**Original Research Articles**

Authors of original research **must** provide a supporting Cover Letter on submission briefly detailing:

 \_Relevance to the journal’s audience

 \_Where the novelty in the study lies

 \_How the study advances understanding of the field

 \_Direct and potential implications of the findings

 \_Explain that the paper was originally presented at BIBE conference.

**NB.** All journals will consider studies presenting positive, negative or inconclusive data.

Authors are also advised to consult the **Methods Reporting Checklist for Authors**, available here.

***Experimental details & data:*** Only where a novel experimental procedure has been employed full details must be provided, such that a skilled scientist would be able to reproduce the results presented. The synthesis of all new compounds must be described in detail. Details of routine or previously reported experimental procedures should be provided via references only. Experimental procedures and/or data running to more than two Word document pages should be placed in a supplementary information file.

***Data sharing:*** If requested by the Editor or reviewers, authors should be able to provide additional relevant original data underpinning their research.

***Clinical*** ***Trial*** ***reporting:*** For authors presenting the results of clinical trials, the guidelines recommended by CONSORT (http://www.consort-statement.org/) and GPP3 (http://www.ismpp.org/gpp3) should be followed. In addition, where available the clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract, and on the first mention of the trial in the main body of text. Unregistered clinical trials should be declared as such, and the reason for nonregistration should be provided. Mention of other trials should also include the relevant registration number, where available.

Secondary outcomes, exploratory analyses, and *post hoc* analyses should be clearly identified as such; these may be included in the primary publication or published separately, in which case they should clearly reference the primary publication and should not be published before it.

***Observational studies:*** where observational research has been carried out, authors should follow the recommendations of STROBE (http://www.strobe-statement.org/).

***Data deposition:*** where data have been deposited in a public repository, authors should state at the end of the abstract the data set name, repository name and number.

***Word and figure/table limit:*** Limits vary depending on journal title. Please contact the relevant Commissioning Editor for further details.

***Required sections*** (for a more detailed description of these sections see Article sections):

 \_Title

 \_Author(s) names & affiliations

 \_Structured abstract

 \_Keywords

 \_Introduction

o Should only cite directly pertinent references

o Should not include data of conclusions from the work being reported

 \_Patients & methods/Materials & methods

o Where an organization was paid or otherwise contracted to help conduct the research (e.g., data collection and management), this should be detailed

o Should include information indicating that the research was approved or exempted from the need for review by the responsible review committee (institutional or national). Where no formal ethics committee is available, a statement indicating that the research was conducted according to the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki should be included

o Information on the selection and description of participants should define how authors measured race or ethnicity and justify their relevance

 \_Results

o Numeric results should be given not only as derivatives (e.g., percentages) but also as the absolute numbers from which the derivatives were calculated

o Statistical significance of results should be specified, if any

 \_Discussion

o Authors should distinguish between clinical and statistical significance, and avoid making statements on economic benefits and costs unless the manuscript includes the appropriate economic data and analyses

o Authors should avoid claiming priority or alluding to work that has not been completed

 \_Conclusions

 \_Summary points

 \_References

 \_Reference annotations

 \_Financial disclosure/Acknowledgements

 \_Ethical conduct of research

Four types of research article are accepted:

***Full research article***

Research articles should present novel work that makes a significant impact within the scope of the journal, and which represents an important advancement in knowledge or understanding. Routine or incremental work is not suitable for full research papers. Research should be reported succinctly; the inclusion of detailed background discussion is to be avoided. Supporting data or further experimental details can be submitted as Supplementary Information.

***Preliminary communication***

Preliminary communication articles are intended for short reports of studies that present promising improvements or developments on existing areas of research. The significance and potential implications of the developments must be explicit.

***Short communication***

Short communication articles are short, peer-reviewed articles that build on a previously published study, document partial research results from an ongoing study, or discuss results from studies limited in scope.

***Methodology***

Methodology articles should provide an overview of a new experimental or computational method, test or procedure. The method described may be either completely novel, or may offer a demonstrable improvement on an existing method. The significance and potential implications of the developments must be explicit.

**Article sections**

The following list provides notes on the key article sections; authors should consult the ‘at-a-glance formatting checklist’ to determine which sections are required for their submission.

**Title**

Concisely and clearly conveys the scope/novelty of the article; not more than 120 characters.

**Author(s) names & affiliations**

Including full name, address and e-mail.

