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Notice to authors and readers

For a number of years the major abstracting and indexing services in science have urged journal editors to print abstracts of articles in their journals. Not only is this practice useful for secondary services, but readers of journals also find such abstracts a convenience for scanning and recall.

After considerable discussion the Editors have decided to follow the growing practice of supplying abstracts, in our case for brief communications and original communications. The Information for Authors is changed with this issue to include this request to authors. Readers will note that we ask for a 100-word abstract for a brief communication and a 200-word abstract for an original communication.

The American Standard for Writing Abstracts (1) defines an abstract as an abbreviated, accurate representation of a document. It recommends that the purpose, methods, results, and conclusions be presented in that order or, alternatively, that the abstract show an initial emphasis on findings. Abstracts are to be written in a single paragraph using complete, connected sentences, active verbs, and the third person.

Authors are asked for their cooperation in supplying abstracts with their manuscripts of brief communications and original communications.

The Editors

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