

Formatting Guidelines

Last updated: January 10, 2021

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1. Manuscript Structure

Beginning Sections

Article Types

The type of article should be indicated at the beginning of the manuscript. We mainly publish the following types of papers:

➤ Original Research

Original Research articles report on the results of original, unpublished research. Authors should clearly indicate in the manuscript how their research contributes to current knowledge. A research article must contain: Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results and Discussion, Conclusions, References.

➤ Review

Review articles summarize the state of the art in a given research area by surveying and discussing recent published studies from the field. Review articles should be concise while still complete, well-focused on the topic and balanced. We publish Reviews, Mini Reviews and Systematic Reviews.

➤ Communications

Communications are concise articles that focus on high-quality, hypothesis-driven, self-contained pieces of original research and/or which propose a new theory or concept on the basis of current research. It is not intended as a means to publish preliminary results, but should be of significance and broad interest to scholars in the research field. Authors should clearly indicate in the manuscript how this hypothesis or proposal contributes to current knowledge.

➤ Editorial

Editorials may be announcements, news, short pieces highlighting new and important publications in the journal. Editorials are written only by the editors of the journal.

The following types of article are generally invited by the journal, or require preview before submission (authors are welcome to submit such articles, as well as other types that are not included here, but it is recommended that they first contact the editorial office of the journal):

➤ Perspective

Perspective articles are commentaries intended to present a novel and unique viewpoint on timely topics in a certain field. Such articles may contain original data and personal opinions, current knowledge and future directions on the discussed topic. Perspective articles must contain: Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Sections as content needed, Discussion, References.

➤ Opinion

Opinion articles allows authors to present personal, yet objective, constructive and well-supported viewpoints on a research topic or relevant ethical, legal and social issues in the field. Opinion articles must contain: Introduction, Sections as content needed, Discussion, References.

➤ Case Report

A Case Report describes the symptoms, signs, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up of medical cases. It usually relates to a hitherto unreported, unexpected or unusual occurrence. It is usually short and well-focused, with a few tables and/or figures, and references. Authors should indicate in the manuscript how this report contributes to current knowledge.

➤ Technical Report

Technical Report describes the process, progress, state or results of technical or scientific research. It might also include conclusions and recommendations for future research.

Manuscript Title

The title of a manuscript should be a concise, specific and informative noun phrase. Abbreviations (except for common terms, e.g., DNA), formulae and citations should be avoided where possible.

Author List and Affiliations

Authors' full first and last names must be provided. The initials of any middle names are optional. At least one author should be designated as the corresponding author. The email addresses of all authors should be provided in the manuscript.

Each author must be affiliated to at least one host institution. If the author's affiliation has changed since the study was completed and before the paper was accepted, the current affiliation should also be indicated. The affiliation should be organized in the style: Department, University/Organization, City, State/Province (if applicable), Country.

All authors who contributed to the study should be included in agreed order upon submission of the original manuscript. Addition of new authors and/or change in author sequence after submission are strongly discouraged in our journals and may require written permission from all authors.

Authors should provide their validated ORCID iDs if any. All authors are encouraged to register for an ORCID iD, which will be displayed in the published article. Learn more at <http://www.orcid.org>.

Abstract

The abstract of original research articles should be brief and succinct; no more than 350 words in length and must be structured into separate sections:

Background: indicates the context and purpose of the study;

Methods: describes briefly the main methods or experiments applied;

Results: summarizes the main findings of this study;

Conclusions: indicates the main conclusions or potential implications drawn from the study.

The Abstract in articles of other types may be a brief single paragraph differing from the above structure.

Please minimize the use of abbreviations, and avoid citations in the abstract.

Keywords

Each manuscript must contain 4 to 8 keywords that are pertinent to the subject.

Copyright Statement

A Copyright Agreement must be confirmed by author(s) before manuscript is sent for peer-review. A Copyright Statement will be automatically inserted at the first page of the published paper as following:

© 2021 by the author(s). This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons License Attribution 4.0 International \(CC BY 4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium or format, provided the original work is properly credited.

