

# Manuscript Submission Guidelines and Policies for *Health Security*

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## Journal Information

- Manuscript Submission Site: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/healthsecurity>
- Editorial Office Contact: [kathi.fox@jhu.edu](mailto:kathi.fox@jhu.edu)
- Support Contact: [prosupport@liebertpub.com](mailto:prosupport@liebertpub.com)
- Journal Model: Hybrid (Open Access Option)
- Blinding: Double Blind. Do not include identifying information in the manuscript file; submit a separate title page
- File formatting requirement stage: Upon submission
- Instant Online Option (immediate publication of accepted version): No
- Submission Fee: None
- Average time to initial decision: 32 days

## About the Journal

*Health Security* is a bimonthly peer-reviewed journal available in print and online versions. It is a forum for discussions of ways to protect people's health from the consequences of epidemics and disasters and to make communities more resilient to major challenges resulting from biological, nuclear, chemical, manmade, or natural disasters.

The aim of the Journal is to publish articles that examine how scientific and technological innovations can strengthen health security and look at the policies, organizations, systems, and tools that can prevent and respond to outbreaks and public health crises. The Journal focuses on policies and practices that address a range of challenges, including the global rise in emerging infectious diseases, a continued risk of pandemic viruses, major natural disasters, our dependence on vulnerable infrastructure, outbreaks of foodborne illness, and the potential for biological, chemical, or nuclear accidents or intentional threats.

*Health Security* is an international platform for debate and exploration of research, innovations, methods, challenges, and ethical and legal dilemmas posed by biological weapons, disasters, and infectious disease outbreaks or epidemics. It provides multidisciplinary analyses and perspectives essential to the development of strategies and programs that can improve global public health and security.

The intended audiences for this Journal are professional communities with strategic, scientific, or operational responsibilities for improving health, including medicine, public health, law, national security, bioscientific research, agriculture, food safety, and drug and vaccine development.

The Editors encourage submissions to the Journal from professionals in these fields and others who have the responsibility or opportunity to improve health security.

## Manuscript Types and Guidelines

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Original Articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4,000-word limit</li> <li>• Unstructured abstract of no more than 250 words</li> <li>• Maximum total of eight (8) figures and/or tables</li> </ul>
Case Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4,000-word limit</li> <li>• Unstructured abstract of no more than 250 words</li> <li>• Maximum total of eight (8) figures and/or tables</li> </ul>
Commentaries	<p><i>Commentaries may be on any issue of relevance to health security but should be succinct and include appropriate documentation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,500-word limit</li> <li>• An abstract is not required</li> <li>• No figures or tables</li> </ul>
From the Field (Invitation only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,000-word limit</li> <li>• May include one (1) or two (2) figures or tables</li> </ul>
Letters to the Editor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 500-word limit</li> <li>• May include one (1) figure OR table</li> <li>• Letters to the Editor may be edited</li> </ul>

*Word limits do NOT pertain to the abstract, disclosure statements, author contribution statements, funding information, acknowledgments, tables, figure legends, or references.*

#### **Contributors are asked to follow these guidelines:**

- Manuscripts should be submitted with the understanding that they have neither been published, nor are under consideration for publication elsewhere, in the same form or substantially similar form, except in the form of a conference abstract. If work was presented at a conference, supply the name, date, and location of the meeting as a footnote on the title page of the submission.
- Avoid jargon and overly technical presentations. Our readers come from many fields, and your article should be understandable to well-informed readers from various disciplines and countries.
- Avoid the use of invented acronyms and limit your use of acronyms. Well-recognized acronyms—for example, CDC and WHO—are acceptable, but do not abbreviate terms not in common usage.
- When presenting research, be sure to not only present the study methods and results but also draw implications from the results, discuss their relevance, and propose recommendations for change or further study.

#### **Consideration of Information that Might Increase the Risks Associated with Potential Bioweapons Attacks**

*Health Security* seeks to foster discussion of biosecurity issues and threats posed by new or emergent organisms and to promote informed decisions regarding response among policymakers, technical experts, and the public. However, the Editors recognize that, in the process of promoting this critical debate, some articles published in this Journal may contain information, such as public health biodefense preparedness vulnerabilities, biotechnologies, experimental methodologies, and medical response capacities, that could arguably lower the barriers to bioweapons attacks and/or increase the potential consequences of those attacks. To that end, the Editors will balance the risk of potential for misapplication of scientific and other knowledge against the importance of an open, robust debate on these topics.

As most biological science information and medical and public health planning efforts are unclassified and available on the internet and in the public domain, the Editors believe that a decision to not publish potentially sensitive information will be rare. Although editorial procedures are in place to ensure sensitive information is not shared, should it be necessary, the Editors have a strong commitment against withholding scientific or other information unless there are clear and compelling reasons to do so.

