

***AAPS PHARMSciTECH* INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS**

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INTRODUCTION

AAPS PharmSciTech (ISSN 1530-9932) is a peer-reviewed online-only journal owned by the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS). The journal's mission is to disseminate scientific and technical information on drug product design, development, evaluation, and processing to the global pharmaceutical research community. The journal is indexed by PubMed/Medline, Index Medicus, Institute of Scientific Information's Science Citation Index Expanded, and Chem Abstracts.

Editor-in-Chief Robert O. (Bill) Williams III, Ph.D., oversees an international editorial board of leading researchers in the pharmaceutical sciences. Williams is a professor of pharmacy at the University of Texas at Austin, College of Pharmacy.

TYPES OF MANUSCRIPTS

AAPS PharmSciTech publishes the following article types. For examples of published articles, please visit www.PharmaGateway.net.

Reviews, usually by invitation and sometimes organized into theme issues, report on recent advances in pharmaceutical research. Unsolicited reviews are considered only if they are authored by investigators who have demonstrated expertise in the relevant areas.

Mini-reviews discuss a more narrowly focused topic of recent research. Unsolicited mini-reviews are considered only if they are authored by investigators who have demonstrated expertise in the relevant areas.

Original research papers contain innovative, hypothesis-driven research that is supported by sound experimental design, methodology, and data interpretation.

Brief technical notes, normally more limited in scope than original research papers, must be of high quality, general interest, and sufficient importance to warrant publication.

Rapid communications provide a venue for fast-breaking research updates or other news items. The justification for rapid communication should be stated in the cover letter during submission.

Regulatory notes provide a summary of regulatory decisions made and rationale for the regulatory decision made on a product. These notes are typically submitted by invitation only, but authors may propose notes to the editors.

Editorials, commentaries, or summaries are usually published by invitation only. These articles contain topical issues of public and scientific interest.

Meeting reports on AAPS or AAPS-affiliated meetings provide readers with summaries of such meetings, including consensus views. When a meeting report purports to be a consensus report, it may, at the editor-in-chief's discretion, adhere to the AAPS Guideline for Review of Opinions and Summary Reports, available at www.aaps.org/guidelineopinions. The corresponding author must

complete and submit the Corresponding Author's Consent to Publish form (www.aaps.org/consentcorr) and all contributing authors must complete and submit the Contributing Author's Consent to Publish form (www.aaps.org/consentcont).

Meeting notices provide readers with information on upcoming AAPS or AAPS-affiliated meetings. They should include the title of the meeting, date, time, location, an outline, description of meeting topics, and a list of invited speakers. If possible, meeting notices should include contact information for the organizers and a URL to the meeting's webpage. Meeting notices should be submitted to the AAPS Editorial Office 2–3 months prior to the meeting.

Letters to the editor may be submitted by readers commenting on articles already published by the journal.

White Papers describe a current problem or issue and propose a solution. White papers written on behalf of AAPS groups are subject to the AAPS Guideline for Review of Opinions and Summary Reports (www.aaps.org/guidelineopinions) at the discretion of the editor-in-chief.

All articles published in the journal will follow the Springer Online First production workflow, enabling publication on the SpringerLink website after receipt of author corrections to page proofs.

MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION

AAPS uses Editorial Manager as its peer review tracking system. Manuscripts must be submitted online by the corresponding author at www.editorialmanager.com/aapspt. You may be required to register as a new user with Editorial Manager upon your first visit. Straightforward sign in and registration procedures can be found on the website. Editorial Manager allows authors to track the progress of manuscript review in real time. Detailed, step-by-step instructions for submitting manuscripts can be found on the website. All correspondence regarding your manuscript must go through Editorial Manager.

SPECIAL FEATURES, APPENDICES, AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

These materials can be accommodated and may contain highly interactive features or large databases. All authors are encouraged to take full advantage of the Web-only capabilities of online publishing, including 3-D, video, and interactive graphics. All special features must be created by the author.

Authors who wish to publish electronic supplementary material with their article (Excel files, images, audio/video files, etc.) must submit the supplementary files/materials with their manuscript submission via our online peer review tracking system, Editorial Manager. These files may be submitted as one file or multiple files as desired by the authors. Accepted formats for these files include DOC, DOCX, XLS, XLSX, JPG, PDF, and for videos, MPEG-3 format. If a desired technical feature is in a different format or not covered in the author instructions, please contact the AAPS Editorial Office (AAPSPT@aaps.org) for assistance. Note that supplementary files are not automatically sent to production if the article is accepted. Please therefore note in a cover letter if these materials should be evaluated by reviewers only (not published), or if the supplemental files should be included for review and be published with the article should the manuscript be accepted

for publication. If the supplemental files are intended for publication, references using “supplemental 1,” “supplemental 2,” etc. should be placed in the appropriate location within the text of the manuscript body. Supplemental files are published as-is, with no copyediting or formatting by Production.

