whenever possible.

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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, nonsentence description of the actual contents of each file, including the file type extension, is required. This description should be labeled Supporting Information and should appear before the Acknowledgement and Reference sections. Examples of sufficient and insufficient descriptions are as follows:

Examples of sufficient descriptions: “Supporting Information: ^1H NMR spectra for all compounds (PDF)” or “Additional experimental details, materials, and methods, including photographs of experimental setup (DOC)”.

Examples of insufficient descriptions: “Supporting Information: Figures S1-S3” or “Additional figures as mentioned in the text”.

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.

Research Data Policy

All ACS journals strongly encourage authors to make the research data underlying their articles publicly available at the time of publication.

Research data is defined as materials and information used in the experiments that enable the validation of the conclusions drawn in the article, including primary data produced by the authors for the study being reported, secondary data reused or analyzed by the authors for the study, and any other materials necessary to reproduce or replicate the results.

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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.

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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

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ACS Central Science authors are allowed to deposit an initial draft of their manuscript in a preprint service such as [ChemRxiv](#), bioRxiv, arXiv, or the applicable repository for their discipline prior to submission. 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.

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Inquiries regarding the suitability of an abstract or manuscript for *ACS Central Science* will not be considered prior to submission of the complete manuscript file through ACS Paragon Plus.

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Editors evaluate all submissions, and they consult with Editorial Advisory Board members in some cases. Some submissions are rejected shortly after submission, for example, those that fall outside the scope of the journal or are not deemed of sufficient interest to the broad readership. For manuscripts considered further, additional peer reviewers and the Editorial Advisory Board members are consulted to evaluate the originality, quality, clarity, and import. Editors review all feedback and make final decisions. Reviewers may be asked to consider subsequent versions of manuscripts, particularly where new data or information is included, and in those cases, blind copies of reviewers comments may be sent to all reviewers to encourage a consensus recommendation, and allow Editors to respond to authors with valuable and timely feedback.

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Prior to acceptance and publication, authors are encouraged to present their findings to peers, including at meetings and conferences, and through social media. Articles accepted for publication may be selected for promotion through an embargoed press release available through

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If an author is particularly interested in a press release, please include a document with a layperson's summary of the key elements of the paper and why it will be of wide interest for consideration for a press release no later than revision. The document should be named "Newsworthy - the submitting author's last name". Inclusion of a simple graphic is highly encouraged.

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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.

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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).

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

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- 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.

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](#).

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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 a full article and included in the main text of a letter. Statement examples can be found in the [Safety Statement Style Sheet](#) and additional information on communicating safety information from the *ACS Guide to Scholarly Communication* [is freely available here](#).

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Diversity and Inclusion Statement

During manuscript submission, ACS journal authors have the option to submit a statement sharing information related to diversity and inclusion that is relevant for their paper. If supplying a diversity and inclusion statement, the corresponding author must provide this on behalf of all authors of the manuscript during the submission process. These statements include but are not limited to analysis of citation diversity and acknowledgment of indigenous land on which research was conducted. Statements expressing political beliefs are not permitted and may be removed by the journal office. All statements are subject to final review by the Editor.

- **Citation Diversity Statement:** The citation diversity statement should appear in the Acknowledgements section of the manuscript. ACS recommends including the following: (1) the importance of citation diversity, (2) the proportion of citations by gender and race/ethnicity for the first and last authors, (3) the method used to determine those proportions and its limitations, and (4) steps taken to by the authors to improve citation diversity in the article. We recognize that one limitation of the current methods is that it cannot account for intersex, non-binary, and transgender people, or Indigenous and mixed-race authors. (Adapted from [BMES/Springer Guidelines](#))
- **Land acknowledgment:** The land acknowledgment statement should appear in the Acknowledgements section of the manuscript. The statement should link to the institutions' formal land acknowledgments on which the research took place, if possible. Further guidance for creating these statements can be found here: <https://nativegov.org/news/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/>.

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 additional 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.

Our team of subject-matter experts and graphical designers can also help generate a compelling TOC graphic to convey your key findings. Learn more about our [Graphical Abstract service](#).

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 their 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 *Central Science* authors are encouraged to submit images to be considered for use on the journal's front cover or [Supplementary Covers](#) at the time of the submission of their revised manuscript. If your article is accepted for publication, your submitted artwork may also be selected for use on one of the journal's covers. All art submitted for consideration for a supplementary cover will also be considered for a front cover. Images chosen for the front cover will be published at no cost to the author. If your art is selected for front cover, ACS will send you information about how to request one complimentary 18" by 24" printed poster featuring your work.

Cover art should be colorful and eye-catching, imaginative and creative, and must convey the essence and chemistry of the research. The cover image should not resemble a graphical abstract or data figure, but rather should be an artistic and scientifically accurate representation of the manuscript, with minimal text. ACS Publications requires the authors to secure permission to reproduce any copyrighted material used in your cover graphic, and we suggest that you avoid its use wherever possible.

Image files should be submitted as TIF, JPG, PNG or EPS files with a resolution of at least 300 dpi for pixel-based images. Images should be 8.19 in × 10 in. (or 20.80 cm × 25.40 cm). Please note that the journal title will cover the 4.15 x 2.17 in. (10.54 x 5.51 cm) in the top left corner of the image. Authors should submit the cover image, along with a short, clear legend (less than 50 words) explaining the image, as supplementary files to ACS Paragon Plus with their revised manuscript.

If you wish to be considered only for the front cover, and not a paid supplementary cover, please respond NO accordingly to the Journal Covers question in ACS Paragon Plus. For more information on the Supplementary Covers program, please [see this webpage](#).

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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](#).