

Frontiers of Medicine

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

General Information

Frontiers of Medicine is an international general medical journal sponsored by the Ministry of Education of China. The journal is jointly published by the Higher Education Press and Springer. Online versions are available through both <http://www.springerlink.com> and <http://journal.hep.com.cn>.

Aims and Scope

As a peer-reviewed general medical journal, the *Frontiers of Medicine* is determined to play its role in accelerating the pace by showing the facts in medicine and sharing experience in disease control and treatment. *Frontiers of Medicine* reports the advances in evidence-based medicine and news from the front of war against diseases. Clinical therapeutics and public health interventions with novelty will be demonstrated, and excellent research articles, particularly those with cross-disciplinary approach, will be published. In addition, *Frontiers of Medicine* bears a global vision through which it cares medicine and humanity in other nations/regions especially the developing countries.

Main Topics

The main topics include: clinical medicine, basic medical sciences, epidemiology, translational research, traditional Chinese medicine, public health, and health policies.

Article Types

Editorial: short articles expressing opinions on a certain topic, usually written or commissioned by members of the Editorial Board.

News & Views: reports and commentaries of the latest advances regarding important events of medical and health system that might be of wider interest for our readers.

Reviews and Mini-reviews: comprehensive overviews of topics of high current interest.

Research Articles: original research articles on clinical medicine or basic medical science.

Case Reports: reports of rare cases with in-depth discussions and significant implications.

Commentaries: commentaries may be on policy, science and society or purely scientific issues and should be of immediate interest to a broad readership.

Letters to *Frontiers of Medicine*: articles that may not cover “standard research” but that may be interesting to many researchers, and that will likely stimulate further research in the field.

Ethical Approval of Studies and Informed Consent

For all manuscripts reporting data from studies involving human participants or animals, formal review and approval, or formal review and waiver, by an appropriate institutional review board or ethics committee is required and should be described in the “Compliance with ethics guidelines” section. For those investigators who do not have formal ethics review committees, the principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki should be followed. For investigations of humans, state in the “Compliance with ethics guidelines” section the manner in which informed consent was obtained from the study participants (i.e., oral or written). Editors may request that authors provide documentation of the formal review and recommendation from the institutional review board or ethics committee responsible for oversight of the study.

The Journal requirements are in accordance with the uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals, drawn up by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE).

Conflicts of Interest and Financial Disclosures

A conflict of interest exists if authors or their institutions have financial or personal relationships with other people or organisations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their actions. Financial relationships are easily identifiable, but conflicts can also occur because of personal relationships, academic competition, or intellectual passion. A conflict can be actual or potential, and full disclosure to The Editor is the safest course. Failure to disclose conflicts might lead to publication of a statement or even to retraction. All submissions to *Frontiers of Medicine* must include disclosure of all relationships that could be viewed as presenting a potential conflict of interest. The Editor may use such information as a basis for editorial decisions

The corresponding author should confirm that he or she had full access to all the data in the study and had final responsibility for the decision to submit for publication. All authors are required to provide a

Conflict of Interest Statement.

Format of Papers

Preparation of manuscripts

The manuscript should be legibly typed in A4 format. All sections of the manuscript must be double-spaced with generous margins. Number each page, including the title page.

Non-Native Speakers of English

Researchers who are not native speakers of English who submit manuscripts to international journals often receive negative comments from referees or editors about the English-language usage in their manuscripts, and these problems can contribute to a decision to reject a paper. To help reduce the possibility of such problems, we strongly encourage such authors to take at least one of the following steps:

- Have your manuscript reviewed for clarity by a colleague whose native language is English.
- Use one of the many English language editing services that are available. If you need help from scientific editor of *Frontiers of Medicine*, please contact our editorial office. (E-mail: mojsh@hep.com.cn; Tel: +86-10-58556319)

Title Page

The title of the paper should be explicit, descriptive and as brief as possible. The surname and initials of each author should be followed by his or her department, institution, city with postal code and country. Any changes of address may be given in numbered footnotes.

Please provide a **running title** of not more than 60 characters and from 3 to 7 **keywords**.

Please provide e-mail address of the corresponding author at the footnote. Make sure that the manuscript has a contact telephone number on it.

