NEUROSCIENCE

# Graphical Abstract Guidelines

## What is a graphical abstract?

A graphical abstract is a visual summary of a scientific paper. It communicates the article's key messages in a concise and engaging way, mixing minimal text with visual elements.

## Why prepare a graphical abstract?

A graphical abstract serves different purposes:

- Grabs attention
- Conveys the main message of the article
- Motivates further reading
- Makes the content easier to remember
- Can be used in presentations
- Facilitates sharing on social media and online platforms

## What should be included in a graphical abstract?

A graphical abstract should convey the paper's key messages by mixing:

- Minimal text
- Icons and/or images
- Shapes (arrows, lines, squares, circles, etc)

## Use of colors

- Different colors could be used to highlight different elements of the graphical abstract and draw attention to specific parts.
- A thoughtful use of colors is recommended, as having too many colors can be distracting.

- Certain color combinations may be difficult for color vision deficient readers to interpret, especially when used side-by-side and in comparisons. Online tools are available to help select accessible and effective color palettes for your graphical abstract.
- You are encouraged but not required to use *Neuroscience*'s color palette on your graphical abstract.

## Recommendations

| ✅ Do's | ⛔ Dont's |
|---|---|
| Be concise yet informative. | Have too much information and too many details. |
| Highlight the paper's key messages. | Use as a graphical abstract a figure already present in the paper. |
| Use different shapes and colors to direct the reader's attention. | Include unlicensed materials. |

## Technical suggestions

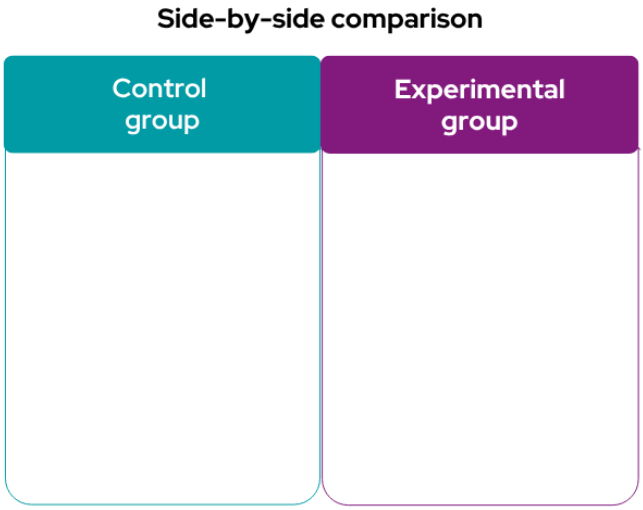
| | |
|---|---|
| **Size and resolution** | • Minimum size of 1328 x 531 pixels (w x h) and minimum resolution of 300 dpi. If you are submitting a larger image, please use the same ratio (500 wide x 200 high). Please note that your image will be scaled proportionally to fit in the available window: a 500 by 200-pixel rectangle. |
| **Font type and size** | • Times New Roman, Arial, Courier or Symbol with a large enough font size as the image will be reduced in size for the table of contents to fit a window 200 pixels high. |
| **File types** | • TIFF, EPS, PDF or MS Office files. |
| **Other recommendations** | • No additional text, outline or synopsis should be included.<br>• Any text or label must be part of the image file.<br>• Please do not use unnecessary white space or a heading "graphical abstract" within the image file. |

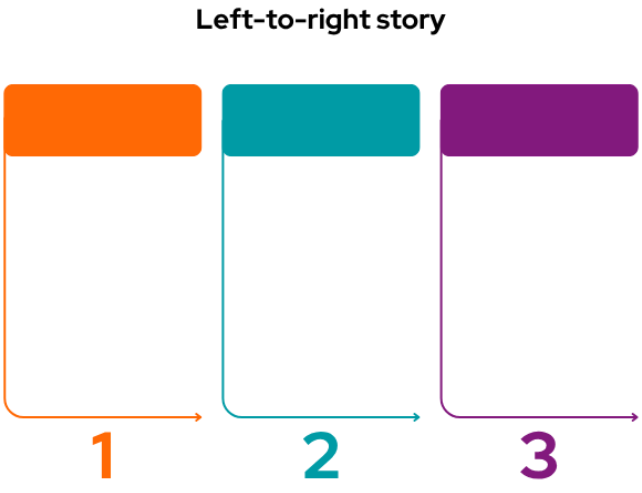
## How to design a graphical abstract?

A graphical abstract should be designed in a way that best supports the article's narrative. However, if you're looking for inspiration, below are some suggested structures along with examples of effective graphical abstracts published in *Neuroscience*.

