

INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

THE MALAYSIAN JOURNAL OF PATHOLOGY will publish manuscripts dealing with any aspect of PATHOLOGY including Chemical Pathology, Cytology, Experimental Pathology, Forensic Pathology, Haematology, Histopathology, Immunology, Medical Microbiology and Parasitology. In addition to complete papers, the *Journal* will publish case reports, brief communications (of up to 1000 words) and letters to the editor (up to 500 words). Papers are accepted on the understanding that they are original. Papers are subjected to peer-review. Editorials and review articles are published by invitation. All manuscripts, including solicited materials, are subject to editorial revision.

The *Journal* subscribes to the "Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals" of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors.¹

PREPARATION OF MANUSCRIPT

Title page

The title page should carry (a) the title of the article, (b) the names of all authors (with surnames in capitals) with their highest academic degree(s) (not more than two) and institutional affiliation; (c) the name of the department(s) and institutions(s) to which the work should be attributed; (d) the name and address of the author responsible for correspondence about the manuscript and to whom requests for reprints should be directed; and (e) a short running title of no more than 40 characters (letters and spaces inclusive).

Abstract and keywords

The abstract should be not more than 250 words. The abstract should state the main purposes of the study, basic methodology, main findings (giving specific data and their statistical significance, if possible), and the principal conclusions. Emphasize new and important aspects of the study.

Provide 3-10 keywords or short phrases that will assist in cross-indexing your article.

Text

The text should be divided into the following sections: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results and Discussion. Long articles may need sub-headings within some sections to clarify their content. Articles such as case reports, reviews, and editorials are likely to need other formats, and authors should consult previous issues of the *Journal* for further guidance.

Introduction

State the purpose of the article and summarise the rationale for the study. Give only pertinent references. Do not include data or conclusions from the work being reported.

Materials and Methods

Describe your selection of observational or experimental subjects (patients or laboratory animals, including controls). Identify the methods, special equipment or reagents (state manufacturer in parentheses), and procedures in sufficient detail to allow other workers to reproduce the results. Give references to established methods. Describe new or substantially modified methods. Identify all drugs and chemicals used, including generic name(s), dose(s), and routes(s) of administration. Specify the statistical methods used to analyse data. Define statistical terms, abbreviations and symbols.

Ethics

When reporting experiments on human subjects, indicate whether the procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional or regional) and with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 2008. Do not use patients' names, initials, or hospital numbers, especially in illustrative material. When reporting experiments on animals, indicate whether the institution's or a national research council's guide for, or any national law on, the care and use of laboratory animals was followed.

Results

Present your results in logical sequence in the text, tables, and figures. Do not repeat in the text all the data in the tables or figures; emphasize or summarise only important observations.

Discussion

Emphasise the new and important aspects of the study and the conclusions that follow from them. Do not repeat in detail data or other material given in the Introduction or the Results sections. Include in the Discussion section the implications of the findings and their limitations, including implications for future research. Relate the observations to other relevant studies.

Acknowledgements

Specify (a) contributions that need acknowledging but do not justify authorship, specifying the nature of their contribution (such as general support by a departmental Head, critical review of the paper, data collection); (b) acknowledgements of technical help; (c) acknowledgements of financial and material support, specifying the nature of the support; (d) relationships that may pose a conflict of interest; and (e) disclaimers, if any.

References

Number references consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. Identify references in text, tables, and legends by Arabic numerals in superscript. References cited only in tables or in legends to figures should be numbered in accordance with the sequence established by the first identification in the text of the particular table or figure.

The titles of journals should be abbreviated according to the style used in the Index Medicus. References should be verified by the author(s) against the original documents. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of their references.

Examples of common forms of references are given below. Further examples are available from www.nlm.nih.gov/citingmedicine

(1) Standard journal article

(List all authors when six or less; when seven or more, list only the first three authors followed by et al).

Ellis IO, Coleman D, Wells C, *et al.* Impact of a national external quality assessment scheme for breast pathology in the UK. *J Clin Pathol.* 2006; 59: 138-45.