#### **Review Process**

Submitted articles are screened by the Managing Editor to make sure they meet the Journal's guidelines. They are then read by an Associate Editor, who will recommend rejection, revision, or review.

Every article sent out for review is seen by at least 2 peer reviewers. Manuscripts are "blinded," so the reviewer does not know the identity of the author, and authors will not be told the names of reviewers. Authors may suggest reviewers, and they may ask that some reviewers be excluded, but all reviewer selections are at the discretion of the Editors. Once reviews have been received, the article and reviewers' comments will be discussed at a Journal editorial meeting.

Manuscripts are evaluated on the originality of ideas and contribution to the literature, clarity of presentation, soundness of methods and conclusions, and importance and interest of the topic to the field. The decision of the Editors usually will be returned to the author within 6 weeks of submission. Decision letters are blind copied to peer reviewers.

## References

The references should be cited in the text using the numerical order of citation method. The reference list should be at the end of the manuscript and organized numerically in order of citation. References must be prepared in Word and double-spaced. References appearing for the first time in tables and figures must be numbered in sequence with those cited in the text where the table or figure is mentioned. References should be presented according to the AMA Manual of Style (11th edition), as shown below. Use journal abbreviations as provided by PubMed/Medline. List all authors when there are six or fewer. When there are more than six, list the first three, followed by et al. If references to personal communications or unpublished data are used, they are not to be in the list of references. They should be referred to in the text in parentheses: (AB Jones, personal communication). Include among the references any articles that have been accepted but have not yet published; identify the name of publication and add "In Press." If the reference has been published online, provide the DOI number in place of the page range. Include permission from authors to cite unpublished data or articles still in press.

### **Sample style for references:**

Journal article:

Koonin LM, Pillai S, Kahn EB, Moulia D, Patel A. Strategies to inform allocation of stockpiled ventilators to healthcare facilities during a pandemic. *Health Secur.* 2020;18(2):69-74.

Entire book:

M'ikanatha NM, Lynfield R, Van Beneden CA, de Valk H, eds. *Infectious Disease Surveillance*. 2nd ed. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd; 2013.

Book chapter:

Plotkin BJ, Hardiman MC. Infectious disease surveillance and the international health regulations. In: M'ikanatha NM, Lynfield R, Van Beneden CA, de Valk H, eds. *Infectious Disease Surveillance*. 2nd ed. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd; 2013:62-80.

Government reports:

US Department of Homeland Security. FY2011 Congressional Budget Justification. Washington, DC: US Department of Homeland Security; 2010.

Web pages:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). CDC website. Updated March 13, 2019. Accessed May 14, 2019. <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/nndss/>

Conference presentations:

Ward MJ, Alger J, Berrueta, et al. Zika virus and the World Health Organization criteria for determining recent infection using plaque reduction neutralization testing. Paper presented at: 67th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; October 28-November 1, 2018; New Orleans, LA.

## PaperPal Preflight

**The Paperpal Preflight service is available for this journal.** PaperPal Preflight allows authors to check their **Original Research** manuscripts for common errors prior to submitting a manuscript for consideration. Please note that this does not guarantee that your paper will pass all submission or other checks, nor that it will be considered for review.

The checks are configured for Original Research manuscripts only and may not be applicable to other manuscript types. There may be additional requirements for submission. Please review the full instructions for authors for guidelines.

The basic service is free. PaperPal preflight offers an *optional* fee-based service that will provide a report showing tracked changes and potential modifications. Please note that if this service is used, a clean copy of the manuscript must be uploaded to the submission system.

There is no obligation to use either the free or paid service. No editorial, review, nor any other decisions will be dependent on its use.

All manuscripts must be submitted through the journal's ScholarOne Manuscripts site.

# General Manuscript Submission Guidelines and Policies for Mary Ann Liebert Journals

Last updated 2/2/2024 2:32:07 PM

## Submission Preparation

All manuscripts must be prepared in accordance with the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals ([icmje.org](http://icmje.org)). Please consult your specific journal's requirements for additional information.

All Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. journals follow the standards, guidelines, and best practices set forth by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE; [publicationethics.org](http://publicationethics.org)), the International Committee of Journal Medical Editors (ICJME; [www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org)), the World Medical Association (WMA); [www.wma.net](http://www.wma.net)), and the American Medical Association ([www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org)).

Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. recommends that submissions follow standard relevant reporting guidelines. Please consult [The Equator Network](#) for more information.

### PaperPal Preflight

The Paperpal Preflight service is available for most journals. PaperPal Preflight allows authors to check their **Original Research** manuscripts for common errors prior to submitting a manuscript for consideration. Please note that this does not guarantee that your paper will pass all submission or other checks, nor that it will be considered for review.

There may be additional requirements for submission. Please review the full instructions for authors for guidelines.

