Cell Press Graphical Abstract Guidelines

OVERVIEW

- The graphical abstract is *one single-panel image* designed to give readers an immediate understanding of the take-home message of the paper.
- Its intent is to encourage browsing, promote interdisciplinary scholarship, and help readers quickly identify which papers are most relevant to their research interests.

CONTENT

UNIQUENESS

The graphical abstract should:

- Be distinct from any model figures or diagrams in the paper itself.
- Emphasize the new findings from the current paper without including excess details from previous literature.
- Not include data items of any type; all content should be in a graphical form.
- Contain only elements that are original or from a licensed source that the author has rights to use in a commercial application.

CLARITY

The graphical abstract should also:

- Have a clear start and end, "reading" from top to bottom or left to right.
- Provide a visual indication of the biological context of the results depicted (subcellular location, tissue or cell type, species, etc.).
- Avoid the inclusion of features that are more speculative (unless the speculative nature can be made apparent visually).

SIMPLICITY

Finally, the graphical abstract should:

- Highlight one process or make one point clear.
- Be free of distracting and cluttering elements.
- Use text sparingly.
- Use simple labels.

COLOR

- Effective use of color can direct the reader's attention to focal points of interest, make relationships between connected elements more intuitive, or establish emphasis.

Contents

- Extraneous use of color and use of heavily saturated, primary colors can distract from the figure's message.
- Authors are encouraged to select colors that are consistent with and complementary to the colors used in the sample graphical abstracts shown here.
- Please be aware that your color choices may not be accessible to readers with color blindness. There are numerous online tools to check this (see for example Color Vision); when in doubt, try to avoid red/green and red/black as comparative color choices.

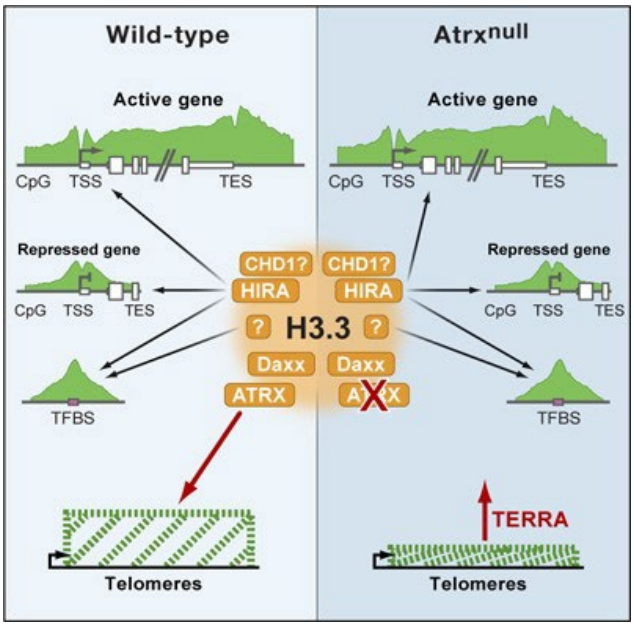
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Size:** The submitted image should be 1200 pixels square at 300 dpi.
- **Font:** Arial, 8–12 points. Smaller fonts will not be legible online.
- **Preferred file types:** TIFF, PDF, JPG
- We will accept GAs created with Biorender granted the author follows our template and has the correct permissions for use.

RESEARCH ARTICLE EXAMPLES

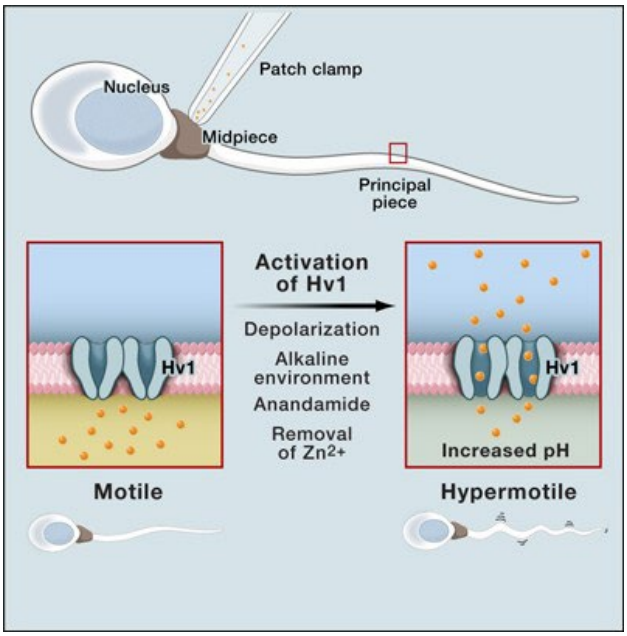
Below are four examples of graphical abstracts from research articles that were prepared according to the guidelines above.

