INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

The Formosan Journal of Musculoskeletal Disorders (FJMD) aims to publish high quality scientific research in the field of musculoskeletal system, with the goal of promoting and disseminating medical science knowledge to improve global health.

Articles on clinical, laboratory and social research in orthopedics and other related fields that are of interest to the medical profession are eligible for consideration. Review articles, original articles, case reports, short communications, technical notes, book reviews and letters to the editor are accepted. The journal is published quarterly, with a total of 4 issues a year.

The Editorial Board requires authors to be in compliance with the *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals* (URMs); current URMs are available at http://www.icmje. org

1. Manuscript Submission

The *FJMD* accepts submissions through email. If assistance is needed, the Editorial Office can be contacted for any help necessary.

Editorial Office

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Important information

- Articles submitted should be in Microsoft Word document format and prepared in the simplest form possible. We will add in the correct font, font size, margins and so on according to the joural's style.
- You may use automatic page numbering, but do NOT use other kinds of automatic formatting such as footnotes, endnotes, headers and footers.
- Put text, references, and table/figure legends in one file.
- Figures must be submitted as separate picture files, at the correct resolution of a minimum of 600 dpi. The files should be named according to the figure number and format, e.g. "Fig 1. tif", "Fig 2. jpg".

Please ensure that the following documents are included (refer also to the checklist that follows these author instructions):

- (1) A cover letter. It must include your name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address, and state that all authors have contributed to the paper and have never submitted the manuscript, in whole or in part, to other journals. Your signature and those of ALL your coauthors must be included.
- (2) A conflict of interest disclosure statement (see relevant section below).
- (3) A copyright transfer statement. You may use the form that follows these author instructions.
- (4) Articles covering the use of human samples in research and human experiments must be accompanied by a letter of approval from the relevant review committee (see relevant section below).
- (5) Articles covering the use of animals in experiments must be accompanied by a letter of approval from the relevant authorities.
- (6) Articles where individuals can be identified in descriptions, photographs or pedigrees must be accompanied by a signed statement of informed consent to publish (in print and online) the descriptions, photographs and pedigrees from each individual who can be identified (see relevant section below).
- (7) Where material has been reproduced from other copyrighted sources, the letter(s) of permission from the copyright holder(s) to use the copyrighted sources must be supplied.

2. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

All authors are required to sign and submit the following financial disclosure statement at the time of manuscript submission:

I certify that all my affiliations with or financial involvement in, within the past 5 years and foreseeable future, any organization or entity with a financial interest in or financial conflict with the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript are completely disclosed (e.g. employment, consultancies, honoraria, stock ownership or options, expert testimony, grants or patents received or pending, royalties).

Authors who have no relevant financial interests should provide a statement indicating that they have no financial interests related to the material in the manuscript.

3. Ethical Approval of Studies and Informed Consent

For human or animal experimental investigations, appropriate institutional review board or ethics committee approval is required, and such approval should be stated in the methods section of the manuscript. For those investigators who do not have formal ethics review committees, the principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki should be followed (World Medical Association. Declaration of Helsinki: ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects. Available at: http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html).

For investigation of human subjects, state explicitly in the methods section of the manuscript that informed consent was obtained from all participating adult subjects and from parents or legal guardians for minors or incapacitated adults, together with the manner in which informed consent was obtained (e.g., oral or written).

4. Identification of Patients in Descriptions, Photographs and Pedigrees

A signed statement of informed consent to publish (in print and online) patient descriptions, photographs and pedigrees should be obtained from all subjects (parents or legal guardians for minors) who can be identified (including by the subjects themselves) in such written descriptions, photographs or pedigrees. Such persons should be shown the manuscript before its submission. Omitting data or making data less specific to de-identify patients is acceptable, but changing any such data is not acceptable.

5. Previous Publication or Duplicate Submission

Submitted manuscripts are considered with the understanding that they have not been published previously in print or electronic format (except in abstract or poster form) and are not under consideration in totality or in part by another publication or electronic medium.

6. Basic Criteria

Articles should be written in English (using American English spelling) and meet the following basic criteria: the material is original, the information is important, the writing is clear and concise, the study methods are appropriate, the data are valid, and the conclusions are reasonable and supported by the data.

7. Categories of Articles

7.1. Review Articles

These should aim to provide the reader with a balanced overview of an important and topical subject in the field, and should be systematic and critical assessments of literature and data sources. They should cover aspects of a topic in which scientific consensus exists as well as aspects that remain controversial and are the subject of

ongoing scientific research. All articles and data sources reviewed should include information about the specific type of study or analysis, population, intervention, exposure, and tests or outcomes. All articles or data sources should be selected systematically for inclusion in the review and critically evaluated. Review articles are accepted by invitation only. The text should not exceed 4500 words. The format for review articles will be jointly decided by the Editors and the contributing author.

