GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

The Revista del Laboratorio Clínico (The Clinical Laboratory Journal) is the official scientific publication of the Spanish Association of Medical Biopathology (AEBM-ML), Asociación Española de Farmacéuticos Analistas (the Spanish Association of Pharmaceutical Analysts) (AEFA), and the Sociedad Española de Bioquímica Clínica y Patología Molecular (Spanish Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Molecular Pathology) (SEQC-ML). The journal publishes scientific articles related to the clinical laboratory sciences, Haematology, Clinical Biochemistry, Microbiology and Parasitology, Immunology, and Genetics. The journal, which publishes 4 issues per year, accepts articles in Spanish and in English.

Types of article

Original articles. Research works within the scope of Clinical Laboratory Sciences. The text must not exceed 3,500 words, excluding the structured resumen / abstract, and up to a maximum of 6 Tables or Figures will be accepted. Up to a maximum of 30 literature references will also be included. The text of the article will be structured as indicated in the Preparation of Manuscripts section. The length of the resumen / abstract will be 250 words and will have the following sections: Introduction, Material and methods, Results and conclusions. It is advisable that the number of signing authors does not exceed six. The experimental designs must respect the ethical standards and be duly approved by the corresponding Research Committees. Furthermore, when it is the publication of clinical trials, only those registered in the ClinicalTrials.gov database of the USA National Institute of Health, will be accepted for publication.

Technical notes. They are used to publish shorter articles (1,500 words maximum) that deal with essentially practical aspects, very specific topics or studies, or only descriptive aspects.

Review articles. These review articles could be submitted on the initiative of the authors themselves or be specifically commissioned by the Editorial Committee. In the former case, the manuscripts must be subjected to a review process, similar to that applied to original articles. They will be works on relevant and current topics, with the following sections: Introduction, Material and methods, Results, Discussion, Bibliography. The maximum length of the text will be 4,000 words, and up to a maximum of 6 Tables or Figures will be allowed (see further on for the instructions on Tables and Figures). Review articles will include an unstructured resumen / abstract of 150 words and a maximum of 60 literature references.

Editorials. Usually written by specific request. Editorials should have a maximum length of 1,500 words, with up to 30 literature references, and no more than one Table or Figure (see further on for the instructions on Tables and Figures). It must not include a resumen/abstract.
Letters to the Editor. Preference will be given to those letters that refer to works published in the latest issues of the Journal and that contribute opinions, observations or experiences that can be easily summarised in a short text (750 words maximum, plus one Table or Figure, and up to ten literature references). The number of signing authors should not exceed three.

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Documents prepared by the Committees or Working Groups of the three Societies. These types of articles should be prepared by any Committee or Working Group of the three Societies. The authors must submit the manuscript into the Elsevier base. The type of document being submitted must be mentioned in the cover letter. The documents will be evaluated by the Editors with the assistance of the Scientific Committees or a person in each Society designated for this function so that they can be evaluated by the rest of the Scientific Societies. If, after review, the Societies that have not taken part in the preparation of the document have no objections to it, it will be published mentioning the Committee or corresponding group as author. In the first page it should state that: “This document has the approval of the other two Societies as a professional recommendation in the field of the Clinical Laboratory”. If any of the non-author Societies do not agree with part of the document as a body of doctrine, the manuscript becomes an Original Document and will be published with no additional external review. In this case, the authors can be affiliated as members of the Committee / Working Group, but the document cannot represent a Recommendation. Alternatively, the three Societies may agree to modify the document and publish it as a Consensus Document. The text of the document should be structured as indicated in the Preparation of Manuscript, and the length of the text should be less than 7,000 words. These types of articles will include an unstructured resumen/abstract of 150 words. It could include additional information as Complementary Material so that it may be consulted on line. The aim of the documents by a Committee backed by the other Societies and of the consensus documents is to create a body of doctrine and current opinion of the three Scientific Societies.

Other sections. The Editorial Committee could agree to the publication of other sections different to those mentioned by agreement with the Societies represented in the Journal; the Spanish Association of Medical Biopathology (AEBM), the Spanish Association of Pharmaceutical Analysts (AEFA), and the Spanish Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Molecular Pathology (SEQC). It publishes scientific articles connected with what are known as Clinical Laboratory Sciences. It follows the “Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals” drawn up by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (http://www.icmje.org), thus the manuscripts must be written following their recommendations.

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The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

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If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B.1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

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