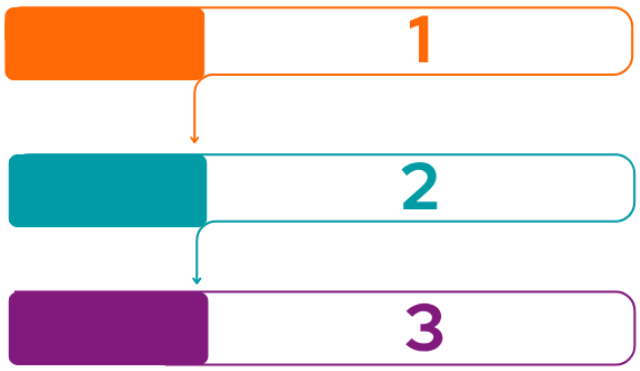
- A graphical abstract may combine different structures.
- Online tools are available to help you design your graphical abstract.

## Suggested graphical abstract structures



## Top-to-bottom story

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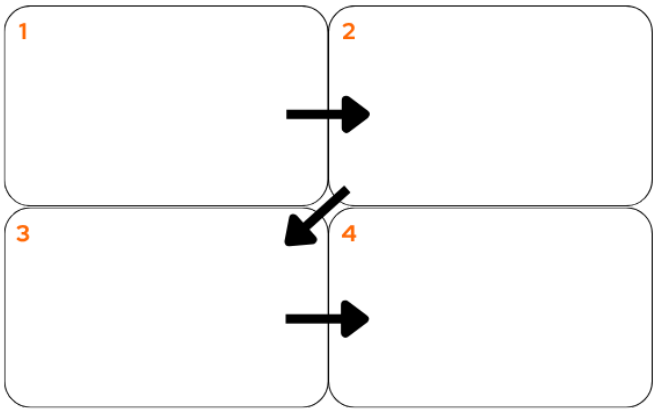
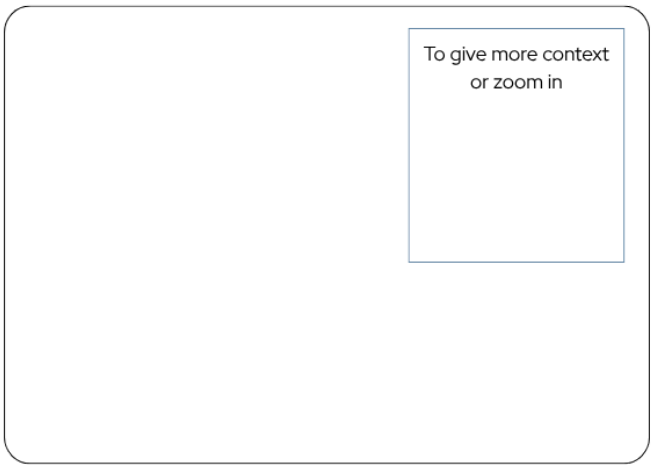
## Multi-panel

If needed, add numbers to facilitate understanding



## Panel with inset

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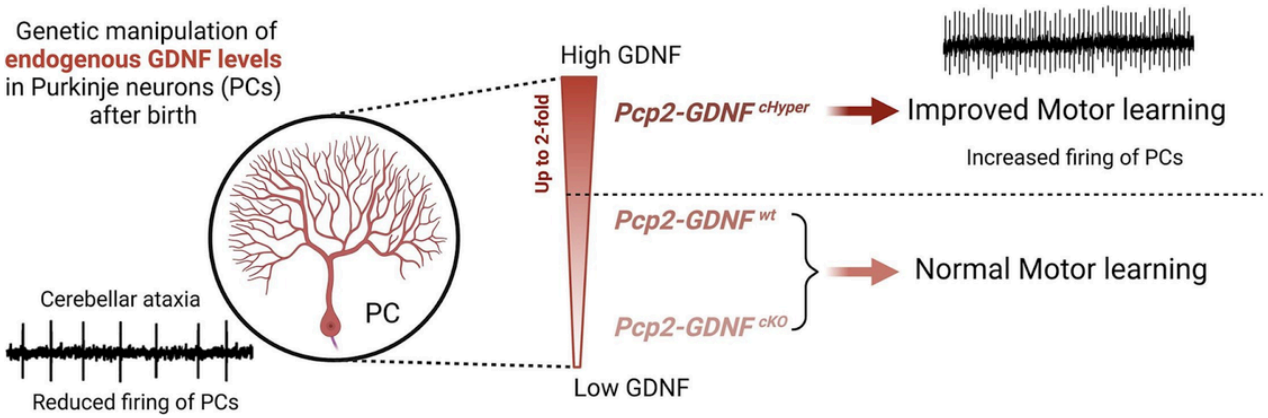
## Segmented circle

## Examples published in *Neuroscience*:




Source: [Nagaeva, Turconi et al, 2025]

