

MICROSCOPY TODAY

Instructions for Authors:

Microscopy Today does not have a rigid set of style instructions and encourages authors to use their own style; we ask only that the writing be clear, informative, and accurate. We have authors from many disparate fields in both biological and materials sciences, each field with its own standards, and so we find it better to not try to impose a style of our own. While everyone who receives Microscopy Today is a microscopist, there are a large number of specialties represented in our subscriber list. For this reason, and in recognition that MT is a magazine, not a journal, we ask that your article be written in a semi-tutorial fashion for non-specialist microscopists.

Length: The ideal article length is about two or three pages formatted in the magazine. There are about 1,500 words on a formatted MT page without images or figures. We like lots of images (especially in color), so including more figures or images will reduce the word count needed to fill 2 or 3 pages. Longer articles will be considered. Short articles, the shorter the better, are encouraged for our Microscopy 101 section.

Format and Form: We require either WORD or RTF in a PC format, although MAC format is acceptable. *PLEASE do not try and format the text*, as we almost always have to undo your formatting before we can apply our formatting. "Unstyled" text is best, but leave superscripts, subscripts, bold, and italic formatting in place. Try and use a single font—most common fonts contain the entire Greek alphabet and many math glyphs. Please use them vs. the Symbol font if you can. Change "footnotes" to "endnotes" and do not use "headers" or "footers." We do not print abstracts or summaries before the main article text.

Images: Images, either in grayscale or color, are welcome. We do not charge for printing images. *Our biggest problem with article submission is trying to deal with low-resolution images!* 300 dpi TIFF files with an image width of 4 inches (100 mm) is best. 450 to 600 dpi is best for line drawings. 72 dpi JPEG computer screen images are *unacceptable* unless they have an image width over 12 inches (300 mm) so as to give the illusion of high resolution when they are reduced to the MT column width (3.625 inches). Please examine your images at a high screen magnification to check for objectionable JPEG compression artifacts if any. Hard copy images can be submitted by mail and we will scan them.

Images should not be embedded in text but provided as individual digital files. If need be, we can extract images from WORD, PowerPoint, and PDF files etc., but quality is not as good as original, separately submitted, image files. Magnifications should be indicated by scale bars. Use multiple e-mail messages to keep email file size around 2 to 3MB.

If you don't have high resolution images, send us the best you have, and we will try and work with you.

Abbreviations and acronyms: Should be written out in full the first time they appear in a note or article. If they only appear once, then they should be written in full, and the abbreviation or acronym can be given in parentheses if it is widely used. Universally used abbreviations, such as "mL" for milliliters do not need to be written out.

References: Should be kept to only the necessary key citations that will explain the important points of the article or note, direct readers to further details, or provide an entry into the literature. Whatever format that conveys the necessary information to the reader is fine.

Review: In keeping with the fact that Microscopy Today is a magazine and not a journal, there is no formal external peer review process in place. The MT editors have experience that spans quite a bit of the microscopy spectrum and we regularly consult with each other and do not hesitate to ask for outside expert opinion in the rare case that we have any concerns about a submitted article.

Editing: Articles and notes may be edited for space or language but we always work to preserve the accuracy of all published materials. Use of the first person is fine, and may be preferable, but avoid use of the second person "you," "yours," etc. Time permitting, we will send a PDF of the edited article prior to publishing for comment.

Originality and Permissions: By submitting an article to Microscopy Today, the author warrants that the article is original or that the author has the right to use any material copyrighted by others. It is the author's responsibility to obtain all permissions needed. Conversely, Microscopy Today routinely grants permission, on request, to any author seeking to use material appearing in the magazine for publication elsewhere.

Submission: Articles are usually submitted by e-mail. Articles can also be submitted to our FTP server (details on request) or you can place the material on a CD and send it to us via a courier service. Please include a PDF of the article (or FAX us a copy) to aid in formatting and proofing—especially when technical symbols are used. Do not send images embedded in text.

Calendar: Microscopy Today is produced six times per year in odd months, January, March, etc. The deadline for submitting an article for any issue is the middle of the preceding even month, February for March, April for May etc.

Note: One thing we do require is that articles not be overtly commercial in nature. Microscopy Today reserves the right to judge what "overt commercial nature" means. Minimally commercial articles about new products or instruments are acceptable and welcome as long as it is clear that the article is from the vendor of the product and it is written in article format. Press releases are accommodated in the magazine's "Industry News" section.

If you have specific questions, please contact the Editor. Thank you.

Ron Anderson, Editor

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Please remember to send text and figure files separately

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An email from an author:

Ron,
Yesterday I received my copy of MT. We appreciated your careful attention to the reproduction and display of the figures. They looked great. That same day I got an email from one of my graduate student idols, John Heuser, asking me to collaborate on a question of membrane biogenesis that was prompted by one of the figures. I've since gotten emails from others offering assistance and asking for collaboration. MT offered me a chance to share data that because of the change in program would have been lost to the community. It was a great chance to alert the community to our mission.

Best regards,

Tom

Burrage, Thomas G., "Microscopy and Microbes: Protecting America's Livestock," *Microsc.Today*, Vol 13, No. 6, pgs. 16-20, 2005.