

Guidelines for Authors

Submitting a manuscript

Manuscripts should be written in English and in accordance with the ICMJE Recommendations: <http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/>. Submission of a manuscript implies that the manuscript has not been previously published or under consideration for publication anywhere else. Submitted manuscripts will be screened for plagiarism. The manuscript, together with a cover letter, affirmation of authorship form and copyright transfer agreement, should be sent as an attachment by e-mail to the following address: unij2b@unicath.hr

Authorship

Everyone designated as an author should meet all four of the criteria for authorship recommended below, and those who meet these criteria should be identified as authors. The ICMJE recommends that authorship be based on the following 4 criteria:

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis or interpretation of data for the work;
- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content;
- Final approval of the version to be published;
- Agreement to be held accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

(<http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html>)

Article types

Manuscripts submitted to the UniCath Journal of Biomedicine and Bioethics should fall into one of the following categories: **Original Research Articles, Reviews, Professional Papers, Case Reports, or Letters to the Editor**. While the journal does not impose strict word limits, authors are encouraged to present their research clearly and concisely, following these guidelines:

- Original Research Articles: no longer than 4,000 words including the abstract, text and references (except qualitative studies and systematic reviews, which may be longer);
- Reviews: no longer than 4,500 words including the abstract, text and references;
- Professional Papers: no longer than 2,500 words including the abstract, text and references;
- Case Reports: no longer than 2,000 words including the abstract, text and references;

- Letters to the Editor: no longer than 1,000 words including, the text and references

Preparation of the manuscript

All authors submitting manuscripts to the UniCath Journal of Biomedicine and Bioethics should conform to the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals prepared by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). The manuscript should be submitted as an editable Word document in a 12-point, double-spaced Book Antiqua font. All the pages should be numbered consecutively, starting with the title page, including the tables and figures. A manuscript submitted as original research should be assembled in the following sequence:

- Title and Authorship (single page)
- Abstract and Keywords (single page)
- Introduction
- Materials and Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusion
- Acknowledgments
- Declarations
- References
- Tables (one table per page)
- Figures (one figure per page)

There are no strict formatting requirements for other forms of manuscripts, but they all must contain the essential elements needed to evaluate them: abstract, author affiliation, figures, tables, funder information, and references. Further details may be requested upon acceptance.

The criteria for the acceptance of papers are originality, quality of work and clarity of style.

We highly recommend checking and/or supplementing manuscripts for submission according to the EQUATOR Network reporting guidelines (<https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/>),

All papers will be reviewed by at least two experts. The purpose of peer review is to provide the editor with the information needed to reach a fair, evidence-based decision that adheres to the journal's editorial criteria and to improve the quality of the manuscripts under review. The UniCath Journal of Biomedicine and Bioethics strives to ensure fair, unbiased and prompt peer review. Decisions to accept or reject the manuscript for publication are based on a manuscript's importance, originality, clarity, a study's validity and its relevance to the remit of the journal. The editorial board will make the final decision about the acceptance of a manuscript.

Title Page

The title of an article should be clear, concise and accurately reflect the content. The study design should be indicated in the title or the abstract. Acronyms and/or abbreviations should be avoided. The name of each author should be listed and followed by a superscript corresponding to a superscript before the author's institutional affiliation, e-mail address and Open Researcher and Contributor Identification (ORCID). Provide the full name, affiliation, mailing address and e-mail address of the corresponding author.

This author shall be responsible for communicating with the journal during the review process and after publication.

Abstract and Keywords

Abstract: Provide a structured abstract of 200 to 350 words, although in the case of a review, a structured abstract is not necessary. Minimize the use of abbreviations and do not cite references in the abstract. Reports of randomized controlled trials should follow the CONSORT extension for abstracts. An abstract should include the following subtitles:

Background: the context and purpose of the study

Aim: the main objective of the study.

Methods: how the study was conducted and which statistical tests were used. In this section, state the type of study design, place of study, relevant dates (including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up and data collection), sample (participants), measured variables and study tools.

Results: the main findings (the main results of the study).

Conclusions: the conclusions (without repeating the results!) and potential implications.

Title Registration (if you have registered the study protocol): information about the registration of the study protocol—registry and registration number (e.g., ClinicalTrials.gov and NCT number, link to OSF registration)

Keywords: list of three to six keywords that accurately reflect the content of your article. Terms from the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) list of Index Medicus should be used for keywords. MeSH on Demand is a tool that can automatically identify relevant MeSH terms from a text.

Introduction

Start by clearly stating the purpose of your study or research question. This will help to orient the reader and provide context for the rest of the article. Provide a brief overview of the background literature that is relevant to your study. This will help situate your research within the broader

context of the field and identify any gaps in current knowledge. State the objectives or hypotheses of your study clearly. This will help guide the reader and provide a clear focus for the rest of the article.

Materials and Methods

Provide enough detail to allow others to replicate the study.

It is desirable (where applicable) for this part to include the following subheadings: Study Design, Ethics, Participants, Data Collection and Study Tool, Statistical Analysis and Other (optional, depending on the study design).

Start by providing a brief overview of the study design, including the research question, hypothesis or objective.

Issue a statement that the study has obtained ethics approval, including the name of the ethics committee(s), the official number of the document, as well as a statement that the participants had given their prior informed consent. If ethics approval was not required, this must be stated and explained.

Describe the study population or subjects, including any inclusion or exclusion criteria, recruitment methods and demographics.

