

RGUHS Journal of Allied Health Sciences

Editorial and Peer Review Process:

A manuscript will be reviewed for possible publication with the understanding that it is being submitted to RGUHS Journal of Allied Health Sciences alone at that point in time and has not been published anywhere, simultaneously submitted, or already accepted for publication elsewhere. On submission, editors will review all submitted manuscripts initially for suitability for formal review and plagiarism. Manuscripts with insufficient originality, serious scientific or technical flaws, or lack of a significant message will be rejected before proceeding for formal peer-review. Manuscripts that are unlikely to be of interest to the RGUHS Journal of Allied Health Sciences readers will also be liable to be rejected at this stage itself. Manuscripts that are found suitable for publication in RGUHS Journal of Allied Health Sciences are sent to two or more expert reviewers. The journal follows a double-blind review process, where the reviewers and authors are unaware of each other's identity. Each manuscript is also assigned to a member of the editorial team, who based on the comments from the reviewers takes a final decision on the manuscript. The comments and suggestions (acceptance/ rejection/amendments in manuscript) received from reviewers are conveyed to the corresponding author. If required, the author is requested to provide a point by point response to reviewers' comments and submit a revised version of the manuscript. This process is repeated till reviewers and editors are satisfied with the manuscript. Within a 3 weeks, the authors will be informed about the reviewers' comments and acceptance/rejection of their manuscript. Articles accepted would be copy edited for grammar, punctuation, print style, and format. To avoid delays in publication, authors are advised to adhere closely to the instructions given below.

Manuscript Structure

The Manuscript should be structured as Title, Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, References, Tables, and Figures. The Title Page should contain Authors, Acknowledgements and Conflict of Interests. Manuscript should not contain any information that reveals author or institution details

Types of Articles and Word Limits:

Original articles:

Original articles include randomized controlled trials, intervention studied, studies of screening and diagnostic test, outcome studies, cost-effectiveness analyses, casecontrol series, and surveys with high response rate. These article must be written within 3000 words excluding references and abstract. A structured abstract of up to 250 words should be included with the following subheadings: Background, Aim, Methods, Results and Conclusion.

Review articles:

Review articles include systemic critical assessments of literature and data sources. These kind of articles must be written within 4000 words excluding references and abstract. An unstructured abstract of up to 250 words should be included.

Case reports or case studies:

Case reports should be short, decisive observation. These should be kept within 2000 words with not more than 15 references and up to 4 tables or figure. An unstructured abstract of up to 200 words should also be included. The content should have the following headings: Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Case presentation, Discussion, and References.

Short communications/brief reports:

These follow a similar format as an Original Articles; however, the Results and Discussion sections in the main body of the text should be combined. The word count for Brief Reports should be kept within 1500 words in the main body of the text, with up to 15 references and not more than 2 tables or figures.

Letter to the editor/editorials:

This can include comments on earlier publications, presenting data or findings in brief, expressing opinions on health-related issues, and communicating interesting case material. These should be of approximately 750-1000 words and not more than 10 references.

Preparation of Manuscript:

Manuscripts must be prepared in accordance with uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journal as recommended by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (<http://www.icmje.org/icmjerecommendations.pdf>) guidelines. The adherence to writing guideline of the journal is important to uplift the quality of the publication. The general rule of writing an effective scientific article is to write as if the reader already knows the field in general but doesn't know what you did. Besides content, accuracy, relevance, and science, also pay attention to the writing style and formatting.

General requirements:

All files should be in Microsoft Word file format (.doc, .docx). Content should be written in uniformly American English. Abbreviations spelt out in full for the first time. Page size should be in Letter Portrait, A4 (8.5" × 11") and spacing between lines should be 1.5. The margin should be normal (2.54 cm on all sides). Font style should be Times New Roman, and keep the font size 12 for all contents in the document except for the title (Title should be 14 Times New Roman, Bold, Capital case, Centre aligned). The corresponding author should include an asterisk.

Cover letter:

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. 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.

Title

- Title of the article should be short, continuous and yet sufficiently descriptive and informative.
- The title should be brief, informative, of not more than 15 words.

Author names and affiliations

Clearly indicate the provide name(s) and surname(s) of each author and check that all names are accurately spelled. Affiliations of all the authors should be provided below the list of authors with appropriate citations in numbers. An affiliation should include department name, institute or university name, city name and country name. Corresponding author's mailing address, designation, institution and contact details (email, telephone, and fax numbers) should be provided. If authors regard it as essential to indicate that two or more co-authors are equal in status, they may be identified by an asterisk symbol with the caption 'These authors contributed equally to this work' immediately under the author affiliation list.

Abstract:

Original research articles follow the Background, Objectives, Methods, Results, and Conclusion structure for writing abstracts. An abstract should not be more than 250 words. The abstract should be brief and indicate the scope and significant results of the paper. It should only highlight the principal findings and conclusions.

Keywords:

There should be 4-6 keywords, preferably using Medical Subject Heading (MeSH).

Introduction:

Introduction should be brief and state precisely the scope and relevance of the study. Introduction should be within a word limit of 400 words.

Materials & Methods:

Describe the selection of the observational or experimental subjects (patients or laboratory animals, and including controls) clearly. Sample size calculation, exclusion and inclusion criteria, and description of the source population should be clear. Methods can be divided into subsections, if required (e.g., study design, participants, sampling, sample size, research instrument, etc.). Details of research methods, procedure, apparatus/tools used for conducting the study should be mentioned clearly. Provide references to established methods, including statistical methods; provide references and brief descriptions of methods that have been published but are not well known; describe new or substantially modified methods, give reasons for using them, and evaluate their limitations. When mentioning drugs, it should be in generic names (proprietary names can be provided in brackets). When reporting experiments on human subjects, indicate whether the procedures followed were in accordance with

the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional or regional) and with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 2000.

