Guideline for Submission of Data (APJAI)

February 6, 2024

1. Image integrity and standards

Digital images submitted with a manuscript for review should be minimally processed. The final image must represent the original data.

Raw data files might be required for manuscript evaluation during the peer review phase. If the requested data cannot be provided, the editor may pause the peer review procedure until the concerns are adequately addressed. Additionally, we may ask for raw data when addressing any post-publication concerns that may arise with published articles.

All manuscripts must include original, unaltered images of gels and Western blots with the final accepted version. These unprocessed images will be made available in the Supplementary Information. The followings are some guidelines for data image.

- Images obtained from varying times or locations should not be merged into a single image unless explicitly specified as a result of time-averaged data or a time-lapse sequence. If it's necessary to juxtapose images, clear borders must be delineated within the figure and elucidated in the legend.
- The employment of touch-up tools, such as cloning and healing tools in Photoshop, which intentionally conceals alterations, is deemed unacceptable.
- Overly extensive manipulation is not suitable. Adjustments, like altering brightness and contrast, are permissible only when consistently applied throughout the entire image and equally to control elements. Contrast should not be modified to the extent that data become indiscernible.
- The relocation of lanes must be unmistakably marked to indicate the boundaries between them. Any rearrangement of lanes must be explicitly mentioned in the figure legend.
- Loading controls such as Actin or GAPDH must be run on the same blot.
- High-contrast gels and blots are discouraged, as overexposure may mask additional bands.
- Authors should check their manuscripts for the following (1) check figures for duplications (2) check blots and gels for splicing of lanes (3) indicate whether panels are sample processing or loading controls (4) ensure that the unprocessed scans provided match the figures.
- Modifications should be uniformly applied across the entire image. Avoid threshold manipulation, expansion or compression of signal ranges, and alteration of high signals.

2. Flow cytometry data

Manuscripts that contain flow cytometry data should comply with the MIFlowCyt standard (Cytometry A. 2008 Oct;73(10):926-30. doi: 10.1002/cyto.a.20623.).

3. Data availability

For the specified types of datasets, it is obligatory to submit them to a community-endorsed, public repository. Accession numbers must be included in the paper.

-Protein sequences, DNA and RNA sequences, DNA and RNA sequencing data, Genetic polymorphisms, Gene expression data