

# Instructions for Authors

Macedonian Journal of Medical Sciences

ID Design 2012/DOOEL Skopje, Naroden Front 13/45, 1000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia

## Manuscript Submission

All manuscripts should be submitted to the *Macedonian Journal of Medical Sciences (MJMS)* electronically. To submit a manuscript, please follow the instructions below:

## Getting Started

1. Launch your web browser (supported browsers include Internet Explorer 6 or higher, Netscape 7.0, 7.1, or 7.2, Safari 1.2.4, or Firefox 1.0.4) and go to the MJMS Manuscript Central homepage (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/mjms>).

2. Log-in or click the "Create Account" option if you are a first-time user of Manuscript Central.

### 3. If you are creating a new account:

- After clicking on "Create Account" enter your name and e-mail information and click "Next". **Your e-mail information is very important.**
- Enter your institution and address information as prompted then click "Next."
- Enter a user ID and password of your choice (we recommend using your e-mail address as your user ID) and then select your area of expertise. Click "Finish" when done.

4. Log-in and select "Author Center."

### Submitting Your Manuscript

5. After you have logged in, click the "Submit a Manuscript" link on the Author Center screen.

6. Enter data and answer questions as prompted.

7. Click on the "Next" button on each screen to save your work and advance to the next screen.

8. You will be prompted to upload your files:

- Click on the "Browse" button and locate the file on your computer.
- Select the description of the file in the drop down next to the Browse button.
- When you have selected all files you wish to upload, click the "Upload" button.

*NOTE: you have a limit of 10 MB combined for all files you upload.*

9. Review your submission (in both PDF and HTML formats) before sending to the Editors. Click the "Submit" button when you are done reviewing.

You may stop a submission at any phase and save it to submit later. After submission, you will receive a confirmation via e-mail. You can also log-on to Manuscript Central any time to check the status of your manuscript. The Editors will inform you via e-mail once a decision has been made.

## Manuscript Preparation

### General

This journal uses blind peer review; please make sure that the files you load during submission **DO NOT CONTAIN ANY IDENTIFYING INFORMATION**, such as author names, acknowledgments, or bios. You will provide this information later if your manuscript is accepted for publication. Make sure your file names do not include an author name.

Contributions should be organized in the sequence: title, text, methods, result, discussion,

references, supplementary information line (if any), tables, figures, and figure legends.

Articles have a summary, separate from the main text, of up to 200 words, which does not have references, and does not contain numbers, abbreviations, acronyms or measurements unless essential. It is aimed at readers outside the discipline. This summary contains a paragraph (2-3 sentences) of basic-level introduction to the field; a brief account of the background and rationale of the work; a statement of the main conclusions (introduced by the phrase 'Here we show' or its equivalent); and finally, 2-3 sentences putting the main findings into general context so it is clear how the results described in the paper have moved the field forwards.

Authors are encouraged to include a link to a simple schematic, included as Figure 1 of their Supplementary Information, that summarizes the main finding of the paper, where appropriate (for example to assist understanding of complex details).

Articles are typically 3,000 words of text, beginning with up to 500 words of referenced text expanding on the background to the work (some overlap with the summary is acceptable), before proceeding to a concise, focused account of the findings, ending with one or two short paragraphs of discussion.

The text may contain a few short subheadings (not more than six in total) of no more than 40 characters each (less than one line of text in length).

Articles typically have 5 or 6 display items (figures or tables).

**1. Titles** do not exceed three lines in print. Titles do not normally include numbers, acronyms, abbreviations or punctuation. They should include sufficient detail for indexing purposes but be general enough for readers outside the field to appreciate what the paper is about.

**2. Methods.** In the Methods section, details regarding the material, samples, methods and equipment used in the study should be included, so that another individual could repeat the work. The selection of the observational or experimental participants (patients or laboratory animals, including controls) should be stated clearly, including eligibility and exclusion criteria and a description of the source population. Next, the period of research and the institution where it was conducted should be clearly mentioned. Papers covering research on human or animal subjects should contain a statement indicating patient permission and clearance by the institute research or ethics committee or animal experimentation committee.

The methods, apparatus (include the manufacturer's name and address in parentheses), and procedures should be given in sufficient detail to allow reproduction of the results. Give references to

established methods, including statistical methods; provide references and brief descriptions for methods that have been published but are not well known; describe new or substantially modified methods, give reasons for using them, and evaluate their limitations. Identify precisely all drugs and chemicals used, including generic name(s), dose(s), and route(s) of administration.

The Methods section should not exceed 1,000 words of text. The Methods section cannot contain figures or tables.