Example:

Juan Fu^{1,2}, Yiguo Jiang (✉)², Xuemin Chen¹

¹Department of Occupational and Environmental Health, the Ministry of Education Key Laboratory of Environment and Health, School of Public Health, Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan 430030, China; ²Institute for Chemical Carcinogenesis, Guangzhou Medical College, Guangzhou 510182, China

Abstract

The second page of every manuscript must contain only the abstract, which should be a single paragraph. Please abide strictly by this limitation of length. The abstract should comprehensively but succinctly describe the contents of the paper to the reader, and abbreviations and reference citations should be avoided.

Main text

Headings and subheadings Headings and subheadings should be used throughout the text to divide the subject matter into its important, logical parts. Typical headings include:

Introduction, Materials and methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgments, Compliance with ethics guidelines, and References.

Introduction It mainly includes the following parts: background of the research through literature citation, the problems or questions needed to be solved, the objectives of the research and the main methods used.

Materials and methods Methods must be described completely enough that other laboratories can replicate results and verify claims. Generally, standard procedures should be referenced, though significant variations should be described. Appropriate experimental design and statistical methods should be applied and described wherever necessary for proper interpretation of data and verification of claims. All novel materials and the procedures to prepare them should be described in sufficient detail to allow their reproduction (e.g., DNA constructs, genetic stocks, enzyme preparations, and analytical software).

Results Results can be described in the text, as well as using tables and figures. Tables and figures should be placed next to the text it is indicated. The text should complement material given in Tables or Figures but should not directly repeat it. Give full details of statistical analysis either in the text or in Tables or Figure legends. Include the type of test, the precise data to which it is applied, the value of the relevant statistic, the sample size and/or degrees of freedom, and the probability level.

Discussion The main purpose of the Discussion, however, is to comment on the significance of the results and set them in the context of previous work. Hypothesis should be rational and evidence-based.

Acknowledgements The “Acknowledgement section” is the general term for the list of contributions, credits, and other information included at the end of the text of a manuscript but before the references. All sources of funding should be declared as an acknowledgment at the end of the text. Authors should obtain written permission to include the names of individuals in the Acknowledgment section.

Personal acknowledgements should precede those of institutions or agencies.

Abbreviations Try to restrict the use of abbreviations to SI symbols and those recommended by the IUPAC. Abbreviations should be defined in brackets after their first mention in the text. Standard units of measurements and chemical symbols of elements may be used without definition in the body of the paper.

Compliance with ethics guidelines In order to comply with the ethical requirements, the following sentences should be included in a separate section of each article just before the reference list. The section should be called “Compliance with Ethics Guidelines.”

Conflict of interest

The Conflict of Interest statements should list each author separately by name: *John Smith declares that he has no conflict of interest. Paula Taylor has received research grants from Drug Company A. Mike Schultz has received a speaker honorarium from Drug Company B and owns stock in Drug Company C.* If multiple authors declare no conflict, this can be done in one sentence: *John Smith, Paula Taylor, and Mike Schultz declare that they have no conflict of interest.*

Human and animal rights, and informed consent

For studies with human subjects include the following:

All procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional and national) and with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 2000 (5). Informed consent was obtained from all patients for being included in the study.

If doubt exists whether the research was conducted in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration, the authors must explain the rationale for their approach, and demonstrate that the institutional review body explicitly approved the doubtful aspects of the study.

If any identifying information about patients is included in the article, the following sentence should also be included: *Additional informed consent was obtained from all patients for which identifying information is included in this article.*

For studies with animals include the following sentence:

All institutional and national guidelines for the care and use of laboratory animals were followed.

