AIMS AND SCOPE

Vision

Annals of Surgical Oncology is the world’s leading resource for original translational and clinical research, scholarly reviews, and expert opinion in the field of Surgical Oncology.

Mission

The mission of the journal is to: 1) disseminate high-quality clinical and translational cancer research, review, and expert opinion/commentary articles; 2) represent and advance the profession of Surgical Oncology throughout the world; 3) promote high-quality multidisciplinary patient care worldwide; 4) improve global cancer surgery education and training; and, 5) promote diversity in all of its endeavors.

Audience

Surgeons, physicians, scientists, and other health care professionals who have a major professional interest and commitment to oncology.

Authorship

All authors must have made substantive intellectual contribution to the article for which they are listed on the byline. The four criteria for authorship defined by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors are:

1. substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; and
2. drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and
3. final approval of the version to be published; and,
4. agreement to be 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.

Disclosure

Any author affiliation with or financial involvement in any organization with a direct financial interest in the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript must be disclosed.

Ethics

Research, Publication, and Good Practice. All authors are expected to adhere to accepted standards and guidelines for ethical reporting in their submissions to Annals and are referred to the Research ethics, publication ethics and good practice guidelines resource provided by the Equator Network.

A list of best practices and codes of conduct regarding publishing ethics is also provided by Springer.

Experimental Subjects

All authors are expected to abide by accepted ethical standards. In investigations that involve human subjects or laboratory animals, authors should provide an explicit statement in the “Materials and Methods” section that the experimental protocols were approved by the appropriate institutional review committee and meet the guidelines of their responsible governmental agency. In the case of human subjects, informed consent is essential.

Originality

All manuscripts submitted to Annals must be original; i.e., not published elsewhere (except in abstract form) and not under consideration for publication elsewhere. Annals accepts manuscripts prepared according to the ICJME “Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly work in Medical Journals” (updated December 2018).

Peer Review

All manuscripts submitted to Annals are subject to peer review. The decision of the Editor-in-Chief and Executive Editor is final. Authors are notified of the decision with reviewer comments if applicable.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

Original articles must adhere to a 3,500-word limit (not including the title page, abstract, and references) and cannot contain more than 7 figures and tables combined. The manuscript should conform to the following order: title page, synopsis, abstract, text of manuscript, acknowledgements, references, figure legends, and tables. Manuscript should be written in high-quality English suitable for effective communication to a professional medical audience.

New as of May 2019.

Adherence to Study Type Guidelines

Articles of the study types listed in the Equator for Health Research Reporting website should be submitted...
with a completed study guideline checklist for the respective article type. Study types requiring submission with a completed checklist include but are not limited to:

**Randomized Trials.** These must adhere to the CONSORT guidelines and provide both a CONSORT checklist and flow diagram.

**Systematic Reviews, including Meta-Analyses.** These must adhere to the PRISM checklist.

Authors should refer to the Equator for Health Research Reporting website for these checklists and those for other study types that may be submitted to the journal. All types listed on this site will require a completed respective checklist to be uploaded and submitted with the manuscript files.

Compliance with this requirement thus involves these two steps:

- **UPLOAD AND SUBMIT** the completed checklist and flow diagram as/if appropriate with the manuscript files in Step 2, FILE UPLOAD, when submitting via [https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/aso](https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/aso)
- **PROVIDE** text page locations for each question, as appropriate and indicated per manuscript types listed in the Equator for Health Research Reporting website

If these steps are not completed as part of the submission process for appropriate manuscripts, the paper will be considered an incomplete submission and returned to authors for completion.

**Cover Letter.** A cover letter must be included with each manuscript submission. The cover letter should explain why the manuscript content is significant and fits within the scope of the journal. An affirmative statement should be included that confirms that neither the manuscript nor any part of its content is currently under consideration or published in another journal. The cover letter should be concise.

**NOTE.** The submitting and corresponding authors’ contact information and Twitter handles if available should be provided in the article’s cover letter.

**Title page.** The title page should include:
- full names, degrees and affiliations for all authors
- full mailing and e-mail address of the author to whom correspondence and proofs should be sent
- title and subtitle of the paper
- shortened version of the title for the running head (no more than 45 characters, including spaces)
- disclosure of any commercial interest that any author may have in the subject of study and the source of any financial or material support

**Synopsis.** Authors must provide a brief 1-3 sentence explanation, not to exceed 40 words, of their manuscripts (except editorials and Letters-to-the-Editor). This synopsis will appear in the table of contents and used for social media.

