Experimental & Molecular Medicine
Guide for Authors

Aims and Scope
Experimental & Molecular Medicine is a medical research journal devoted to publishing the latest developments in translational research and the recent discoveries in the biomedical field. Submission is encouraged of papers that involve genetic, molecular and cellular studies of human physiology and diseases. The journal seeks to highlight the improved clinical benefits for human health from experimental and translational research performed using specific molecular tools. Studies that encompass basic discoveries with clinical relevance as well as articles dealing with clear in vivo relevance and novelty will also be welcomed. Experimental & Molecular Medicine is an open access, online-only journal.

Topics of particular interest within the journal’s scope include, but are not limited to, those listed below:
- Cancer biology
- Immunology
- Neuroscience
- Cardiovascular biology
- Genetics and genomics
- Gene therapy
- Metabolic diseases
- Stem cells and regenerative medicine

The journal publishes peer-reviewed Original Articles and Reviews. In addition, Research Summaries are provided for selected articles.

ARTICLE TYPE SPECIFICATIONS

Experimental and Molecular Medicine publishes:

- **Original Articles**
  Original Articles describe original research, and should not exceed 6,000 words (excluding the abstract, tables, figure legends and references) and 6–8 display items.

- **Reviews**
  Reviews cover a focused area on the advancing fields of biomedical research and provide a balanced view of current research that can be understood by researchers outside that specialty. They should be succinctly written and not exceed 6,000 words.
  Reviews can be structured using short topical headings. Reviews can be submitted directly by authors or be solicited by the editors. Authors interested in writing a Review may submit a proposal, including an outline of the proposed article, by email to the Editorial Office. All Reviews are subject to peer-review.

- **Correspondences**
  The Correspondence section provides readers with a forum for comment on papers published in a previous issue of the journal, or to discuss anything of interest to the journal’s readers, from policy debates to announcements to matters arising in the relevant area. A Correspondence should typically 250-500 words. The number of references should not exceed 10.
  Titles for correspondence are supplied by the editors. In cases where a correspondence is critical of a previous research paper, the authors are given the option of publishing a brief reply. Correspondences are reviewed by the editor and may be peer reviewed at the editor’s discretion.
### Manuscript layout guideline for each article type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article Type</th>
<th>Abstract</th>
<th>Word Count</th>
<th>Main text components</th>
<th>Display Items</th>
<th>References</th>
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<tr>
<td>Original Article</td>
<td>250 words</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>Title Page/Introduction/ Materials and methods/ Results/ Discussion/ Acknowledgements/ Conflict of interest (if applicable)/ References</td>
<td>Up to 8 display items (e.g. figures, tables) to be prepared in separate files.</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review</td>
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<td>6,000</td>
<td>Title Page/Introduction (if applicable)/ Main text/ Acknowledgements/Conflict of interest (if applicable) / References</td>
<td>Up to 8 display items (e.g. figures, tables) to be prepared in separate files</td>
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<td>Main text/Conflict of Interest (if applicable) / References</td>
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### PREPARATION OF ARTICLES

**Organization of manuscript**

Manuscripts should be presented in the following order (omitting sections inappropriate for specific article types e.g. Methods for Reviews): (i) Title page, (ii) Abstract and Keywords, (iii) Introduction, (iv) Materials and Methods, (v) Results, (vi) Discussion, (vii) Acknowledgements, (viii) References, (ix) Appendices, (x) Figure legends, (xi) Tables (each table complete with title and footnotes) and (xii) Figures. Footnotes to the text are not allowed and any such material should be incorporated into the text as parenthetical matter.

Please see below for details of the manuscript components.

**Cover Letter:** Cover letter should be attached to all article types. The uploaded covering letter must state the material is original, has not been previously published and has not been submitted for publication elsewhere while under consideration. If the manuscript has been previously considered for publication in another journal, please include the previous reviewer comments, to help expedite the decision by the Editorial team. Please also include the following information;

- The name, institution and e-mail address of all contributing authors
- Suggestions for at least 3 potential referees, including contact information if known (This information will be requested during the electronic submission process.)
- Referees to exclude (optional)
- Conflict of interest statement for all authors

**Title Page:** The title page should bear the title of the paper, the full names of all the authors and their affiliations, together with the name, full postal address, telephone and e-mail address of the author to whom correspondence are to be sent (this information is also asked for on the electronic submission form).

- The title should be brief, informative, of 150 characters or less and should not make a statement or conclusion.
- The running title should consist of no more than 50 letters and spaces. It should be as brief as possible, convey the essential message of the paper and contain no abbreviations.
- Total number of words
- Authors should disclose the sources of any support for the work, received in the form of grants and/or equipment and drugs.
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**Abstract:** The abstract should be comprehensible to readers before they have read the paper. Abbreviations and reference citations within the abstract should be avoided.

**Introduction:** This should give a short, clear account of the background and reasons for undertaking the study. The Introduction should assume that the reader is knowledgeable in the field and should therefore be as brief as possible.
Materials and Methods: This section should contain sufficient detail so that all experimental procedures can be repeated by others, in conjunction with cited references. This section may be divided into subheadings to assist the reader. Novel experimental procedures should be described in detail, but published procedures should be referred to by literature citation of the original article and published modifications. Authors should provide the name of the manufacturer for any specifically named equipment and instruments; if applicable, all drugs should be identified by their pharmaceutical names, and by their trade name if relevant.

