

The *International Journal of Medical Students* is a peer-reviewed open-access scientific journal, created to give a voice to the thousands of medical students worldwide, who actively participate in research and who contribute with their actions to the development of better science and medical progress.

The *International Journal of Medical Students* follow the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals, issued by the International Committee for Medical Journal Editors, and the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) code of conduct for editors.

How to submit the manuscripts?

The *International Journal of Medical Students* will only accept manuscripts submitted through our electronic submission system, in concordance with the Open Journal System[®], previous registration and login at:

www.ijms.info/index.php/ijms/author/submit.

All submissions should include:

A. In Microsoft Word (.doc) format

1. The manuscript without tables and images.
2. The tables, if any.

B. In Tagged Image File Format (.tiff)

3. The images (max. 30 Mb), if any.

C. In Portable Document Format (.pdf)

4. The cover letter.
5. Authors' contributions statement.
6. Conflict of interest statement.

For more information regarding the submission process, please refer to the *Submission Walkthrough* available at:

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Article types.

Five types of manuscripts may be submitted, 1) *Original Articles*; 2) *Short Communications*; 3) *Case reports*; 4) *Reviews* and 5) *Special Section*, including *Letters*, *Experiences* and *Interviews*.

Authors should prepare its manuscript only using the Articles Template, available at: www.ijms.info/external/files/templates.

Original articles

The *International Journal of Medical Students* prioritizes manuscripts of original research in which there was active participation of medical students. This includes papers of clinical and basic science research. All portions of the manuscript must be typed double-spaced, and all pages numbered; one (1) being the title page. The document should be about 3000 words with around 30 references.

The Title should be a brief phrase describing the contents of the paper. The Title Page should include the authors' full names and affiliations, the name of the corresponding author including phone, fax, postal and email addresses of authors.

The Abstract should be structured into four paragraphs (Background, Methods, Results, Conclusion), not exceeding 250 words. It must be written in complete sentences, using past tense, active verbs, and third person. Abbreviations should be avoided. No literature should be cited in this section. Following the abstract, provide 3 to 10 keywords for indexing purposes.

Introduction

The Introduction should provide a clear statement of the problem, the relevant literature on the subject, and the proposed approach or solution.

Materials or Patients and Methods

Include the design of the study, the setting, the type of participants or materials involved as well as a description of all interventions and comparisons. The authors should also provide a description of the type of statistical analysis used, including a power calculation when appropriate. Well-established methodologies should simply be mentioned and referenced. For new methods, the protocols should be included. The authors should provide enough detail to enable reproduction of the findings. The *International Journal of Medical Students* encourages the submission of separate supporting information files, all appendices, detailed protocols, or details of the algorithms pertaining to new protocols or less well-established methods.

These are published as online appendices but will be linked to the main article in a fully searchable format. Generic drug names should generally be used and in cases where proprietary brands have been used, the brand names must be included in parenthesis. Where available, the accession numbers of any nucleic acid sequences and protein sequences cited in the manuscript and the corresponding database name should be provided.

Results

The results should be presented with clarity and precision. The results should be written in the past tense. Previously published findings should be written in the present tense. Results should be explained, but largely without referring to the literature. Discussion, speculation and detailed interpretation of data should not be included in the Results but should be put into the Discussion section.

Discussion

The discussion should interpret the findings in view of the results obtained in this and in past studies on this topic. State the conclusions in a few sentences at the end of the paper.

Acknowledgments

The acknowledgments of people, grants, funds and so forth, should be brief and should provide information on the participation.

Tables

The tables should be kept to a minimum and be designed to be as simple as possible. Tables are to be typed double-spaced throughout, including headings and footnotes. Each table should

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be on a separate page, numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals and supplied with a heading and a legend. Tables should be self-explanatory without reference to the text. The details of the methods used in the experiments should preferably be described in the legend instead of in the text. The same data should not be presented in both table and graph form or repeated in the text.

Figure legends

The figure legends should be typed in numerical order on a separate sheet. Graphics should be prepared using Microsoft Excel and Tables should be prepared in Microsoft Word. Begin each legend with a title and include sufficient description so that the figure is understandable without reading the text of the manuscript. Information given in legends should not be repeated in the text.

References

In References, only published articles or accepted manuscripts (in press) should be included in this list. Conference abstracts and articles which have been submitted but not yet accepted for publication and personal communications should not be cited in the reference list. Simple website addresses (e.g. an online biological resource such as *Entrez*) should be included in the text.

The *International Journal of Medical Students* uses the numbered citation method. If using a reference manager software, please select references as *New England Journal of Medicine* style—www.nejm.org.

