

Dear Author

You have submitted your manuscript under the LETTERS category.

LETTERS are original, leading edge, research papers with at least preliminary results, on novel devices and methods. We emphasize novelty and potential impact of the concept that is developed. We expect that, in the earliest stages of the development of cutting edge research, formal and thorough evaluation is likely not to have been completed. Rather we look for just validation of the concept to be just sufficient to be convincing to readers.

Our bargain with authors is that we push a highly abbreviated review time, with a target of four weeks. We ask our reviewers to complete in two weeks a short review – emphasizing whether or not the manuscript is (a) novel; (b) of potential impact; and (c) nearly ready for publication. Decisions are: (a) accept as is; (b) minor revision; (c) reject with encouragement to submit as a regular paper; (d) reject without such encouragement. Only one revision is permitted. The final length is 4 pages printed. We will have the paper on-line at IEEExplore within three weeks of final copy received at IEEE. We publish LETTERS on an expedited schedule, currently either every six months or in conjunction with special issues of LETTERS.

We often find that authors mistakenly submit as LETTERS manuscripts that are more properly thought of as technical notes or short communications. Please note that TBME has discontinued publishing the latter categories of short papers due to the tremendous increase in submissions in the regular paper category.

For reference, REGULAR PAPERS are substantive reports of research progress of 7 to 10 pages. These are the overwhelming majority of our papers. We no longer publish COMMUNICATIONS, which are short reports, both in length (3 to 5 pages) and in scope of intellectual content. Some think of them as short PAPERS. (Confusion arises as some other journals call such short contributions Letters.) We have also recently initiated a series of SPECIAL LETTERS ISSUES with guest editors who organized calls for papers on very timely biomedical engineering topics. Announcements can be found on the TBME website (<http://tbme.embs.org>). Special LETTERS Issues have the same turnaround time and emphasis on novelty and impact

**For LETTERS submissions we require you to submit as a supporting document:**

**(a) affirmation that you intend the manuscript as a LETTER**

**(b) a short explanation – possibly using bullet points – highlighting the features of the manuscript that make it novel and of potential high impact – perhaps this description is included in your introduction**

**If you did not already do so, send a file with your response to Ms. Danielle Wise at [admin@tbme.embs.org](mailto:admin@tbme.embs.org) and she will append it to your submission.**

If you did not intend the manuscript as a LETTER, please ask us to withdraw the manuscript. Otherwise, it is highly likely to be given a short review and rejection as it

likely does not meet the higher standards of LETTERS. You are, of course, encouraged to resubmit as a REGULAR PAPER and to take advantage of the extra length permitted.

Thanks for your help.

Atam Dhawan,  
Senior Editor for IEEE TBME LETTERS  
Bruce Wheeler  
Editor in Chief, IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering