Information for Authors

These guidelines are in accordance with the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals".
(Complete document available at www.icmje.org.)

The number of scientific publications is increasing continuously and the new information grows exponentially. However, the possibilities for the scientific publications are limited. That is the reason why **we are interested in publishing concise and comprehensible scientific manuscripts analysing the relevant results.**

The international biomedical journal - ***Bratislava Medical Journal – Bratislavske lekarske listy (Bratisl Lek Listy / Bratisl Med J)*** publishes peer-reviewed articles on all aspects of biomedical sciences, including experimental investigations with clear clinical relevance, original clinical studies and review articles.

We are not interested in manuscripts with the conclusion „the authors confirmed the results of other authors". Neither we are not interested in manuscripts, which conclude that „the findings need a further study on the issue". In the scientific manuscript, a repetition of already known facts is restricted to the most relevant knowledge.

The scientific manuscript is not a historical overview. The methodology and description (experimental or clinical) should provide the basic information. It is not needed to describe methodology in details. A detailed method may be interesting only to those attempting the same experiment. The reader is interested in results and not in a comprehensive description of the methodology and statistical processing. The most important features are new knowledge and new clarifications, not the complex statistics with many numbers.

A review article should not be a review of an existing literature. The review article should bring a new perspective on the problem. **Case reports** are often interesting as a rarity or structural or functional variability only. **We cannot accept the case reports,** which do not bring a new original, look on the problem. In general Case Reports are not published unless they contain highly innovative findings (such as, for instance, new gene mutations, etc...)

Letters to the Editor
A letter to the editor should not exceed 450 words. A maximum of 3 authors may be listed, with no more than 5 references.

We consider referencing **studies on the same topic, published in Bratislava Medical Journal in the past two years**, as a part of the author's culture.

Manuscript

The manuscript should conform the guidelines set forth in the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals", 5th edition, New Eng. J Med 1997; 336 (4): 309–315. **Manuscript must contain no more than 5000 words**. All manuscripts must be accompanied by a **cover letter.** This is a letter addressed to the Editor-in-Chief in which the corresponding author states that he/she wishes to submit the manuscript to the Bratislava Medical Journal for consideration, that there is no conflict of interest, and that all authors have read and approved of the manuscript being submitted.

Ensure that the following items are present
• One Author designated as corresponding author
• E-mail address
• Full postal address
• Telephone and fax numbers
• All necessary files have been uploaded
• Keywords
• All figure captions
• All tables and illustrations (including title, description, footnotes)
• Have been undergone English language check and correction
• Manuscript has been "spellchecked"
• References are in the correct format
• All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text and vice versa

• Non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention.
• Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Web)

We accept most word-processing formats, but **Word** is preferred. Always keep a backup copy of the electronic file for reference and safety. Save your files using the default extension of the program used. It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used.

The text should be in single-column format. Do not use the word processor's options to justify text or to hyphenate words.

Tables should be done in Word. Do not import the tables and figures into the text file. Indicate their approximate locations directly in the text of the manuscript. Tables and figures have to be on separate pages at the end of the manuscript.

Title page
• Title should be clear, descriptive and not exceed 85 characters, including spaces. Abbreviations are not allowed in the title of manuscript.
• Authorship should only be assumed by those coworkers who have contributed mentally to the work and its report. Colleagues who have otherwise assisted or collaborated should be recognized in the Acknowledgement section.
• Authors' names are listed in bibliographic form. That means - the principal name and one or two initials.
• Complete postal address of affiliations.
• Full telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address of the corresponding author.
• Present addresses of authors if applicable.
• Complete correspondence address (including postal zip code) and e-mail address to which the proofs should be sent.
• Grant support.
• Statement that there is no conflict of interest .

Abstract
This should contain no more than 200 words. For original articles, the abstract should be structured (i.e., divided into the sections Objectives, Background, Methods, Results, and Conclusion). Abstracts should briefly describe the problem being addressed in the study, how the study was performed and which measurements were carried out, the most relevant results, and what the authors conclude from the results.
An abstract is presented separate from the article, so it must "be able" to stand alone. Non-standard abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself.

