



TABLE OF CONTENTS

•	Description	p.1
•	Abstracting and Indexing	p.1
•	Editorial Board	p.1
•	Guide for Authors	p.5



ISSN: 1807-5932

DESCRIPTION

Clinics is an electronic international journal that publishes peer-reviewed research of interest to clinicians and researchers in continuous flow. Original and review papers in medical and biomedical sciences are approved for publication based on its originality, contemporary importance, and interest to the readers of the journal. *Clinics* also publishes Editorials and Comments. The journal is committed to the principles of ethics, respect for the individual, humanization, honesty, pioneering spirit and excellence, following the guidelines of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors.

Clinics is the official scientific journal of Faculdade de Medicina and Hospital das Clínicas – Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil.

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

PubMed Central
PubMed/Medline
Science Citation Index Expanded
Scopus
Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
SciELO - Scientific Electronic Library Online
LILACS - Literatura Latino-Americana e do Caribe em Ciências da Saúde
Ulrichsweb
Qualis/Capes

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief

Luiz Felipe Pinho Moreira, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Surgical Cardiology

Associate Editor

José Maria Soares Jr., University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Obstetrics

Section Editors

Wilma Terezinha Anselmo Lima, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil

Otorhinolaryngology
Valeria Aoki, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
 Dermatology
Francisco Barcellos Sampaio, Rio de Janeiro State University, RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil
 Urology
Berenice Bilharinho Mendonça, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
 Endocrinology
Hans Donald de Boer, Martini General Hospital, Groningen, Netherlands
 General anesthesia, Enhanced recovery after surgery, Innovation in medicine, Neuromuscular management
Werther Brunow de Carvalho, Federal University of São Paulo, Department of Paediatrics, SAO PAULO, Brazil
 Neonatology, Intensive care
Sergio Paulo Bydlowski, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
 Hematology, Molecular Biology
Heloisa de Carvalho, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
 Radiotherapy, Brachytherapy, Lung cancer, Breast cancer, Gynecological tumors
José Guilherme Cecatti, State University of Campinas, CAMPINAS, São Paulo, Brazil
 Obstetrics
Claudio Roberto Cernea, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
 Head Neck
Roger Chammas, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
 Oncology
Michele Correale, University of Foggia, Foggia, Italy
 Cardiology
Rui J. Cruz Júnior, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States of America
 Gastroenterology, Hepatology
Julia Maria D' Andrea Greve, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
 Rehabilitation
João Luiz Dornelles Bastos, Federal University of Santa Catarina, FLORIANOPOLIS, Brazil
 Epidemiology
Manuel Duran-Poveda, King Juan Carlos University - Móstoles Campus, Mostoles, Spain
 Gastroenterology, Proctology
Mauricio Etchebehere, State University of Campinas, CAMPINAS, São Paulo, Brazil
 Orthopedics
Talita Fortunato-Tavares, Lehman College, Bronx, New York, United States of America
 Phonoaudiology
Claudia Regina Furquim de Abdrade, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
 Audiology
Luiz Eugenio Garcez-Leme, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
 Geriatrics
Martin C. Harmsen, University of Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands
 Regenerative Medicine
Marcos Intaglietta, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, California, United States of America
 Hematology
Newton Kara-Júnior, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
 Ophthalmology
Naomi Kondo Nakagawa, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
 Physiotherapy
Wanderley Marques Bernardo, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
 Evidence Based Medicine
Lydia Masako Ferreira, Federal University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
 Plastic Surgery
Sigmar de Melo Rode, São Paulo State University, SAO PAULO, Brazil
 Odontology
Antonio Egidio Nardi, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil
 Anxiety, Panic disorder, Social phobia, Psychopharmacology, Depression, Antidepressants, Psychopathology, Bipolar disorder, Benzodiazepines, Neuroscience
Oswaldo Okamoto, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
 Genetics, Molecular Biology
Luiz Fernando Onuchic, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
 Nephrology
Paulo Manuel Pego-Fernandes, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
 Cardiac, Thoracic Surgery

Adriana Pinho, Federal University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Public Health

Ludmila Rodrigues Pinto Ferreira, Federal University of Minas Gerais, BELO HORIZONTE, Minas Gerais, Brazil
Immunology

Rodrigo Ruano, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, United States of America
Gynecology, Mastology

Fulvio Alexandre Scorza, Federal University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Neurology, Epilepsia

Ilker Sengul, Giresun University, Giresun, Turkey
Surgical Oncology

Carlos Vicente Serrano, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Cardiology, Atherosclerosis

Anna Sara Shafferman Levin, Sao Paulo University, Faculty of Medicine, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Infectious Disease

Cassiano Teixeira, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, PORTO ALEGRE, Brazil
Critical Care

Ana Maria de Ulhoa Escobar, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Pediatrics

Carmen Silvia Valente Barbas, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Pneumology

