

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 brief communications (of up to 1000 words), letters to the editor and case reports. Papers are accepted on the understanding that they are original. Papers are subjected to peer-review. Editorials, symposia, review and update articles are published by invitation. All manuscripts, including solicited materials, are subject to editorial revision.

MANUSCRIPTS and enquiries should be sent to The Editor, The Malaysian Journal of Pathology, Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur. Manuscripts should be submitted in duplicate and conform to the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals" established by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors,¹ which are summarized below:

PREPARATION OF MANUSCRIPT

Type or print out on white paper, preferably of A4 (30 X 21 cm) size, with margins of at least 25 mm (1 inch). Type only on one side of the paper. Use double spacing throughout. Number pages consecutively, beginning with the title page.

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 (count letters and spaces).

Authorship

All persons designated as authors should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for the content. Any part of an article critical to its main conclusions must be the responsibility of at least one author. The Editor may require authors to justify the assignment of authorship.

ABSTRACT AND KEY WORDS

The second page should carry an abstract of no 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.

Below the abstract, provide 3-10 key words or short phrases that will assist in cross-indexing your article. Use terms from the medical subject headings (MeSH) list of Index Medicus as far as possible.

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 summarize 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 1983. 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 summarize only important observations.

Discussion

Emphasize 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.

Acknowledgments

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) acknowledgments of technical help; (c) acknowledgments 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 to papers accepted but not yet published should be designated as "in press." Avoid using abstracts as references. Avoid citing a "personal communication" unless it provides essential information not available from a public source, in which case the name of the person and date of communication should be cited in parentheses in the text.

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. For further examples, please refer to the special report on "Uniform Requirements" in Volume 19, 1997 of *The Journal*²:

Articles in journals

(1) Standard journal article

(List the first six authors followed by "et al" if the number exceeds 6.)

Vega KJ, Pina I, Krevsky B. Heart transplantation is associated with an increased risk for

pancreatobiliary disease. *Ann Intern Med* 1996; 124: 980-3.

(2) *Organization as author*

The Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand. Clinical exercise stress testing. Safety and performance guidelines. *Med J Aust* 1996;164:282-4.

(3) *No author given*

Cancer in South Africa [editorial]. *S Afr Med J* 1994;84:15.

(4) *Article not in English*

Ryder TE, Haukeland EA, Solhaug JH. Bilateral infrapatellar seneruptur hos tidligere frisk kvinne. *Tidsskr Nor Laegeforen* 1996;116:41-2.

(5) *Volume with supplement*

Shen HM, Zhang QF. Risk assessment of nickel carcinogenicity and occupational lung cancer. *Environ Health Perspect* 1994;102 Suppl 1:275-82.

(6) *Issue with supplement*

Payne DK, Sullivan MD, Massie MJ. Women's psychological reactions to breast cancer. *Semin Oncol* 1996;23(1 Suppl 2):89-97.

(7) *No issue or volume*

Browell DA, Lennard TW. Immunologic status of the cancer patient and the effects of blood transfusion on antitumor responses. *Curr Opin Gen Surg* 1993:325-33.

(8) *Pagination in Roman numerals*

Fisher GA, Sikic BI. Drug resistance in clinical oncology and hematology. Introduction. *Hematol Oncol Clin North Am* 1995 Apr;9(2):xi-xii.

(9) *Type of article indicated as needed.*

Enzensberger W, Fischer PA. Metronome in Parkinson's disease [letter]. *Lancet* 1996;347:1337.

Clement J, De Bock R. Hematological complications of hantavirus nephropathy (HVN) [abstract]. *Kidney Int* 1992;42:1285.

Books and other monographs

(10) *Personal author(s)*

Ringsven MK, Bond D. Gerontology and leadership skills for nurses. 2nd ed. Albany (NY): Delmar Publishers, 1996.

(11) *Editor(s), compiler(s) as author*

Norman IJ, Redfern SJ, editors. Mental health care for elderly people. New York: Churchill Livingstone; 1996.

(12) *Organization as author and publisher*

Institute of Medicine (US). Looking at the future of the Medicaid program. Washington: The Institute; 1992.

(13) *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.

