

TABLE OF CONTENTS

•	Description	p.1
•	Abstracting and Indexing	p.2
•	Editorial Board	p.2
•	Guide for Authors	p.5



ISSN: 1755-2966

DESCRIPTION

Mental Health and Physical Activity is an international forum for scholarly reports on any aspect of relevance to advancing our understanding of the relationship between **mental health** and **physical activity**. Manuscripts will be considered for publication which deal with high quality research, comprehensive research reviews, and critical reflection of applied or research issues. The journal is open to the use of diverse methodological approaches. Reports of practice will need to demonstrate academic rigour, preferably through analysis of programme effectiveness, and go beyond mere description.

The aims of *Mental Health and Physical Activity* are:

- (1) To foster the inter-disciplinary development and understanding of the mental health and physical activity field;
- (2) To develop research designs and methods to advance our understanding;
- (3) To promote the publication of high quality research on the effects of physical activity (interventions and a single session) on a wide range of dimensions of mental health and psychological well-being (e.g., depression, anxiety and stress responses, mood, cognitive functioning and neurological disorders, such as dementia, self-esteem and related constructs, psychological aspects of quality of life among people with physical and mental illness, sleep, addictive disorders, eating disorders), from both efficacy and effectiveness trials;
- (4) To promote high quality research on the biophysical and psychosocial mechanisms involved to help our understanding of the link between physical activity and mental health, and guide intervention development;
- (5) To provide an evidence-based source for professionals working in the field of mental health and a forum to consider service delivery issues.

Benefits to authors

We also provide many author benefits, such as free PDFs, a liberal copyright policy, special discounts on Elsevier publications and much more. Please click here for more information on our [author services](#).

Please see our [Guide for Authors](#) for information on article submission. If you require any further information or help, please visit our [Support Center](#)

Notice to Authors Wishing to Submit to MENPA

Mental Health and Physical Activity (MENPA) is becoming increasingly competitive. We continue to receive many more manuscripts than we can possibly publish. Therefore, in order to reduce any delay in publishing the best science, the following guidelines should be considered prior to submitting a manuscript, in addition to guidance from EQUATOR (<https://www.equator-network.org/>). Please note that if you have doubt about the suitability of a manuscript prior to submission to MENPA then we will quickly respond to enquiries if an abstract is sent to [Professor Adrian Taylor](#), editor of the journal, using the Message box on his contact page.

The types of studies given the **highest priority** are the following: Etiologic or experimental studies testing a specific hypothesis or highlighting a specific mechanism relating physical activity or inactivity to mental health. Prospective or longitudinal studies. Randomised controlled trials, or related protocol papers which follow CONSORT guidelines. Studies that are truly innovative and involve in-depth or novel data collection and analysis (including both quantitative and qualitative methods), or advance research methods. High quality, novel systematic reviews (based on quantitative and qualitative studies) that follow PRISMA guidelines.

The following types of manuscripts will be given the **lowest priority** and are the most likely to be rejected without review: Small, cross-sectional, descriptive studies without any innovative features. Studies having no control or reference group, unless they are clearly part of a step in testing, using mixed methods, the feasibility and acceptability of an intervention within a larger program of study. Studies that involve statistical hypothesis testing of intervention effects when there is no justification for the sample size. Studies consisting of non-clinical samples, unless they clearly add to our understanding of the physical activity and well-being relationship. Studies in which physical activity is only a covariate of interest. Studies with no recognized measure of physical activity.

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

Embase
Scopus
PsycINFO
Google Scholar

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editors-in-Chief

Ana Abrantes, Brown University Warren Alpert Medical School, Providence, Rhode Island, United States of America

Physical activity, mental health, complex interventions, trials, reviews, clinical psychologist

Mats Hallgren, Karolinska Institute, Department of Global Public Health, Solna, Sweden

Physical activity, mental health, complex interventions, trials, reviews

Co-Founding Editor-in-Chief

Adrian Taylor, Plymouth University Peninsula School of Medicine, Plymouth, United Kingdom

Guy Faulkner, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Associate Editors

Matthew P. Herring, University of Limerick Health Research Institute, Limerick, Ireland

Physical activity and mental health epidemiology, acute and chronic exercise, anxiety, depression, meta-analysis, trials, psychobiology

Caterina Pesce, University of Rome 'Foro Italico', Faculty of Sport and Exercise Sciences, Roma, Italy

physical activity, cognition, motor competence, holistic development

Amanda L Rebar, Central Queensland University School of Health Medical and Applied Sciences, Rockhampton, Australia

Health behaviour change, Habit change/formation, Automatic influences on behaviour, Theory

Simon Rosenbaum, University of New South Wales Discipline of Psychiatry & Mental Health, Randwick, Australia
Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), exercise in the prevention and management of mental health disorders

Felipe Barreto Schuch, Federal University of Santa Maria, Department of Methods and Sports Techniques, Santa Maria, Brazil

exercise, depression, meta-analysis, mental health, psychosis, bipolar, physical activity, anxiety

Robert Stanton, Central Queensland University School of Health Medical and Applied Sciences, Rockhampton, Australia
Physical and mental health, Physical activity, Exercise

Kristin L. Szuhany, New York University Grossman School of Medicine, New York, New York, United States of America
Anxiety, Depression, PTSD, Trauma, Exercise, physical activity, anxiety sensitivity

Megan Teychenne, Deakin University School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences, Geelong, Australia
Physical activity, mental health, complex interventions, trials, reviews, health inequalities

Editorial Board

Paquito Bernard, University of Quebec in Montreal, Department of Human Kinetics, Montréal, Quebec, Canada

James A. Blumenthal, Duke University Medical Center, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Durham, North Carolina, United States of America

Denver Brown, The University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas, United States of America
Exercise Psychology and Behavioral Medicine, Time Use Epidemiology, Physical Activity Determinants, Movement Behaviors and Health

Julia Browne, Providence VA Medical Center, Providence, Rhode Island, United States of America
Physical activity, serious mental illness, physical function, aging and mental health, home-based exercise

Rebekah Carney, Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester, United Kingdom
Physical activity and exercise, Severe mental illness, Psychosis, Youth mental health

Justin Chapman, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Mental Health and Complex Disorders program, Herston, Australia
Mental health and complex exercise interventions

Li-Jung Chen, National Taiwan University of Physical Education and Sport, Department of Exercise Health Science, Taichung, Taiwan
Epidemiology of physical activity, sedentary behavior and wellbeing

Kerry S. Courneya, University of Alberta, Faculty of Kinesiology Sport and Recreation, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Physical activity, cancer survivorship and quality of life

Laura Ellingson-Sayen, Western Oregon University, Monmouth, Oregon, United States of America
Pain, mental health, physical activity and sedentary behaviors, interventions

Samantha Farris, Rutgers University, Department of Psychology, Piscataway, New Jersey, United States of America

Joseph Firth, The University of Manchester Division of Psychology and Mental Health, Manchester, United Kingdom
Neuroscience, Quantitative & , qualitative methods, Systematic reviews, Digital technologies and Interventions for young people with psychiatric conditions, Exercise interventions, Youth mental health

Eco J. C. de Geus, VU Amsterdam, Department of Biological Psychology, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Gary Goldfield, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Florence E. Kinnafick, Loughborough University, Loughborough, United Kingdom
Motivation and behavior change, Intervention development, Implementation and evaluation, Psychological determinants of physical activity

Christopher Kline, University of Pittsburgh, Department of Health & Human Development, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States of America
Exercise, physical activity, sedentary, sleep, insomnia, sleep apnea, circadian

Kimberley Lakes, University of California Riverside, Riverside, California, United States of America
Children's Self-Regulation and Executive Function, ADHD, Autism, Neurodevelopmental Disorders, Intervention, Exercise, Child Assessment

Jeffrey Lambert, University of Bath, Department for Health, Bath, United Kingdom

Jacob Meyer, Iowa State University, College of Human Sciences, Department of Kinesiology, Ames, Iowa, United States of America
Exercise and depression, mechanisms

Douglas Noordsy, Stanford University, Stanford, California, United States of America
Physical exercise for brain health, early psychosis, Lifestyle Psychiatry

Patrick J. O'Connor, University of Georgia, Department of Kinesiology, Athens, Georgia, United States of America

Kirsten Roessler, University of Southern Denmark, Department of Psychology, Odense, Denmark

Mirko Schmidt, University of Bern Institute of Sports Science, Bern, Switzerland
Pediatric exercise and cognitive functioning, ADHD

Marie Aline Sillice, City University of New York School of Public Health, New York, New York, United States of America

Behavioral health intervention, Technology applications, Health disparities, Clinical psychology, Public health

Marit Sorensen, Norwegian University of Sport and Physical Education, Department of Coaching and Psychology, Oslo, Norway