Nelson Wolosker, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Angiology, Vascular Surgery

Bruno Zilberstein, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Surgical Gastroenterology

Editorial Board

Carmita Abdo, Sao Paulo University, Faculty of Medicine, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Psychiatry

Navantino Alves, Federal University of Minas Gerais, BELO HORIZONTE, Minas Gerais, Brazil
Pediatrics

Rafael Andrade-Alegre, University of Santo Tomas Hospital, Manila, Philippines
Cardiothoracic Surgery

Alberto Azoubel Antunes, Sao Paulo University, Faculty of Medicine, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Urology

Artur Brum-Fernandes, University of Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada
Rheumatology

Geraldo Busatto Filho, Sao Paulo University, Faculty of Medicine, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Psychiatry

Maria José Carvalho Carmona, Sao Paulo University, Faculty of Medicine, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Anesthesiology

Jesus Paula Carvalho, Sao Paulo University, Faculty of Medicine, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Gynecologic Oncology

Adauto Castelo Filho, Federal University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Infectious Diseases

Abhijit Chandra, King George's Medical University, Lucknow, India
Surgical Gastroenterology

Irshad Chaudry, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama, United States of America
Surgery

Roberto Chiesa, San Raffaele Hospital, Milano, Italy
Vascular Surgery

Laura Cunha Rodrigues, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, United Kingdom
Epidemiology

Sandro Esteves, Androfert Male Reproductive Reference Centre, CAMPINAS, Brazil
Reproductive Medicine

Eduardo Ferreira Borba Neto, Sao Paulo University, Faculty of Medicine, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Rheumatology

Rossana Francisco, Sao Paulo University, Faculty of Medicine, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Obstetrics and Gynecology

Paulo Marcelo Gehm Hoff, Sao Paulo University, Faculty of Medicine, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Oncology

Cesar Gomes Victora, Federal University of Pelotas, Faculty of Medicine, PELOTAS, Brazil
Epidemiology, Global Health

Ruth Guinsburg, Federal University of São Paulo, Department of Paediatrics, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Pediatrics

Hiroyuki Hirasawa, Chiba University Graduate School of Medicine School of Medicine, Chiba, Japan
Intensive Care

Adamastor Humberto Pereira, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, PORTO ALEGRE, Brazil
Vascular Surgery

Anuar Ibrahim Mitre, Sao Paulo University, Faculty of Medicine, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Urology, Surgery

Emilia Inoue Sato, Federal University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Rheumatology

Peter Libby, Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America
Lipids, Metabolism, Endocrine, Vascular, Cardiovascular Medicine

Ademar Lopes, ACCamargo Cancer Center, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Oncology

Ernest Eugene Moore, UC Health University of Colorado Hospital, Aurora, Colorado, United States of America
Surgery, Intensive Care

Egberto Gaspar de Moura Jr., Rio de Janeiro State University, RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil
Clinical Pathophysiology

Edmund Neugebauer, Brandenburg Medical School Theodor Fontane, Neuruppin, Germany
Surgery

Mauro Perretti, Queen Mary University of London The William Harvey Research Institute, London, United Kingdom
Immune System Vascular Inflammation Intravital Microscopy Leukocyte recruitment In vivo models Neutrophil activation Steroids Inflammatory Mediators Anti-inflammatory drugs Neutrophil, Endothelium Interaction, Immunopharmacology

Mitchell Posner, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, United States of America
Radiation and Cellular Oncology

Joaquim Prado Moraes-Filho, Sao Paulo University, Faculty of Medicine, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Clinical Gastroenterology

Alexander Roberto Precioso, Butantan Institute, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Infectious Diseases, Public Health

Rosa Maria Rodrigues Pereira, Sao Paulo University, Faculty of Medicine, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Rheumatology

Michael G. Sarr, Mayo Clinic Rochester, Rochester, Minnesota, United States of America
Gastroenterology

Andrea Schmitt, Ludwig Maximilians University LMU University Hospital Munich, Munich, Germany
Schizophrenia, neurobiology

Manuel Jesus Simões, Federal University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Morphology and Genetics

Moyes Szklo, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland, United States of America
Epidemiology

Ke-Seng Zhao, Southern Medical University, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China
Pathophysiology

GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

Clinics is an electronic international journal that publishes peer-reviewed research of interest to clinicians and researchers in continuous flow. Original and review papers in medical and biomedical sciences are approved for publication based on its originality, contemporary importance, and interest to the readers of the journal.

Clinics also publishes Editorials and Comments.

The journal is committed to the principles of ethics, respect for the individual, humanization, honesty, pioneering spirit, and excellence, following the guidelines of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors.

Types of article

The journal publishes articles classified into the categories described below.

Original articles: Complete original studies should be submitted in this category. The manuscript must have a maximum of 6,000 words, 40 references and 10 tables/figures. The article must be structured into the following sections: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion and Conclusion.

