# The Pharmacogenomics Journal

# **Guide for Authors**

About the Journal	1
Article Type Specifications	2
Preparation of Articles	
How to Submit	5

ŀ	ost-Acceptance	t.
(	Costs	
_	Editorial Policies	
_	Further Information	

# ABOUT THE JOURNAL

# Aims and Scope

The Pharmacogenomics Journal is dedicated to the rapid publication of original research on pharmacogenomics and its clinical applications. It is essential reading for geneticists, molecular biologists, clinical and molecular pharmacologists, as well as the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries.

Topics of interest include but are not limited to:

- Effects of genetic variability on drug toxicity and efficacy
- Identification and functional characterization of polymorphisms relevant to drug action
- Pharmacodynamic variation and drug efficacy
- · Pharmacokinetic variation and drug toxicity
- Integration of new developments in the genome project and proteomics into clinical medicine, pharmacology, and therapeutics
- Clinical applications of genomic science
- Identification of novel genomic targets for drug development
- Potential benefits of pharmacogenomics

# **Editorial Note**

Authors will be notified of acceptance, rejection or request for revision. When a manuscript is returned to the corresponding author for revision, it should be resubmitted to *The Pharmacogenomics Journal* within three months, and it should be accompanied by a covering letter detailing the response to each point raised by the Editor/reviewers. Manuscripts not returned within this time frame will be considered as new submissions.

# **Journal Details**

#### Editor:

Professor Julio Licinio, MD

#### **Editorial office:**

Nature Publishing Group One New York Plaza, Suite 4500 New York, NY 10004-1562

ThePharmacogenomicsJournal@nature.com

**Impact factor:** 3.815 (2016 Journal Citation Reports, Thomson Reuters, 2017)

Frequency: 6 issues a year

# Abstracted in:

BIOSIS
Biotechnology Abstracts
Cambridge Scientific Abstracts
Embase/Excerpta Medica
Index Medicus/Medline
PubMed

# ARTICLE TYPE SPECIFICATIONS

Article Description	Abstract	Word Limit	Tables/ Figures	References
Original Articles  These are reports whose conclusions represent a substantial advance in the understanding of an important issue. Please see 'Preparation of Articles' below for further details.	Unstructured abstract	Abstract: 150 words Article: 3,500 words max excluding references.	No limit	No limit
Reviews  These survey recent developments in topical areas of scientific research or, on occasion, more wide-ranging subjects. Authors are encouraged to include tables and figures, and if desired, call-out material for text boxes (to highlight salient points of the paper or expand on certain concepts) and a glossary of specialist terms.	Unstructured abstract	Abstract: 150 words Article: 4,000 words	No limit	No limit
<b>Feature Reviews</b> (by Editor invitation only)  These reviews are more comprehensive than Review articles and are submitted by invitation only.	Unstructured abstract	Abstract: 150 words Article: 5,000 words	No limit	No limit
News and Commentaries  These are short overviews of new original work, or a scientific perspective on a topical issue of international public interest. News & Commentary should contain no original or novel data. Generally commissioned, but a limited number of unsolicited manuscripts are considered.	No abstract required	Opening paragraph: 20-30 words Article: 1,500 words	Max 2 of each	Max of 15
Ethical, Economics, Legal, and Social (EELS)  Present well-argued, thought-provoking analysis of issues and considerations involved in both basic research and in practice.	No abstract required.	Article: 2,000 words	Max of 2	Max of 30
Letters to the Editor  Letters to the Editor should contain no original or novel data. These must respond to an original research article published in <i>The Pharmacogenomics Journal</i> no earlier than six months prior to the proposed letter's submission. Original authors will have the opportunity to respond to the letter, should it be chosen for acceptance. This response will be published alongside the correspondence. Contributions should start with a two- or three-sentence paragraph that contains the message of the article without specialized terminology. In consultation with the authors, titles may be changed by the editors. Joint first authors are not allowed.	No abstract required.	700 words (900 if no image)	Max of 1	Max of 10

# PREPARATION OF ARTICLES

Please note that original articles must contain the following components. Please see below for further details.

- Cover letter
- Title page (excluding acknowledgements)
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Materials (or Subjects) and Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Acknowledgements
- Conflict of Interest
- References
- Figure legends
- Tables
- Figures

Cover Letter: The uploaded cover letter must state the material is original research, has not been previously published and has not been submitted for publication elsewhere while under consideration. The cover letter must also include a Conflict of Interest statement, which is also included in the text of the manuscript (see <a href="Editorial Policy section">Editorial Policy section</a>). Please note: As with *Nature* titles, *TPJ* does not collect keywords. Keywords that are provided to us will not be published. If a term is important in the discoverability of the paper, it should be in the title or abstract of the paper.