For articles that do not contain studies with human or animal subjects performed by any of the authors: While it is not absolutely necessary, we recommend to include the following sentence, just to make sure that readers are aware that there are no ethical issues with human or animal subjects: *This article does not contain any studies with human or animal subjects performed by the any of the authors.*

References Authors are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of their references and for correct text citation. The references are each numbered, ordered sequentially as they appear in the text. When listing references, abbreviate names of journals should be used according to the journals list in

PubMed. Please list all authors. Please use the following style for references:

Article in a Journal:

1. Worgall S, Wolff G, Falck-Pedersen E, Crystal RG. Innate immune mechanisms dominate elimination of adenoviral vectors following *in vivo* administration. *Hum Gene Ther* 1997; 8(1): 37–44

Chapter in a Book:

1. Hirsimaki P, Arstuka AU, Trump BF, Marzella L. Autophagocytosis. In: Trump BF, Arstuka AU. *Pathobiology of Cell Membranes*. New York: Plenum Press, 1983:201–236

A book:

1. Kryger M, Roth T, Dement W. *The Principles and Practice of Sleep Medicine*. 2nd ed. Philadelphia:WB Saunders, 1994

Online Publication:

1 Jelinic P, Stehle JC, Shaw P. The testis-specific factor CTCFL cooperates with the protein methyltransferase PRMT7 in H19 imprinting control region methylation. *PLoS Biol* 2006; 4: e355. DOI:

10.1371/journal.pbio.0040355

2 Chow SE, Wang JS, Chuang SF, Chang YL, Chu WK, Chen WS, Chen YW. Resveratrol-induced p53-independent apoptosis of human nasopharyngeal carcinoma cells is correlated with the downregulation of DeltaNp63. *Cancer Gene Ther* 2010 Aug 20. [Epub ahead of print] doi:10.1038/cgt.2010.44

Tables These should be labeled sequentially as Table 1, Table 2, etc. Tables should be referred to specifically in the text of the paper, and embedded within the text respectively. Tables should not duplicate the content of the text. They should consist of at least two columns; columns should always have headings. Authors should ensure that the data in the tables are consistent with those cited in the relevant places in the text, totals add up correctly, and percentages have been calculated correctly. If necessary, supply tables as Word or Excel files (one table per page).

(1) Submitted as three-line tables, that is, there are three horizontal lines: one under the legend, one under the column heads, and one below the body. Vertical lines are generally not used.

(2) Label each table at the top with an Arabic numeral followed by the table title. Insert explanatory material and footnotes below the table. Designate footnotes using lowercase superscript letters (^{a, b, c}) reading horizontally across the table. Abbreviations that are used in a table should be defined in the footnotes.

Figures Figures and images should be labeled sequentially, numbered and cited in the text. Figures should be referred to specifically in the text of the paper, and the figures should be embedded within the text respectively. At the same time, the figures should be also submitted separately. The use of three-dimensional histograms is strongly discouraged when the addition of the third dimension gives no

extra information. If a table or figure has been published before, the authors must obtain written permission to reproduce the material in both print and electronic formats from the copyright owner and submit it with the manuscript. This follows for quotes, illustrations and other materials taken from previously published works not in the public domain. For submission, tif, psd and jpg are the only acceptable formats for the figures, which should be submitted separately. Use quality graphic programs such as Adobe PhotoShop, Adobe Illustrator, Corel Draw, or Freehand to create your figures. Figures should be approximately the same size as you would like them to appear in press. Note: While an image may look perfect on the screen, it is often of insufficient resolution for publication. Try viewing your figure at 100% and 300 dpi in resolution on the screen; if it is not blurry, it is probably of high enough resolution for the printing process.

Size: width: 6-7.5 cm for one column, 10-15 cm for two columns.

	Line Art	Monochrome	Colorful
Format	TIFF/PSD/JPG		
Color encoding	Gray	CMYK	CMYK
Resolution (dpi)	>600	>300	>300

Figure legends Legends must be submitted for all figures. They should be brief and specific, and should appear after the corresponding figures. The description should be written in complete sentences, not word groups. Use scale markers in the image for electron micrographs, and indicate the type of stain used.

Supplementary information

Supplementary information is peer-reviewed material directly relevant to the conclusion of an article that cannot be included in the printed version owing to space or format constraints. It is posted on the journal's web site and linked to the article when the article is published and may consist of data files, graphics, movies or extensive tables. The printed article must be complete and self-explanatory without the supplementary information. Supplementary information enhances a reader's understanding of the paper but is not essential to that understanding. Supplementary information must be supplied to the editorial office in its final form for peer review. On acceptance the final version of the peer reviewed supplementary information should be submitted with the accepted paper. Supplementary information is not subedited, so authors should ensure that it is supplied ready for publication online. To ensure that the contents of the supplementary information files can be viewed by the editor(s), referees and readers, please also submit a 'read-me' file containing brief instructions on how to use the file. The supplementary information may not be altered, nor new supplementary information added, after the

paper has been accepted for publication.