HYPertext LINKS

Authors may identify URLs for websites that provide the reader with additional information on the topic addressed in the manuscript. Although URLs are an important feature of electronic publishing, authors are encouraged to be selective in their choice of sites to include. Do not include URLs for webpages with newspaper or journal articles that will be removed or archived to another web page. Links to pharmaceutical manufacturers or other sources of product information are acceptable; however, providing a URL to the reader should not be substituted for adequate discussion within the manuscript itself. Do not include links to sites that are not accessible without a password.

www.editorialmanager.com/aapspt

TERMS OF MANUSCRIPT CONSIDERATION

AAPS JOURNALS ETHICS POLICY

The editors-in-chief of the three AAPS journals, *Pharmaceutical Research*, *The AAPS Journal*, and *AAPS PharmSciTech*, along with the AAPS Publications Committee, developed an integrated ethics policy to guide decision-making across the three journals. The document is based on the recommendations on publication ethics policies for medical journals published by the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), posted at www.wame.org/about/recommendations-on-publication-ethics-policie.

Authors are required to review and adhere to the AAPS Journals Ethics Policy (www.aaps.org/journalsethics) in full prior to submitting manuscripts to *AAPS PharmSciTech*. Excerpts from the policy are outlined below.

FULL DISCLOSURE

During the manuscript submission process, all authors will be required to confirm that the manuscript has not been previously published in any language anywhere and that it is not under simultaneous consideration by another journal. The journal policy regarding compound disclosure centers on the data presented. If specific data relating to the study compound are reported, then the journal requires identification so that reviewers and readers can judge, based on general principles, whether the data are plausible and internally consistent, and to potentially allow future examination and/or validation of the results and conclusions reported. If however a library of compounds is used to generate correlations, such as in QSAR when the scope and diversity of the compounds are described, then it is possible that the specific chemical compositions of the compounds need not be identified, subject to the discretion of the reviewers and the editor.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Authors will be required to declare all conflicts of interest (or their absence) during the submission of a manuscript. This conflict declaration includes conflicts or potential conflicts of all listed authors. If any conflicts are declared, AAPS will publish them with the paper. In cases of doubt, the circumstance should be disclosed so that the editors may assess its significance.

Conflicts may be financial, academic, commercial, political, or personal. Financial interests may include employment, research funding (received or pending), stock or share ownership, patents, payment for lectures or travel, consultancies, nonfinancial support, or any fiduciary interest in a company.

www.aaps.org/journalsethics

COPYRIGHT TRANSFER

The corresponding author, on behalf of all authors, must transfer copyright of the work to the publisher (the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists) in order to provide for the widest possible dissemination of professional and scientific literature. A signed Transfer of Copyright form must be submitted online with the manuscript. The Transfer of Copyright form for an accepted manuscript must be on file with the AAPS Editorial Office prior to production for publication. Corresponding authors may print and sign or electronically sign the form on behalf of all authors. The Transfer of Copyright form can be found at www.aaps.org/copyright.

RESEARCH DATA POLICY

The journal encourages authors, where possible and applicable, to deposit data that support the findings of their research in a public repository. Authors and editors who do not have a preferred repository should consult Springer Nature's list of repositories and research data policy.

[List of Repositories](#)

[Research Data Policy](#)

General repositories – for all types of research data – such as figshare and Dryad may also be used.

Datasets that are assigned digital object identifiers (DOIs) by a data repository may be cited in the reference list. Data citations should include the minimum information recommended by DataCite: authors, title, publisher (repository name), identifier.

[DataCite](#)

Springer Nature provides a research data policy support service for authors and editors, which can be contacted at researchdata@springernature.com.

This service provides advice on research data policy compliance and on finding research data repositories. It is independent of journal, book and conference proceedings editorial offices and does not advise on specific manuscripts.