Title Page: The title page should bear the title of the paper, the full names of all the authors, highest academic degree obtained, and their affiliations; also, the name, full postal address, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address of the author to whom correspondence and offprint requests are to be sent (This information is also asked for on the electronic submission site). The title should be brief, informative, of 150 characters or less and should not make a statement or conclusion. Please note – the running head for a manuscript on all pages after the title page will be the shortened manuscript title followed by an ellipsis.

**Abstract:** The Abstract should consist of one, single, continuous paragraph of 150-250 words in length. In The Pharmacogenomics Journal abstracts do NOT have paragraph breaks, headings or subheadings (such as methods, results, etc) in the abstract.

**Introduction:** The Introduction should assume that the reader is knowledgeable in the field and should therefore be as brief as possible but can include a short historical review where desirable.

Materials/Subjects and Methods: This section should contain sufficient detail such that experimental procedures can be reproduced. For methods that have been published in detail elsewhere, authors can reference more full descriptions in other publications, but should still make effort to describe adequately in the main body of the text (not supplemental files). Authors should provide the name of the manufacturer and their location for any specifically named medical equipment and

instruments, and all drugs should be identified by their pharmaceutical names, and by their trade name if relevant.

Results and Discussion: The Results section should briefly present the experimental data in text, tables or figures. Tables and figures should not be described extensively in the text, either. The discussion should focus on the interpretation and the significance of the findings with concise objective comments that describe their relation to other work in the area. It should not repeat information in the results. The final paragraph should highlight the main conclusion(s), and provide some indication of the direction future research should take.

Acknowledgements: These should be brief, and should include sources of support including sponsorship (e.g. university, charity, commercial organization) and sources of material (e.g. novel drugs) not available commercially.

Conflict of Interest: Authors must declare whether or not there are any competing financial interests in relation to the work described. This information must be included at this stage and will be published as part of the paper. Conflict of interest should be noted in the cover letter and as part of the submission process. Please see the Conflict of Interest documentation in the <a href="Editorial Policy">Editorial Policy</a> section for detailed information.

**References:** Only papers directly related to the article should be cited. Exhaustive lists should be avoided. References should follow the Vancouver format. In the text they should appear as numbers, and at the end of the paper they should be listed (double-spaced) in numerical order corresponding to the order of citation in the text. All authors should be quoted for papers with up to six authors; for papers with more than six authors, the first six only should be quoted, followed by *et al*.

Abbreviations for titles of medical periodicals should conform to those used in the latest edition of *Index Medicus*. The first and last page numbers for each reference should be provided. Abstracts and letters must be identified as such. Papers in press and papers already submitted for publication may be included in the list of references, but no citation is required for work that is not yet submitted for publication.

Personal communications must be allocated a number and included in the list of references in the usual way or simply referred to in the text; the authors may choose which method to use. In either case authors must obtain permission from the individual concerned to quote his/her unpublished work.

Journal article, up to six authors followed by et al.: G Casari G, De Fusco M, Ciarmatori S, Zeviani M, Mora M, Fernandez P et al. Spastic paraplegia and OXPHOS impairment caused by mutations in paraplegin, a nuclear- encoded mitochondrial metalloprotease. Cell1998; 93: 973-983

Revised June 2018 3

Journal article,e-pub ahead of print: Seguin B,Hardy B,Singer PA,Daar AS.Bidil: recontextualizing the race debate. *Pharmacogenomics* J 2008; e-pub ahead of print 15 January 2008; doi:10.1038/sj.tpj.6500489.

Journal article, in press:

Lesch KP, Gutknecht L. Pharmacogenetics of the serotonin transporter. *Prog Neuropsychopharmacol Biol Psychiatry* (in press).

Complete book:

Heilman KM, Valenstein E. Clinical Neuropsychology.
Oxford

University Press: New York, 1995.

#### Chapter in book:

Schatzberg AF, Schildkraut JJ. Recent studies on norepinephine systems in mood disorders. In: Bloom FE, Kupfer DJ (eds). *Psychopharmacology: The Fourth Generation of Progress*. Raven Press: New York, 1995, pp 911–920.

#### Abstract:

Hood E. Pharmacogenomics: the promise of personalized medicine. *Environ Health Perspect* 2003;**111**(Suppl 1): 581 (abstract 123).

Correspondence:

McGinn E. Medical treatment and weight gain [letter]. *Prev* 

Chronic Dis 2007; 4: 80.

<u>EndNote</u> users should select *The Pharmacogenomics Journal* output style for the correct reference style.

