

# Instructions to Authors

## Authorship

Submission of a manuscript implies

- that the work described has not been published before;
- that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere;
- that its publication has been approved by all co-authors, if any, as well as by the responsible authorities at the institution where the work has been carried out;
- that, if and when the manuscript is accepted for publication, the authors agree to automatically transfer the copyright to the publisher;
- that the manuscript will not be published elsewhere in any language without the consent of the copyright holder;
- that the manuscript should be written in English.

## Ethical guidelines

Clinical studies must be performed in accordance with the “Declaration of Helsinki” and its amendment in “Tokyo and Venice”. Experiments causing pain or discomfort to animals must be performed according to the guidelines of the International Association for the Study of Pain as published in Pain 1983; 16:109–110. In accordance with these guidelines, authors performing such experiments must justify explicitly that the procedures used are scientifically necessary and that the minimum possible pain or stress has been imposed on the animals. Authors should also indicate whether the experimental work was reviewed by an ethical committee or its equivalent.

In addition, a statement must be provided as part of a covering letter, signed by all authors, which approves the manuscript for publication, states that the manuscript has not been published in part or as a whole elsewhere and indicates source(s) of funding and absence of any possible conflicts of interest.

Other ethical considerations should be in keeping with the most recent guidelines of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors ([www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org)).

## The Editorial Process

We use electronic forms of all articles during submission and typesetting. Manuscripts received are acknowledged immediately. Manuscripts will be assessed by two or more reviewers. Referees’ comments will remain anonymous unless referees explicitly request to be named.

Once a paper has been evaluated, the authors will be notified of the editorial decision (in general within 1 month after receipt).

Corrections to proofs should be made within 72 hours. If not, the paper will be published uncorrected. Manuscripts will be published within 3 months after acceptance.

## Format of Manuscripts

### General Remarks

All pages should be numbered consecutively, including references, tables and figure legends. All text, including figure legends, tables and references, should be typed double spaced.

Inadequate presentation may give grounds for immediate rejection.

Papers should be easy to read. Highly sophisticated, specialist terms should either be defined or avoided. Intelligibility is a major aim of *Inflammation Research*.

Research Papers should follow the standard scientific format: Abstract, Key Words, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, References.

### 1. Original Research Papers

Contributions should normally be based on new results obtained experimentally or clinically and should constitute a significant contri-

bution to inflammation or a related field. Preference will be given to manuscripts dealing with inflammatory mechanisms and not to reports of purely descriptive changes in inflammatory variables. Papers which reassess concepts based on earlier results will also be considered, but not data of a preliminary or screening nature or data obtained with undefined compounds or extracts. All experiments must be suitably controlled. Contributions that have already been published or accepted for publication with essentially the same content will not be considered, except when results have been published only in an abbreviated form (e.g. abstract).

Manuscripts should be typed in double spacing on one side of A4 (206 × 294 mm) or US 8½ × 11 inch paper with a wide margin on the left (30 mm or 1½ inch).

**Title Page:** A separate title page should give the names and full postal addresses of all authors, clearly indicating which address relates to which author. If an author’s present address differs from that at which the work was carried out, it should be given as a footnote on the title page and indicated at the appropriate place in the author list by an asterisk. The author to whom correspondence is to be addressed should be indicated separately. Please specify a maximum of five keywords and provide a running head. To ensure rapid publication please indicate fax and/or e-mail number for fast communication.

**Abstract:** A structured abstract of about 100–150 words should be typed on a separate sheet. The abstract should be completely self-explanatory, abbreviations being used only if they are spelt out first. References should not be given. The abstract should have the following format:

*Objective and design:* A single sentence describing why the study was done and the type of study carried out. Clinical studies should include the setting (e.g. practice or hospital).

*Material or subjects:* The total number of species of animals or subjects, with (where relevant) the method of selection. For *in vitro* studies give the cell and tissue used.

*Treatment:* Dosage and duration of drug/compound administered or other intervention. Use generic rather than trade names.

*Methods:* Assays or assessments carried out, together with statistical tests applied.

*Results:* The main results obtained, providing means ( $\pm$  SD or SEM) or medians (with ranges) and significance levels, where necessary. Clinical data should include any withdrawals.

*Conclusions:* Implications based on the methods and results presented.

**Introduction:** The introduction should give a clear, concise account of the background of the problem and rationale of the investigation. Only work that has a direct bearing on the present investigation should be cited. Exhaustive reviews of the literature are to be avoided. No attempt should be made to indicate the results obtained.

**Materials and methods:** Procedures must be given in sufficient detail to permit repetition of the work. However, published procedures may be briefly summarized and only described in detail if they have been substantially modified. Drugs, chemicals etc. should be given with sources of supply. Cumbersome chemical names should be suitably abbreviated for later reference in the paper. Registered trade names should be marked “®” or “™”.

The doses of drugs or other chemicals should be given as unit weight/body weight, e.g. mmol/kg or mg/kg; concentrations should be given in terms of molarity (e.g. nmol/l or mmol/l), or as unit weight per unit volume (e.g. mg/ml). Molarity should refer to the active component, whether salt, acid or base. Subsections should be used wherever possible.