(14) *Conference proceedings*

Kimura J, Shibasaki H, editors. Recent advances in clinical neurophysiology. Proceedings of the 10th International Congress of EMG and Clinical Neurophysiology; 1995 Oct 15-19; Kyoto, Japan. Amsterdam: Elsevier; 1996.

(15) *Conference paper*

Bengtsson S, Solheim BG. Enforcement of data protection, privacy and security in medical informatics. In: Lun KC, Degoulet P, Piemme TE, Rienhoff O, editors. MEDINFO 92. Proceedings of the 7th World Congress on Medical Informatics; 1992 Sep 6-10; Geneva, Switzerland. Amsterdam: North-Holland; 1992. p. 1561-5.

(16) *Scientific or technical report*

Smith P, Golladay K. Payment for durable medical equipment billed during skilled nursing facility stays. Final report. Dallas (TX): Dept. of Health and Human Services (US), Office of Evaluation and Inspections; 1994 Oct. Report No.: HHSIGOEI69200860.

(17) *Dissertation or thesis*

Kaplan SJ. Post-hospital home health care: the elderly's access and utilization [dissertation]. St. Louis (MO): Washington Univ.; 1995.

(18) *Newspaper article*

Lee G. Hospitalizations tied to ozone pollution: study estimates 50,000 admissions annually. The Washington Post 1996 Jun 21;Sect. A:3 (col. 5).

Unpublished material

(19) Leshner AI. Molecular mechanisms of cocaine addiction. N Engl J Med. In press 1996.

Electronic material

(20) Morse SS. Factors in the emergence of infectious diseases. Emerg Infect Dis [serial online] 1995 Jan-Mar cited 1996 Jun 5];1(1):[24 screens]. Available from: URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/eid.htm>

TABLES

Type or print each table with double spacing on a separate sheet. Number consecutively in the order of their first citation in the text. Supply a brief title for table. Give each column a short or abbreviated heading. Place explanatory matter in footnotes. Explain in footnotes all non-standard abbreviations and symbols used. Identify statistical measures of variations such as standard deviations and standard error of the mean. Do not use internal horizontal and vertical rules. If you use data from another published or unpublished source, obtain permission and acknowledge fully.

ILLUSTRATIONS (FIGURES)

Submit 2 complete sets of figures. Figures should be professionally drawn and photographed. Cite each figures in the text in consecutive order. Each figure should have a label pasted on its back indicating the number of the figure, first author's name, and top of the figure. Do not bend or fold figures.

Photomicrographs should have internal scale markers, otherwise the magnification must be indicated in the legend. Symbols, arrows, or letters used in photographs should contrast with the background.

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. Permission is required irrespective of authorship or publisher, except for documents in the public domain.

Figures are normally printed in black and white. Colour illustrations will be published only if the author pays for the extra cost.

LEGENDS FOR FIGURES

Type or print legends double-spaced, on a separate page, with Arabic numerals corresponding to the figures. When symbols, arrows, numbers, or letters are used to identify parts of the illustrations, identify and explain each one clearly in the legend. Explain any internal scale and identify the method of staining in photomicrographs.

UNITS OF MEASUREMENT

Measurements of length, height, weight, and volume should be in metric units (metre, kilogram, or litre) or their decimal multiples. Temperatures should be in degrees Celsius. Blood pressures should be given in millimetres of mercury. All haematological and clinical chemistry measurements should be in metric measurements or International System of Units (SI). The Editor may request that alternative or non-SI units be added by the authors before publication.

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.

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Send 2 copies of the manuscript in a heavy-paper envelope, enclosing in cardboard, if necessary, to prevent figures being bent. Place figures in a separate heavy-paper envelope.

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The manuscript must be accompanied by copies of any permission to reproduce published material, to use illustrations or report information about identifiable people, or to name persons for their contributions.

REPRINTS, in excess of 25 free copies may be obtained at nominal rates if ordered either at the time of submitting the manuscript or when returning galley proofs.

REFERENCES

1. International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. *N Engl J Med* 1997; 336: 309-15.
2. Special report: Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals, and additional statements, 1997. *Malays J Pathol* 1997; 19: 141-54.