**3. Results.** In this section author should describe the main findings in the text as well as the particular statistical significance of the data, and refer the reader to the tables and figures, implying that details are shown there. Information on significance and other statistical data should preferably be given in the tables and figures. Do not combine the *Results* and *Discussion* sections for full-length papers.

**4. Discussion.** This section should not repeat results. The discussion section should discuss study findings, and interpret them in the context of other trials reported in the literature providing evidence or counterevidence. In this way the validity of the results and the significance of the conclusions for the application in further research are assessed, with respect to the hypothesis, relevance of methods, and significance of differences observed.

**5. References.** Each reference should be numbered, ordered sequentially as they appear in the text, methods, tables, figure, and legends. When cited in the text, reference numbers are in brackets [].

The maximum number of references is 50 for Articles and 30 for brief communications. Only one publication can be listed for each number.

Only articles that have been published or submitted to a named publication should be in the reference list; papers in preparation should be mentioned in the text with a list of authors (or initials if any of the authors are co-authors of the present contribution).

Published conference abstracts, numbered patents and preprints on recognized servers may be included in reference lists, but text, grant details and acknowledgements may not. All authors should be included in reference lists unless there are more than five, in which case only the first three authors should be given followed by '*et al.*' For example:

*Citing article in journal:*

1. Van der Slik AR, Koeleman BPC, Verduijn W, Bruining GJ, Roep BO, Giphart MJ. KIR in type 1 diabetes: disparate distribution of activating and inhibitory natural killer cell receptors in patients versus HLA-matched control subjects. *Diabetes*. 2003;52:2639–42.

2. Sharp AJ, Hansen S, Selzer RR, et al. Discovery of previously unidentified genomic disorders from the duplication architecture of the human genome. *Nat Genet.* 2006;38:1038-42.

#### *Citing a book:*

McEvoy GK, ed. *AHFS: Drug Information.* Bethesda, MD: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists; 2007:1125-1126.

#### *Chapter in book:*

Wallace RJ Jr, Griffith DE. Antimycobacterial agents. In: Kasper DL, Fauci AS, Longo DL, Braunwald E, Hauser SL, Jameson JL, eds. *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine.* 16th ed. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill; 2005:946.

#### *Online Journals (journal article) on Internet:*

Seal A, Kerac M. Operational implications of using 2006 World Health Organization growth standards in nutrition programmes: secondary data analysis. *BMJ.* 2007;334:733. <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/334/7596/733>. Accessed April 12, 2007.

#### *General Internet:*

FDA/CEDR resources page. Food and Drug Administration Web site. <http://www.fda.gov/cder/approval/index.htm>. Accessed April 7, 2007.

*Note:* the basic format for Web sites is: **Author(s)**, if any; **title** of the specific item cited, if any; **name** of the Web site; **URL**; **published and/or update**, if any; **accessed date**.

**Supplementary Information** is linked to the online version of the paper at [www.mjms.ukim.edu.mk](http://www.mjms.ukim.edu.mk).

If authors have included a **schematic** summarizing the main result of the paper as Supplementary Information, a sentence should follow along the lines of "A figure summarizing the main result of this paper is also included as SI".

#### *Writing Style*

1. Articles should be written in English (spellings as in the Oxford English Dictionary), double spaced, using left alignment, a no proportional font, and 12-pt. type. Include the title of the paper, an abstract of no more than 200 words, and 3 to 5 keywords. Cyrillic names should be transliterated (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query/static/Transliteration.doc>), for Macedonian transliteration see: [http://www.mjms.mk/MJMS\\_Transliteration.htm](http://www.mjms.mk/MJMS_Transliteration.htm).

2. Set all margins to 2,54 cm.

3. Format for A4 paper.

4. Please type all copy upper and lower case—do not use all capitals or small capitals.

5. Place all figures and tables in a separate file. Indicate the location of tables and figures in text in boldface, enclosed in angle brackets, on a separate line.

Example: **<Fig. 1 here>**

6. Please use your tab key and centering functions to do head alignment, paragraph indents, etc. **DO NOT USE THE SPACE BAR.**

7. Use endnotes as sparingly as possible. Number them with Arabic numerals starting with 1 and continuing through the article; for example:

"(See Note 1)." Do not use footnotes.

#### *Artwork*

Figures must be provided as production-ready. Do not use rules or tick marks smaller than 1 point in size. Acceptable electronic formats for figures or other art are: TIFF, EPS, Word, or Excel. If you have trouble loading Excel files, copy and paste them into a Word document. Scans must be at least 300 dpi. Scans done at lower resolutions will have a very poor print quality even if they look crisp and clear on a laser printout.