[Helpdesk](#)

ETHICS IN ANIMAL AND CLINICAL INVESTIGATIONS

HUMAN SUBJECTS AND CLINICAL TRIALS

AAPS journals require author(s) at the time of manuscript submission to make a statement in the cover letter indicating documented review and approval from a formally constituted review board (Institutional Review Board or ethics committee) for all studies involving people, medical records, and human tissues, per the uniform guidelines from the World Medical Association (www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/index.html).

Studies and research using human subjects, medical records, and human tissues (including educational research) must also state this compliance within the Methods section of the paper.

AAPS journals also require that controlled clinical trials must be registered in a publicly available database or the journals will not publish the results of these trials. Manuscripts submitted to the journals must include trial registration information in the cover letter. To register a clinical trial, authors should go to the NIH registry (www.clinicaltrials.gov) or the International Standard Randomized Controlled Trials database (<http://isrctn.org>). Further information can be obtained from the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) at www.icmje.org/about-icmje/faqs/clinical-trials-registration.

ANIMAL USE AND ASSURANCES

AAPS journals require author(s) at the time of manuscript submission to make a statement in the cover letter indicating that animal experiments are conducted in full compliance with local, national, ethical, and regulatory principles and local licensing regulations, per the spirit of Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) International's expectations for animal care and use/ethics committees (www.aaalac.org/education/module_1.cfm). Investigations using experimental animals (including educational research) must also state this compliance within the Methods section of the paper.

ORIGINALITY OF MANUSCRIPTS

Authors of manuscripts submitted to AAPS are obliged to present accurate representation of the research performed along with an objective discussion of the significance of their findings. The author's submission should be original work that reflects research undertaken with integrity and honesty, and that conforms to ethical practices outlined in the AAPS Journals Ethics Policy. Authors should be willing to reply to any reasonable request from editors, referees, and scientists for materials, methods, or data necessary for verification of the conclusions reported in the paper.

USE OF COPYRIGHTED TABLES AND FIGURES

It is the authors' responsibility to obtain permission of any tables/figures in compliance with the [AAPS Journals Transfer of Copyright Agreement](#) and [AAPS Electronic Journals Ethics Policy](#) for any copyrighted material used in an AAPS journal submission.

A copy of the granted permission to use copyrighted figures, tables, or other material must be included with the submitted manuscript.

PEER REVIEW

All submissions will be reviewed anonymously by at least 2 independent reviewers. Authors are encouraged to submit names and email addresses of expert reviewers, but selection remains the prerogative of the editors. Authors should not recommend work colleagues or coauthors/collaborators as expert reviewers for their own papers. Authors may include supplementary notes to facilitate the review process. If an accepted paper is cited that has not yet appeared in print and is required for evaluation of the submitted manuscript, authors should provide an electronic version for use by the reviewers. Authors are responsible for all statements in their work, including changes made by the copyeditor after a manuscript is accepted.

www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/manuscript-preparation/preparing-for-submission.html

POINTS ON NOVELTY AND SIGNIFICANCE

Novelty—Your results must be new and not resemble something formerly known or used. You must clearly make the case that your paper presents novel results.

Significance—Your paper must emphasize why anyone would care about your work and why someone would want to read your work. You must make a compelling case in the Introduction and Discussion sections of the significance of your work.

MANUSCRIPT ORGANIZATION

Several components of the manuscript must be submitted as individual files within Editorial Manager: cover letter, title page, manuscript body (including references list), individual figure/table files, and the Transfer of Copyright.

COVER LETTER

A cover letter is recommended, but not required. Please note, a cover letter is required for a rapid communication submission.

Authors who wish to submit names and email addresses of recommended reviewers for the peer review process may indicate those in the cover letter or during the submission process.

**TITLE PAGE*

The title page must be submitted as a separate file and should include:

1. the title of the article,
2. author names with full first name (no degrees),
3. each author's affiliation, and
4. a suggested running head (of less than 50 characters, including spaces).

The affiliation should comprise the department, institution (usually university or company), city, and state (or nation) and should be typed as a footnote to the author's name. For the corresponding

author designated to correspond with the AAPS Editorial Office and review proofs, indicate his/her complete mailing address, office/cellular telephone number, fax number, and email address.

**TRANSFER OF COPYRIGHT*

A signed copy of the Transfer of Copyright must be submitted online as part of the manuscript submission process. The Transfer of Copyright is available at:

www.aaps.org/copyright

ABSTRACT

The abstract is limited to 250 words or less. For original research articles, the abstract should include a brief (2 to 3 sentence) statement for each of the following sections: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion, written in paragraph form. All abstracts must be written in one paragraph, with no subheadings, equations, tables, reference citations, or graphics.

