

MANUSCRIPT CHECKLIST

Manuscript number . . . 2009-09-1213542
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 Article type . . . LETTER

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- Title no longer than 90 characters (including spaces)
- First paragraph referenced and no longer than 300 words
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- Abbreviations and symbols defined on first use
- Italic font used for variables, genes and non-English languages; bold font for vectors
- Equations and special characters in Word in 'normal text' or Symbol font (Word Equation Editor avoided where possible)
- Authored in Compatibility Mode if using Word 2007 (i.e., as a Word 97-2003 document; saved as .doc format, NOT .docx)
- Brief title provided for each figure, table and box
- Figure legends no more than 100 words each
- Author contribution statement included (a statement of responsibility that specifies the contribution of every author; see http://www.nature.com/authors/editorial_policies/authorship.html)
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- Structure data in *Nature* standard tables

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Word or rtf formats are preferred, unless there is very extensive use of special characters or equations. Such formats enable on-screen subediting and the preparation of a 'pre-proof', when the editing can be checked before formal proofs are prepared. We have found that this minimizes the chance of errors being inadvertently introduced.

- Word conversion not practicable

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