House Style

As the electronic submission will provide the basic material for typesetting, it is important that papers are prepared in the general editorial style of the journal.

- 1 Do not make rules thinner than 1pt (0.36mm)
- 2 Use a coarse hatching pattern rather than shading for tints in graphs
- 3 Color should be distinct when being used as an identifying tool
- 4 Use SI units and SI derived units throughout
- 5 Spaces, not commas should be used to separate thousands
- 6 Abbreviations should be preceded by the words for which they stand in the first instance of use
- 7 Text should be double spacing with a wide margin

Manuscript Submission

Authors are encouraged to submit their papers electronically via the online submission system (<http://journal.hep.com.cn>), or by e-mail to the Editorial Office (mojsh@hep.com.cn). All correspondence, including the editor's decision and request for revisions, will be by e-mail.

Submission Requirements

1. A cover letter stating that the manuscript has not been and will not be considered for publication elsewhere and giving a brief introduction to the novel findings of this work, along with three or more experts in the field as potential reviewers. Please provide the convenient contact information of first author including the email address and telephone number in the cover letter if it is difficult to contact with the corresponding author.
2. A declaration stating that all the authors agreed to submit the manuscript to *Frontiers of Medicine* with the signature of the corresponding author. A copy of the Licence to Submission can be signed and fax to the Editorial Office of *Frontiers of Medicine*. Fax: +86-10-58556034 or e-mail to mojsh@hep.com.cn.
3. Electronic files including the text and the figures/tables.

Revised manuscript submission

Enclose a letter to answer the comments of the reviewers and the editors when submit a revised manuscript.

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Proofs

Once the manuscript has been accepted, the corresponding author will receive PDF proofs and are responsible for proofreading and checking the entire article. Authors should correct only typesetting errors, no major alteration of the text will be accepted. Page proofs must be returned within 48 hours to avoid delays in publication along with the reprint order if required.

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To minimize publication time and ensure that important data reach readers and the public as quickly as possible we now post online articles as soon as they are ready, before print publication. Online First articles are edited in the normal way. Once you have approved the proof we will post the article as a PDF on both: <http://www.springerlink.com/content/2095-0225>, and <http://journal.hep.com.cn>.

An Online First article is not a “pre-print”. It represents the full publication of that article. At the time of posting the bibliographic information is forwarded to indexing agencies, so the article can be searched for and found on bibliographical databases and can be cited as published (the citation format appears at the top of the online article).

Peer Review

Every Article, Case Report, Statistics in Medicine, and Review published in *Frontiers of Medicine* has been peer reviewed. Occasional contributions (e.g., Editorial) are accepted without peer review. On

submission to *Frontiers of Medicine*, your report will first be read by one or more of the journal's staff of editors. It is an important feature of our selection process that some papers are turned away on the basis of in-house assessment alone. That decision will be communicated quickly. Research papers and most other types of paper that receive positive in-house reviews are followed by peer review by at least two reviewers. You will receive notification of which editor is handling the peer review of your paper. If reviews are encouraging, and the editorial consensus is also favourable, then we seek statistical advice where appropriate.

Decision

Submissions that survive in-house and peer review might be referred back to authors for revision. This is an invitation to present the best possible paper for further scrutiny by the journal; it is not an acceptance. Authors should give priority to such revisions; the journal will reciprocate by making a final decision quickly. The revised version which will be sent back should be highlighted to show where changes have been made. Detailed responses to reviewers' comments, in a covering letter, are also necessary.

Author Enquiries

For submission inquiries, tracking articles and any information please contact the *Frontiers of Medicine* office at Higher Education Press, Beijing, China. All correspondence for the journal should be sent to the following address. Please include the manuscript number in all correspondences.

Postal address:

Mo Jiasheng
Managing Editor
Editorial Office of *Frontiers of Medicine*
Academic Journal Publishing Division
Higher Education Press

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Chaoyang District
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