

## INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

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GASTROENTEROLOGY publishes clinical and basic studies of all aspects of the digestive system, including the liver and pancreas, as well as nutrition. The types of articles GASTROENTEROLOGY publishes include original papers, review articles, case reports, and special category manuscripts. Manuscripts must be prepared in accordance with the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals" developed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (N Engl J Med 1991; 324:424-428).

GASTROENTEROLOGY has a total circulation of approximately 16,000—about 11,500 in the United States and 4500 in other countries. Forty-five percent of subscribers are AGA members. In the United States, about 75% of subscribers are physicians, and about 25% of subscriptions go to residents, medical schools, and libraries. More than half of the papers published originate overseas.

GASTROENTEROLOGY is abstracted and indexed in *Biological Abstracts*, *CABS*, *Chemical Abstracts*, *Current Contents*, *Excerpta Medica*, *Index Medicus*, *Nutrition Abstracts*, and *Science Citation Index*.

## Ethical and Legal Considerations

### Ethics

GASTROENTEROLOGY strongly discourages the submission of more than one article dealing with related aspects of the same study. In almost all cases, a single study is best reported in a single paper.

The journal editors consider research/publication misconduct to be a serious breach of ethics and will take action as necessary to address such misconduct, which includes submission or publication of information that:

- (1) Is intentionally erroneous,
- (2) Has been published elsewhere by a different author without acknowledgment (plagiarism),
- (3) Has been published elsewhere by the same author without acknowledgment (duplicate publication), or
- (4) Is subsequently published elsewhere by the same author without acknowledgment, attribution, or permission from the AGA, as holder of the copyright, to reprint or adapt the material.

Each author who submits a manuscript must complete GASTROENTEROLOGY's *Copyright Assignment, Authorship Responsibility, Financial Disclosure, and Institutional Review Board/Animal Care Committee Approval* form thereby affirming that:

- (1) None of the material in the manuscript is included in another manuscript, has been published previously, or is currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. This includes symposia proceedings, transactions, books, articles published by invitation, and preliminary publications of any kind except an abstract of less than 400 words. If there is any potential overlap with a manuscript previously published by the authors, the related manuscripts must be included for editorial evaluation.
- (2) Only people who contributed to the intellectual content, the analysis of data, and the writing of the manuscript are listed as authors and that all authors take public responsibility for the research results being reported.

- (3) Ethical guidelines were followed by the investigator in studies on humans or animals and described in the paper. The approval of the institutional review board of animal care committee must be cited in the Methods section of the text.

Breaches in these standards may result in proscribed submission for all authors of the concerned manuscript and, when appropriate, notification of the authors' institutions. All authors are fully responsible for the content of the manuscript.

The publication of abstracts is not considered duplicate publication but should be disclosed in the cover letter accompanying the manuscript submission.

### Conflict of Interest for Authors of Original Articles and Review Articles

Authors of original research articles and review articles should disclose at the time of submission any financial arrangement (e.g., consultancies, stock ownership, equity interests, patent-licensing arrangements, research support, major honoraria, etc.) they may have with a company whose product figures prominently in the submitted manuscript or with a company making a competing product (see Copyright Assignment, Authorship Responsibility, Financial Disclosure, and Institutional Review Board/Animal Care Committee Approval form). Interactions that occur within 2 years before the submission date of an article are pertinent.

Such information will be held in confidence while the paper is under review and will not influence the editorial decision, but if the article is accepted for publication, the editors will usually discuss with the authors the manner in which such information is to be communicated to the reader.

All funding sources supporting the work and all institutional or corporate affiliations must be acknowledged in a footnote.

### Sponsorship

GASTROENTEROLOGY conforms with the standards set forth by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) regarding the relationship between investigators and sponsors ([www.icmje.org/sponsor.htm](http://www.icmje.org/sponsor.htm)).

### Reviewers

Reviewers of research articles will be disqualified from reviewing if they:

- (1) have had an ongoing collaboration, original publications or grants with the authors within the previous 2 years, except in the case of being a part of a multicenter group from a different site; or
- (2) are from the same institution as the authors.