EXAMPLE 1



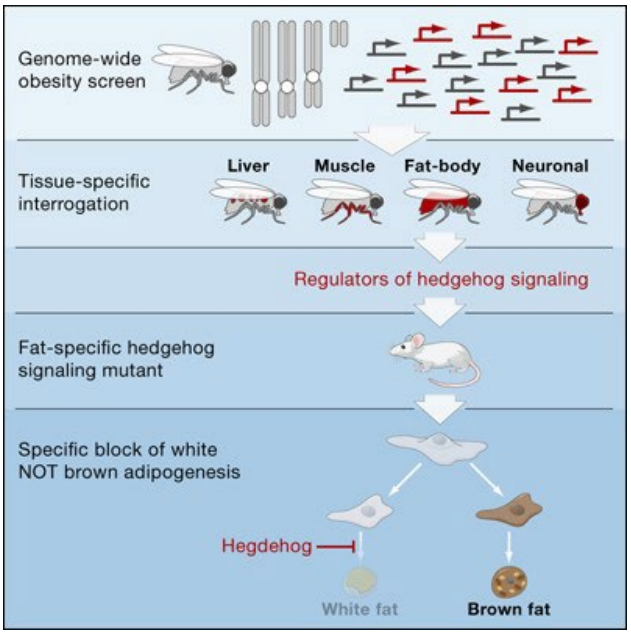
- Note that the graphical abstract consists of one split panel.
- Only text essential to conveying the article's take-home message is included.

EXAMPLE 2



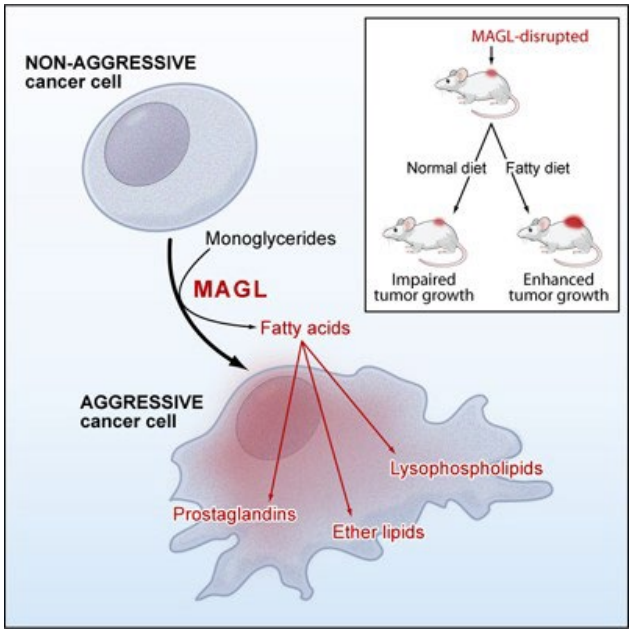
- The image tells the story from left to right.
- A soft color palette is used.
- The paper's take-away message and new findings ("Activation of Hv1") are set as the focal point.

EXAMPLE 3



- The image's components are oriented to tell the story from top to bottom.
- The colors highlight and direct focus toward the most relevant information.

EXAMPLE 4

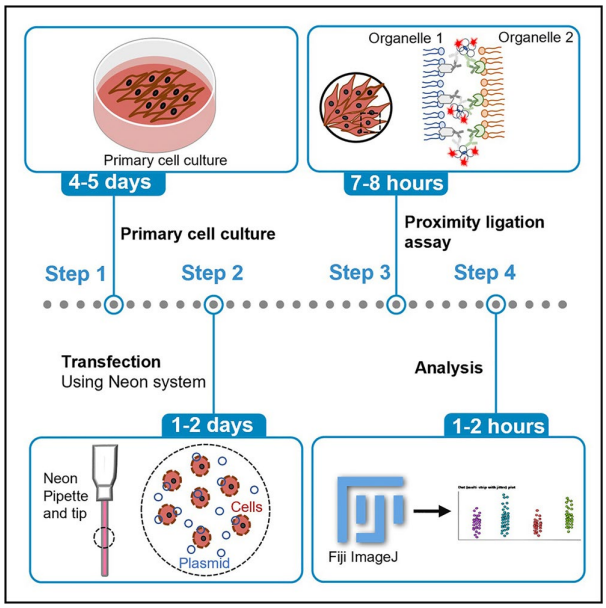


- The colors direct focus toward the new findings.
- The inset showing mice used in the study adds biological context.

