

## Conversion to RGB Workflow



Effective October 1, 2007, *The Journal of Immunology (The JI)* will ask authors to submit their digital art in RGB (Red, Green, Blue) color space.

Historically, *The JI* has requested that authors submit color figures in CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, black) mode, to optimize color for the printed journal. CMYK is the color mode on which printing technology and equipment are based; it is the combination of colors used to reproduce the full range of color in a printed journal. In contrast, the online journal and most of the digital devices used to capture images are based on the RGB color gamut. Submitting figures in the RGB color mode should therefore be simpler for authors, as it removes the need to convert digital images to CMYK before submission. In addition, using RGB color mode for online images should result in a significant improvement for figures that contain fluorescent blues, reds, and greens.

The conversion from RGB to CMYK for print will be undertaken by the printer, whose conversion process is able to maintain a more accurate color match than occurs when converting color space using Photoshop.

What does this mean for authors?

- Images submitted in RGB form will retain the vivid reds, greens, and blues of the original digital files for online publication.
- Page proofs will reflect online quality, rather than print quality. There will be some color shift evident in the final image in print.
- Reprints and the printed journal will continue to use CMYK color.

We hope this change in the color space requirements will make the submission process easier for authors and improve the quality of color figures online.