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**IMRad.** Manuscript contents should be organized using the structure of Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion (IMRad), the common way of structuring a scientific article.

**Acknowledgments.** Acknowledgment of grant support and assistance of others in the study or in the preparation of the manuscript should be made in a separate paragraph following the text and preceding the References. Acknowledgments should be as concise as possible.

**References.** Annals uses the American Medical Association Manual of Style, 10th Edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009). References must be cited in consecutive numerical order at first mention in the text and arranged numerically, not alphabetically, on pages preceded by the header “References.” In each reference, list all authors’ names when there are six or fewer; if there are more than six, list the first three authors followed by et al.

The author is responsible for the accuracy of the references. References must be printed double-spaced. Material cited in the reference list “in press” must have been accepted for publication, not merely submitted for review. Ibid references are not permitted.

Unpublished data and personal communications should not be included in the reference list; this information may be included in the text, with pertinent identification (A. Author, unpublished data) or (B. Author, personal communication). The unpublished data of others and personal communications can be used only when written authorization from the data owner or communicator is submitted with the original manuscript.

**Sample References for Style Examples**

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**Journal Article with DOI Reference**

**Book**
Book Chapter

Web-Based Resource

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Manuscripts cannot contain more than 7 figures and tables combined.
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• acknowledgement of previous publication must be noted (see “Permissions” below)

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• all tables are to be numbered using Arabic numerals
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• for each table, authors should supply a table heading
• the table title should explain clearly and concisely the components of the table
• spell out all abbreviations found in the table or footnotes

• use the table function, not spreadsheets, to make tables
• identify any previously published material by giving the original source in the form of a reference at the end of the table heading
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• Description: Editorials in most cases are invited and discuss an article published in Annals and place the relevant issues in the wider context of the field.
• Word limit: 1,500 words maximum excluding references.
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• References: 20 maximum, including the article discussed.
• Figures/tables: 2 maximum.
• Manuscript processing fee: not required.
• See Manuscript Preparation and Specifications for additional details and requirements.

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• Description: Review articles are comprehensive current overviews and analyses of specific topics. These articles include both invited articles as well as unsolicited. Review articles are subject to peer review.
• Word limit: 5,000 words excluding abstract.
Abstract: 250 words maximum, sub-headers are acceptable although not required.
References: no maximum.
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- Description: Multimedia articles are submissions that include video with an accompanying abstract and references.
- Special instruction: upon submission of multimedia articles, the authors are required to submit the video in the following format: (1) videos should not exceed 9 minutes; (2) videos must include narration in English; and, (3) multimedia articles must include with the video submission a title page, abstract, and references if appropriate to the submission.
- Word limit: not applicable.
- Abstract: 250 words maximum, sub-headers are acceptable although not required.
- References: no maximum.
- Manuscript processing fee: required.
- See Manuscript Preparation and Specifications for additional details and requirements.

Case Reports
The Annals does not consider Case Reports for publication.

ONLINE SUBMISSION
Manuscripts are submitted online to the Annals of Surgical Oncology via Manuscript Central:
https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/aso

Manuscript Processing Fee
As described in the online submission site, there is a processing fee of $50 USD for each new submission of an unsolicited Annals original article, excluding editorials. New manuscripts are not entered into the review process until payment of the submission fee is completed. There is no processing fee associated with solicited or resubmitted manuscripts.

Preparing Electronic Files for Submission
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List of Repositories
Research Data Policy

Reporting of Randomized Trials
The CONSORT (Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials) Statement offers a standard way for authors to prepare
reports of trial findings, facilitating their complete and transparent reporting, and aiding their critical appraisal and interpretation. Authors are recommended to review the following references for further information regarding the CONSORT Statement:


Consensus Statement on Surgery Journal Authorship

In the majority of clinical and research studies submitted to surgery journals for possible publication, many individuals participate in the conception, execution, and documentation of each of those works. However, recognition of work in the form of authorship has varied widely. Authors are recommended to review the following consensus statement for further information regarding these issues regarding surgical journal authorship.


Consensus Statement on Sex-Inclusive Biomedical and Clinical Research

Annals requires sex-based reporting and analysis for all human and animal studies. If only one sex is studied, the authors must include a justification statement as to why a single-sex study was conducted. For tissue and cell studies, the sexual derivation of tissues or cells must be reported when it is known or should be known; sex-based analysis of results must be performed whenever possible.

This requirement supports a Joint Statement by the Surgery Journal Editors Group:


CONTACT AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Authors are encouraged to contact the Editorial Office for further information (info@asoeditorial.org; 239-217-0704 telephone).