***Guidance on author sequence:***

Author sequence is at the authors’ discretion; however, we suggest following the recommendations in GPP3 Appendix Table 2 (http://www.ismpp.org/gpp3), whereby authors are listed either in order of the level of their contribution, or alphabetically. The corresponding author should always be indicated.

***Guidance on a change of affiliation during writing:***

Where an author has changed their affiliation prior to the publication of an article, the affiliation should reflect where the major part of the work was completed. Current affiliation and contact information should be listed in an acknowledgement.

**Abstract**

Not more than 120 words; no references should be cited in the abstract. The abstract should highlight the importance of the field under discussion within the journal’s scope, and clearly define the parameters of the article.

**Structured abstract (for Research articles)**

Not more than 120 words, broken down into Aims, Patients & Methods/Materials & Methods, Results and Conclusions. For authors presenting the results of clinical trials, the guidelines recommended by CONSORT should be followed when writing the abstract (http://www.consort-statement.org/), and the clinical trial registration number included at the end of the abstract, where available.

Data deposition: where data have been deposited in a public repository, authors should state at the end of the abstract the data set name, repository name and number.

**Keywords**

Up to 10 keywords (including therapeutic area, mechanism[s] of action etc.) plus names of drugs and compounds mentioned in the text.

**Body of the article**

The article content should be arranged under relevant headings and subheadings to assist the reader.

**Future perspective**

The author is challenged to include speculative viewpoint on how the field will have evolved 5–10 years from the point at which the article was written.

**Executive summary**

A series of bulleted summary points that illustrate the main topics or conclusions made under each of the main headings of the article.

***Example:***



**Summary points (Research articles & Company profiles only)**

8–10 bullet point sentences highlighting the key points of the article.

**Financial disclosure/Acknowledgements**

Disclosing any financial and/or material support that was received for the research or the creation of the work. Also disclosing any relationships any authors have (personal, academic or financial relationships that could influence their actions) or financial involvement with an organization or entity with a financial interest in or financial conflict with the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript. If writing assistance has been used in the creation of the manuscript, this should also be stated and any sources of funding for such assistance clearly identified.

**Ethical conduct of research**

For studies involving data relating to human or animal experimental investigations, authors should obtain appropriate institutional review board approval and state this within the article (for those investigators who do not have formal ethics review committees, the principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki should be followed). In addition, for investigations involving human subjects, authors should obtain informed consent from the participants involved and include an explanation of how this was obtained in the manuscript.

**References**

**Key points**

 \_Authors should focus on recent papers and papers older than 5 years should not be included except for an over-riding purpose.

 \_Primary literature references, and any patents or websites, should be numerically listed in the reference section in the order that they occur in the text (including any references that only appear in figures/tables/boxes).

 \_Information from manuscripts submitted but not accepted should be cited in the text as “unpublished observations” with written permission from the source.

 \_Avoid citing a “personal communication” unless it provides essential information not available from a public source, in which case the name of the person and date of communication should be cited in the text, with written permission from the source.

 \_References should be denoted numerically and in sequence in the text, using Arabic numerals placed in square brackets, i.e., [12].

 \_Quote first six authors’ names. If there are more than six, then quote first three *et al*.

 \_Reference annotations: 6–8 references should be highlighted that are of particular significance to the subject under review as “\* of interest” or “\*\* of considerable interest”, along with a brief (1–2 line) synopsis.

**Format**

 \_Author’s names should appear without full stops in their initials

 \_Quote first six authors’ names. If there are more than six, then quote first three *et al*.

 \_A full stop follows authors’ names

 \_Journal name should be in italics and abbreviated to standard format

 \_Volume number followed by comma, not bold

 \_Page number range separated by a hyphen with no spaces, followed by the year in brackets, and then a full stop

**Examples**

***Journal example:***

Fantl JA, Cardozo L, McClish DK *et al*. Estrogen therapy in the management of urinary incontinence in postmenopausal women: a meta-analysis. *Obstet. Gynecol.* 83(1), 12–18 (1994).

***Book example:***

De Groat WC, Booth AM, Yoshimura N. Neurophysiology of micturition and its modification in animal models of human disease. In: *The Autonomic Nervous System (Volume 6).* Andrews WR (Ed.), Harwood Academic Publishers, London, UK, 227–289 (1993).