Tables: These should be labeled sequentially and cited within the text. Each table should be presented on its own page, numbered, and titled. Reference to table footnotes should be made by means of Arabic numerals. Tables should not duplicate the content of the text. They should consist of at least two columns; columns should always have headings. Authors should ensure that the data in the tables are consistent with those cited in the relevant places in the text, totals add up correctly, and percentages have been calculated correctly. Unlike figures or images, tables may be embedded into the word processing software if necessary, or supplied as separate electronic files.

Figures: Figures and images should be labeled sequentially, numbered and cited in the text. Figure legends should be brief, specific, and appear on a separate manuscript page after the References section. Refer to (and cite) figures specifically in the text of the paper. Figures should not be embedded within the text. If a table or figure has been published before, the authors must obtain written permission to reproduce the material in both print and electronic formats from the copyright owner and be ready to present it upon request. This follows for quotes, illustrations, and other materials taken from previously published works not in the public domain. The original source should be cited in the figure caption or table footnote. The use of

three-dimensional histograms is strongly discouraged when the addition of the third dimension gives no extra information. Scale markers should be used in the image for electron micrographs, and indicate the type of stain used. Detailed guidelines for submitting artwork can be found by downloading the guidelines PDF.

Supplementary Information: Supplementary information (SI) is material directly relevant to the conclusion of an article that cannot be included in the printed version owing to space or format constraints. The article must be complete and self-explanatory without the SI, which will be posted on the journal's website and linked to the article. SI may consist of data files, graphics, movies, or extensive tables. View the <a href="mailto:guidelines">guidelines</a> PDF for more information on accepted file types. Authors should submit documents in their FINAL format, as they are not edited, typeset, or changed, and will appear online exactly as submitted.

Each piece of SI must be referred to at least once within the text of the main article and labeled as one of the following types: Supplementary Table, Figure, or Video. Each type of SI should be continuously numbered (for example, Supplementary Figure 1, Supplementary Figure 2; Supplementary Table 1, Supplementary Table 2, and so on). Please provide a title for Supplementary Tables and a title and a caption for Supplementary Figures and Supplementary Videos.

When submitting SI, authors are required to:

- Include a text summary (no more than 50 words) to describe the contents of each file.
- Identify the types of files (file formats) submitted.
- Include the text "Supplementary information is available at *The Pharmacogenomics Journal*'s website" at the end of the article and before the references.

Please note: We do not allow the resupplying of Supplementary Information files for style reasons after a paper has been exported in production, unless there is a serious error that affects the science and, if by not replacing, it would lead to a formal correction once the paper has been published. In these cases we would make an exception and replace the file; however there are very few instances where a Supplementary Information file would be corrected post publication.

# **House Style**

- •Do not make rules thinner than 1pt (0.36mm).
- Use a coarse hatching pattern rather than shading for tints in graphs.
- •Color should be distinct when being used as an identifying tool.
- Spaces, not commas should be used to separate thousands.
- Abbreviations should be preceded by the words they stand for in the first instance of use.
- Use SI units throughout.
- Text should be double spaced with a wide margin.
- At first mention of a manufacturer, the town (and state, if in USA) and country should be provided.

Revised June 2018 4

# **English Language Support**

For editors and reviewers to accurately assess the work presented in your manuscript you need to ensure the English language is of sufficient quality to be understood. If you need help with writing in English you should consider:

- Asking a colleague who is a native English speaker to review your manuscript for clarity.
- Visiting the <u>English language tutorial</u> which covers the common mistakes when writing in English.
- Using a professional language editing service where editors will improve the English to ensure that your

meaning is clear and identify problems that require your review. Two such services are provided by our affiliates <a href="Nature Research Editing Service">Nature Research Editing Service</a> and <a href="American Journal Experts">American Journal Experts</a>.

Please note that the use of a language editing service is not a requirement for publication in this journal and does not imply or guarantee that the article will be selected for peer review or accepted.

If your manuscript is accepted it will be checked by our copyeditors for spelling and formal style before publication.

# **HOW TO SUBMIT**

# Online Submission

We only accept manuscript submissions via our <u>online manuscript submission system</u>. Before submitting a manuscript, authors are encouraged to consult both our <u>Editorial Policies</u> and the <u>Submission Instructions</u> for our online manuscript submission system. If you have not already done so, please <u>register for an account</u> with our online manuscript system. You will be able to monitor the status of your manuscript online throughout the editorial process.

# **Submission of Revisions**

Authors submitting a revised manuscript after review are asked to include the following:

- A rebuttal letter, indicating point-by-point how you have addressed the comments raised by the reviewers. If you disagree with any of the points raised, please provide adequate justification in your letter.
- (2) A marked-up version of the manuscript that highlights changes made in response to the reviewers' comments in order to aid the Editors and reviewers.
- (3) A 'clean' (non-highlighted) version of the manuscript.