(2) Book with personal author(s)

Modlin IM, Sachs G. Acid related diseases: biology and treatment. 2nd ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; c2004. 522 p.

(3) Book with Editor(s), compiler(s) as author

Izzo JL Jr, Black HR, editors. Hypertension primer: the essentials of high blood pressure. 3rd ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; c2003. 532 p.

(4) *Chapter in a book*

Phillips SJ, Whisnant JP. Hypertension and stroke. In: Laragh JH, Brenner BM, editors. Hypertension: pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management. 2nd ed. New York: Raven Press; 1995. p. 465-78.

(5) *Paper in a conference proceeding*

Erasmus RT. Strategic planning for a pathology laboratory. In: Looi LM, editor. 24th World Congress of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; 2007 Aug 20-24; Petaling Jaya, Malaysia. Bologna (Italy): Monduzzi Editore, International Proceedings Division; c2007. p. 17-22.

(6) *Unpublished conference paper*

Self CH. The impact of monoclonal antibodies on diagnosis and therapy. Paper presented at: Meeting the challenges of globalisation and miniaturisation. 24th World Congress of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; 2007 Aug 20-24; Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.

(7) *Forthcoming "in press" paper*

Alston RD, Tatevossian RG, McNally RJ, *et al*. Incidence and survival of childhood Langerhans cell histiocytosis in Northwest England from 1954 to 1998. *Pediatr Blood Cancer*. Forthcoming 2006.

(8) *Electronic material*

Terauchi Y, Takamoto I, Kubota N, *et al*. Glucokinase and IRS-2 are required for compensatory beta cell hyperplasia in response to high-fat diet-induced insulin resistance. *J Clin Invest* [Internet]. 2007 Jan 2 [cited 2007 Jan 5];117(1):246-57. Available from: <http://www.jci.org/cgi/content/full/117/1/246>

AMA: helping doctors help patients [homepage on the Internet]. Chicago: American Medical Association; c1995-2007 [cited 2007 Feb 22]. Available from: <http://www.ama-assn.org/>.

Tables

Number tables consecutively in the order of their first citation in the text and supply a brief title for each table. Avoid using internal vertical rules. Place all explanatory matter in the footnotes and explain all non-standard abbreviations and symbols used. Statistical measures of variations, such as standard deviations and standard error of the mean, are to be identified.

Figures (illustrations)

Symbols, arrows, or letters used in photographs should contrast with the background and be identified and explained in the legend. State the method of staining and magnification of photomicrographs. Cite each figure in the text in consecutive order. Figures are normally printed in black and white. Colour illustrations will be published only if the author pays for the extra cost.

If photographs of people are used, either the subjects must not be identifiable or their pictures must be accompanied by written permission to use the photograph. If a figure has been published before, acknowledge the original source and submit written permission from the copyright holder to reproduce the material, except for documents in the public domain.

Units of measurement

Measurements of length, height, weight, and volume should be in metric units (metre, kilogram, or litre). Temperatures should be in degrees Celsius. All haematological and clinical chemistry measurements should be in metric measurements or International System of Units (SI).

Abbreviations and symbols

Use only standard abbreviations. Avoid abbreviations in the title and abstract. The full term for which an abbreviation stands should precede its first use in the text unless it is a standard unit of measurement.

Manuscript submission

The manuscript should be sent in electronic form via the *Journal* website at <http://www.mjpath.org.my>.

Manuscripts must be accompanied by a covering letter. This must include (a) information on prior or duplicate publication or submission elsewhere of any part of the work; (b) a statement of financial or other relationships that might lead to a conflict of interest; (c) a statement that the manuscript has been read and approved by all the authors; and (d) the name, address, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address of the corresponding author, who is responsible for communicating with the other authors about revisions and final approval of the proofs. The letter should give any additional information that may be helpful to the editor, such as the type of article the manuscript represents and whether the author(s) will be willing to meet the cost of reproducing colour illustrations.

Reprint

No hard-copy reprints will be supplied. Full texts are available at the *Journal* website.

REFERENCES

1. Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals. International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Available from: <http://www.ICMJE.org>