Review articles: Review articles should cover themes that are relevant to medical practice. Spontaneously submitted reviews are welcome; however, potential authors should bear in mind that they are expected to have expertise in the reviewed field. If appropriate, the method of reference collection should be described. The manuscript must present a maximum of 8,000 words, 10 tables/figures, and 50 references. It must include an abstract.

Practical Guidelines: Guidelines regarding themes that are relevant to medical practice. Spontaneously submitted guidelines are welcomed; however, potential authors should bear in mind that they are expected to have expertise in the field. The manuscript must have a maximum of 8,000 words, 50 references, and 10 tables/figures. It must present an abstract.

Editorials: Editorials should cover broad aspects of medical or biological sciences. Such manuscripts are not submitted to peer review and are published at the discretion of the editor.

Comments: Comments on a paper or relevant issue are welcome and will be published at the discretion of the editor. The manuscript must not exceed 1,000 words, not be divided into sections neither include an abstract. Maximum of 10 references and 2 tables/figures.

All manuscripts must conform to specific study guidelines as listed below:

Clinical Trials should follow the CONSORT Statement rules.

Observational Studies (Cohort, case-control, and cross-sectional studies) should follow the STROBE Statement.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis should follow the PRISMA guidelines.

Diagnostic and Prognostic Studies should follow the STARD guidelines.

Animal and Clinical Study should follow the ARRIVE guidelines.

Submission checklist

You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

Ensure that the following items are present:

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:

- E-mail address
- Full postal address

All necessary files have been uploaded:

Manuscript:

- Include keywords
- All figures (include relevant captions)
- All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)

- Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files (where applicable)
Supplemental files (where applicable)

Further considerations

- Manuscript has been 'spell checked' and 'grammar checked'
- All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text, and vice versa
- Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)
- A competing interests statement is provided, even if the authors have no competing interests to declare
- Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
- Referee suggestions and contact details provided, based on journal requirements
- ORCID iD of each one of the authors are inserted in the submission system

For further information, visit our [Support Center](#).

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Ethics in publishing

Please see our information on [Ethics in publishing](#).

Studies in humans and animals

If the work involves the use of human subjects, the author should ensure that the work described has been carried out in accordance with [The Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association](#) (Declaration of Helsinki) for experiments involving humans. The manuscript should be in line with the [Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals](#) and aim for the inclusion of representative human populations (sex, age and ethnicity) as per those recommendations. The terms [sex and gender](#) should be used correctly.

Authors should include a statement in the manuscript that informed consent was obtained for experimentation with human subjects. The privacy rights of human subjects must always be observed.

All animal experiments should comply with the [ARRIVE guidelines](#) and should be carried out in accordance with the U.K. Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, 1986 and associated guidelines, [EU Directive 2010/63/EU for animal experiments](#), or the National Research Council's [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#) and the authors should clearly indicate in the manuscript that such guidelines have been followed. The sex of animals must be indicated, and where appropriate, the influence (or association) of sex on the results of the study.

Informed consent and patient details

Studies on patients or volunteers require ethics committee approval and informed consent, which should be documented in the paper. Appropriate consents, permissions and releases must be obtained where an author wishes to include case details or other personal information or images of patients and any other individuals in an Elsevier publication. Written consents must be retained by the author but copies should not be provided to the journal. Only if specifically requested by the journal in exceptional circumstances (for example if a legal issue arises) the author must provide copies of the consents or evidence that such consents have been obtained. For more information, please review the [Elsevier Policy on the Use of Images or Personal Information of Patients or other Individuals](#). Unless you have written permission from the patient (or, where applicable, the next of kin), the personal details of any patient included in any part of the article and in any supplementary materials (including all illustrations and videos) must be removed before submission.

Declaration of competing interest

Corresponding authors, on behalf of all the authors of a submission, must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential conflicts of interest include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. All authors, including those *without* competing interests to declare, should provide the relevant information to the corresponding author (which, where relevant, may specify they have

nothing to declare). Corresponding authors should then use [this tool](#) to create a shared statement and upload to the submission system at the Attach Files step. **Please do not convert the .docx template to another file type. Author signatures are not required.**

Submission declaration and verification

Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract, a published lecture or academic thesis, see '[Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication](#)' for more information), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically without the written consent of the copyright-holder. To verify compliance, your article may be checked by [Crossref Similarity Check](#) and other originality or duplicate checking software.

Preprints

Please note that [preprints](#) can be shared anywhere at any time, in line with Elsevier's [sharing policy](#). Sharing your preprints e.g. on a preprint server will not count as prior publication (see '[Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication](#)' for more information).