We strongly recommend the use of such softwares (e.g. EndNote, Reference Manager, etc). The references must be listed and numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the text followed by those appearing in figures and tables. Citations should be indicated by their unique reference number in square brackets in the text. Where there are multiple citations within a single set of brackets these should be separated by commas. If there are three or more sequential citations, the numbers should be given as a range. Example: "...previously described above [1,4,6-8,26]."

Authors are encouraged to keep the number of references limited to those that are important for the understanding of the manuscript and of scientific relevance.

Short Communications

Short Communications should present a complete study that is more limited in scope than is found in full-length papers. They are limited to a maximum of two figures and one table.

The items of manuscript preparation listed above apply to Short Communications with the following differences: (1) Abstracts are limited to 100 words; (2) instead of a separate Materials and Methods section, experimental procedures may be incorporated into Figure, Legends and Table footnotes; (3) Results and Discussion should be combined into a single section.

Case report

Case reports are intended to inform, entertain, and inspire. Present a diagnostic conundrum, and explain how you solved it. Tell us about the presentation, history, examination,

investigations, management, and outcome. In your discussion, educate the reader.

Case reports should enlighten readers about a condition or presentation that they find interesting. Rarity and overspecialization are not necessary.

Use no more than 600 words and 5 references. Explanatory and graphic pictures (up to a maximum of two) can be helpful. Consent for publication electronically must be obtained from the patient or, if this is not possible, the next of kin. This form is available at www.ijms.info/external/files/consent-form.pdf.

Reviews

Submissions of reviews and perspectives covering topics of current interest are welcome and encouraged. Reviews are disease-oriented clinically focused overviews for medical students. The suggested outline includes epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, management and prevention.

Most Reviews are commissioned, but unsolicited one-page outlines directed to the *Editor-in-Chief* of the *International Journal of Medical Students* (editor.in.chief@ijms.info), are welcome. If you have already written the paper, please submit it for consideration via e-mail. Complete transparency about the choice of material included is important to any Review paper. Therefore, all Reviews should include a brief section entitled "Search strategy and selection criteria" stating the sources (including databases, MeSH and free text search terms and filters, and reference lists from journals or books) of the material covered, and the criteria used to include or exclude studies. Citations to papers published in non-peer-reviewed supplements are discouraged. Reviews should be no more than 4500 words, with a maximum of 100 references, and a 150-word unstructured summary. These papers should include up to five illustrations to aid the reader. Reviews are also peer-reviewed.

Special sections

This section will include Letters, Experiences, Interviews and other type of publications. We welcome correspondence on content published in the *International Journal of Medical Students* or on other topics of interest to our readers. Letters of general interest, unlinked to items published in the journal, can be up to 400 words long.

Correspondence letters are not usually peer reviewed (we rarely publish original research or Case Reports in this section), but the journal might invite replies from the authors of the original publication, or pass on letters to these authors. Only one table or figure is permitted, and there should be no more than five references and five authors. All accepted letters are edited, and proofs will be sent out to authors before publication.

In experiences, medical students can send their medical experiences in the areas of academic, social outreach, student exchanges, research and others.

Interviews and others sections will be called for by the *International Journal of Medical Students* Editorial Committee. This section will also include short communications from our sponsors about their national or international meetings and outcomes.

Review process.

The *International Journal of Medical Students* aims to provide all authors with an efficient, unbiased, fair and consistent editorial process. Submitted manuscripts will be assigned to a member of the editorial team. The Editor will assess the manuscript to determine whether it is within the scope of the journal, the quality of the data presented and the standard of presentation before sending it for peer review.

Authors are encouraged to provide the contact details (including e-mail addresses) and area of expertise of a maximum of three potential peer reviewers. These suggested reviewers should be experts in the field of study relevant to the manuscript and should not be members of the same research or academic institution as the authors. Author suggested reviewers will be considered alongside other potential reviewers identified by their publication record or recommended by Editorial Board members. However, the final decision on the choice of reviewers rests with the *Editorial Board* without any obligation to contact any of the author recommended peer reviewers.

Manuscripts will be sent to three reviewers who will independently be asked to assess if the manuscript is technically and scientifically sound and coherent. The final editorial decision is made based on the recommendations of the peer reviewers provided these observations are in accord without any strong dissenting opinions. Once all reviews have been received and considered by the editors, a final decision is made and a letter drafted to the corresponding author.

The review process takes four weeks on average and the decision is notified by email.

Possible final decisions include:

- Acceptance without revision
- Acceptance subject to minor revision
- Resubmission for review after major revision
- Declined

Where there are issues with the standard of presentation or clarity of language, the authors will be informed accordingly and provided with suggestions or assistance for rectification. Further style and language corrections can be requested by the editorial team during the final publication process.

Conflict of interest

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Financial relationships are easily identifiable, but conflicts can also occur because of personal relationships, academic competition, or intellectual passion.

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