Brendon Stubbs, King's College London, London, United Kingdom

Exercise interventions for mental health in older people and forensic settings

Louisa Sylvia, Harvard Medical School, Department of Psychiatry, Southborough, Massachusetts, United States of America

Affect, Allostasis, Antimanic agents, Antipsychotic agents, Bipolar disorder, Comparative effectiveness research, Cyclothymic disorder, Exercise, Exercise therapy, Lithium, lithium compounds, Metabolic diseases, Neurogenesis, Nutrition therapy, Patient dropouts, Periodicity, Psychotherapy

Madhukar Trivedi, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School Center for Depression Research and Clinical Care, Dallas, Texas, United States of America

Brain and FLuid Based Biomarker Development and Validation for Depression, Precision Medicine, Treatment Resistant Depression, Measurement Based Care for Psychiatry

Ineke Vergeer, University of Southern Queensland Centre for Health Research, Springfield, Australia
Holistic Movement Practices

Liye Zou, Shenzhen University, Shenzhen, China

Health Psychology, Exercise Neuropsychology

GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

Mental Health and Physical Activity (MENPA) is an international forum for scholarly reports on any aspect of relevance to advancing our understanding of the relationship between mental health and physical activity. Manuscripts will be considered for publication which deal with high quality research, comprehensive research reviews, and critical reflection of applied or research issues. The journal is open to the use of diverse methodological approaches. Reports of professional practice will need to demonstrate academic rigour, preferably through analysis of programme effectiveness, and go beyond mere description.

Types of article

Full-length research reports: The chief criteria for the acceptance of submitted papers are the quality, originality, and clarity of the work reported, addressing one or more of the research areas reported above. There is no word limit on full length research reports, but papers should be concisely written and most should be able to articulate their findings within approximately 4,500 words.

Reviews: The journal publishes invited or unsolicited reviews on a contemporary topic, discussed authoritatively with the aim of providing a solid, and often novel, interpretation of research evidence, and of integrating a mechanistic model when applicable. Reviews consist of approximately 6,000 words of text and no more than 100 scientific references. Reviews must contain at least one figure highlighting the key aspects of the article, complete with explanatory figure legends. If appropriate, a colour version of the figure can be published in the online publication, with a black-and-white figure in the print version. If the author chooses this option, the figure legend must be self-explanatory in the absence of color-coding.

Short communications: Manuscripts published as short communications are, primarily, reports of novel, solid, important findings on contemporary, fast-moving topics. Small replication studies or incomplete data that do not move the field forward, and descriptions of methods and techniques, are not appropriate for this format. Papers will be considered short communications if the text, references, and a maximum of two tables or figures (or one of each) are limited to 2,000 words. Authors may elect to include additional illustrations, but the limitation to 2,000 words will remain.

Commentaries: These are short pieces written to accompany the publication of impactful full-length research reports. Invited by the Editor, they are limited to 900-1000 words and 5-10 references (including a reference to the relevant published report).

Letters to the editor: These should be of high scientific quality, contain less than 500 words, and cite no more than 5 scientific references. If the letter is directed to a paper published in *Physiology and Behavior*, the author of that paper will be provided an opportunity to respond. Both the letter to the editor and the author's response will be published simultaneously.

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
- Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print

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
- List 4 potential referees to whom we may choose to send your manuscript for peer review, with their full name, organisational affiliation and country, and e-mail address. Please avoid clear conflicts of interest

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.**

Declaration of generative AI in scientific writing

The below guidance only refers to the writing process, and not to the use of AI tools to analyse and draw insights from data as part of the research process.

Where authors use generative artificial intelligence (AI) and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process, authors should only use these technologies to improve readability and language. Applying the technology should be done with human oversight and control, and authors should carefully review and edit the result, as AI can generate authoritative-sounding output that can be incorrect, incomplete or biased. AI and AI-assisted technologies should not be listed as an author or co-author, or be cited as an author. Authorship implies responsibilities and tasks that can only be attributed to and performed by humans, as outlined in Elsevier's [AI policy for authors](#).

Authors should disclose in their manuscript the use of AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process by following the instructions below. A statement will appear in the published work. Please note that authors are ultimately responsible and accountable for the contents of the work.

Disclosure instructions

Authors must disclose the use of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process by adding a statement at the end of their manuscript in the core manuscript file, before the References list. The statement should be placed in a new section entitled 'Declaration of Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process'.