# POST-ACCEPTANCE

Once a manuscript is accepted, the corresponding author must complete and sign a License to Publish form on behalf of all authors and return it to the editorial office. Failure to promptly return the form will result in delay of publication.

Nature Publishing Group does not require authors of original research papers to assign copyright of their published contributions. Authors grant NPG an exclusive license to publish, in return for which they can re-use their papers in their future printed work. NPG's <u>author license page</u> provides details of the policy.

#### **Standard Publication**

Manuscripts published under the standard method of publication will be behind a paywall, requiring readers to pay to view the article, either via their institutional or personal subscription or on a pay-per-view basis.

Government employees from the United States or Canada are required to sign a government employee License to Publish form.

# Open Access & Self-Archiving

# Self-archiving and manuscript deposition (green open access)

Authors of original research articles are encouraged to submit the author's version of the accepted paper (the unedited manuscript to a repository for public release six months after publication. Springer Nature also offers a free, opt-in Revised June 2018 Manuscript Deposition Service for original research articles in order to help authors fulfill funder and institutional mandates.

Learn more about self-archiving and manuscript deposition.

# Open access publication (gold open access)

Authors of research articles can opt to pay an article processing charge (APC) for their accepted articles to be open access online immediately upon publication. Open access articles are published under Creative Commons licenses, which allow authors to retain copyright to their work while making it open to readers.

To facilitate self-archiving Springer Nature deposits open access articles in PubMed Central and Europe PubMed Central on publication. Authors are also permitted to post the final, published PDF of their article on a website, institutional repository or other free public server immediately on publication.

Visit our <u>open research site</u> for detailed information about publishing open access in TPJ:

- About Creative Commons licensing
- <u>Creative Commons license options and article</u> <u>processing charges (APCs) for TPI</u>
- APC payment FAQs
- Help in identifying funding for APCs
- Site license price adjustments for hybrid journals

- Editorial process for OA publication in hybrid journals
- Self-archiving and deposition

If authors opt to publish via the open access route then the corresponding author must complete and sign the Article Processing Charge (APC) payment form and an <u>open access</u> <u>License to Publish (LTP) form</u> on behalf of all authors, and return these to the editorial office. All forms will be provided upon acceptance of the article. Failure to promptly return forms will result in delay of publication.

Government employees from the United States, UK, and Canada are required to sign and submit the relevant government open access license to publish form.

Please note with regards to payment that usual credit terms are 30 days from receipt of invoice. Failure to pay your invoice within the stated credit term may result in the Open Access status of the paper being rescinded, with the paper being placed behind the paywall. You may also be subject to such penalties as restrictions on your ability to publish with Springer Nature in the future, involvement of a third party debt collection agency and legal proceedings.

# Compliance with open access mandates

Springer Nature's open access journals allow authors to

comply with all funders' open access policies worldwide. Authors may need to take specific actions to achieve compliance with funder and institutional open access mandates.

#### Learn more about open access compliance.

#### E-proofs

The Springer Nature e-proofing system is a unique solution that will enable authors to remotely edit /correct your article proofs.

The corresponding author will receive an e-mail containing a URL linking to the e-proofing site. Proof corrections must be returned within 48 hours of receipt. Failure to do so may result in delayed publication. Extensive corrections cannot be made at this stage.

For more information and instructions on how to use the eproofing too please see <u>here</u>.

#### **Advance Online Publication**

The final version of the manuscript is published online in advance of print. AOP represents the official version of the manuscript and will subsequently appear unchanged, in print.

# **COSTS**

# **Open Access Publication**

The charge is £2,100/\$3,400/€2,400 for articles published under the **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License**. For more information on this license please see the <u>press release</u>.

# **Color Charges**

There is a charge if authors choose to publish their figures in color in print publication:

Num	ber of color illustrations	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+	
Cost	Rest of world USA	£590 \$909	£877 \$1,350	£1,165 \$1,795	£1,341 \$2,067	£1,516 \$2,336	£1,667 \$2,569	£150 \$232	per additional color figure

Color charges will not apply to authors who choose to pay an article processing charge to make their paper open access.

# **Offprints**

Offprints may be ordered on the form accompanying the proofs. The charges are necessarily higher if orders for offprints are received after the issue has gone to press.

Revised June 2018 6

# EDITORIAL POLICIES

# **Duplicate Publication**

Papers must be original and not published or submitted for publication elsewhere. This rule applies to non-English language publications. NPG allows and encourages prior publication on recognized community preprint servers for review by other scientists before formal submission to a journal. The details of the preprint server concerned and any accession numbers should be included in the cover letter accompanying manuscript submission. This policy does not extend to preprints available to the media or that are otherwise publicized outside the scientific community before or during the submission and consideration process.