Main Body

Introduction

This section briefly describes the relevant research background related to this study. References in this section should be selective, not exhaustive. The aims and purpose, and most importantly the novelty of this research, should be clearly presented. The working hypothesis should also be clearly stated.

Materials and Methods

This section describes the research methodology in sufficient detail that others could reasonably repeat the work. New methods should be described in detail while well-established methods can be briefly described or appropriately cited. The origins of all materials, data and protocols mentioned should be explained clearly, especially for those materials or information with restricted access.

The sequences of oligonucleotides, if not previously published, should be provided. Novel DNA or protein sequences should be deposited in an appropriate database (e.g., GenBank, EMBL, SWISS-PROT), with the accession numbers included in the manuscript.

The names of suppliers of solvents, equipment, antibodies, etc., used in the study should be provided. Methods of statistical analysis should be identified and statistical software programs used in the study should be cited.

Results and Discussion

This section presents the main findings, discusses the significance and implications of the findings, as well as the limitations of this study, and compares this study with previous studies in this field. Future research directions may also be suggested in this section.

Conclusions

This section summarizes the main conclusions of this study, its findings and potential implications etc.

* These sections are compulsory for Original Research articles but not Reviews, Editorials, Letters, etc.

End Sections

Ethics Statement

Studies involving animal subjects must provide a statement on ethical approval. Studies involving human participants, human data or human tissue must provide a statement on ethical approval and informed consent to participate.

The statement must include the project identification number, date of approval and the full name of the ethics committee or institutional review board.

If the manuscript does not report on or involve the use of any animal subjects, human data or tissue, please state “Not applicable” in this section.

For more information, please refer to the research ethics information in [Guidelines for Authors](#).

Consent for Publication

If manuscripts contain details, images, or videos relating to an individual person, written informed consent for the publication of this information under the [Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0](#) must be obtained from the person or his/her legal guardian. If the individual in question is deceased, informed consent for publication must be obtained from their next of kin. A statement to this effect should be provided.

If the manuscript does not contain data from any individual person, please state “Not applicable”.

Availability of Data and Material

The source where the data supporting the findings are available should be indicated.

It is suggested that authors provide a statement in one of the following formats:

- The datasets generated and/or analyzed in the study are available in the [name] repository, [the persistent web link to datasets].
- The datasets generated and/or analyzed in the study may be obtained from the corresponding author on reasonable request.
- The datasets generated or analyzed in the study are included in this published article (and its Supplementary information files).
- The datasets generated and/or analyzed in the study are not publicly available due [reason why data are not public] but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

- The data that support the findings of this study are available from [the third party's name] but restrictions apply to the availability of these data, which were used under license for the current study, and so are not publicly available. Data are however available from the authors upon reasonable request and with permission of [the third party's name].
- Data sharing is not applicable to this article as no datasets were generated or analyzed in this study.

If no data are contained in the manuscript, please state 'Not applicable'. Authors who are unable to share their data must state that the data will not be shared, and specify the reason accordingly.

Funding

Funding resources and grant information should be clarified in this section.

Competing Interests

All potential conflicts of interest must be declared. If any patents, patent applications, or products in development or for market were involved, the related information, including patent numbers and titles, should be disclosed. If there is no conflict of interest, please state "The authors have declared that no competing interests exist." in this section.

Author Contributions

For original research papers with several authors, a section of Author Contributions, specifying each author's contribution, should be provided.

Authorship must be confined to those who made substantial contributions to the research. Those who conceived and designed the experiments, acquired and analyzed data, drafted and revised the manuscript are considered to be authors. For more information, please refer to the authorship information in [Guidelines for Authors](#).

Acknowledgments

In addition to the main authors, those who provided assistance during the research or preparation of the manuscript (e.g., language polishing, data analysis assistance, etc.) should be acknowledged in this section.

Supplementary Materials

To support the study, supplementary materials, e.g., text documents, data tables and spreadsheets, static and GIF images, videos, etc., can be published alongside the paper. A list of materials should be provided in the paper, such as:

The following supplementary materials are available on the website of this paper:

1. Non-Sentence Title of material 1. (e.g., Figure S1: Title).
2. Non-Sentence Title of material 2. (e.g., Table S1: Title).
3. Non-Sentence Title of material 3. (e.g., Video S1: Title).