STAR PROTOCOLS EXAMPLES

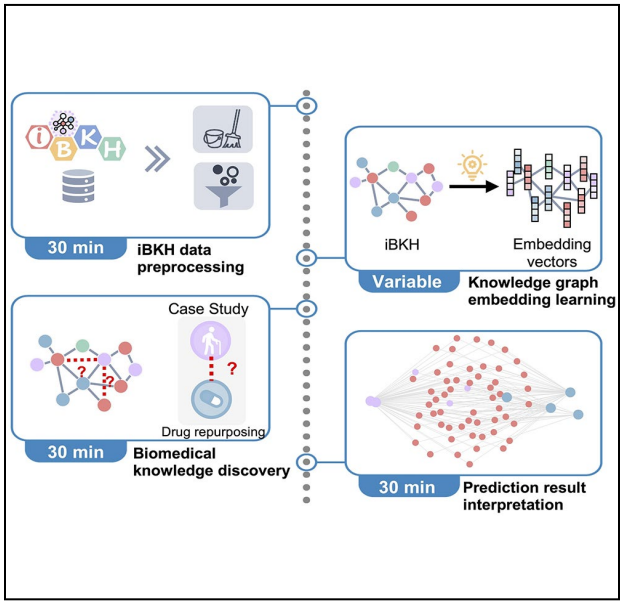
- Graphical abstracts for protocols should include an overview of the major steps of the protocol with notes on the **timing or duration** of each major step.
  - Label each major step (Step 1, Step 2,…etc.) as appropriate.
  - Timing should be representative of the author's experience. In the case of protocols with variable timing (such as computational, clinical, or statistical protocols) insert a box with an estimate of overall process timing.
  - You can change the number of boxes to best fit your needs. We recommend no more than 6 boxes to ensure readability.
- PowerPoint and Adobe Illustrator templates (including assets) can be downloaded.

EXAMPLE 1



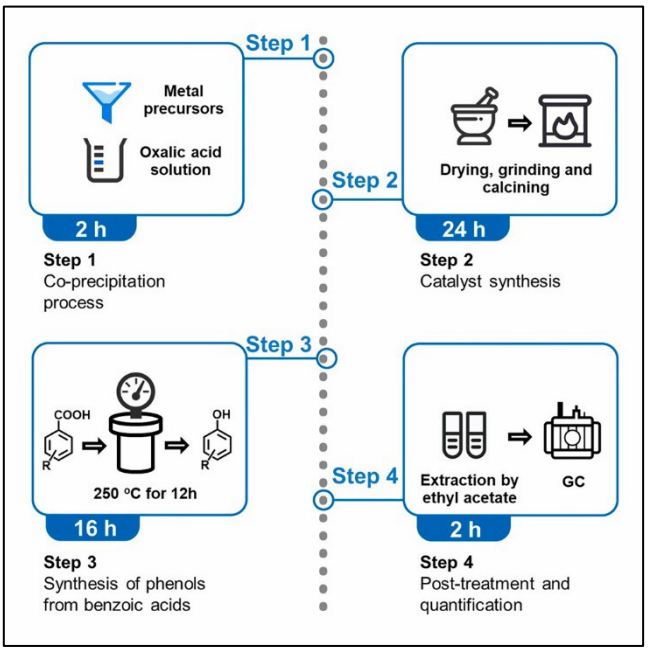
- Steps read from left to right.
- Steps are labeled and numbered; estimated times are included.