Key words
A list of 5–6 words or short phrases should be included after the abstract for indexing purposes. Use terms from the Medical Subjects Headings from the Index Medicus.

Arrangement of the article

Introduction
State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

Materials and Methods
Provide sufficient detail to allow the work to be reproduced. Methods already published should be indicated by a reference: only relevant modifications should be described. You must include a sentence saying that informed consent was obtained from participants in the study and/or that the institution's ethics committee approved the study.

Results

These should be presented precisely. Do not present the same information in tables and figures.

Discussion

This should directly relate to the study being reported. Do not include a general review of the topic. Please include the conclusion in this section, unless it is a review article.

A concise discussion should relate only to the main results and their comparison to previously published studies. Conclusions must be clear and easy to understand.

References

The journal complies with the reference style given in "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals". Re¬ferences should be cited in text by number and numbered in order they are cited. The reference should by written in double-spaced form at the end of the text, following the sample formats given below. For the abbreviations of journal names, refer to the List of Journals Indexed in Index Medicus (available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, U.S.A., DHEW Publication No. NIH 83-267; ISSN 0093-3821).

Provide all names of authors when fewer than seven: when seven or more, list the first three and add et al. Provide article titles and inclusive pages. The author is responsible for the accuracy of reference data.

Article:

1.Greenblatt DJ, Abernethy DR, Shader Jr RI. Pharmacokinetic aspects of drug therapy in the elderly (commentary). Ther Drug Monit 1986; 8 (6): 249-255.

Book:

2.Mitchell JR, Horning MG (Eds). Drug metabolism and drug to¬xicity. New York: Raven Press, 1984: 1–25.

Chapter of book:

3. Kutt H, Pippenberg CE et al. Plasma clearance of nor-methsuximide in a uremic patient. 223–226. In: Levy RH, Pitlick WH, Meijer J (Eds). Metabolism of antiepileptic drugs. New York: Raven Press, 1984. Book in a series:

4. Usdin E, Asberg M, Bertilsson L (Eds). Frontiers in biochemical and pharmacological research in depression. New York; Raven Press, 1984. (Advances in biochemical psychopharmacology; vol 39.)

Internet:

5.http://www.med.monash.edu.au/medical.

Structured Abstract

A structured abstract should be provided on a separate page with no more than 200 words, presenting essential data in five paragraphs introduced by separate headings in following order: Objectives, Background, Methods, Results, Conclusion. Complete sentences should be used. All data in the structured abstract must be present also in the submitted text or tables. Three to five key words should be added. Terms from Index Medicus should be used.

Condensed Abstract (for table of contents)

A condensed abstract of no more than 50 words should be provided for the expanded table of contents, stressing clinical implications. Do not include data which are not present in the text or tables.

Learning Points

For all review articles, original articles and brief reports a box with "learning points" should be included at the end of the discussion.

Acknowledgements

This section should acknowledge colleagues who have assisted or collaborated in the study who are not listed on the title page. It should also include details on sponsoring and possible conflicts of interest.

Figures and Photographs

Figures and photographs of good quality should be submitted online as a separate file. Please use a lettering that remains clearly readable even after reduction to about 50 %. For every figure or photograph, a legend should be provided. All authors wishing to use illustrations already published must first obtain the permission of the author and publisher and/ or copyright holders and give precise reference to the original work. This permission must include the right to publish in electronic media.

Tables

Tables should be done in Word. Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text. The text should include references to all tables. **Each table** should occupy a separate page of the manuscript. Tables should never be included in the text. Each table should have a brief and self-explanatory title. Place footnotes to tables below the table body and indicate them with superscript lowercase letters, indicate each footnote in a table with a superscript lowercase letter. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in tables do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article.

Tables should be on a separate sheet, with title above and any notes below. All abbreviations should be explained. Do not provide duplicate information in tables and figures.

Illustrations

- **All illustrations** should be submitted as separate files.