Statement: During the preparation of this work the author(s) used [NAME TOOL / SERVICE] in order to [REASON]. After using this tool/service, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take(s) full responsibility for the content of the publication.

This declaration does not apply to the use of basic tools for checking grammar, spelling, references etc. If there is nothing to disclose, there is no need to add a statement.

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 require corresponding authors to provide co-author contributions to the manuscript using the relevant CRediT roles. The [CRediT taxonomy](#) includes 14 different roles describing each contributor's specific contribution to the scholarly output. The roles are: Conceptualization; Data curation; Formal analysis; Funding acquisition; Investigation; Methodology; Project administration; Resources; Software; Supervision; Validation; Visualization; Roles/Writing - original draft; and Writing - review & editing. Note that not all roles may apply to every manuscript, and authors may have contributed through multiple roles. [More details and an example](#).

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.

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). 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.

Subscribers may reproduce tables of contents or prepare lists of articles including abstracts for internal circulation within their institutions. [Permission](#) of the Publisher is required for resale or distribution outside the institution and for all other derivative works, including compilations and translations. If excerpts from other copyrighted works are included, the author(s) must obtain written permission from the copyright owners and credit the source(s) in the article. Elsevier has [preprinted forms](#) for use by authors in these cases.

For gold open access articles: Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'License Agreement' ([more information](#)). Permitted third party reuse of gold open access articles is determined by the author's choice of [user license](#).

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](#) 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.

Standards in Conducting and Reporting Biomedical Research

The work described in your article must have been carried out in accordance with:

- [Uniform Requirements](#) for manuscripts submitted to Biomedical journals.
 - The [Code of Ethics](#) of the [World Medical Association \(Declaration of Helsinki\)](#). The manuscript should contain a statement that the work has been approved by the appropriate ethical committees related to the institution(s) in which it was performed and that subjects gave informed consent to the work. Patients' and volunteers' names, initials, and hospital numbers should not be used.
 - Local, national, ethical and regulatory principles, and local licensing arrangements; for further details, please see http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/home.htm
- Compliance must be stated at an appropriate point in the article.

MENPA supports initiatives to enhance how clinical trials are conducted and reported, including appropriate registering and numbering of trials. The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) (<http://www.icmje.org/>) defines a clinical trial as any research study involving human participants who are prospectively assigned to one or more interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes. We recommend that where the main purpose of the study is to understand the effects of a preventative or therapeutic physical activity intervention, authors of protocols or reports of clinical trials, must register their trial prior to submission in a suitable publicly accessible registry. The trial registration number should be included as the last line of the abstract of the manuscript. Related to this matter, MENPA supports the need to publish reports on trials in which the intervention is ineffective, where the protocol was appropriate and rigorously applied.

MENPA supports several initiatives to enhance the reporting of biomedical research. Authors are directed to checklists for a number of study designs, including randomized controlled trials (CONSORT) (<http://www.consort-statement.org/index.aspx?o=1031>), systematic reviews (PRISMA) (<http://www.prisma-statement.org/>) and how to conduct a systematic search how a search strategy (see the Cochrane Reviewers' Handbook) (<http://www.cochrane-handbook.org/>), meta-analyses (MOOSE) (<http://www.consort-statement.org/resources/downloads/other-instruments/>), and reporting of observational studies (STROBE) (<http://www.strobe-statement.org/Checklist.html>). Guidance on the reporting of qualitative studies can be found such as (RATS) (<http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/rats>). Authors can also refer to the EQUATOR network website (<http://www.equator-network.org/index.aspx?o=1032>) for further information on reporting guidelines for health research. Peer reviewers are likely to refer to these checklists when evaluating manuscripts.

Preparation

Cover letter: The cover letter accompanying the manuscript submission must include all authors' names and affiliations to avoid potential conflicts of interest in the review process. An address, phone number, email address and fax number should be provided for the corresponding author for possible use by the editorial office and later by the production department. The cover letter should indicate any potential conflicts of interest (e.g., commercial sponsorship). The source of any funding that may have contributed to the production of the research and/or manuscript should be declared in the cover letter, and if the manuscript is accepted for publication, as an acknowledgement in the published paper.

General: Manuscripts should be prepared following the general style guidelines described in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (Latest Edition). Do not import the Figures or Tables into your text. The Editors reserve the right to adjust style to certain standards of uniformity.