Use of inclusive language

Inclusive language acknowledges diversity, conveys respect to all people, is sensitive to differences, and promotes equal opportunities. Content should make no assumptions about the beliefs or commitments of any reader; contain nothing which might imply that one individual is superior to another on the grounds of age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, disability or health condition; and use inclusive language throughout. Authors should ensure that writing is free from bias, stereotypes, slang, reference to dominant culture and/or cultural assumptions. We advise to seek gender neutrality by using plural nouns ("clinicians, patients/clients") as default/wherever possible to avoid using "he, she," or "he/she." We recommend avoiding the use of descriptors that refer to personal attributes such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, disability or health condition unless they are relevant and valid. When coding terminology is used, we recommend to avoid offensive or exclusionary terms such as "master", "slave", "blacklist" and "whitelist". We suggest using alternatives that are more appropriate and (self-) explanatory such as "primary", "secondary", "blocklist" and "allowlist". These guidelines are meant as a point of reference to help identify appropriate language but are by no means exhaustive or definitive.

Reporting sex- and gender-based analyses

Reporting guidance

For research involving or pertaining to humans, animals or eukaryotic cells, investigators should integrate sex and gender-based analyses (SGBA) into their research design according to funder/sponsor requirements and best practices within a field. Authors should address the sex and/or gender dimensions of their research in their article. In cases where they cannot, they should discuss this as a limitation to their research's generalizability. Importantly, authors should explicitly state what definitions of sex and/or gender they are applying to enhance the precision, rigor and reproducibility of their research and to avoid ambiguity or conflation of terms and the constructs to which they refer (see Definitions section below). Authors can refer to the [Sex and Gender Equity in Research \(SAGER\) guidelines](#) and the [SAGER guidelines checklist](#). These offer systematic approaches to the use and editorial review of sex and gender information in study design, data analysis, outcome reporting and research interpretation - however, please note there is no single, universally agreed-upon set of guidelines for defining sex and gender.

Definitions

Sex generally refers to a set of biological attributes that are associated with physical and physiological features (e.g., chromosomal genotype, hormonal levels, internal and external anatomy). A binary sex categorization (male/female) is usually designated at birth ("sex assigned at birth"), most often based solely on the visible external anatomy of a newborn. Gender generally refers to socially constructed roles, behaviors, and identities of women, men and gender-diverse people that occur in a historical and cultural context and may vary across societies and over time. Gender influences how people view themselves and each other, how they behave and interact and how power is distributed in society. Sex and gender are often incorrectly portrayed as binary (female/male or woman/man) and unchanging whereas these constructs actually exist along a spectrum and include additional sex categorizations and gender identities such as people who are intersex/have differences of sex development (DSD) or identify as non-binary. Moreover, the terms "sex" and "gender" can be ambiguous—thus it is important

for authors to define the manner in which they are used. In addition to this definition guidance and the SAGER guidelines, the [resources on this page](#) offer further insight around sex and gender in research studies.

Author contributions

For transparency, we encourage authors to submit an author statement file outlining their individual contributions to the paper using the relevant CRediT roles: Conceptualization; Data curation; Formal analysis; Funding acquisition; Investigation; Methodology; Project administration; Resources; Software; Supervision; Validation; Visualization; Roles/Writing - original draft; Writing - review & editing. Authorship statements should be formatted with the names of authors first and CRediT role(s) following. [More details and an example](#).

Authorship

All authors should have made substantial contributions to all of the following: (1) the conception and design of the study, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, (2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content, (3) final approval of the version to be submitted.

Changes to authorship

Authors are expected to consider carefully the list and order of authors **before** submitting their manuscript and provide the definitive list of authors at the time of the original submission. Any addition, deletion or rearrangement of author names in the authorship list should be made only **before** the manuscript has been accepted and only if approved by the journal Editor. To request such a change, the Editor must receive the following from the **corresponding author**: (a) the reason for the change in author list and (b) written confirmation (e-mail, letter) from all authors that they agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement. In the case of addition or removal of authors, this includes confirmation from the author being added or removed.

Only in exceptional circumstances will the Editor consider the addition, deletion or rearrangement of authors **after** the manuscript has been accepted. While the Editor considers the request, publication of the manuscript will be suspended. If the manuscript has already been published in an online issue, any requests approved by the Editor will result in a corrigendum.

Clinical trial results

In line with the position of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, the journal will not consider results posted in the same clinical trials registry in which primary registration resides to be prior publication if the results posted are presented in the form of a brief structured (less than 500 words) abstract or table. However, divulging results in other circumstances (e.g., investors' meetings) is discouraged and may jeopardise consideration of the manuscript. Authors should fully disclose all posting in registries of results of the same or closely related work.

Reporting clinical trials

Randomized controlled trials should be presented according to the CONSORT guidelines. At manuscript submission, authors must provide the CONSORT checklist accompanied by a flow diagram that illustrates the progress of patients through the trial, including recruitment, enrollment, randomization, withdrawal and completion, and a detailed description of the randomization procedure. The [CONSORT checklist and template flow diagram](#) are available online.