#### **Permissions**

If a table or figure has been published before, the authors must obtain written permission to reproduce the material in both print and electronic formats from the copyright owner and be prepared to produce it upon request. This follows for quotes, illustrations and other materials taken from previously published works not in the public domain. The original source should be cited in the figure caption or table footnote. Color figures can be reproduced if necessary, but the authors will be expected to contribute towards the cost of publication.

# **Clinical Trials**

As defined by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), a clinical trial is any research project that prospectively assigns human subjects to intervention and comparison groups to study the causeand-effect relationship between a medical intervention and a health outcome. A medical intervention is any intervention used to modify a health outcome and includes but is not limited to drugs, surgical procedures, devices, behavioral treatments, and process-of-care changes. A trial must have at least one prospectively assigned concurrent control or comparison group in order to trigger the requirement for registration. Nonrandomized trials are not exempt from the registration requirement if they meet the above criteria.

When reporting experiments on human subjects, please indicate whether the procedures were in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional or regional) or with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975 (as revised in 1983). Include Institutional Review Board or Animal Care and Use Committee approvals.

All clinical trials must be registered in a public registry prior to submission. The Pharmacogenomics Journal follows the trials registration policy of the ICMJE (www.icmje.org) and considers only trials that have been appropriately registered before submission, regardless of when the trial closed to enrolment. Acceptable registries must meet the following ICMJE requirements:

- Be publicly available, searchable, and open to all prospective registrants
- Have a validation mechanism for registration data

Be managed by a not-for-profit organization

Examples of registries that meet these criteria include:

- 1. The registry sponsored by the United States National Library of Medicine (www.clinicaltrials.gov);
- 2. The International Standard Randomized Controlled Trial Number Registry (www.controlled-trials.com);
- And the European Clinical Trials Database (https://eudract.ema.europa.eu/).

Nature Publishing Group endorses the toolkits and guidelines produced by the following bodies:

- Committee on Publication Ethics http://publication ethics.org
- Good Publication Practice: www.gpp-guidelines.org
- Medical Publishing Insights and Practices Initiative: http://www.mpipinitiative.org/uploads/pdf/ authorstoolkitPDF.pdf

#### **Conflict of Interest**

In the interests of transparency and to help readers form their own judgments of potential bias, authors must declare whether or not there are any competing financial interests in relation to the work described. This information must be included in their cover letter and on the title page of their manuscript. In cases where the authors declare a competing financial interest, a statement to that effect is published as part of the article. If no such conflict exists, the statement will simply read that the authors have nothing to disclose.

For the purposes of this statement, competing interests are defined as those of a financial nature that, through their potential influence on behavior or content, or from perception of such potential influences, could undermine the objectivity, integrity or perceived value of a publication. They can include any of the following:

- Funding: Research support (including salaries, equipment, supplies, reimbursement for attending symposia, and other expenses) by organizations that may gain or lose financially through this publication. The role of the funding body in the design of the study, collection and analysis of data and decision to publish should be stated.
- Employment: Recent (while engaged in the research project), present or anticipated employment by any organization that may gain or lose financially through this publication.
- Personal financial interests: Stocks or shares in companies that may gain or lose financially through publication; consultation fees or other forms of remuneration from organizations that may gain or lose financially; patents or patent applications whose value may be affected by publication.

It is difficult to specify a threshold at which a financial interest becomes significant, but note that many US



universities require faculty members to disclose interests exceeding \$10,000 or 5% equity in a company. Any such figure is arbitrary, so we offer as one possible practical alternative guideline: Declare all interests that could embarrass you were they to become publicly known after your work was published. We do not consider diversified mutual funds or investment trusts to constitute a competing financial interest.

The statement must contain an explicit and unambiguous statement describing any potential conflict of interest, or lack thereof, for any of the authors as it relates to the subject of the report. Examples include "Dr. Smith receives compensation as a consultant for XYZ Company," "Dr. Jones and Dr. Smith have financial holdings in ABC Company," or "Dr. Jones owns a patent on the diagnostic device described in this report." These statements must be included in the manuscript under the heading Conflict of Interest. The Conflict of Interest disclosure appears in the cover letter, in the manuscript submission process, and before the References section in the manuscript.

Potential conflicts of interest should be provided for all authors, including compensation for professional services. Neither the precise amount received from each entity nor the aggregate income from these sources needs to be provided. Professional services include any activities for which the individual is, has been, or will be compensated with cash, royalties, fees, stock or stock options in exchange for work performed, advice or counsel provided, or for other services related to the author's professional knowledge and skills. This would include, but not necessarily be limited to, the identification of organizations from which the author received contracts or in which he or she holds an equity stake if professional services were provided in conjunction with the transaction.