- **Illustrations created in Word** should be sent as Word file.

- **All illustrations in CorelDraw and Illustrator** should be sent in EPS format.

- **Photos** should be sent in the format tiff or jpg. Always with minimum compressed.

- **Illustrations should be numbered** according to their sequence in the text. References should be made in the text to each illustration.

- **Illustrations should be of such a size** as to allow a reduction of 50%

- **Lettering** should be big enough to allow a reduction of 50% without becoming illegible. Use the same kind of lettering throughout and follow the style of the manuscript.

- **The each illustration** should be on a separate sheet of the manuscript

- **Explanations** should be given in the figure legend(s).

- **Photographs** are only acceptable if they have good contrast and intensity.

If you are unable to prepare documentation precisely according to our guidelines, ask the experts for computer graphics to help you.

Figure legends should be typed on separate pages; figure numbers must follow their reference in text.

Drug names. Generic names should be used; trade names may be given in parentheses in the first mention, and generic names should be used thereafter.

Abbreviations. The list of abbreviations given in "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals" (section References) should be followed. For additional abbreviations, consult the CBE Style Manual (available from the Council of Biology Editors, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, U.S.A.) or other standard sources.

Please note the following conventions

Word tables. Provide tables as a separate file (do not place in text).

Excel graphs. Provide as Excel file (do not place in text).

Word graphs. Provide as a separate Word file (do not place in text!)

Table and graph legends should be provided separately at the end of the text.

Graphs printed on laser or ink printers could not serve as templates– always provide original electronic files!

Figures. Provide original or scan. Scan in **600-800 dpi!** – set to B/W (black and white) or line art.

Figures – black and white photos. Provide high-quality original or scan in **350 dpi!**

Figures – colour photos. Provide high-quality original or scan in **350 dpi!**

Figures from digital camera should not be placed in text. Provide them in **tiff** or **jpg** format (with minimal compression)!

Figures scanned in 72 or 96 dpi are not suitable for print!!! On principle, **do not place scans in text!** Always provide original figures in **tiff** or **jpg** format (with minimal compression). Placing scan in Word text causes a loss of quality!!!

Figure legends should be provided as a separate text file.

Do not place figures in PowerPoint – this application is meant for presentations and it is not possible to use it as a template for print!!!

We will not publish accepted manuscripts which do not meet our requirements for formal processing of manuscripts.

Proofs

One set of proofs will be sent by e-mail to the Corresponding Author as given on the title page of the manuscript. Only typesetter's errors may be corrected; no changes in, or additions to, the edited manuscript will be allowed. Bratislava Medical Journal will do everything possible to get your article corrected and published as quickly and accurately as possible. Therefore, it is important to ensure that all of your corrections are sent back to us in one communication. Subsequent corrections will not be possible, so please ensure your first sending is complete. Proof must be returned within 2 days; late return may cause a delay in publication. Please check text, tables, legends, and references carefully. Authors can also keep a track of the progress of their accepted article at www.elis.sk.

Manuscript should be addressed to: Editorial Office, Bratisl Lek Listy, Spitalska 24, SK-813 72 Bratislava 1, Slovakia. Phone/Fax: Listy, Spitalska 24, SK-813 72 Bratislava 1, Slovakia. Phone/Fax: +421.2.52965400, e-mail: bll@fmed.uniba.sk or ivan.hulin@fmed.uniba.sk. Manuscripts are accepted for processing if neither the article nor any essential part, tables or figures, has been or will be published or submitted elsewhere before presenting in Bratisl Lek Listy (Bratisl Med J). Bratislava Medical Journal has no page charges.

Announcement

In line with the EU's commitment to the free circulation of scientific knowledge and the dissemination of research results, the Bratislava Medical Journal (BMJ) is a full-fledged Open Access (OA) journal. From October 1, 2023, the **article-processing charges** (APC) for all published articles are set at €360.

BMJ articles will be published OA under a **CC BY license** (Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license). This license allows readers to copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format, and to alter, transform, or build upon the material, including for commercial use, providing the original author is credited.