The basic service is free. PaperPal preflight offers an *optional* fee-based service that will provide a report showing tracked changes and potential modifications. Please note that if this service is used, a clean copy of the manuscript must be uploaded to the submission system.

There is no obligation to use either the free or paid service. No editorial, review, nor any other decisions will be dependent on its use.

All manuscripts must be submitted through the journal's ScholarOne Manuscripts site. Please refer to the individual journal's instructions for more information and to access the service.

# Manuscript Formatting

Please check your journal's requirements for file formatting. Many journals require formatting compliance only on revision; however, unless stated, the file formatting should comply with the following requirements on submission.

## Manuscript Files

The main text file, figure legends, and tables should be prepared in Microsoft Word. Some journals may accept LaTeX. Please consult your individual journal instructions for guidance.

## File Naming

- All file names should be in English and contain only alphanumeric characters.
- **Do not include spaces, symbols, special characters, dashes, dots, or underscores.**
- Title each file with the type of content contained in the file (e.g., manuscript.doc, tables.doc, FigureLegends.doc, Fig1.tif, SupplementalData.pdf, etc.).

## Figures

- Submission of high resolution .TIFF or .EPS figure files is preferred. Please upload as individual files.
- Cite figures consecutively in text within parentheses.
- Images should not reveal the name of a patient or a manufacturer.
- Note: Figures that will not be reproduced in color must be readable and interpretable in black and white.

## Figure Legends

- A legend should be provided for each supplied figure.
- All legends should be numbered consecutively.
- Figure legends may be included at the end of the main text file or uploaded as a separate, double-spaced Word file.
- In each legend, provide explanations for any abbreviations or symbols that appear in the figure.
- If the figure is taken from a copyrighted publication, permission must be secured by the author(s) and supplied at the time of submission with appropriate credit listed in the legend. Permissions and associated fees are the responsibility of the author.

## Tables

- Tables may be included after the references at the end of the main text file, or uploaded as a single, separate Word file. All tables should be editable.
- Provide a title for each supplied table.
- Cite tables sequentially in text within parentheses.
- Explain abbreviations used in the body of the table in footnotes using superscript letters, not symbols.
- If a table is taken from a copyrighted publication, permission must be secured by the author(s) and supplied at the time of submission with appropriate credit listed in the legend. Permissions and associated fees are the responsibility of the author.

## Supplemental Files

- Supplemental files should be uploaded as individual files. Most text, photo, graphic, and video formats are accepted. Ensure that patient identities are not revealed.
- Supplemental Information will not be copyedited or typeset; it will be posted online as supplied.
- For journals that publish accepted versions of papers prior to copyediting and typesetting, supplemental files will not be posted with the paper until after production has been completed.

## Manuscript Structure

Specific journal requirements will vary, however the general order of elements in each manuscript should be

- Title page\* with full manuscript title, all contributing authors' names and affiliations, a short running title, a denotation of the corresponding author, and a list of 4-6 keywords/search terms,
- Abstract,
- Main text without embedded figures or tables and with appropriate section headings, if applicable. Most research papers should be organized as follows: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusions.
- Acknowledgments,
- Authorship confirmation/contribution statement (CRediT format is preferred)
- Author(s)' disclosure (Conflict of Interest) statement(s), even when not applicable,
- Funding statement, even when not applicable,
- References,
- Tables included in the text or as a separate document,
- Figure legends at the end of the main text or in a separate Word file,
- Figures uploaded as individual high-resolution files,
- Supplemental files uploaded as individual files.

\*Double-blinded journals require a separate title page with the title, all contributing authors' names and affiliations, a denotation of the corresponding author, author acknowledgements, disclosures, and related identifying information.

Your individual journal may require

- An Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval (or waiver) statement and statement of patient consent as a separate paragraph after the methods section,
- Other relevant ethics attestations (see [icmje.org](https://www.icmje.org) for further guidance),
- Data sharing statement,
- Specific abstract and content sections, depending on manuscript type,
- Word count limits, tables/figure limits, and reference format requirements.

Please note that paragraphs should be no longer than 15 lines once typeset.

# Pre-Publication Policies

## Funding

Upon manuscript submission, the submitting agent will have an opportunity to enter funding/grant information. If funding information is entered correctly, the publisher will deposit the funding acknowledgements from the article as part of the standard metadata to Funder Registry. The entered information should include funder names, funder IDs (if available), and associated grant numbers. Special care should be taken when entering this information to ensure total accuracy. Funding information must also be provided within the manuscript.

### Government Funded Research / Funder Requirements

Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. publishers adheres to national and international funder requirements.

We comply fully with the open access requirements of [UKRI](#), [Wellcome](#), and [NIHR](#). Where required by their funder, authors retain the right to distribute their author accepted manuscript (AAM), such as via an institutional and/or subject repository (e.g. EuropePMC), under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) license for release no later than the date of first online publication.?