Examples of declarations

#### • Conflict of interest.

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

#### • Conflict of interest.

Dr Caron's work has been funded by the NIH. He has received compensation as a member of the scientific advisory board of Acadia Pharmaceutical and owns stock in the company. He also has consulted for Lundbeck and received compensation. Dr Rothman and Dr Jensen declare no potential conflict of interest.

#### Communication with the Media

Material submitted must not be discussed with the media. We reserve the right to halt the consideration or publication of a paper if this condition is broken. If a paper is particularly newsworthy, the press release will be sent to our list of journalists in advance of publication with an embargo that forbids any coverage of the manuscript, or the findings of the manuscript, until the time and date clearly stated. Authors whose papers are scheduled for publication may also arrange their own publicity (for instance, through their institution's press offices), but they must strictly adhere to our press

embargo and are advised to coordinate their own publicity with our press office.

#### **Communication Between Scientists**

We do not wish to hinder communication between scientists. We ask you to communicate with other researchers as much as you wish, whether on a recognized community preprint server, by discussion at scientific meetings or by online collaborative sites such as wikis, but we do not encourage premature publication by discussion with the press (beyond a formal presentation, if at a conference).

#### **Pre-and Post Submissions**

Authors are welcome to post pre-submission versions or the original submitted version of the manuscript on a personal blog, a collaborative wiki or a recognized preprint server (such as ArXiv) at any time (but not subsequent pre-accept versions that evolve due to the editorial process).

For subscribed content, the accepted version of the manuscript, following the review process, may only be posted 6 months after the paper is published in an NPG journal. A publication reference and URL to the published version on the journal website must be provided on the first page of the postprint. The published version copyedited and in the individual NPG journal format may not be posted on any website or preprint server.

published For open access content creative commons license, authors can replace the submitted version with the final published version at publication as long as a publication reference and URL to the published version on the journal website are provided.

# **Authorship**

According to the International Committee on Medical Journal Ethics (ICMJE), an author is defined as one who has made substantive intellectual contribution to the development of a manuscript. The Pharmacogenomics Journal adheres to the ICMJE guidelines, which state that authorship credit should

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

Additional contributors to the submitted work should appear in the Acknowledgments.

A manuscript will be considered for publication on the understanding that:

- 1. all named authors have agreed to its submission
- 2. it is not currently being considered for publication by another journal
- 3. if the paper is accepted it will not subsequently be published in the same or similar form in any language without the consent of publishers



Any changes to the author list after submission, such as a change in the order of the authors, or the deletion or addition of authors, needs to be approved by a signed letter from every author. Moreover, articles found to have been "ghost authored" (eg, written by unacknowledged freelance writers) will be considered to have violated The Pharmacogenomics Journal's authorship policy

# Correspondence with the Journal

One author is designated the contact author for matters arising from the manuscript (materials requests, technical comments and so on). It is this author's responsibility to inform all co-authors of matters arising and to ensure such matters are dealt with promptly. After acceptance for publication, proofs are e-mailed to this corresponding author who should circulate the proof to all co-authors and coordinate corrections among them.

#### Plagiarism and Fabrication

Plagiarism is when an author attempts to pass off someone else's work as his or her own. Duplicate publication, sometimes called self-plagiarism, occurs when an author reuses substantial parts of his or her own published work without providing the appropriate references. Minor plagiarism without dishonest intent is relatively frequent, for example, when an author reuses parts of an introduction from an earlier paper.

NPG Journals use CrossCheck, a plagiarism detection software tool, to identify instances of overlapping and similar text in submitted manuscripts. CrossCheck is a multi-publisher initiative to screen published and submitted content for originality. To find out more about CrossCheck visit www.crossref.org/crosscheck.html.

If a case of plagiarism comes to light after a paper is published, the Journal will conduct a preliminary investigation, utilising the guidelines of the Committee on Publication Ethics. If plagiarism is proven, the Journal will contact the author's institute and funding agencies as appropriate. The paper containing the plagiarism may also be formally retracted or subject to correction.

# **Image Integrity and Standards**

Images submitted with a manuscript for review should be minimally processed (for instance, to add arrows to a micrograph). Authors should retain their unprocessed data and metadata files, as editors may request them to aid in manuscript evaluation. If unprocessed data is unavailable, manuscript evaluation may be stalled until the issue is

A certain degree of image processing is acceptable for publication, but the final image must correctly represent the original data and conform to community standards. The guidelines below will aid in accurate data presentation at the image processing level:

- Authors should list all image acquisition tools and image processing software packages used. Authors should document key image-gathering settings and processing manipulations in the Methods
- Images gathered at different times or from

different locations should not be combined into a single image, unless it is stated that the resultant image is a product of time-averaged data or a time-lapse sequence. If juxtaposing images is essential, the borders should be clearly demarcated in the figure and described in the legend.