Provide a detailed description of the data collection process, including the procedures and instruments used to measure or collect data. Include any relevant details, such as sample size, duration of the study and any measurements taken.

Describe the statistical methods used to analyse the data, including any software or packages. Include any relevant details, such as the level of significance, assumptions and tests.

Results

The presentation and interpretation of the results should be clear and concise.

When reporting summary statistics in medical research, it is generally recommended to use two to three significant digits for effect sizes.

For measures of variability (e.g., standard deviation, confidence intervals) and measures of central tendency (e.g., mean, median, mode) use one to two significant digits.

For percentages, aim for two significant digits across the range:

- Use whole numbers if the range is 10% or more,
- Use one decimal place if the range is between 1% and 10%,
- Use two decimal places if the range is below 1%.

For test statistics (e.g., t-value) use up to one decimal place and up to two significant digits.

For p-value use up to one significant digit

Discussion

Begin by summarizing the main findings presented in the Results section. This will help to provide context for the rest of the discussion. Interpret the results in the context of the research question, hypothesis or objective. Discuss how the findings contribute to current knowledge in the field and any potential implications or applications. Compare the results to previous studies in the field, highlighting any similarities or differences. Discuss any potential reasons for discrepancies and any limitations of the study that may impact the interpretation of the results. Provide appropriate context for the findings and avoid overinterpreting the data or drawing conclusions that are not supported by the evidence.

Highlight any strengths and limitations of the study.

Conclusion

Provide a clear and concise conclusion that summarizes the main findings of the study, the interpretation thereof, and any potential implications or applications.

Declarations

In this section, the following declarations should be provided by the authors:

Acknowledgments: List all contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship. Acknowledge any support received (someone who provided purely technical help or a department chair who provided general support) or funding, which was not covered by the author's contribution.

Authors' Contributions: The authors' declared contributions to the article should be listed according to the authorship criteria developed by the ICMJE.

Ethics Considerations: This part contains a statement that the study has obtained ethics approval, including the name(s) of the ethics committee(s) and the official number of the document, as well as a statement that the participants had given prior informed consent. If ethics approval was not required, this must be stated. These statements should also be part of the Methods section.

Funding: State the details of all sources of funding for the study. If there was no funding, this must also be stated.

Competing Interests: State any possible conflict of interest.

Data Sharing Statement/Data Availability: The authors must provide a statement that the research data associated with their paper is available, as well as the conditions under which the data can

be accessed. Where applicable, a link should be added.

References

In Vancouver style, references are cited using numbers in parentheses within the text, with each number corresponding to a specific reference listed in the references at the end of the document. Reference style should follow the NLM standards summarized in the ICMJE Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals: [Samples of Formatted References for Authors of Journal Articles](#).

The manuscript should be submitted in accordance with the journal's guidelines.

All manuscripts should be submitted via e-mail: unij2b@unicath.hr

The corresponding author should provide the following information during the submission process, which should be part of the Title Page:

- (1) the title of the article
- (2) the authors' names (first, middle and last name), in the order in which they should appear
- (3) the institution (city and country) with which each author is affiliated, author and the ORCID number

The corresponding author shall then attach (1) the Cover Letter, (2) manuscript and (3) Affirmation of Authorship Form.

The editor-in-chief will review the manuscript to determine whether it meets the journal's standards for publication. If the manuscript is deemed to be of sufficient quality and relevance, it will be sent for peer review. Currently we use double-blinded peer review, where neither the authors' nor peer reviewers' identities are shared with each other. The manuscript will be sent to two or more independent experts in the field, who will review it and provide feedback to the editor. Based on the feedback received during the peer review process, the editor will decide whether to accept or reject the manuscript. If revisions are required, the editor may ask the author to make changes and resubmit the manuscript for further review. Once the manuscript has been accepted, it will be copy-edited, proofread, assigned to an issue and made available to readers.

Publication misconduct

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Our policy follows the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines and EASE recommendations regarding AI and AI-assisted technologies in manuscript preparation. Authors are fully responsible for their work, including

any content generated by AI, and must ensure compliance with ethical publishing standards. These guidelines will be updated as the field evolves.

AI as an Author

AI-generated tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini) do not meet authorship criteria because they cannot take responsibility for key aspects of research, such as study design, data analysis, interpretation, or writing. AI tools must not be listed as authors or co-authors, nor cited as an author. Authors remain fully accountable for all content.

Disclosing AI Use in Manuscripts

If AI tools were used in any part of the research process (e.g., methodology development, statistical analysis, content generation, coding, or data interpretation), this must be disclosed in both:

- 1) The cover letter to the editors.
- 2) The Methods or Acknowledgements section of the manuscript.

Figures, images, or graphics created using AI tools require explicit editorial approval before publication to avoid copyright and research integrity concerns. AI-generated images will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

AI in Peer Review

Reviewers must not upload manuscripts to AI tools, as this may compromise confidentiality and introduce bias or misinformation. If AI-assisted tools were used in any part of the review process, reviewers must disclose this in their peer review report, following the same rules as authors.

AI Use Statement in Scientific Writing

If AI tools were used in preparing a manuscript but are not covered in the Methods section, authors must include the following statement before the references:

"During the preparation of this work, the author(s) used [NAME TOOL/SERVICE] for [REASON/ACTION]. After using [NAME TOOL/SERVICE], the author(s) reviewed and edited the content and take full responsibility for its accuracy and integrity."

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