

Instructions for Figures

Following is an outline describing the instructions for submission of figures to *Molecular Medicine* www.molmed.org For additional instructions for authors regarding submission see For additional information regarding the editorial process see [Editorial Process.pdf](#).

Acceptable File Types

Acceptable files types include EPS, JPEG, and TIFF. Required resolution is 300-600 dpi. Required color mode is cyan, magenta, yellow, black (CMYK) which works best for commercial printers.

Font

Fonts should be a non-serif type, such as Arial (if you cannot use Arial, use Helvetica). Serif fonts are not acceptable. Font should be consistent within and across figures. Font size may vary, the minimum required font size is 6 points maximum font size is 12 points, the only exception being panel labels which may be 18 point, bold, all capitals. All fonts must be legible at actual print size (see column measurements below under Sizing). Line weights (.75pt – 1.00 pt [2.00 pt for lines within flowcharts]); consistent within document. Symbol font may be used for special characters and Courier may be used for sequence alignments.

Capitalization

Use sentence-style capitalization within figures. Capitalize the first word of each figure axis figure key label, figure title, etc.; subsequent words should be lowercase.

Graph Style

Graphs should not include hatches or other patterns. Choose colors or shades of gray with enough contrast to stand out and make clear the meaning of the graph. Graph bars should be delineated with grays that differ by at least 20% in value. All controls (sham, untreated, vehicle) should be represented with white/open bars. Outline white, grey or colored bars with black. Graph lines should be .75-1.0 line weight. Please do not submit 3-D style graphs unless necessary.

Axis Labels

Figures should be cited sequentially in the text using Arabic numerals. Figures should not contain more than one panel unless logically connected. Larger X and Y axis labels should be bold Arial. Axis number should be slightly smaller, using regular Arial. Use only X and Y axis lines, when appropriate. Avoid the use of complete boxes to enclose graphs. Use tick marks for only the major axis labels; smaller tick marks should be left off. Tick marks on graphs face outward and are used only for labeled quantities. Panel labels may be 18 point, bold, all capitals.

Labels along the X-axis should be horizontal (if too long should be rotated 45° counter clockwise). Labels along the Y-axis should be rotated 90° counter clockwise. Labels along the Y-axis when on the right side (when there are two y-axes) should be rotated 90° clockwise. Numbers on axes are not bold. Initial symbols on axis labels should be spelled out, for example: Percent (%).

Figure Legends and Figure Keys

Figure legends should include a short title and a brief explanation with sufficient detail to interpret the data presented. Do not exceed 350 words for each legend. Figure legends should be saved as part of the main text, not within the figures. Symbols should be in symbol font. Scale bars should be placed on images and defined in the legend. Text should not be placed over textured or shaded areas (light colored lettering on a dark background). Figure keys must be included within the legend and not in the figure itself.

Figure Layout

Avoid unnecessary spacing within your figure layout. Avoid using unnecessary boxes to enclose graphs or images.

Panel Label

Each panel of a multi-part figure must be labeled with a bold, capital, 18-point letter (A, B, C). Punctuation should not be included in the figure label. Labels should be placed in the upper left corner of each element and be no more than 12 mm away from the rest of the figure when viewed at 100%. Whenever possible, do not place this letter over other text or images.

Column Sizes

Our journal columns are as follows: 1-column figure (2.3 inches/5.8 centimeters/166 points); 2-column figure (4.8 inches/12.3 centimeters/349 points); 3-column figure (7.3 inches/18.7 centimeters/532 points). Your figures should print at one of these sizes and still be readable and high quality.

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