The abstract must state the significance of the paper and the problem or question being addressed in the first sentence; what you found (include key data numbers); and what you conclude. Tenses should not be mixed in the paper: use the past tense.

Only reviews, mini-reviews, original research articles, rapid communications, and meeting reports require an abstract.

AAPS journals do not publish graphical abstracts.

**KEYWORDS*

Provide a list of no more than 5 key words.

**MANUSCRIPT BODY*

For original research articles, brief technical notes, and rapid communications, organize the main text as follows:

1. Introduction
2. Materials and Methods
3. Results
4. Discussion
5. Conclusion

The use of subheadings to divide the text is encouraged. Primary, secondary, and tertiary level headings should be clearly defined; do not use numbers or letters in headings.

Introduction—The introduction must define the scope of your paper; articulate the question or hypothesis; summarize relevant work to the study being reported; and inform the reader of the rationale and significance of the study.

Required for reviews, mini-reviews, original research articles, and meeting reports only.

Materials and Methods—Clearly define in detail how you conducted the study. Colleagues reading your paper must be able to replicate your experiments and determine whether your conclusions are warranted.

Results—Report what you found. Supplement the text with tables and figures.

Discussion—In this section, preferably separate from the Results section, explain what your findings mean, using the literature in great detail to compare and contrast your data with literature; use the literature as evidence to support your assertion. Explain the significance of your results and their practical implications.

Recommended maximum word counts are as follows:

- Reviews, original research articles, meeting reports, and white papers: 5,000
- Mini-reviews: 2,500
- Brief technical notes and rapid communications: 1,200

Conclusion—Did your findings support your hypothesis? Explain.

Citations—45–50 relevant citations

General Manuscript Body Guidelines

- The submission must include continuous line numbers in the manuscript body file.
- Use abbreviations sparingly and define them at the first insertion in the text. Define all abbreviations used in tables within the table footnotes.
- Use the metric system for all measurements. Express metric abbreviations in lowercase letters without periods (cm, mL, sec).
- Define all symbols used in equations and formulas. When symbols are used extensively, the authors may include a list of all symbols in a table.
- Numbers should be reported to reflect the precision of the instrumentation utilized. Calculated numbers, such as means and standard deviations, should be expressed to no more than one significant digit beyond the precision of the instrument. Normally, data reported to more than 3 significant figures should be justified. The precision of the variability (e.g., standard deviation) should not exceed that of the reported mean value.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

May be included in the manuscript body. Include funding source(s) and other contributions. If the work has been funded by NIH, please provide name(s) of funding institute(s) and grant number(s). This information is required for automatic deposit into PUBMED Central by the publisher.

*These elements are required for all submissions.

REFERENCES

References should conform to Vancouver style and be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are cited in the text. Cite in the text by the appropriate Arabic numeral enclosed in

parentheses, e.g., (1), (2-5), etc. You should typically use 45–50 relevant references, including references from this journal, but you may use more if warranted.

Maximum reference limits are as follows:

- Reviews, original research articles, meeting reports, and white papers: 100
- Mini-reviews: 40
- Brief technical notes and rapid communications: 20

References to unpublished, peer-reviewed, personal communications, including conference abstracts and papers in preparation or in review, cannot be listed but can be notated parenthetically in the text.

Abbreviations for journal names should conform to those of Vancouver style. The style and punctuation of the references should conform to the following examples:

EXAMPLES BY TYPE

1. Journal article

Smith JJ. The world of science. *Am J Sci.* 1999;36:234–5.

2. Journal article with DOI (and with page numbers)

O'Mahony S, Rose SL, Chilvers AJ, Ballinger JR, Solanki CK, Barber RW, et al. Finding an optimal method for imaging lymphatic vessels of the upper limb. *Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging.* 2004;31:555–63. doi:10.1007/s00259-003-1399-3.

3. Journal article by DOI (before issue publication with page numbers)

O'Mahony S, Rose SL, Chilvers AJ, Ballinger JR, Solanki CK, Barber RW, et al. Finding an optimal method for imaging lymphatic vessels of the upper limb. *Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging.* 2004. doi:10.1007/s00259-003-1399-3.

4. Article in electronic journal by DOI (no paginated version)

Slifka MK, Whitton JL. Clinical implications of dysregulated cytokine production. *Dig J Mol Med.* 2000. doi:10.1007/s801090000086.