Registration of clinical trials

Registration in a public trials registry is a condition for publication of clinical trials in this journal in accordance with [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors](#) recommendations. Trials must register at or before the onset of patient enrolment. The clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract of the article. A clinical trial is defined as any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects of health outcomes. Health-related interventions include any intervention used to modify a biomedical or health-related outcome (for example drugs, surgical procedures, devices, behavioural treatments, dietary interventions, and process-of-care changes). Health outcomes include any biomedical or health-related measures obtained in patients or participants, including pharmacokinetic measures and adverse events. Purely observational studies (those in which the assignment of the medical intervention is not at the discretion of the investigator) will not require registration.

Article transfer service

This journal uses the Elsevier Article Transfer Service to find the best home for your manuscript. This means that if an editor feels your manuscript is more suitable for an alternative journal, you might be asked to consider transferring the manuscript to such a journal. The recommendation might be provided by a Journal Editor, a dedicated [Scientific Managing Editor](#), a tool assisted recommendation, or a combination. If you agree, your manuscript will be transferred, though you will have the opportunity to make changes to the manuscript before the submission is complete. Please note that your manuscript will be independently reviewed by the new journal. [More information](#).

Copyright

Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' (see [more information](#) on this) to assign to HCFMUSP the copyright in the manuscript and any tables, illustrations or other material submitted for publication as part of the manuscript (the "Article") in all forms and media (whether now known or later developed), throughout the world, in all languages, for the full term of copyright, effective when the Article is accepted for publication. An e-mail will be sent to the corresponding author confirming receipt of the manuscript together with a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' form or a link to the online version of this agreement.

Author rights

As an author you (or your employer or institution) have certain rights to reuse your work. [More information](#).

Elsevier supports responsible sharing

Find out how you can [share your research](#) published in Elsevier journals.

Role of the funding source

You are requested to identify who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article and to briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; and in the decision to submit the article for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement, it is recommended to state this.

Open access

Please visit our Open Access page from the Journal Homepage for more information.

Elsevier Researcher Academy

[Researcher Academy](#) is a free e-learning platform designed to support early and mid-career researchers throughout their research journey. The "Learn" environment at Researcher Academy offers several interactive modules, webinars, downloadable guides and resources to guide you through the process of writing for research and going through peer review. Feel free to use these free resources to improve your submission and navigate the publication process with ease.

Language (usage and editing services)

Please write your text in good English (American or British usage is accepted, but not a mixture of these). Authors who feel their English language manuscript may require editing to eliminate possible grammatical or spelling errors and to conform to correct scientific English may wish to use the [English Language Editing service](#) available from Elsevier's Author Services.

Submission

Our online submission system guides you stepwise through the process of entering your article details and uploading your files. The system converts your article files to a single PDF file used in the peer-review process. Editable files (e.g., Word, LaTeX) are required to typeset your article for final publication. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, is sent by e-mail.

Submit your article

Please submit your article via <https://www.editorialmanager.com/clinics/default1.aspx>.

PREPARATION

Peer review

This journal operates a single anonymized review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. Editors

are not involved in decisions about papers which they have written themselves or have been written by family members or colleagues or which relate to products or services in which the editor has an interest. Any such submission is subject to all of the journal's usual procedures, with peer review handled independently of the relevant editor and their research groups. [More information on types of peer review](#).

Use of word processing software

It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. The text should be in single-column format. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the word processor's options to justify text or to hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. When preparing tables, if you are using a table grid, use only one grid for each individual table and not a grid for each row. If no grid is used, use tabs, not spaces, to align columns. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the [Guide to Publishing with Elsevier](#)). Note that source files of figures, tables and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed your figures in the text. See also the section on Electronic artwork.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

Article structure

Subdivision - unnumbered sections

Divide your article into clearly defined sections. Each subsection is given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line. Subsections should be used as much as possible when cross-referencing text: refer to the subsection by heading as opposed to simply 'the text'.

Introduction

State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

Material and methods

Provide sufficient details to allow the work to be reproduced by an independent researcher. Methods that are already published should be summarized, and indicated by a reference. If quoting directly from a previously published method, use quotation marks and also cite the source. Any modifications to existing methods should also be described.

Results

Results should be clear and concise.

Discussion

This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

Conclusions

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.

Essential title page information

The Title Page must be presented as the first page in the Manuscript file to be uploaded to Editorial Manager during the submission process. It must contain the following information:

- **Title.** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
- **Author names and affiliations, including ORCID iD.** Please clearly indicate the given name(s) and family name(s) of each author and check that all names are accurately spelled. You can add your name between parentheses in your own script behind the English transliteration. Present the authors' affiliation addresses (where the actual work was done) below the names. Indicate all affiliations with a lower-case superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the e-mail address of each author. The ORCID iD must be inserted in all authors' profile. In order to do so, go to Update your details ORCID field; if any of the authors does not have an ORCID iD, it can be registered at the [ORCID website](#).