7.2. Original Articles

These articles typically include randomized trials, intervention studies, studies of screening and diagnostic tests, laboratory and animal studies, cohort studies, cost-effectiveness analyses, case-control studies, and surveys with high response rates, which represent new and significant contributions to the field.

Section headings should include Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgments (if applicable) and References.

The Introduction should provide a brief background to the subject of the paper, explain the importance of the study, and state a precise study question or purpose.

The Methods section should describe the study design (including the study setting and dates, patients/participants with inclusion and exclusion criteria, or data sources and how these were selected for the study), explain the laboratory methods followed, and state the statistical procedures employed in the research.

The Results section should comprise the study results presented in a logical sequence, supplemented by tables and/or figures. Take care that the text does not repeat data that are presented in tables and/or figures. Only emphasize and summarize the essential features of any interventions, the main outcome measures, and the main results.

The Discussion section should be used to emphasize the new and important aspects of the study, placing the results in context with published literature, the implications of the findings, and the conclusions that follow from the study results.

The text should not exceed 3500 words.

7.3. Case Reports

These are short discussions of a case or case series with unique features not previously described that make an important teaching point or scientific observation. They may describe novel techniques, novel use of equipment, or new information on diseases of importance. Section headings should be: Abstract, Introduction, Case Report, Discussion, Acknowledgments (if applicable) and References.

The Introduction should describe the purpose of the present report, the significance of the disease and its specificity, and briefly review the relevant literature.

The Case Report should include the general data of the case, medical history, family history, chief complaint, present illness, clinical manifestation, methods of diagnosis and treatment, and outcome.

The Discussion should compare, analyze and discuss the similarities and differences between the reported case and similar cases reported in other published articles. The importance or specificity of the case should be restated when discussing the differential diagnoses. Suggest the prognosis of the disease and possibility of prevention.

The text should not exceed 2000 words.

7.4. Letters to the Editor

Letters are welcome in response to previously published articles, and may also include interesting cases that do not meet the requirement of being truly exceptional, and other communications of general interest. Letters should have a title and include appropriate references (no more than 5 references), and include the author's mailing and email addresses. Letters are edited, sometimes extensively, to sharpen their focus. They may be sent for peer review, at the discretion of the

Editors. Letters are selected based on clarity, significance, and space. The text should not exceed 500 words.

7.5. Short Communications

These reports should be concise presentations of clinical or preliminary experimental results. The abstract should not exceed 150 words. The text should not exceed 1200 words, with no more than four figures or tables and no more than 10 references. The editors reserve the right to decide what constitutes a Short Communication.

7.6. Technical Notes

Technical notes are devoted to technical aspects of clinical or experimental practice that are not fully investigated, verified or perfected, but which may be of widespread application. The text should not exceed 2000 words. Submissions under this category will go through a short review and editing process.

7.7. Book Reviews

These are written by invited reviewers of newly published books in the field of orthopedics.

8. Manuscript Preparation

Text should be typed double-spaced on one side of white A4 (280 mm \times 210 mm) paper, with outer margins of 2.5 cm. A manuscript should include a title page, abstract, text, references, acknowledgments, and figures and tables as appropriate. Each section of the manuscript should begin on a new page. Pages should be numbered consecutively, beginning with the title page.

8.1. Title Page

The title page should contain the following information (in order, from the top to bottom of the page):

- category of paper
- article title
- names (spelled out in full) of all authors*, and the institutions with which they are affiliated
- corresponding author details (name, e-mail, mailing address, telephone and fax numbers)
- *The name of each author should be written with the family name last, e.g. Jing-Long Huang. Authorship is restricted only to direct participants who have contributed significantly to the work.

8.2. Abstracts

Abstracts should be no more than 300 words in length. Abstracts for Original Articles should be structured, with the section headings: Background/Introduction, Purpose(s)/Aim(s), Methods, Results, Conclusion. Abstracts for Case Reports are unstructured, but should include the significance and purpose of the case presentation, the diagnostic methods of the case, the key data, and brief comments and suggestions with regard to the case. For all article categories, 3–5 relevant key words should also be provided in alphabetical order.

8.3. Main Text

The text for Original Articles should be organized in sections as follows: Background/Introduction, Purpose(s)/Aim(s), Methods, Results and Discussion. Sections for Case Reports are: Introduction, Case Report, and Discussion. Each section should begin on a new page.

8.3.1. Abbreviations

Where a term/definition will be continually referred to, it must be written in full when it first appears in the text, followed by the subsequent abbreviation in parentheses. Thereafter, the abbreviation

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