EXAMPLE 2



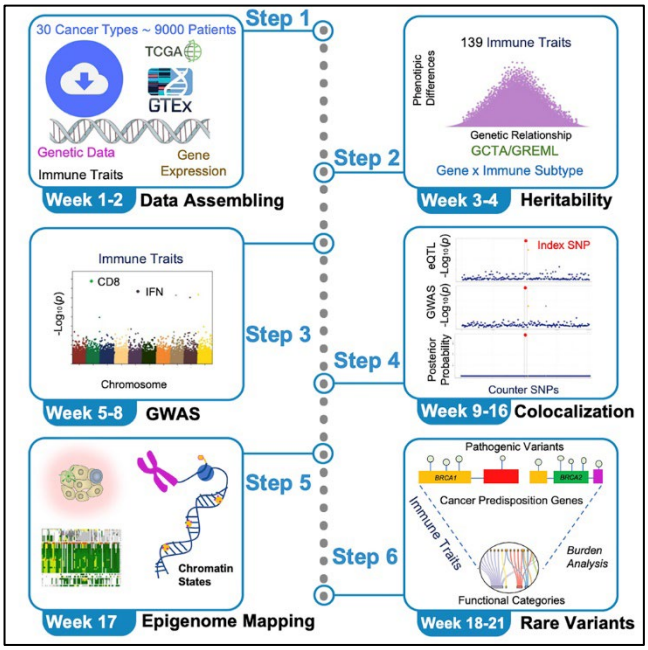
- Steps read from top to bottom.
- Steps are labeled, and estimated times are included.

EXAMPLE 3



- Steps read from top to bottom
- Example of a "real" lab apparatus and setup

EXAMPLE 4 (Computational)



- Steps read from top to bottom.
- Six steps are included.

