

Instructions for Authors

SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPTS

The original file, in English, will be emailed to:

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Revisions: Authors asked to revise their manuscripts will e-mail the updated version.

Cover letter: a letter undersigned by the corresponding author should accompany the manuscript and include a statement, signed by all authors, that the material submitted for publication has not been previously reported and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

If a paper has been presented at a scientific meeting but not published in full, the author(s) should add a statement referring to this in the title page.

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TYPES OF MANUSCRIPTS

The following types of manuscripts/information are considered: *Original Articles*, *Review Articles*, *Editorials*, *Hot Topics*.

Original Articles should be based on original rather than confirmatory data, and should conform to the format described below. It is assumed that all human investigations have been conducted

according to the principles expressed in the Declaration of Helsinki.

Review Articles should consist of in-depth critical assessments of literature and data sources pertaining to topics of major interest; meta-analyses will also be considered as Reviews.

Hot Topics should present the opinion of an expert on a topic of crucial interest.

Announcements of meetings, conferences, courses, educational grants etc. are welcome.

EDITING

Manuscripts will be written in English, using either American or British spelling. They should be carefully checked for accuracy of typing, spelling and grammar before they are submitted. Language editing could be necessary for non-English mother tongue authors. They will be asked by the editors, prior to final acceptance, either to provide personally or to assign this task to the Publisher and be billed a flat rate of Euro 100.00.

Authors are responsible for all statements made in their articles, including changes made by the copy editor and accepted by the corresponding author.

ORGANIZATION AND STYLE

All manuscripts should be double-spaced throughout and organized as follow: title page, abstract, text, acknowledgements, appendix, references, figure legends, figures and tables.

Manuscripts should conform to the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals" (N Engl J Med 1997; 336: 309-315 or www.icmje.org).

Title page should include: title of paper; running head; full name(s) of author(s); department(s) and institution(s) in which the work was carried out; 4-6 key words; and correspondence, indicating the full postal address, phone/fax numbers and e-mail address of the author to whom correspondence, galley proofs and reprint requests should be sent.

Abstract for Original Articles should consist of about 250 words and be structured in 4 parts: 1) *Background and aims*; 2) *Methods*; 3) *Results*; and 4) *Conclusions*.

The abstract should be self-explanatory, without reference to the text. Abbreviations may be included

ed, provided they are defined in the abstract as well as in the main text.

Short Abstracts are also recommended for the other major articles.

Main Text for Original Articles should include the following sections: Introduction, Methods (including Material or Subject/Population, Statistical Analysis, etc.), Results, Discussion, Conclusions, Acknowledgements, Legends to Figures, Tables, and References.

Introduction should include both a brief review of literature data that are strictly related to the object of the paper, and a short statement on the aims of the study.

Methods should be described in sufficient detail to allow other workers to duplicate the study. Previously reported procedures may be cited, but newly adopted modifications should be specified in detail.

Results should be clearly and concisely described with the help of appropriate illustrative material.

Discussion should be limited to the reported findings, propose their interpretation, and indicate their implications and limitations.

Conclusions: provided that they are directly supported by the evidence reported, the conclusions should briefly summarize the outcome and scope of the study.

References (suggested number: 30 max., except for Reviews) should be cited in numerical order (in parentheses) in the text and listed in the same order at the end of the paper. Please avoid citations "author+year" (for example "Schaefer, 2000"). Articles in press (i.e., accepted for publication) may be included with indication of Journal and year, but references to unpublished data or personal communications are unacceptable. If essential, such material may be incorporated in the appropriate place in the text. Abstracts may be cited only when they contain substantial data not published elsewhere, with the addition of the term "Abstract" at the end of the reference. **Authors are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of their references and for correct citation (in sequence) in the text.**

The style of references is based on the formats used by the NLM in Index Medicus: A) titles of journals are abbreviated according to Index Medicus, and B) all authors are listed when 6 or less; when 7 or more, only the first 3 are listed, followed by "et al."

Examples:

- 1) *Journal*: Ostir GV, Volpato S, Kasper JD, Ferrucci L, Guralnik JM. Summarizing amount of difficulty in ADLs: a refined characterization of disability. Results from the Women's Health and Aging Study. *Aging Clin Exp Res* 2001; 13: 465-72.
- 2) *Book chapter*: Stuck AE, Wieland D, Rubenstein LZ, Siu AL, Adams J. Comprehensive geriatric assessment: meta-analysis of main effects and elements enhancing effectiveness. In Rubenstein LZ, Wieland D, Bernabei R, eds. *Geriatric assessment technology: the state of the art*. Milano: Ed. Kurtis, 1995: 11-26.
- 3) *Book*: Kane RL, Ouslander JG, Abrass IB. *Essentials of Clinical Geriatrics*, 2nd Ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1990.
- 4) *Electronic material*: (title). Available at: <http://....> Accessed (date).

Illustrations/Figures should be numbered consecutively with arabic numbers. Graphs should be submitted as high-quality computer print-outs. Color illustrations will be published when approved by the editors. Authors may be charged for this.

Tables should be typewritten on separate sheets and numbered consecutively with arabic numbers. Each table must have a concise heading and should be comprehensible without reference to the text. Tabular data in general should not be duplicated in the text or figures.

Abbreviations and symbols should be used in their standard form and clearly defined in both the Abstract and body of the text. The full term for which an abbreviation stands should precede its first use in the text (in parentheses) unless it is a standard unit of measurement. Concerning units of measurement, the use of the International System of Units is recommended.

Drug names: generic names and/or chemical names should be used. Nomenclature for hormones and chemical compounds should conform to current recommendations of appropriate international committees.

Authors are requested to keep copies of everything submitted.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Scientists from all over the world are kindly invited by the Editor and Publisher to send their contributions to the Journal.