Reviewers should disclose at the time of submission any financial arrangement (e.g., consultancies, stock ownership, equity interests, patent-licensing arrangements, research support, major honoraria, etc.) they may have with a company whose product figures prominently in the submitted manuscript or with a company making a competing product. Interactions that occur within 2 years before the submission date of an article are pertinent.

## INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS (Continued)

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### Editorialists

Editorialists will be disqualified from writing an editorial if they:

- (1) have had an ongoing collaboration, original publications or grants with the authors within the previous 2 years, except in the case of being a part of a multicenter group from a different site; or
- (2) are from the same institution as the authors.

Editorialists should disclose at the time of submission any financial arrangement (e.g., consultancies, stock ownership, equity interests, patent-licensing arrangements, research support, major honoraria, etc.) they may have with a company whose product figures prominently in the submitted manuscript or with a company making a competing product. Interactions that occur within 2 years before the submission date of an article are pertinent. If the editorial is accepted for publication, the editors will usually discuss with the authors the manner in which such information is to be communicated to the reader.

### Authorship

Each author must have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for the content of the paper and must approve of the final version of the manuscript. Authorship should be based on substantive contributions to each of the following:

- (1) conception and design of the study;
- (2) generation, collection, assembly, analysis and/or interpretation of data;
- (3) drafting or revision of the manuscript;
- (4) approval of the final version of the manuscript.

### Categories of Manuscripts

#### Original Articles

Original Articles are full-length reports of original research and will be considered for either the Clinical Research section or the Basic Research section of the journal. Articles cover topics relevant to clinical and basic studies in these areas of interest. They may discuss nutrition, immunology, cell biology, molecular biology, morphology, physiology, pathophysiology, epidemiology, or therapy. Both adult and pediatric problems are included. To be published, the work presented in the manuscript must be original; on occasion, confirmatory studies of timely and important observations will also be acceptable. In addition, other considerations for evaluating the acceptability of a submitted manuscript include its importance, the soundness of the experimental design, the validity of the methods, the appropriateness of the conclusions, and the quality of presentation.

#### Special Reports and Reviews

Special Reports and Reviews are in-depth, comprehensive, state-of-the-art reviews of important clinical topics. Special Reports are solicited by the Editor. Reviews may

be invited by the Editor or they may be unsolicited viewpoints.

### Case Reports

Case Reports include case studies of 4 or fewer patients that describe a novel situation or add important insights into mechanisms or diagnosis or treatment of a disease.

### Rapid Communications

Papers representing concise and original studies of exceptional scientific importance will be considered as Rapid Communications upon the request of the author and approval of the Editor. For approval to submit the manuscript as a Rapid Communication, either follow the directions for electronic submission on the website (<http://www.gastro-central.org/>) or e-mail (gastro@gastro.org) the title page and abstract in advance of submission to the Editor with a cover letter requesting consideration as a Rapid Communication. A decision to approve the manuscript for review as a Rapid Communication or as an original article will be provided within 48 hours. Rapid Communications are basic science reports as well as clinical observations that point out new and important pathogenetic insights, diagnostic developments, or therapeutic advances. Limit of 15 double-spaced, typewritten pages, including tables, figures, and references (2 figures = 1 typed page). Reviewers are given 10 days to assess a Rapid Communication. However, please note that as an author, you will not receive a decision within 10 days; the review process from the date of submission to the final decision may take up to 20 days. Reviewers are asked to supply the Editorial Office with Comments to the Editor and an Accept, Accept with Revision, or Reject decision for the manuscript. The manuscript will be allowed to undergo one editorial revision by the authors. If accepted, the paper will be given priority for publication in the next available issue of the Journal. (If a Rapid Communication is not accepted, it may only be resubmitted as a new original article.)

### Microarrays and Other New Technologies

Microarrays and Other New Technologies will consist of a structured abstract, an introduction explaining the importance of gene expression in a particular biological system, the results (which will contain an Internet link to the microarray data set in a standard format), some analysis, and a brief discussion to put the results in context. The entire article will be a maximum of 2,000 words. The manuscripts will undergo peer review that will include interest in the data set and technical soundness.

### Meeting Reports

Meeting Reports are brief synopses of scientific meetings of potential interest to readers. No more than 3 journal pages must be submitted within 8 weeks of the meeting. Author should write or fax a letter to the Editor soliciting

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