• **Corresponding author.** Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication. This responsibility includes answering any future queries about Methodology and Materials. **Ensure that the e-mail address is given and that contact details are kept up to date by the corresponding author.**

• **Present/permanent address.** If an author has moved since the work described in the article was done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address' (or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author actually did the work must be retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes.

Highlights

Highlights are mandatory for this journal as they help increase the discoverability of your article via search engines. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that capture the novel results of your research as well as new methods that were used during the study (if any). Please have a look at the examples here: [example Highlights](#).

Highlights should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point).

Abstract

A concise and factual abstract is required. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself.

Graphical abstract

Although a graphical abstract is optional, its use is encouraged as it draws more attention to the online article. The graphical abstract should summarize the contents of the article in a concise, pictorial form designed to capture the attention of a wide readership. Graphical abstracts should be submitted as a separate file in the online submission system. Image size: Please provide an image with a minimum of 531 × 1328 pixels (h × w) or proportionally more. The image should be readable at a size of 5 × 13 cm using a regular screen resolution of 96 dpi. Preferred file types: TIFF, EPS, PDF or MS Office files. You can view [Example Graphical Abstracts](#) on our information site.

Keywords

Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords, avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, 'and', 'of'). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.

Abbreviations

Define abbreviations that are not standard in this field in a footnote to be placed on the first page of the article. Such abbreviations that are unavoidable in the abstract must be defined at their first mention there, as well as in the footnote. Ensure consistency of abbreviations throughout the article.

Acknowledgements

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

Formatting of funding sources

List funding sources in this standard way to facilitate compliance to funder's requirements:

Funding: This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health [grant numbers xxxx, yyyy]; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA [grant number zzzz]; and the United States Institutes of Peace [grant number aaaa].

It is not necessary to include detailed descriptions on the program or type of grants and awards. When funding is from a block grant or other resources available to a university, college, or other research institution, submit the name of the institute or organization that provided the funding.

If no funding has been provided for the research, it is recommended to include the following sentence:

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Units

Follow internationally accepted rules and conventions: use the international system of units (SI). If other units are mentioned, please give their equivalent in SI.

Math formulae

Please submit math equations as editable text and not as images. Present simple formulae in line with normal text where possible and use the solidus (/) instead of a horizontal line for small fractional terms, e.g., X/Y. In principle, variables are to be presented in italics. Powers of e are often more conveniently denoted by exp. Number consecutively any equations that have to be displayed separately from the text (if referred to explicitly in the text).

Footnotes

Footnotes should be used sparingly. Number them consecutively throughout the article. Many word processors can build footnotes into the text, and this feature may be used. Otherwise, please indicate the position of footnotes in the text and list the footnotes themselves separately at the end of the article. Do not include footnotes in the Reference list.

Artwork

Image manipulation

Whilst it is accepted that authors sometimes need to manipulate images for clarity, manipulation for purposes of deception or fraud will be seen as scientific ethical abuse and will be dealt with accordingly. For graphical images, this journal is applying the following policy: no specific feature within an image may be enhanced, obscured, moved, removed, or introduced. Adjustments of brightness, contrast, or color balance are acceptable if and as long as they do not obscure or eliminate any information present in the original. Nonlinear adjustments (e.g. changes to gamma settings) must be disclosed in the figure legend.

Electronic artwork

General points

- Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork.
- Embed the used fonts if the application provides that option.
- Aim to use the following fonts in your illustrations: Arial, Courier, Times New Roman, Symbol, or use fonts that look similar.
- Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text.
- Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
- Provide captions to illustrations separately.
- Size the illustrations close to the desired dimensions of the published version.
- Submit each illustration as a separate file.
- Ensure that color images are accessible to all, including those with impaired color vision.

A detailed [guide on electronic artwork](#) is available.

You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.

Formats

If your electronic artwork is created in a Microsoft Office application (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) then please supply 'as is' in the native document format.

Regardless of the application used other than Microsoft Office, when your electronic artwork is finalized, please 'Save as' or convert the images to one of the following formats (note the resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations given below):

EPS (or PDF): Vector drawings, embed all used fonts.

TIFF (or JPEG): Color or grayscale photographs (halftones), keep to a minimum of 300 dpi.

TIFF (or JPEG): Bitmapped (pure black & white pixels) line drawings, keep to a minimum of 1000 dpi.

TIFF (or JPEG): Combinations bitmapped line/half-tone (color or grayscale), keep to a minimum of 500 dpi.