Motor learning is regulated by postnatal GDNF levels in Purkinje cells. Nagaeva, Turconi et al. 2025. *Neuroscience*, Volume 576, 27 - 41

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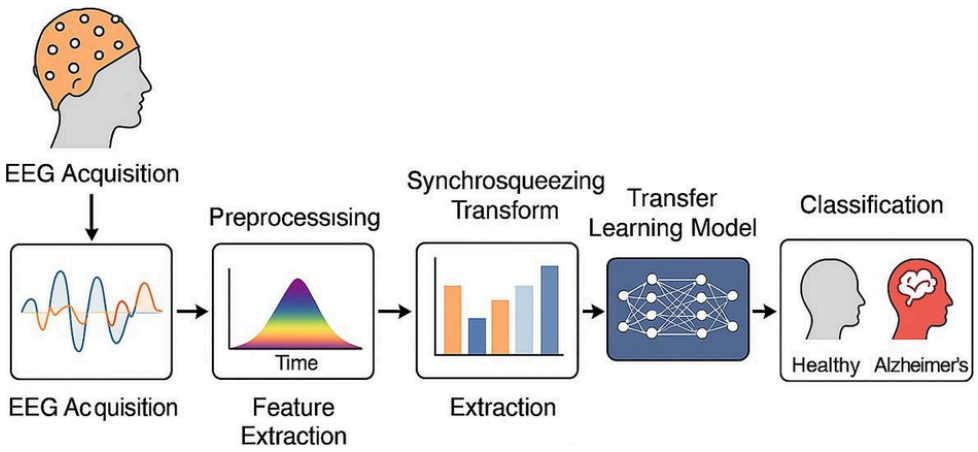
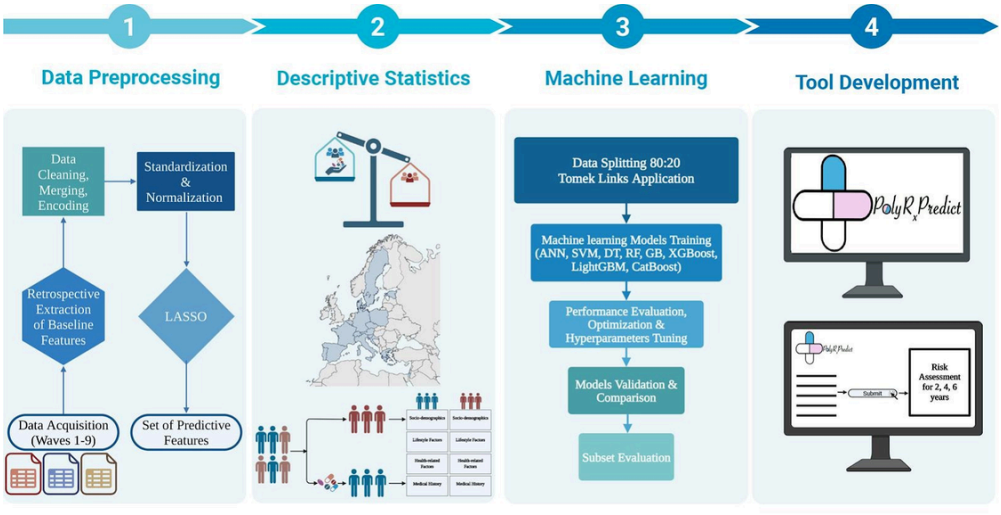



Source: [Jain & Srivastava, 2025]

Enhanced EEG-based Alzheimer's disease detection using synchrosqueezing transform and deep transfer learning. Jain & Srivastava, 2025. *Neuroscience*, Volume 576, 105 - 117




Source: [Elhosseiny et al, 2025]

Optimizing elderly care: A data-driven AI model for predicting polypharmacy risk in the elderly using SHARE data. Elhosseiny, Aliaa A. et al. 2025. *Neuroscience*, Volume 577, 132 - 143