**Results:** The results should be described in sufficient detail to allow the experiments to be repeated by others. Experimental results on new drugs and comparative drug studies should include dose-response curves. Where percentage changes are given, the absolute control or baseline values must also be provided. Wherever possible, mean results with confidence limits or with standard errors of the means and the number of observations should be given. Standard errors of the means are not permissible for values which are not normally distrib-

uted (e.g. percentages). In such instances, non-parametric statistical analyses are advisable. The significance should be given as values of probability. Statistical tests used should be named. Data should not be repeated unnecessarily in the text, tables and figures. Conclusions and theoretical considerations must not be elaborated in this section. Data should be divided into subsections to clarify the results.

**Discussion:** The purpose of the discussion is to provide an interpretation of the results obtained against the background of existing knowledge. Recapitulation or summarizing of the results is not acceptable. Citations should be restricted to those which relate to the author's findings. A review-like treatment should be avoided.

**Acknowledgements:** Acknowledgements should be brief. Sources of drugs not freely available should be acknowledged as should source(s) of funding.

**References:** In the text, references must be given as consecutive numbers in square brackets. Wherever possible, excessive citation should be avoided. The reference list should be typed on a separate sheet(s) at the end of the manuscript, numbered according to the consecutive citation in the text, using the Vancouver system as follows:

- Barrett KE, Minor JR, Metcalfe DD. Histamine secretion induced by N-acetyl cysteine. *Agents Actions* 1985; 16: 114–51.
- Skidmore IF, Vardy CJ. The mediators of bronchial asthma and the mechanism of their release. In: Saxena PR, Elliot GR, editors. *Pathophysiology and Treatment of Asthma and Arthritis. Agents and Actions Suppl.* vol. 14. Basel: Birkhäuser, 1984: 33–48.
- Siegel S. *Nonparametric Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences.* Tokyo: McGraw-Hill-Kogakusha, 1956: 116–27.

For citations with up to six authors all names of authors must be given. For citations with more than six authors, give the first six authors followed by et al. Further examples of citations can be found in the *N Engl J Med* 1991; 324: 424–8.

Journal abbreviations should correspond to those in the World List of Scientific Periodicals. Where possible, references should be easy to find.

A paper which has been accepted for publication but which has not appeared may be cited in the reference list with the words "In press" after the abbreviated name of the journal.

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The authors are encouraged to include important or useful websites in the references which are related to the contents of the research paper.

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**Tables** should each be given on a separate sheet and prepared for use in a single column (8.5 cm wide) or for page width (17.6 cm). Each table must be numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals in italics and a brief descriptive caption should be given. The caption, headings and footnotes should be separated from each other and from the body of the table by horizontally ruled lines. For clarity, it is advisable not to include more than 85 characters to a line. Vertically ruled lines must never be used. References to statistical significance may be made by using superscript asterisks.

Otherwise and where statistical significance is indicated together with footnotes, references should be made by using superscript lower case letters.

**Figures** should be suitable for reduction to fit a single column, 8 cm wide or at most a double column, maximally 16 cm wide. Original drawings in black ink or good photographic copies of original drawings should be submitted. Lettering should be not less than 4 mm high and lines not less than 0.4 mm thick on original drawings. Symbols should be not less than 2.5 mm in diameter, preferably chosen from:



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**Abbreviations:** The excessive use of abbreviations in the text is strongly discouraged. All abbreviations should be defined when first used by placing them in brackets after the full term. Symbols for physical units should adhere to the International System of Measurements and Units. Examples of these and of chemical and biochemical abbreviations and nomenclature may be found in *Biochem J* 1975; 145: 1–20 or in *Br J Pharmacol* 1984; 81: 3–10.

## 2. Short Communications

Short communications are intended for the rapid publication of new results which are of particular importance to other workers in the field. Following peer review, they are therefore either accepted as they stand or with minor revision, or they are rejected. Manuscripts must be submitted in triplicate and conform in every respect to the format and conventions of the journal as outlined under "Original Research Papers". Combination of the "Results" and "Discussion" sections may be permitted under exceptional circumstances. The length, including title, summary and references, must not exceed 1200 words plus one figure or one table. A short summary consisting of a single paragraph should be provided.

## 3. Reviews

Reviews on any topic within the scope of the journal may be submitted, with or without solicitation from the editors. Manuscripts will be submitted to the usual refereeing procedure. Reviews should contain an abstract, an introduction and conclusion, but may otherwise be subdivided according to the authors' discretion.

In other respects, reviews should adhere to the general style as outlined under "Original Research Papers". Reviewers are encouraged to point out weak or critical areas in the field they are reviewing and to indicate the direction the field may take in the future. Manuscripts should not exceed 10 printed pages.

## 4. Commentaries

Commentaries are intended to provide a forum for personal views on recent developments arising from the author's own or other research work. Commentaries should take the form of a mini-review, pointing out the relevance of the new findings to the recent literature on the subject and indicating the ways in which these new findings will affect the development of research in that field. Manuscripts should be submitted in triplicate and should not exceed 2000 words plus two figures or tables. A short summary of a single paragraph should be provided.

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In order to facilitate the rapid dissemination of information, reports of meetings falling within the scope of the journal are solicited. These should not exceed 2000 words and need not be accompanied by a summary. Manuscripts should be submitted in duplicate. The title page should consist of the name, dates and site of the meeting together with the name and address of the reporting author. The text should begin with a statement explaining the aim of the meeting.

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