- •Touch-up tools, such as cloning and healing tools in Photoshop, or any feature that deliberately obscures manipulations, is to be avoided.
- Processing (such as changing brightness and contrast) is appropriate only when it is applied equally across the entire image and is applied equally to controls. Contrast should not be adjusted so that data disappear. Excessive manipulations, such as processing to emphasize one region in the image at the expense of others (for example, through the use of a biased choice of threshold settings), is inappropriate, as is emphasizing experimental data relative to the control.

For gels and blots, positive and negative controls, as well as molecular size markers, should be included on each gel and blot - either in the main figure or an expanded data supplementary figure. The display of cropped gels and blots in the main paper is encouraged if it improves the clarity and conciseness of the presentation. In such cases, the cropping must be mentioned in the figure legend.

- Vertically sliced gels that juxtapose lanes that were not contiguous in the experiment must have a clear separation or a black line delineating the boundary between the gels.
- Cropped gels in the paper must retain important bands.
- Cropped blots in the body of the paper should retain at least six band widths above and below the
- High-contrast gels and blots are discouraged, as overexposure may mask additional bands. Authors should strive for exposures with gray backgrounds. Immunoblots should be surrounded by a black line to indicate the borders of the blot, if the background is faint.
- For quantitative comparisons, appropriate reagents, controls and imaging methods with linear signal ranges should be used.

**Microscopy** adjustments should be applied to the entire image. Threshold manipulation, expansion or contraction of signal ranges and the altering of high signals should be avoided. If 'pseudo-coloring' and nonlinear adjustment (for example 'gamma changes') are used, this must be disclosed. Adjustments of individual color channels are sometimes necessary on 'merged' images, but this should be noted in the figure legend. We encourage inclusion of the following with the final revised version of the manuscript for publication:

- In the Methods section, specify the type of equipment (microscopes/objective lenses, cameras, detectors, and filter model and batch number) and acquisition software used. Although we appreciate that there is some variation between instruments, equipment settings for critical measurements should also be listed.
- The display lookup table (LUT) and the quantitative map between the LUT and the

bitmap should be provided, especially when rainbow pseudo-colour is used. It should be stated if the LUT is linear and covers the full range of the

- Processing software should be named and manipulations indicated (such as type of deconvolution, three-dimensional reconstructions, surface and volume rendering, 'gamma changes', filtering, thresholding and projection).
- Authors should state the measure resolution at which an image was acquired and any downstream processing or averaging that enhances the resolution of the image.

# Reproducibility of Data and Materials

As of March 2015, The Pharmacogenomics Journal requires authors of papers that are sent for external review to include in their manuscripts relevant details about several elements of experimental and analytical design. This initiative aims to improve the transparency of reporting and the reproducibility of published results, focusing on elements of methodological information that are frequently poorly reported. Authors being asked to resubmit a manuscript will be asked to confirm that these elements are included by filling out a checklist that will be made available to the editor and reviewers.

# **Research Data Policy**

We strongly encourage that all datasets on which the conclusions of the paper rely should be available to readers. We encourage authors to ensure that their datasets are either deposited in publicly available repositories (where available and appropriate) or presented in the main manuscript or additional supporting files whenever possible. Where one does not exist, the information must be made available to referees at submission and to readers promptly upon request. Any restrictions on material availability or other relevant information must be disclosed in the manuscript's Methods section and should include details of how materials and information may be obtained.

Please see the journal's guidelines on Research Data policy

# Sequences, Structures and "Omics"

Papers reporting protein or DNA sequences and molecular structures will not be accepted without an accession number to Genbank/EMBL/DDBI, Protein DataBank, SWISS-PROT or other publicly available database in general use in the field that gives free access to researchers from the date of publication.

Authors of papers describing structures of biological macromolecules must provide experimental data upon the request of Editor if they are not already freely accessible in a publicly available database such as Protein DataBank, Nucleic Acids Database or Biological Magnetic Resonance Databank.

# Gene Nomenclature

Authors should use approved nomenclature for gene symbols, and use symbols rather than italicized full names (Ttn, not titin). Please consult the appropriate

nomenclature databases for correct gene names and symbols. Approved human gene symbols are provided by HUGO Gene Nomenclature Committee (HGNC), www.genenames.org. Approved mouse symbols are provided by The Jackson Laboratory, www.informatics.jax.org/mgihome/nomen. For proposed gene names that are not already approved, please submit the gene symbols to the appropriate nomenclature committees as soon as possible, as these must be deposited and approved before publication of an article. Avoid listing multiple names of genes (or proteins) separated by a slash, as in 'Oct4/Pou5f1', as this is ambiguous (it could mean a ratio, a complex, alternative names or different subunits). Use one name throughout and include the other at first mention: 'Oct4 (also known as Pou5f1)'

# **Human and Other Animal Experiments**

For primary research manuscripts reporting experiments on live vertebrates and/or higher invertebrates, the corresponding author must confirm that all experiments were performed in accordance with relevant guidelines and regulations. The manuscript must include in the Methods section a statement identifying the institutional and/or licensing committee approving the experiments, including any relevant details regarding animal welfare, patient anonymity, drug side effects and informed consent.