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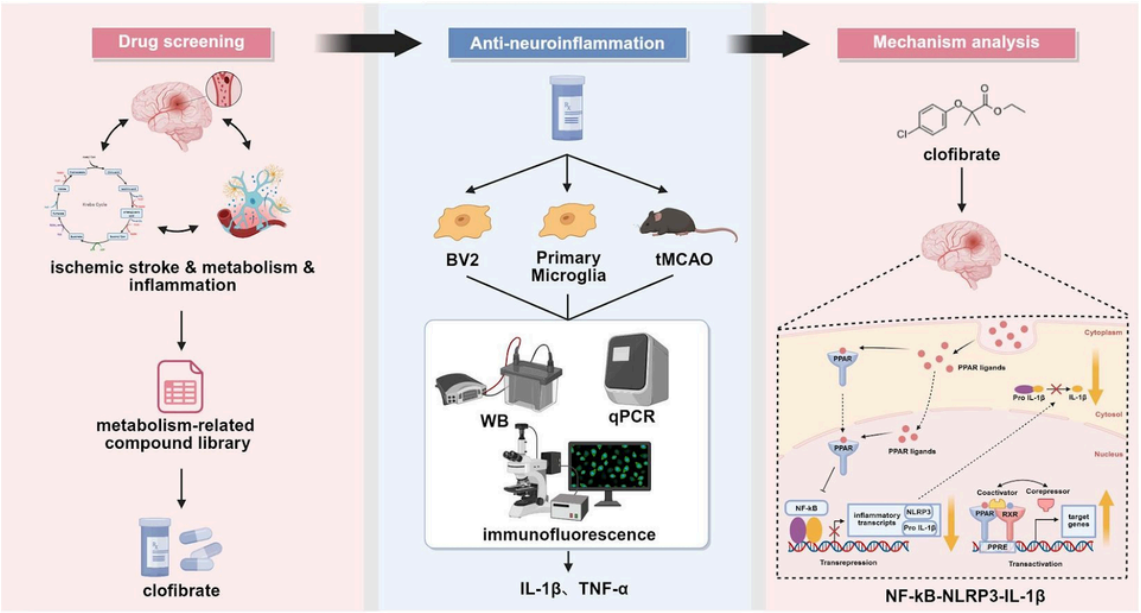
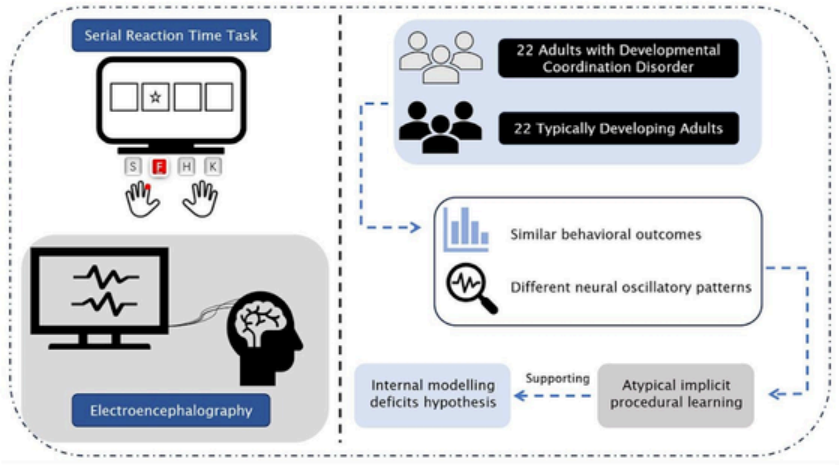



Source: [Sun, Liao, Wang et al, 2025]

Beyond lipid management: Clofibrate's anti-neuroinflammation role via NF-κB inhibition in ischemic stroke. Sun, Liao, Wang et al. 2025. *Neuroscience*, Volume 577, 144 - 153




Source: Yao et al, 2025

Atypical implicit procedural learning of adults with developmental coordination disorder: Evidence involving the modulation of cortical power. Yao et al. 2025. *Neuroscience*, Volume 577, 37 - 46

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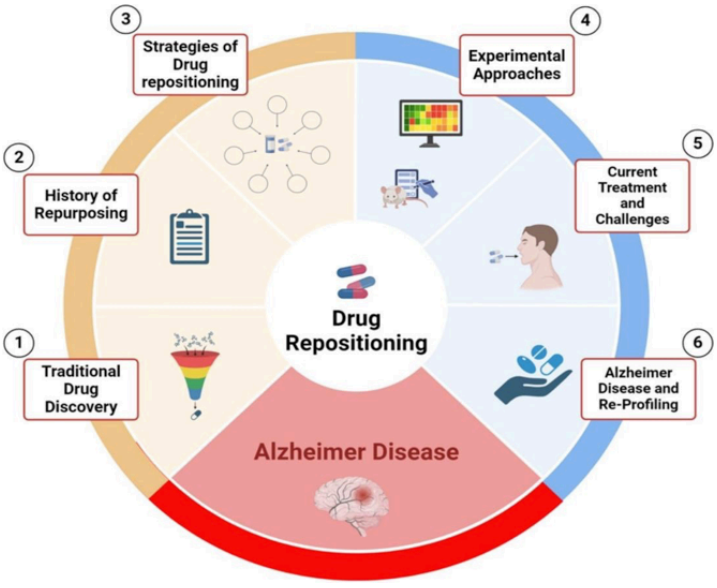


Source: Shah et al, 2025

A review: From old drugs to new solutions: The role of repositioning in Alzheimer's disease treatment. Shah, et al. 2025. *Neuroscience*, Volume 576, 167 - 181