Paper Length: All manuscripts should be presented as concisely as possible, and our preference is to receive manuscripts that are 30 A4, double spaced pages or less (APA format), including text, references, figures, and tables. For longer manuscript, authors should contact an Editor in Chief prior to submission with a clear justification for the need for a longer manuscript. Short Communications are also accepted and encouraged. These are typically no more than 15 A4, double spaced pages (APA format). Occasionally other forms of submission may be of interest to the Editors/readers such as book reviews, commentaries, and news items.

Queries

For questions about the editorial process (including the status of manuscripts under review) or for technical support on submissions, please visit our [Support Center](#).

Peer review

This journal operates a double 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.](#)

Editors are not involved in decisions about papers which they 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.

Double anonymized review

This journal uses double anonymized review, which means the identities of the authors are concealed from the reviewers, and vice versa. [More information](#) is available on our website. To facilitate this, please include the following separately:

Title page (with author details): This should include the title, authors' names, affiliations, acknowledgements and any Declaration of Interest statement, and a complete address for the corresponding author including an e-mail address.

Anonymized manuscript (no author details): The main body of the paper (including the references, figures, tables and any acknowledgements) should not include any identifying information, such as the authors' names or affiliations.

Appeal Process

If your paper is rejected and you believe the peer review process was not fair, an appeal may be sent to the Editor via email.

Declaration of interest

All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential competing interests include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. Authors must disclose any interests in two places: 1. A summary declaration of interest statement in the title page file (if double anonymized) or the manuscript file (if single anonymized). If there are no interests to declare then please state this: 'Declarations of interest: none'. This summary statement will be ultimately published if the article is accepted. 2. Detailed disclosures as part of a separate Declaration of Interest form, which forms part of the journal's official records. It is important for potential interests to be declared in both places and that the information matches. [More information](#).

Editorial Board Members and Editors for *Mental Health and Physical Activity* must disclose this position and how it was handled within the review process as part of their conflict of interest statement. We recommend using the following text:

Given their role as an [Editorial Board Member/Editor], [Name] had no involvement in the peer-review of this article and had no access to information regarding its peer-review.

Essential title page information

- **Title.** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
- **Author names and affiliations.** 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.
- **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 [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

Papers should include an abstract, not exceeding 250 words, covering the main factual points and statement of problem, method, results and conclusions.

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

Authors are requested to supply a maximum of 6 keywords accurately describing the contents of the manuscript. These are normally not words used in the title.

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.

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) regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in color in the printed version. **For color reproduction in print, you will receive information regarding the costs from Elsevier after receipt of your accepted article.** Please indicate your preference for color: in print or online only. [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.

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.

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 management software

Most Elsevier journals have their reference template available in many of the most popular reference management software products. These include all products that support [Citation Style Language styles](#), such as [Mendeley](#). Using citation plug-ins from these products, authors only need to select the appropriate journal template when preparing their article, after which citations and bibliographies will be automatically formatted in the journal's style. If no template is yet available for this journal, please follow the format of the sample references and citations as shown in this Guide. If you use reference management software, please ensure that you remove all field codes before submitting the electronic manuscript. [More information on how to remove field codes from different reference management software](#).

Reference Style

References should be prepared using the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th Edition) for style. For example:

Reference to a book:

Morgan, W.P. (1997). *Physical activity and mental health*. Washington: Hemisphere.

Reference to a chapter in an edited book:

Courneya, K.S. (2005). Exercise and quality of life in cancer survivors. In G. Faulkner and A.H. Taylor (Eds.), *Exercise, health and mental health: Emerging relationships* (pp. 114-134). London, UK: Routledge.

Reference to a journal publication:

Lawlor, D.A. and Hopker, S.W. (2001). The effectiveness of exercise as an intervention in the management of depression: systemic review and meta-regression analysis of randomised controlled trials. *British Medical Journal*, 322, 1-8.

Reference style

Text: Citations in the text should follow the referencing style used by the American Psychological Association. You are referred to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, Seventh Edition, ISBN 978-1-4338-3215-4, copies of which may be [ordered online](#).

List: references should be arranged first alphabetically and then further sorted chronologically if necessary. More than one reference from the same author(s) in the same year must be identified by the letters 'a', 'b', 'c', etc., placed after the year of publication.

Examples:

Reference to a journal publication:

Van der Geer, J., Hanraads, J. A. J., & Lupton, R. A. (2010). The art of writing a scientific article. *Journal of Scientific Communications*, 163, 51-59. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sc.2010.00372>.