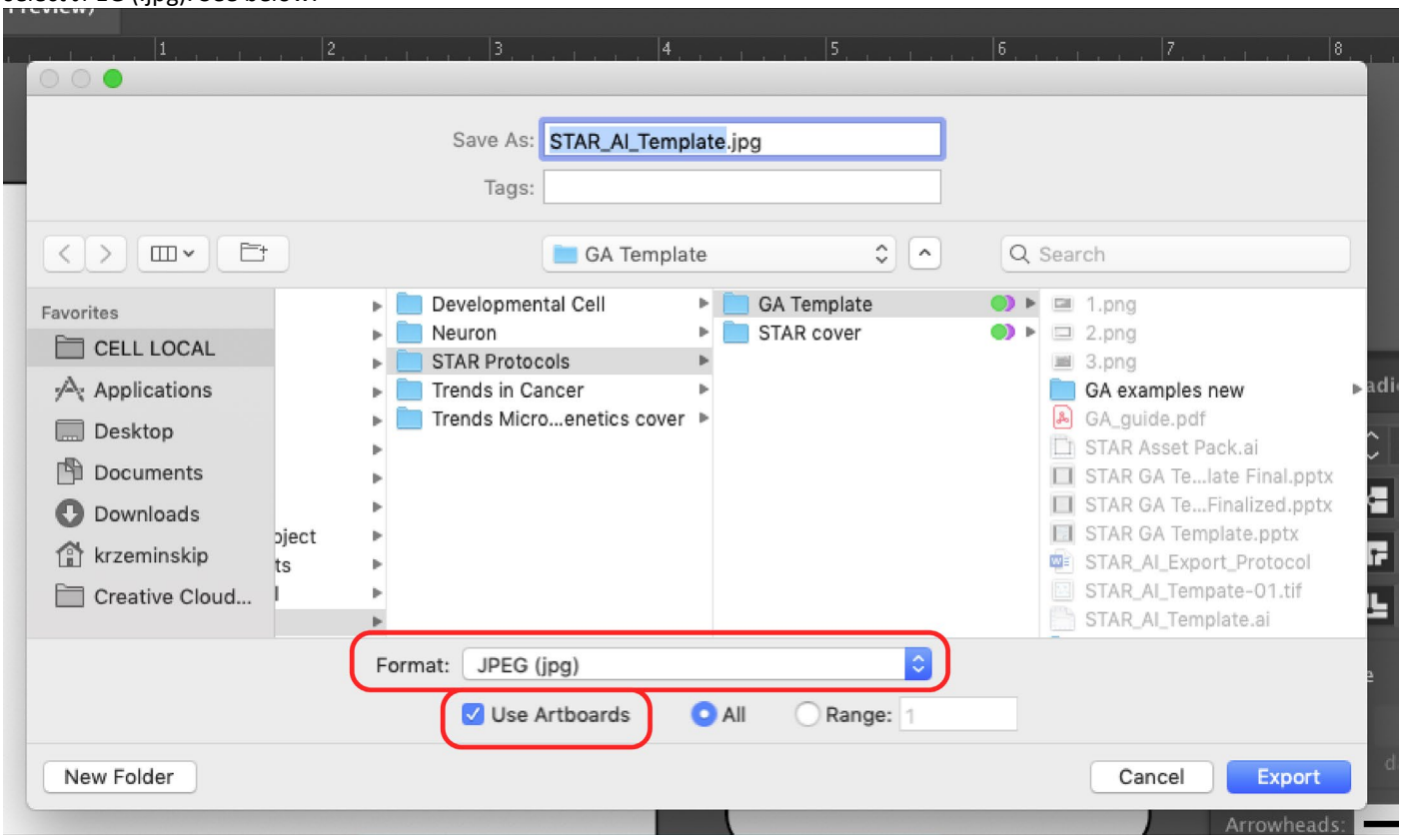
EXPORT INSTRUCTIONS

TO EXPORT FROM POWERPOINT

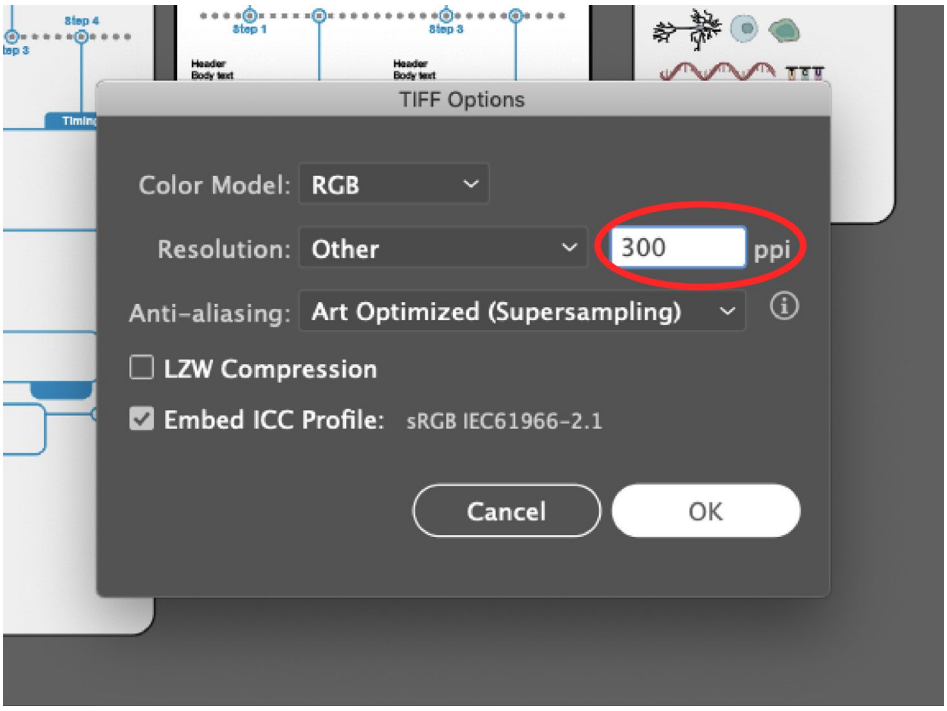
- First, resize your PowerPoint slide to 1200 x 1200 pixels.
- Second, follow the instructions here to export from PowerPoint at 300 dpi.

TO EXPORT FROM THE ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR TEMPLATE

- Once you have created your graphic on the BODY layer of the template and saved your work, you can export your work by going to FILE>EXPORT>EXPORT AS.
- You will be prompted with a save screen that will allow you to select the location for the exported file. Make sure that "Use Artboards" is selected below the file format. From the dropdown menu for "Format" please select JPEG (.jpg). See below:



- Once you click "Export" you will be prompted with a second window that will ask about file formats. The major thing here is to make sure your resolution is set at 300ppi. You can type this in if it is not already set to the appropriate print resolution (see below):



- Now you should have a version of your GA that has been exported as a 300 dpi JPEG file, and is cropped to the appropriate proportions (see blank example below):