

THE MALAYSIAN JOURNAL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

Guidelines for authors

The MJMS welcomes manuscripts on all aspects of medicine/health science from any part of the world. We are members of World Association of Medical Editors (WAME) and Council of Science Editors (CSE).

Manuscripts must be submitted in English. Manuscripts are considered for publication in MJMS with the understanding that they have not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere. The manuscript should be submitted to the Editor, Professor Jafri Malin Abdullah via Manuscript Central <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/maljms>. Please note that at the moment, we do not accept Microsoft Word 2007 documents (*.docx). Please use Ms Word's "Save As" option to save your document as an older (.doc) file type. The guidelines listed below are in accordance with the Uniform Requirement for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals (October 2008 revision) of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors.

Forms

When submitting manuscripts, authors are required to sign the Authorship Agreement Form, Patient Consent Form (if the manuscript includes identifiable patients) and the Publication Agreement Form.

Types of Manuscripts

MJMS publishes the following types of manuscripts.

Editorials (E): Brief, substantiated commentary on subjects of topical interest.

Abstracts: Not required

Text: Not more than 1200 words (excluding references and figure/table legends)

Tables and figures: not more than 1.

References: Not more than 20

Original Article (OA): Reports of original clinical or investigative laboratory research.

Abstract: Not more than 275 words

Text: Not more than 3500 words. (excluding references and figure/table legends).

Review Article (RA): A review article aims to give an overview of a particular subject suitable for a wide audience. Review articles should be recent rather than a historical review of the article on the topic.

Abstract: Unstructured Abstract not more than 275 words

Text: Not more than 4500 words (excluding references and figure/table legends)

References: Not more than 80

Case Report (CR): Brief case reports of unusual interest.

Abstract: Unstructured abstract, not more than 175 words

Text: Not more than 2000 words,

References: Not more than 10

Figures and tables: Less than 3 figures and tables

Brief Communications (BC): A Brief Communication is suitable for recording the results of complete small investigations or giving details of new models or hypotheses, innovative methods, techniques or apparatus.

Abstract: Not more than 175 words

Text: Not more than 1500 words

Figures and tables: Not more than 3

References: Less than 20

Special communications (SC): These manuscripts describe an important issue in clinical medicine, public health, health policy, or medical research in a scholarly, thorough, well-referenced, systematic or evidence-based manner.

Abstract: A narrative (unstructured) abstract of 200 words or fewer is required.

Text: Not more than 3000 words (excluding tables, figures, or reference

References: Less than 80

Letter to the Editor (LE): Comments on articles published within 6 months in MJMS or a short letter on clinical relevant findings.

Text: Should not exceed 500 words

References: Not more than 6 references.

Letters in reply (LR): Replies by authors

Text: should not exceed 500 words

References: Not more than 6

Extended abstracts (EA): Only published as supplementary issues during conferences. Extended abstracts are also peer reviewed. Authors who intend to submit extended abstracts should contact directly via e-mail at mjms.usm@gmail.com

Ethical requirements

In experiments on human subjects, authors should mention whether the methods followed were in agreement with the ethical standards of the responsible committee (institutional and national) and the Declaration of Helsinki (October 2008 revision). Similarly, the use of animals in research must conform to the institutional and national guidelines.

Patient consent

The author must provide the Malaysian Journal of Medical Sciences with a written consent signed by the patient, or the patient's parents/legal guardian, when submitting a patient video or photograph in which a patient is identifiable (See Patient Consent Form). This form can be downloaded from our website.

Style and Format

Manuscript

Text: Use subheadings for long articles and double-space all portions of the manuscript.

Title page

The title page should have the following information:

- i. Article title without abbreviation
- ii. Authors' names and institutional affiliations: Full names are required, indicate last name with SMALL CAPS. For example, Mohammed Ali JAMALUDDIN.
- iii. Contact information for corresponding authors. The name, address, e-mail of one author who is responsible for all communication concerning the manuscript are required.