Please do not:

- Supply files that are optimized for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); these typically have a low number of pixels and limited set of colors;
- Supply files that are too low in resolution;
- Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

Color artwork

Please make sure that artwork files are in an acceptable format (TIFF (or JPEG), EPS (or PDF) or MS Office files) and with the correct resolution. If, together with your accepted article, you submit usable color figures then Elsevier will ensure, at no additional charge, that these figures will appear in color online (e.g., ScienceDirect and other sites). [Further information on the preparation of electronic artwork](#).

Figure captions

Ensure that each illustration has a caption. Supply captions separately, not attached to the figure. A caption should comprise a brief title (**not** on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum but explain all symbols and abbreviations used.

Tables

Please submit tables as editable text and not as images. Tables can be placed either next to the relevant text in the article, or on separate page(s) at the end. Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text and place any table notes below the table body. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in them do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article. Please avoid using vertical rules and shading in table cells.

References

Citation in text

Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full. Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these references are included in the reference list they should follow the standard reference style of the journal and should include a substitution of the publication date with either 'Unpublished results' or 'Personal communication'. Citation of a reference as 'in press' implies that the item has been accepted for publication.

Reference links

Increased discoverability of research and high quality peer review are ensured by online links to the sources cited. In order to allow us to create links to abstracting and indexing services, such as Scopus, Crossref and PubMed, please ensure that data provided in the references are correct. Please note that incorrect surnames, journal/book titles, publication year and pagination may prevent link creation. When copying references, please be careful as they may already contain errors. Use of the DOI is highly encouraged.

A DOI is guaranteed never to change, so you can use it as a permanent link to any electronic article. An example of a citation using DOI for an article not yet in an issue is: VanDecar J.C., Russo R.M., James D.E., Ambek W.B., Franke M. (2003). Aseismic continuation of the Lesser Antilles slab beneath northeastern Venezuela. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2001JB000884>. Please note the format of such citations should be in the same style as all other references in the paper.

Web references

As a minimum, the full URL should be given and the date when the reference was last accessed. Any further information, if known (DOI, author names, dates, reference to a source publication, etc.), should also be given. Web references can be listed separately (e.g., after the reference list) under a different heading if desired, or can be included in the reference list.

Data references

This journal encourages you to cite underlying or relevant datasets in your manuscript by citing them in your text and including a data reference in your Reference List. Data references should include the following elements: author name(s), dataset title, data repository, version (where available), year, and global persistent identifier. Add [dataset] immediately before the reference so we can properly identify it as a data reference. The [dataset] identifier will not appear in your published article.

Reference to software

We recommend that software (including computational code, scripts, models, notebooks and libraries) should be cited in the same way as other sources of information to support proper attribution and credit, reproducibility, collaboration and reuse, and encourage building on the work of others to further research. To facilitate this, useful information is provided in this [article on the essentials of software citation](#) by FORCE 11, of which Elsevier is a member. A reference to software should always include the following elements: creator(s) e.g. the authors or project that developed the software, software title, software repository, version (where available), year, and global persistent identifier.

Preprint references

Where a preprint has subsequently become available as a peer-reviewed publication, the formal publication should be used as the reference. If there are preprints that are central to your work or that cover crucial developments in the topic, but are not yet formally published, these may be referenced. Preprints should be clearly marked as such, for example by including the word preprint, or the name of the preprint server, as part of the reference. The preprint DOI should also be provided.

References in a special issue

Please ensure that the words 'this issue' are added to any references in the list (and any citations in the text) to other articles in the same Special Issue.

Reference style

Indicate references by superscript numbers in the text. The actual authors can be referred to, but the reference number(s) must always be given.

References should always be numbered in the order they appear in the text. The format must be based on the 'Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals' guidelines proposed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors and updated in 2009, as follows: the titles of journals should be abbreviated following the List of Journals Indexed in Index Medicus of the National Library of Medicine (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez>). Cite the first six authors after which add the words et al.

Examples of references:

- **Journals:** Padley DJ, Dietz AB, Gastineau DA. Sterility testing of hematopoietic progenitor cell products: a single-institution series of culture-positive rates and successful infusion of culture-positive products. *Transfusion*. 2007;47(4):636-43.
- **Books:** Chalmers J. Clinician's manual on blood pressure and stroke prevention. 3rd ed. London: Science Press; 2002. 70 p.
Richardson MD, Warnock DW. Fungal Infection Diagnosis and Management. 2nd ed. Oxford: Blackwell Science Ltd; 1997. 249 p.
- **Book chapters:** F. Reyes. Lymphocyte differentiation. In P Solal-Celigny, N Brousse, F Reyes, C Gisselbrecht, B Coiffier. Non-Hodgkin's Lymphomas. Paris: Editions Frison-Roche; 1993. p.19-29.
- **Annals:** Souza AM, Vaz RS, Carvalho MB, Arai Y, Hamerschilak B. Prevalencia de testes sorologicos relacionados a hepatitis B e n?o-A, n?o-B em doadores de sangue. In: 190 Congresso Brasileiro de Hematologia e Hemoterapia / 260 Congresso da Sociedade Brasileira de Hematologia e Hemoterapia; 2003 Ago 6-9; S?o Paulo, 2003. Anais. p.103.
- **Theses:** Sandes AF. Caracterizac?o imunofenotipica da diferenciacao eritrocitaria, granulocitica e megacariotica em pacientes com sindromes mielodisplasicas [thesis]. S?o Paulo: Universidade Federal de S?o Paulo; 2009. 126p.