Reference to a journal publication with an article number:

Van der Geer, J., Hanraads, J. A. J., & Lupton, R. A. (2018). The art of writing a scientific article. *Heliyon*, 19, Article e00205. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2018.e00205>.

Reference to a book:

Strunk, W., Jr., & White, E. B. (2000). *The elements of style* (4th ed.). Longman (Chapter 4).

Reference to a chapter in an edited book:

Mettam, G. R., & Adams, L. B. (2009). How to prepare an electronic version of your article. In B. S. Jones, & R. Z. Smith (Eds.), *Introduction to the electronic age* (pp. 281-304). E-Publishing Inc.

Reference to a website:

Powertech Systems. (2015). *Lithium-ion vs lead-acid cost analysis*. Retrieved from <http://www.powertechsystems.eu/home/tech-corner/lithium-ion-vs-lead-acid-cost-analysis/>. Accessed January 6, 2016

Reference to a dataset:

[dataset] Oguro, M., Imahiro, S., Saito, S., & Nakashizuka, T. (2015). *Mortality data for Japanese oak wilt disease and surrounding forest compositions*. Mendeley Data, v1. <https://doi.org/10.17632/xwj98nb39r.1>.

Reference to a conference paper or poster presentation:

Engle, E.K., Cash, T.F., & Jarry, J.L. (2009, November). *The Body Image Behaviours Inventory-3: Development and validation of the Body Image Compulsive Actions and Body Image Avoidance Scales*. Poster session presentation at the meeting of the Association for Behavioural and Cognitive Therapies, New York, NY.

Reference to software:

Coon, E., Berndt, M., Jan, A., Svyatsky, D., Atchley, A., Kikinzon, E., Harp, D., Manzini, G., Shelef, E., Lipnikov, K., Garimella, R., Xu, C., Moulton, D., Karra, S., Painter, S., Jafarov, E., & Molins, S. (2020, March 25). *Advanced Terrestrial Simulator (ATS) v0.88 (Version 0.88)*. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3727209>.

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.

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 requires 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, which may also include 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. When sharing data in one of these ways, you are expected 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 linking

If you have made your research data available in a data repository, you can link your article directly to the dataset. Elsevier collaborates with a number of repositories to link articles on ScienceDirect with relevant repositories, giving readers access to underlying data that gives them a better understanding of the research described.

There are different ways to link your datasets to your article. When available, you can directly link your dataset to your article by providing the relevant information in the submission system. For more information, visit the [database linking page](#).

For [supported data repositories](#) a repository banner will automatically appear next to your published article on ScienceDirect.

In addition, you can link to relevant data or entities through identifiers within the text of your manuscript, using the following format: Database: xxxx (e.g., TAIR: AT1G01020; CCDC: 734053; PDB: 1XFN).

Research Elements

This journal enables you to publish research objects related to your original research – such as data, methods, protocols, software and hardware – as an additional paper in a [Research Elements journal](#).

Research Elements is a suite of peer-reviewed, open access journals which make your research objects findable, accessible and reusable. Articles place research objects into context by providing detailed descriptions of objects and their application, and linking to the associated original research articles. Research Elements articles can be prepared by you, or by one of your collaborators.

During submission, you will be alerted to the opportunity to prepare and submit a manuscript to one of the Research Elements journals.

More information can be found on the [Research Elements page](#).

Data statement

To foster transparency, we require you to state the availability of your data in your submission if your data is unavailable to access or unsuitable to post. This may also be a requirement of your funding body or institution. You will have the opportunity to provide a data statement during the submission process. The statement will appear with your published article on ScienceDirect. For more information, visit the [Data Statement page](#).

AFTER ACCEPTANCE

SPECIAL ISSUES

A special issue focuses on a specific area of research that has a broad appeal and falls within the aims and scope of the journal. The Guest Editor(s) handle the peer review process and the special issues should be reviewed by no fewer than two independent experts. The Editor(s) is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles.

Guest 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 guest 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.

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.

Offprints

The corresponding author will, at no cost, receive a customized [Share Link](#) providing 50 days free access to the final published version of the article on [ScienceDirect](#). The Share Link can be used for sharing the article via any communication channel, including email and social media. For an extra charge, paper offprints can be ordered via the offprint order form which is sent once the article is accepted for publication. Corresponding authors who have published their article gold open access do not receive a Share Link as their final published version of the article is available open access on ScienceDirect and can be shared through the article DOI link.

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](#).

© Copyright 2018 Elsevier | <https://www.elsevier.com>