For experiments involving human subjects, authors must identify the committee approving the experiments, and include with their submission a statement confirming that informed consent was obtained from all subjects.

For The Pharmacogenomics Journal's policy regarding clinical trials, please see here.

# **Biosecurity Policy**

The Editor may seek advice about submitted papers not only from technical reviewers but also on any aspect of a paper that raises concerns. These may include, for example, ethical issues or issues of data or materials access. Occasionally, concerns may also relate to the implications to society of publishing a paper, including threats to security. In such circumstances, advice will usually be sought simultaneously with the technical peer-review process. As in all publishing decisions, the ultimate decision whether to publish is the responsibility of the editor of the journal concerned.

# **Peer Review**

Manuscripts sent out for peer review are evaluated by at least one independent reviewer (often two or more). Authors may recommend up to 6 reviewers, but they must be from different institutions than the author and with whom the authors have not collaborated or co-authored with in the last 5 years. All recommendations are considered, but it is at the Editor's discretion their choice of reviewers. To expedite the review process, only papers that seem most likely to meet editorial criteria are sent for external review. Papers judged by the editors to be of insufficient general interest or otherwise inappropriate are rejected promptly without external review. The editors then make a decision based on the reviewers' evaluations:

•Accept, with or without editorial revisions.



- •Revise, with the author addressing concerns raised by the reviewers before a final decision is reached.
- •Reject, but indicate to the authors that further work might justify a resubmission.
- Reject outright, typically on grounds of specialist interest, lack of novelty, insufficient conceptual advance or major technical and/or interpretational problems.

# **Anonymity and Confidentiality**

All details about submitted manuscripts are kept confidential and no comments are issued to outside parties or organizations about manuscripts under consideration or if they are rejected. Editors are restricted to making public comments on a published article's content and their evaluation.

We do not release reviewers' identities to authors, except when reviewers specifically ask to be identified.

We ask reviewers not to identify themselves to authors without the editor's knowledge. If they wish to reveal their identities while the manuscript is under consideration, this should be done via the editor; if this is not practicable, we ask authors to inform the editor as soon as possible after the reviewer has revealed their identity. We deplore any attempt by authors to confront reviewers or try to determine their identities. Our own policy is to neither confirm nor deny any speculation about reviewers' identities, and we encourage reviewers to adopt a similar policy.

Upon accepting an invitation to evaluate a manuscript, reviewers must keep the manuscript and associated data confidential, and not redistribute them without the journal's assessing a manuscript, confidentiality must be ensured and their names must be provided to the journal with the final report.

# **Selecting Peer Reviewers**

Reviewer selection is critical to the publication process, and we base our choice on many factors, based on expertise, reputation, and specific recommendations. A reviewer

may decline the invitation to evaluate a manuscript where there is a perceived conflict of interest (financial or otherwise).

#### **Correction and Retraction Process**

Content published as Advance Online Publication (AOP) is final and cannot be amended. The online and print versions are both part of the published record hence the original version must be preserved and changes to the paper should be made as a formal correction. If an error is noticed in an AOP article, a correction should accompany the article when it publishes in print. An HTML (or full-text) version of the correction will also be created and linked to the original article. If the error is found in an article after print publication the correction will be published online and in the next available print issue.

Please note the following categories of corrections to print and online versions of peer reviewed content:

- Erratum. Notification of an important error made by the journal that affects the publication record or the scientific integrity of the paper, or the reputation of the authors, or of the journal.
- Corrigendum. Notification of an important error made by the author that affects the publication record or the scientific integrity of the paper, or the reputation of the authors or the journal.
- Retraction. Notification of invalid results. All coauthors must sign a retraction specifying the error and stating briefly how the conclusions are affected.

Decisions about corrections are made by the Editor (sometimes with peer-reviewers' advice) and this sometimes involves author consultation. Requests to make corrections that do not affect the paper in a significant way or impair the reader's understanding of the contribution (a spelling mistake or grammatical error, for example) are not considered.

In cases where co-authors disagree about a correction, the editors will take advice from independent peer-reviewers and impose the appropriate correction, noting the dissenting author(s) in the text of the published version.

# FURTHER INFORMATION

For inquiries related to submission requirements or submitted manuscripts, please contact the editorial office. For inquiries related to advertising, subscriptions, permissions, papers in production or publishing a supplement, please contact the publisher's office.