References

We adopt the Vancouver-NIH citation style.

Here we provide the format of 10 most commonly used reference types. For more examples, please refer to [Samples of Formatted References for Authors of Journal Articles](#) provided by the National Library of Medicine.

1. Journal Article:

Author 1 AB, Author 2 CD. (up to 6 authors before using “et al.”) Article title. Abbreviated Journal Name. Year; Volume: pages. (When page is not available, a DOI or other identifiers should be provided).

2. Complete Book/Book Chapters:

Author 1 AB, Author 2 CD. Book title. 2nd ed. City of the Publisher: Name of the Publisher; Year of the publication. (page p. or p. page range if any).

3. Conference Proceedings:

Author 1 AB, Author 2 CD. Title of the presentation. Proceedings of the Name of the Conference; Full Date of Conference (Year Month Day); Location of Conference (City, State if US, Country). Location of the Publisher (City): Name of the Publisher. Publication Year.

4. Technical Report:

Author 1 AB, Author 2 CD. Report title. City of the report agency (state abbreviation if US): Name of the agency; year of the report. Report number. Contract No.

5. Dissertation:

Author AB. Title of thesis. City of the University: Name of the university; year of completion.

6. Patent:

Inventor AB, Inventor CD, inventor; Assignee Name, assignee. Name of the invention. Patent number. Year.

7. Website:

Author 1 AB, Author 2 CD. Article title [Internet]. City of the press: name of the press; year of update [cited date (year month day)]. Available from: URL.

8. Unpublished Work:

Author 1 AB, Author 2 CD. Title of unpublished work. Abbreviated Journal. Forthcoming year.

9. Preprint:

Author 1 AB, Author 2 CD. Article title. Identifier [Preprint] Year of preprint [Full date of Citation]. Available from: URL.

10. Article not in English

Author 1 AB, Author 2 CD. The paper title translated in English. Abbreviated Journal Name. Year; Volume: pages. The original language.

2. Style and Format

Language

Manuscripts submitted to our journals must be prepared in clear and understandable English. An English translation of the reference should be provided in parentheses if a cited article was published in another language while the original language should be indicated at the end of the reference.

Length

We have no restriction on the length of manuscripts submitted, provided that the text is as concise and comprehensive as possible.

Font

Common font like Times New Roman, Calibri, Cambria are acceptable with size 18 pt for article title, 14 pt for section titles, and 12 pt for the rest of the text.

Abbreviations

Abbreviations should be spelt out at first reference.

Units

Units used in the manuscripts submitted to our journals should be International System of Units (SI). Other units should be converted to SI units. An exception is accepted for blood pressure values (mm Hg should be used).

Figures

Figures in EPS, JPG, PNG, PDF, TIFF formats, minimum 1000 pixels or 300 dpi are acceptable. Color figures are preferred.

All figures should contain a short noun title and a brief explanatory caption. Footnotes should be clearly and correctly marked and explained.

Figures should be labeled and cited in numerical order in the manuscript and inserted in the text close to where they are firstly referred to.

Tables

Tables should be prepared in editable Word format, instead of being inserted as pictures or pieced text.

All tables should contain a short noun title and a brief explanatory caption while all columns should be given an explanatory heading. Footnotes should be clearly and correctly marked and explained.

Tables should be labeled and cited in numerical order in the manuscript and inserted in the text close to where they are firstly referred to.

Equations

Equations should be prepared by equation editors, e.g., Microsoft Equation Editor built in the Word, instead of being inserted as pictures or pieced text.

Graphic Abstract

A graphic or photo, or a combination of both, should be prepared and submitted as Graphic Abstract before the manuscript is accepted. Description in words of the graphic is not necessary. The graphic itself should reflect or highlight the essence of this study in an informative and attractive way.

The image must be entirely original created by the authors of the manuscript.

Both static and GIF images, in 8 cm X 8 cm, 300 dpi X 300 dpi, are preferred.