5. Journal article in a supplement

Frumin AM, Nussbaum J, Esposito M. Functional asplenia: demonstration of splenic activity by bone marrow scan. *Blood* 1979; 59 Supple 1:26-32.

6. Book chapter

Wyllie AH, Kerr JFR, Currie AR. Cell death: the significance of apoptosis. In: Bourne GH, Danielli JF, Jeon KW, editors. *International review of cytology.* London: Academic; 1980. p. 251–306.

7. OnlineFirst chapter in a series (without a volume designation but with a DOI)

Saito Y, Hyuga H. Rate equation approaches to amplification of enantiomeric excess and chiral symmetry breaking. *Top Curr Chem.* 2007. doi:10.1007/128_2006_108.

8. Book, authored

Blenkinsopp A, Paxton P. Symptoms in the pharmacy: a guide to the management of common illness. 3rd ed. Oxford: Blackwell Science; 1998.

9. Online document

Doe J. Title of subordinate document. In: The dictionary of substances and their effects. Royal Society of Chemistry. 1999. [http://www.rsc.org/dose/title of subordinate document](http://www.rsc.org/dose/title%20of%20subordinate%20document). Accessed 15 Jan 1999.

10. Online database

Healthwise Knowledgebase. US Pharmacopeia, Rockville. 1998. <http://www.healthwise.org>. Accessed 21 Sept 1998.

11. Supplementary material/private homepage

Doe J. Title of supplementary material. 2000. <http://www.privatehomepage.com>. Accessed 22 Feb 2000.

12. University site

Doe, J.: Title of preprint. <http://www.uni-heidelberg.de/mydata.html> (1999).

13. FTP site

Doe, J.: Trivial HTTP, RFC2169. <ftp://ftp.isi.edu/in-notes/rfc2169.txt> (1999). Accessed 12 Nov 1999. Accessed 25 Dec 1999.

14. Organization site

ISSN International Centre: The ISSN register. <http://www.issn.org> (2006). Accessed 20 Feb 2007.

For a full description of the Vancouver reference style, including numerous examples, please access:

www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html

TABLES

Tables must be created in Microsoft Word table format. Tables should be numbered (with Roman numerals) and referred to by number in the text. Center the title above the table and type explanatory footnotes (indicated by superscript lowercase letters) below the table. Data must be placed in separate cells of the table to prevent text and numbers from shifting when the table is converted for publication on the Internet. Empty cells may be inserted to create spacing. Tables should not duplicate information provided in the text. Instead, tables should be used to provide additional information that illustrates or expands on a specific point the author wishes to make. Each table should be self-explanatory.

FIGURES

AAPS PharmSciTech offers authors the use of color figures in online published manuscripts, free of charge. Figures (as well as photographs, drawings, diagrams, and charts) are to be numbered in

sequential Arabic numerals. The description of each figure should be separated from the manuscript body text and collated in a separate file called "Legend to Figures." All electronic artwork must be submitted online via our online peer review tracking system, Editorial Manager. Figure files should be submitted in TIFF or EPS format (1200 dpi for line drawings and 300 dpi for half-tones and gray-scale art); however, JPG, GIF, BMP, and PDF files may also be submitted as long as the dpi specifications above are met. Use of a professional graphics program such as Adobe Photoshop to edit and/or save photographs and graphics is highly recommended. Because of quality issues, it is not recommended that images be submitted in DOC, DOCX, PPT, or PPTX format.

Maximum combined count for tables and figures are as follows:

- Reviews, original research articles, meeting reports, and white papers: 10 (suggested)
- Mini-reviews: 6
- Brief technical notes and rapid communications: 6

FOOTNOTES

FOOTNOTES IN THE MANUSCRIPT BODY SHOULD BE AVOIDED. WHEN THEIR USE IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, FOOTNOTES SHOULD BE NUMBERED CONSECUTIVELY USING ARABIC NUMERALS AND SHOULD BE TYPED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE TO WHICH THEY REFER. PLACE A LINE ABOVE THE FOOTNOTE, SO THAT IT IS SET OFF FROM THE TEXT. USE THE APPROPRIATE SUPERScript NUMERAL FOR CITATION IN THE TEXT. DOES SPRINGER PROVIDE 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 English language tutorial 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 Nature Research Editing Service and American Journal Experts.
 - [English language tutorial](#)
 - [Nature Research Editing Service](#)
 - [American Journal Experts](#)

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.