Journal abbreviations source

Journal names should be abbreviated according to the [List of Title Word Abbreviations](#).

Video

Elsevier accepts video material and animation sequences to support and enhance your scientific research. Authors who have video or animation files that they wish to submit with their article are strongly encouraged to include links to these within the body of the article. This can be done in the same way as a figure or table by referring to the video or animation content and noting in the body text where it should be placed. All submitted files should be properly labeled so that they directly relate to the video file's content. In order to ensure that your video or animation material is directly usable, please provide the file in one of our recommended file formats with a preferred maximum size of 150 MB per file, 1 GB in total. Video and animation files supplied will be published online in the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including [ScienceDirect](#). Please supply 'stills' with your files: you can choose any frame from the video or animation or make a separate image. These will be used instead of standard icons and will personalize the link to your video data. For more detailed instructions please visit our [video instruction pages](#). Note: since video and animation cannot be embedded in the print version of the journal, please provide text for both the electronic and the print version for the portions of the article that refer to this content.

Data visualization

Include interactive data visualizations in your publication and let your readers interact and engage more closely with your research. Follow the instructions [here](#) to find out about available data visualization options and how to include them with your article.

Supplementary material

Supplementary material such as applications, images and sound clips, can be published with your article to enhance it. Submitted supplementary items are published exactly as they are received (Excel or PowerPoint files will appear as such online). Please submit your material together with the article and supply a concise, descriptive caption for each supplementary file. If you wish to make changes to supplementary material during any stage of the process, please make sure to provide an updated file. Do not annotate any corrections on a previous version. Please switch off the 'Track Changes' option in Microsoft Office files as these will appear in the published version.

Research data

This journal encourages and enables you to share data that supports your research publication where appropriate, and enables you to interlink the data with your published articles. Research data refers to the results of observations or experimentation that validate research findings. To facilitate reproducibility and data reuse, this journal also encourages you to share your software, code, models, algorithms, protocols, methods and other useful materials related to the project.

Below are a number of ways in which you can associate data with your article or make a statement about the availability of your data when submitting your manuscript. If you are sharing data in one of these ways, you are encouraged to cite the data in your manuscript and reference list. Please refer to the "References" section for more information about data citation. For more information on depositing, sharing and using research data and other relevant research materials, visit the [research data](#) page.

Data statement

To foster transparency, we encourage you to state the availability of your data in your submission. This may be a requirement of your funding body or institution. If your data is unavailable to access or unsuitable to post, you will have the opportunity to indicate why during the submission process, for example by stating that the research data is confidential. The statement will appear with your published article on ScienceDirect. For more information, visit the [Data Statement page](#).

AFTER ACCEPTANCE

Availability of accepted article

This journal makes articles available online as soon as possible after acceptance. This concerns the Journal Pre-proofs (both in HTML and PDF format), which have undergone enhancements after acceptance, such as the addition of a cover page and metadata, and formatting for readability, but are not yet the definitive versions of record. A Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is allocated, thereby making it fully citable and searchable by title, author name(s) and the full text. The article's PDF also carries a disclaimer stating that it is an unedited article. Subsequent production stages will simply replace this version.

Online proof correction

To ensure a fast publication process of the article, we kindly ask authors to provide us with their proof corrections within two days. Corresponding authors will receive an e-mail with a link to our online proofing system, allowing annotation and correction of proofs online. The environment is similar to MS Word: in addition to editing text, you can also comment on figures/tables and answer questions from the Copy Editor. Web-based proofing provides a faster and less error-prone process by allowing you to directly type your corrections, eliminating the potential introduction of errors.

If preferred, you can still choose to annotate and upload your edits on the PDF version. All instructions for proofing will be given in the e-mail we send to authors, including alternative methods to the online version and PDF.

We will do everything possible to get your article published quickly and accurately. Please use this proof only for checking the typesetting, editing, completeness and correctness of the text, tables and figures. Significant changes to the article as accepted for publication will only be considered at this stage with permission from the Editor. It is important to ensure that all corrections are sent back to us in one communication. Please check carefully before replying, as inclusion of any subsequent corrections cannot be guaranteed. Proofreading is solely your responsibility.

AUTHOR INQUIRIES

Visit the [Elsevier Support Center](#) to find the answers you need. Here you will find everything from Frequently Asked Questions to ways to get in touch.

You can also [check the status of your submitted article](#) or find out [when your accepted article will be published](#).