Data availability statements: Data availability statements provide a statement about where data supporting the results reported in a published article can be found - including, where applicable, hyperlinks to publicly archived datasets analysed or generated during the study. For all original research articles, we require the provision of data availability statements, examples and details can be seen on our data policy web page. The statement should be placed at the end of the Methods section (titled, ‘Data availability’), after the code availability statement if one is present. For further guidance, please refer to the Data availability and data citations policy information and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

Experimental and Molecular Medicine strongly encourages 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. Please see Springer Nature’s information on recommended repositories. General repositories - for all types of research data - such as Figshare and Dryad may be used where appropriate.

Results: The description of results should not simply reiterate data that appear in tables and figures and, likewise, the same data should not be displayed in both tables and figures. The results section should be concise and follow a logical sequence. If the paper describes a complex series of experiments, it is permissible to explain the protocol/experimental design before presenting the results. Do not discuss the results or draw any conclusions in this section. This section may be divided into subheadings to assist the reader. Large datasets or other cumbersome data pertinent to the manuscript may be submitted as supplementary information.

Discussion: Do not recapitulate the results, but discuss their significance against the background of existing knowledge, and identify clearly those aspects that are novel. 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 financial support, material (e.g. novel compounds, strains, etc.) not available commercially, personal assistance, advice from colleagues and gifts.

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 in the paper. Please see the Conflict of Interest documentation in the Editorial Policy section for detailed information.

References: Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the references. Only papers directly related to the article should be cited; exhaustive lists of related reading should be avoided. The Vancouver system should be used; in the text of the manuscript, references to the literature should be numbered consecutively and indicated by a superscript. Each reference should be numbered individually and listed at the end of the manuscript. In the reference list, cite the names of all authors when there are six or fewer; when seven or more, list the first six followed by et al. Journal issue number is not necessary. Do not use ibid. or op cit. Only articles that have been published or accepted and waiting for publication (listed as ‘in press’ following digital object identifier number) should be in the reference list. Reference to ‘unpublished data’ and ‘personal communications’ should not appear in the list but should be cited in the text parenthetically only (e.g. Smith A, 2007, unpublished data). Written proof for ‘personal communication’ and preprint for ‘in press’ may be requested for review. Journal names are italicized and abbreviated (with full stops) according to the Web of Science Journal Title Abbreviations or Chemical Abstracts Service CAplus Core Journal Coverage List. If you are using an old version of referencing software, such as EndNote, choose 'Immunology & Cell Biology'.

Reference styles: see below examples:

Journal article

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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 (journal name)’s website” at the end of the article and before the references.
- Include the text ‘Supplementary information accompanies the manuscript on the Experimental & Molecular Medicine’ website (http://www.nature.com/emm/) at the end of the article and before the references.

Accepted file formats
- Quick Time files (.mov)
- Graphical image files (.gif)
- MPEG movie files (.mpg)
- JPEG image files (.jpg)
- Image tiff files (.tiff)
- Video avi (.avi)
- Sound files (.wav)
- Plain ASCII text (.txt)
- Acrobat files (.pdf)
- MS Word documents (.doc)
- Postscript files (.ps)
- MS Excel spreadsheet documents (.xls)
- PowerPoint (.ppt)
- ChemDraw (.cdx)
- Tex, Latex (.tex)

File sizes must be as small as possible, so that they can be downloaded quickly. Images should not exceed 640 x 480 pixels (9 x 6.8 inches at 72 pixels per inch), but we would recommend 480 x 360 pixels as the maximum frame size for movies. We would also recommend a frame rate of 15 frames per second. If applicable to the presentation of the supplementary information, use a 256-color palette. Please consider the use of lower specification for all of these points if the supplementary information can still be represented clearly. Our recommended maximum data rate is 150 KB/s.
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As the electronic submission will provide the basic material for typesetting, it is important that papers are prepared in the general editorial style of the journal.
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- Color should be distinct when being used as an identifying tool
- Use SI units throughout
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- Abbreviations should be preceded by the words for which they stand in the first instance of use and should not be used for terms used fewer than 4 times. Very common abbreviations such as FFA, RNA, need not be defined. Note these abbreviations: gram g; litre l; milligram mg; kilogram kg; kilojoule kJ; megajoule MJ; weight wt; seconds s; minutes min; hours h. Do not add s for plural units.
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File Formats
Use a common word-processing package (such as Microsoft Word) for the text. Please follow Artwork Guidelines below for preparation of figure files. Further advice on file types is also available from the Tips web page.

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Save Word documents using the file extension .doc
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- Select "Word 97-2003 Document"
- Enter a file name and select "Save"

These instructions also apply for the new versions of Excel and PowerPoint.

Equations in Word must be created using Equation Editor 3.0
Equations created using the new equation editor in Word 2007 and saved as a "Word 97-2003 Document" (.doc) are converted to graphics and can no longer be edited. To insert or change an equation with the previous equation editor:
- Select "Object" on the "Text" section of the "Insert" tab
- In the drop-down menu, select "Equation Editor 3.0"
Do not use the "Equation" button in the "Symbols" section of the "Insert" tab.

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Pre-submission Enquiries
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Online Submission
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Authors submitting a revised manuscript after review are asked to include the following:
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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. Do not use track changes or comments.
3. A 'clean' (non-highlighted) version of the revised manuscript.

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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 after the acknowledgements of their manuscript.

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Referees are also requested to indicate any potential conflict they might have reviewing a particular paper. 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.

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 acknowledging or denying conflicts of interest 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.

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 “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.

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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 cause-and-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, behavioural 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, 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. Experimental and Molecular Medicine 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

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Authors should refer to the Medical Ethics Manual of the World Medical Association for further details (WMA, 2005, https://www.wma.net/what-we-do/education/medical-ethics-manual/).

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- Confidentiality and pre-publicity
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