

Biomedical Optics Express **Review Criteria**

Biomedical Optics Express provides rapid, open-access publication of peer-reviewed articles related to optics, photonics and imaging in the life sciences. The journal scope encompasses theoretical modeling and simulations, technology development, biomedical studies, and clinical applications. *Biomedical Optics Express* welcomes contributions that are innovative either in the development or the application of biomedical optics technologies.

To meet *Biomedical Optics Express*' goal of publishing timely and high-impact research, submitted papers are subjected to critical review according to the criteria listed below. Although rapid publication is important to *Biomedical Optics Express*, it is not a letters journal, and the need for urgent dissemination of results is not a requirement for acceptance.

Quality of Scientific/Technical Content

The manuscript reports on important new findings related to optics, photonics, or imaging in the life sciences. It is an original and significant contribution to the field. The conclusions are supported by the data presented, and the work is placed in proper context. The prior or related work is adequately referenced. Note that papers considered to be incremental, incomplete, or lacking in scientific/technical relevance are likely to be rejected. The work warrants publication in an archival journal and will likely be cited by others.

Rating Options: Very high, High, Moderate, Low, Very low

Quality of Presentation

The title is accurate and clearly identifies the subject matter. The abstract is succinct and comprehensible to a non-specialist. The manuscript is clearly written and logically organized. Figures and tables are understandable and readable as submitted, including all captions and labels. The quality of English language usage and grammar is appropriate for an archival journal (note that *Biomedical Optics Express* articles are not copy-edited).

Rating Options: Very high, High, Moderate, Low, Very low

Appropriateness of Supplementary Materials

Supplementary material, if provided, is essential to the full understanding or documentation of the article. Supplementary material in the form of visualizations (videos, 2D images, 3D images), tabular data, or citations to datasets in external repositories are integral to understanding the article, support the results reported, and are cited according to the author guidelines. Supplemental material in the form of custom code and design files are acceptable to include as additional information which is helpful to readers.

Rating Options: High, Moderate, Low, Not applicable

Appropriateness for *Biomedical Optics Express*

The subject material falls within the scope of the journal. The paper is of interest to the biomedical optics community.

Rating Options: Very high, High, Moderate, Low, Very low

Overall Impact

Reviewers are asked to rate the overall impact of submitted papers assuming appropriate revisions are made. Please rate the likeliness of this paper to make a major impact on the research field covered. Papers with a major impact are expected to be highly cited. They can make an impact through novel results, through enabling new applications, by solving important problems, by providing new theoretical insights, or by presenting clear methods, procedures, or reviews to help other researchers perform similar work.

Rating from 1 (very high impact) to 9 (low impact)