Abstract

The length of abstract depends on the type of manuscript submitted. The abstract should state the purpose of the study, a brief description of the procedures employed, main findings and principal conclusions. Abbreviations, foot notes, references and subheadings should be avoided. For original articles, the abstract format is structured as background, methods, results, and conclusion. For other articles, the abstract format is unstructured.

Keywords: Authors must provide between three and six keywords that characterize the main topics of the article. Use recognized vocabularies related to the discipline discussed, such as the MeSH thesaurus <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/MBrowser.html>. We encourage the use of synonyms for terms provided in the article title, this is to aid database searches.

Tables

Tables must be numbered sequentially and in the order in which they are mentioned in the text. Tables must have brief descriptive title. Preferably, tables must be prepared according to the guides in Chicago Manual of Style.

Figures

Figures must be numbered sequentially and in the order in which they are mentioned in the text. Figure legends are needed for all figures. Grayscale and color artwork should have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi.

Videos

We also welcome submission of short videos as supplementary file. Videos may be useful for demonstrating complex laboratory, surgical or medical procedures. The demonstration of the experiment must be shown in orderly fashion, including a demonstration of equipment and reagent. Researchers should be properly attired when handling animals, reagents and chemicals. Each video file must be under 5 minutes. We accept .mov, .avi, .swf formats.

The video should make a specific point; particularly, it should demonstrate the features described in the text of the manuscript.

Special effects or text are not permitted to be inserted in the video. Unfortunately, we do not do video editing and production.

Reference

References should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text (citation-sequence)—the Vancouver style. Identify references in text, tables and legends by Arabic numerals in parentheses. For formatting end references, we recommend following the guidelines of the Council of Science Editors (CSE) which can be accessed through <http://library.duke.edu/research/citing/workscited/>

Journal article

The titles of journal should be abbreviated according to the style used in [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?Db=journals&Cmd=DetailsSearch&Term=currently indexed\[All\]](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?Db=journals&Cmd=DetailsSearch&Term=currently indexed[All]) or http://www.efm.leeds.ac.uk/~mark/ISIabbr/A_abrvjt.html

Theriault A, Caa JT, Gapor A. Tocotrienol is the most effective vitamin E for reducing endothelial expression of adhesion molecule and adhesion to monocytes. *Atherosclerosis*. 2002; **160**:21-30.

If there are more than six authors, list the first six authors and use "et al." for the subsequent authors.

Books

Author surname Initials. Title of book. # ed. [if not 1st]. Place of publication. Publisher's name; Year of publication.

Carlson BM. Human embryology and developmental biology. 3rd ed. St Louis: Mosby; 2004.

Online article

Journal articles in electronic format:

Author(s) surname Initials. Title of article. Abbreviated title of journal. Year of publication

Reid R, Bulusu R, Buckels J, Carroll N, Eatock M, Gehl et al. Guidelines for the management of gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GISTs). Sept 2005. [Internet]. Available from: <http://www.augis.org/news/articles/gist%20mngmnt%20gdlns%20071205%20final.pdf>

For other forms of reference, please refer to the National Library of Medicine <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/formats/recommendedformats.html>

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A manuscript may be corrected for length, grammatical correctness, sentence structure and journal style. Accepted manuscripts are edited in accordance with the CSE Manual of Style, 7th edition and Chicago Manual of Style 15th edition.

The final proof of the manuscript will be sent to the corresponding author for final checking. The author

should not make any changes to the contents of the manuscript at this stage.

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Reference

1. Council of Science Editors, Scientific Style and Format. The CSE Manual for Authors, Editors and Publishers. 7th ed. Reston (VA): The Council; 2006.
2. The Chicago Manual of Style. 15th ed. 2003.
3. ICMJE Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication [Internet] Available from: <http://www.icmje.org/>

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The authors attest that full and informed consent was obtained from human subjects and that the work was performed in accordance with the humane and ethical principles of research outlined in the Helsinki guidelines. In countries where institutional review is established, this statement also attests to the approval of that institution of the protocol for all aspects of the investigation presented in a manuscript involving humans or animals.

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