***Meeting abstract example:***

Smith AB, Jones CD. Recent progress in the pharmacotherapy of diseases of the lower urinary tract. Presented at: *13th International Symposium on Medicinal Chemistry*. Atlanta, GA, USA, 28 November–2 December 1994.

***Patent example:***

Merck Frosst Canada, Inc. WO9714691 (1997).

(Use the following formats for patent numbers issued by the World, US and European patent offices, respectively: WO1234567, US1234567, EP-123456-A).

Website example (organization homepage):

US Food and Drug Association.

www.fda.gov

***Website example (specific webpage/document):***

American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2015 (2015). www.cancer.org/research/cancerfactsstatistics/cancerfactsfigures2015/index

Milenkovic M, Russo CA, Elixhauser A. Hospital stays for prostate cancer, 2004. HCUP Statistical Brief #30. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, MD, USA (2007).

www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb30.pdf

**Reference annotations**

Papers or of particular interest should be identified using one or two asterisk symbols:

 \_\* = of interest

 \_\*\* = of considerable interest

Each of the chosen references should be annotated with a brief sentence explaining why the reference is considered to be of interest/particular interest.

**Figures, tables & boxes**

Summary figures, tables and boxes are very useful, and we encourage their use in certain article types (see above section on Article types for details on which articles can include figures/tables/boxes). The author should include illustrations to condense and illustrate the information they wish to convey. Commentary that augments an article and could be viewed as ‘stand-alone’ should be included in a separate box. An example would be a summary of a particular trial or trial series, a case study summary or a series of terms explained.

Figures, tables and boxes should be numbered consecutively according to the order in which they have been first cited in the text. All abbreviations used within them should be defined in the legend.

All figures, tables and boxes should be submitted in an **editable format**. Ideally these should be sent as Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel or Adobe Illustrator files. If you are uncertain whether the format of your files is appropriate, please check with the Commissioning Editor. It is unnecessary to incorporate copies into the body of the manuscript; however, they should be included at the end of the document where possible.

Please ensure that **scale bars** are included in figures where appropriate (i.e., photomicrographs). Symbols, arrows or letters used in photomicrographs should contrast with the background. Please explain internal scale and identify the method of staining in photomicrographs.

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**Supplementary information**

Figure, tables and boxes larger than one A4 page will be included as online-only supplementary information. At the Editor’s discretion data or experimental details can also be included.

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The publisher has a charge for the printing of color figures (i.e., each color page) in the print issue of the journal. We have no page charges, unlike some other publishers, and aim to keep our color charge to a minimum.

This charge does not apply to the online (including PDF) version of articles, where all figures appear in color at no charge.

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If possible, please submit structures drawn in ISISDraw or Chemdraw format. However, chemical structures can be redrawn in-house. Please use the following conventions:

 \_Always indicate stereochemistry where necessary – use the wedge and hash bond convention for chiral centers and mark cis/trans bonds as such.

 \_Draw small peptides (up to five amino acids) in full; use amino acid abbreviations (Gly, Val, Leu, etc.) for larger peptides.

 \_Refer to each structure with a number in the text; submit a separate file (i.e., not pasted throughout the text) containing these numbered structures in the original chemical drawing package that you used.

**Electronic files**

Please submit any other illustrations/schemes in an editable electronic format such as Illustrator, PowerPoint, Excel or as postscripted/encapsulated postscripted (.ps/.eps) files.

Photos should be provided at a resolution of 600 dpi, or as high as possible.

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o not more than five figures from a whole book or journal issue/edition;

o not more than six figures from an annual journal volume; and

o not more than three figures from works published by a single publisher for an article, and not more than three figures from works published by a single publisher for a book chapter (and in total not more than thirty figures from a single publisher for re-publication in a book, including a multi-volume book with different authors per chapter).

 \_Use single text extracts of less than 400 words from a journal article or book chapter, but not more than a total of 800 words from a whole book or journal issue/edition.

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**Units of measurement**

Measurements of length, height, weight and volume should be reported in metric units (meter, kilogram or liter) or their decimal multiples.

Temperatures should be in degrees Celsius.

Blood pressures should be in millimeters of mercury.

Any other units should be reported using the International System of Units (SI) where possible.

**Statistics**

Describe statistical methods with enough detail to enable a knowledgeable reader with access to the original data to judge its appropriateness for the study and to verify the reported results.

When possible, appropriate indicators of measurement error or uncertainty (such as confidence intervals) should be included.

Please define any statistical terms, abbreviations and symbols used.