Do not use patients' names, initials, or hospital numbers, especially in illustrative material. When reporting experiments on animals, indicate whether the institution's or a national research council's guide for, or any national law on the care and use of laboratory animals was followed. Authors should provide the details of statistical method and software used for analysing the data.

Results:

Present the results in logical sequence in the text, tables, and figures. Tables and figures may be left at the respective location within the text. These should be numbered using Arabic numerals only. Do not repeat the results or data in the text, which are shown in the tables or figures. For qualitative studies, the authors are advised to present the quotations in the text or the boxes. When data are summarized in the Results section, give numeric results not only as derivatives (for example, percentages) but also as the absolute numbers from which the derivatives were calculated, and specify the statistical methods used to analyze them.

Discussion:

Emphasize the new and important aspects of the study and the conclusions that follow from them. Do not repeat the results or other material given in the Introduction or the Results section. Relate the observations to other relevant studies and include implications of the findings and their limitations, including implications for future research.

Conclusion:

This section should state the implications and how the study add to existing knowledge. Link the conclusions with the aims of the study but avoid unqualified statements and conclusions not completely supported by your data. Recommendations, when appropriate, may be included.

Acknowledgment:

Acknowledgment should be brief and made for specific scientific/technical assistance and financial support only and not for providing routine departmental facilities and encouragement or for help in the preparation of the manuscripts (including typing or secretarial assistance). The source of funding for the study, if available, must be cited under this section.

Conflict of interests:

All authors must declare their conflicts of interest.

References:

All the references must be listed at the end of the manuscript and all the listed references must be cited in the text. RGUHS Journal of Allied Health Sciences follows the official ICMJE/Medline style, with minor alterations (https://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html):

- a. If a reference has more than 3 authors, cite the first three and then insert “et al.” If a reference has 3 authors, all authors must be listed.
- b. State only the year of publication in the reference (not the date and month).
- c. Journal title should be abbreviated in Medline style. For journals not in PubMed, use the full journal name or the abbreviated name provided by the journal publisher.
- d. References in texts should be cited in superscript after the punctuations, without a bracket.
- e. For original articles, the number of references should not exceed 30. For review articles, the number of references should not exceed 45.

Examples of references

Journal

- Author names, article title, journal name, year of publication, volume number, page range
- Journal title is abbreviated in Medline style. For journals not in PubMed, use the full journal name or the abbreviated name provided by the journal publisher
- Use condensed page number system Malick SM, Hadley J, Davis J, et al. Is evidence-based medicine teaching and learning directed at improving practice? J Royal Soc Med. 2010;103(6):231-8.

Book

- Author names, book name, volume/edition number, year of publication, publisher name, city of publication Bhushan V, Le T, Amin C, et al. First Aid for the USMLE Step 1. New York: McGraw-Hill; 2002.

Book Chapter

- Author names, chapter title, editor names, book title, volume/edition number, year of publication, city and state of publication, publisher name, and page range Hadd FJ, Buckalew VM. Endogenous digitalis-like factors in hypertension. In: Laragh HJ, Brenner MB, eds. Hypertension: Pathophysiology, Diagnosis, and Management. New York, NY: Raven Press; 1995:1055-67. Website University of Illinois at Chicago, Department of Neurology, Founders of Neurology Page. Available at: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/mcne/founders/page0102.html>. Accessed June 1, 2000. Report Medscape Family Medicine. Conference report- a return to humanism in

medical practice. The 34th Annual Spring Conference of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM). Denver, Colorado; 2001. Figure and table legends: These should be brief, specific and appear on a separate manuscript page after the References section.

Figures/Tables/Images:

Figures, tables and images must be cited in the order of their appearance in the manuscript. It should be numbered in chronological order. The title of the tables/figures must be as self-explanatory as possible. Figures and tables should be in an editable format. Pictures must be in high resolution (at least 300 dpi) and in JPEG format. The patient's identity should be protected by using appropriate eye blinder. By default, table captions should be represented above the table and figure legends should be represented below the figure.

Supplementary material:

Supplementary material is peer-reviewed material directly relevant to the article that cannot be included in the printed version owing to space or format constraints. The article must be complete and self-explanatory, which is posted on the journal's website and linked to the article. This consist of data files, graphics, movies or extensive tables.

Authors should submit supplementary material files in the final format as they are not edited, typeset or changed, and will appear online exactly as submitted. When submitting supplementary data, authors are required to include all the relevant document with details.

- Identify the types of files (file formats) submitted.
- Include the text "Supplementary data is available at (journal name)'s website" at the end of the article and before the references.

How to submit manuscript

Pre-submission Enquiries

Pre-submission enquiries should be sent to the editorial office e-mail:

Online Submission of Manuscript

RGUHS Journal of Allied Health Sciences accept articles only through <https://rjahs.journalgrid.com/login>. Please place table and figures at appropriate places in the text. Before submitting a manuscript, authors are encouraged to read the submission instructions carefully. 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.
- Manuscript revisions will be made by using track change or by highlight in response to the reviewers' comments in order to aid the Editors and reviewers.
- A clean file and track change/highlighted manuscript should be submitted with cover letter and rebuttal letter.

On Acceptance and Publication

Once article is accepted for publication after the peer-review process, editorial team will request all the authors must complete and sign a copyright form (hard or scanned copy) and send it back to editorial office for speedy processing of publication production, delay in sending the copyright form will result in delay of publication. Author must return the galley proof of their manuscript within 2-3 working days for fast processing of online publication and printing.

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