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#### **Acceptance Criteria and Conditions of Publication**

Authors are encouraged to write in a manner that is maximally communicative, interesting, and informative. Manuscripts should be submitted solely to *MJMS* and should not be considered for publication elsewhere, nor should they have been previously published. Consideration for publication can be given to material that has previously had limited circulation elsewhere. If an article has appeared previously in any form, authors must clearly indicate this in their cover letter. Include copies of potentially duplicative material that has been previously published and provide links to duplicative material on the Internet.

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Editors and reviewers have no access to author payment information, and hence inability to pay will not influence the decision to publish a paper. After the article acceptance the authors are obliged to make a publication fee of 200 Euros (BEN) to *MJMS* Editorial office. Once the receipt has been received the article will be published in the *MJMS*. Macedonian citizens should pay in MKD Denars equivalent to 200 EUR.

There will be a charge for publication of color Figures. Unless a special arrangement is made in advance, submitted materials will not be returned to authors. The editors and publisher reserve the right to reject illustrations or figures based upon poor quality of submitted materials.

## Manuscript Types

**MJMS** publishes five types of full-length (15–30 double-spaced pages) manuscripts: (a) original research reports; (b) reviews and (c) Master of Science thesis and PhD thesis abstracts, and (d) case reports. The journal also publishes two types of short (2–10 double-spaced pages) manuscripts: (e) brief communications, and (f) book reviews.

**Original research reports** describe investigations related to an aspect of specific medical entity. They typically include randomized trials, intervention studies, cohort studies, case-control studies, epidemiologic assessments, other observational studies, cost-effectiveness analyses and decision analyses, and studies of screening and diagnostic tests. Each manuscript should clearly state an objective or hypothesis; the design and methods (including the study setting and dates, patients or participants with inclusion and exclusion criteria and/or participation or response rates, or data sources, and how these were selected for the study); the essential features of any interventions; the main outcome measures; the main results of the study; a comment section placing the results in context with the published literature and addressing study limitations; and the conclusions. Criteria include relevance of research question, quality of design, sound implementation procedures, thorough outcome analysis of research findings, and implications for practice and policy.

**Master of Science theses and PhD theses abstracts** defended at the Faculty of Medicine, University “Ss Kiril and Metodij”, Skopje, Republic of Macedonia. English summaries are published as they are translated by authors and included in the final version of defended MSc and PhD theses. These are deposited in the Central Medical Library and National and University Library “St. Kliment Ohridski” in Skopje. Editorial Board do not take any responsibility either for the content, nor the quality of the abstracts. Abstracts should include a section stating the first and second name, title, institution, year, place, structured abstract, date of defence and the mentor of the thesis. The Master of Science thesis and the PhD theses abstracts are published only after the public defense has been successfully accomplished.

**Invited Articles and Reviews** are usually solicited by the editors, but we will consider unsolicited material also. Please contact the editorial office before writing a review article for the *MJMS* in order to use the preferred review format. All review articles undergo the same peer-review and editorial process as original research reports. They should be 2000-2500 words (excluding text in boxes, figures and the references) that provide a clear, up to date account of the topic aimed mainly at non specialist hospital doctors, general practitioners, and candidates for postgraduate examinations—from all over the world. Consequently, they may include material that might be considered too introductory for specialists in the field being covered.

The review should include a broad update of recent developments (from the past 5-6 years) and their likely clinical applications in primary and secondary care. It should stimulate readers to read further and should indicate other sources of information, including web based information. The article should also try to highlight the bridge between primary and secondary care and offer specific information on what general practitioners should know about certain disease or condition.

**Case reports** should be drawn from an actual patient encounter, rather than a composite or fictionalized description. It may be either interventional or observational. Interventional case reports are reports of one (or two) cases in which the outcome of an intervention is described. Observational case reports are reports of one (or two) cases in which the natural history, testing or clinic pathologic correlation is the main theme. Case reports should include: background, brief literature review, case description, learning objectives, key concepts, discussion/conclusion and references.

A **Brief Communication** report is a concise study of high quality and broad interest. This format may not exceed 4 printed pages. Brief Communications begin with a brief unreferenced abstract (3 sentences, with no more than 70 words), which will appear on Medline. The title is limited to 10 words (or 90 characters). The main text is 1,000 words maximum plus references and figure legends, and contains no headings. Brief Communications normally have no more than 2 display items. References are limited to 15. They may be accompanied by supplementary information. Brief Communications are also peer reviewed.

**Book Notes** (2–4 pages) offers reviews of current books and other publications of interest to individuals involved in medicine. Only reviews of recently published books will be considered. Book reviews are solicited by invitation; however, persons interested in doing a review may contact the editors. The book notes form could be accessed at *MJMS*.

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