Other funders, such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, have specific requirements for depositing the accepted version and/or the article of record version of the author manuscript in a repository after an embargo period. Authors funded by these organizations should follow the self-archiving terms and conditions of these separate agreements based on the policies of the specific funding institutions. If you have questions, please [contact us](#) for more information.

## Peer Review

After internal editorial screening for suitability, all manuscript submissions containing original research or that comprise scholarly review are subject to rigorous, independent, external peer review. Editorials, correspondence, news features, and/or Invited opinion or perspective contributions in other sections of the journal are subject to stringent editorial oversight; at need, external, independent review will be arranged to address specialized topics. Final decisions for publication are solely the responsibility of the Editor(s)-in-Chief.

## Exclusivity

Manuscripts should be submitted with the understanding that they have neither been published, nor are under consideration for publication elsewhere, in the same form or substantially similar form. Conference abstracts are excluded. If work was presented at a conference, supply the name, date, and location of the meeting as a footnote on the title page of the submission.

## Third-party Submissions and Integrity

If a third party is submitting the manuscript, the submitting agent designation must be used, with the identity of the submitting agent disclosed. We reserve the right to reject any manuscript that does not contain this disclosure. The authors are solely responsible for any manuscript submitted on their behalf.

## Confidentiality

Editors and reviewers must maintain strict confidentiality of manuscripts during the peer-review process. Sharing a manuscript in whole or in part, outside the scope of what is necessary for assessment, is impermissible prior to an accepted manuscript's official publication date. Reviewers are not permitted to contact authors directly.

## Sharing of Materials



## Sharing of Materials

Authors must honor any reasonable request for materials, methods, or data necessary to reproduce or validate the research findings during peer review unless it violates the privacy or confidentiality of human research subjects.

## Conflicts of Interest by the Editorial Leadership

No member of the Editorial Leadership of a journal (Editor in Chief, Deputy/Associate/Guest Editors or Editorial Board members) is permitted to participate in the review or decision process for submissions where there is a potential or actual competing interest. This includes, but is not limited to research or review papers of their own authorship or co-authorship. In those cases, an independent member of the leadership will have full discretion to manage review and decision on the manuscript.

## Plagiarism, Peer Review, and Publication Integrity

Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., is committed to maintaining the integrity of the peer-review process by upholding the highest standards for all published articles. All manuscripts are analyzed and evaluated for plagiarism, peer review integrity, and publication integrity. Manuscript screening may be applied at any point in the process, from submission through post-publication. Plagiarized manuscripts or manuscripts with evidence of publication, image, or peer review misconduct will be rejected immediately. If publication misconduct is identified, we reserve the right to rescind acceptance prior to publication.

## Authorship

Authorship is defined by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors in [Roles & Responsibilities](#). Contributors who do not meet all criteria for authorship should not be listed as authors, but they should be acknowledged (**with permission from the named parties**) in the *Acknowledgments* section with a description of their contribution to the work.

## ORCID IDs

All submitting authors are required to complete their submissions using an ORCID identifier.

## Corresponding Authors

One author should be designated as the corresponding author who will be responsible for communication between the authors and the journal editorial office and publisher. This individual will be responsible for ensuring all authors submit copyright forms, coordinating and responding to page proofs, and managing any other necessary contact during the peer review and production processes.

The submission system permits only one author to be identified as the corresponding author of record. However, we recognize that some submissions call for more than one corresponding author to be noted. In such cases, select one author to be the main point of contact for all communications regarding the peer review process of the paper, and on the title page of the manuscript, designate additional co-corresponding authors by including an asterisk after the authors' names in the byline. Include an accompanying footnote on the title page that reads, "*\*Co-corresponding authors.*" Please ensure that the title page carries the full affiliation details and email address of any author who should be noted as a corresponding author. If the paper is accepted for publication, the full contact information for all designated co-authors will be listed at the end of the article as per usual journal style.

## Authorship Confirmation/Contribution Statement

An authorship contribution statement must be included with the manuscript. We strongly recommend that the authorship contribution statement follow the CRediT Taxonomy guidelines. (<https://credit.niso.org/>)

- Conceptualization (Ideas; formulation or evolution of overarching research goals and aims.)

- Data curation (Management activities to annotate (produce metadata), scrub data and maintain research data (including software code, where it is necessary for interpreting the data itself) for initial use and later re-use.)
- Formal analysis (Application of statistical, mathematical, computational, or other formal techniques to analyze or synthesize study data.)
- Funding acquisition (Acquisition of the financial support for the project leading to this publication.)
- Investigation (Conducting a research and investigation process, specifically performing the experiments, or data/evidence collection.)
- Methodology (Development or design of methodology; creation of models.)
- Project administration (Management and coordination responsibility for the research activity planning and execution.)
- Resources (Provision of study materials, reagents, materials, patients, laboratory samples, animals, instrumentation, computing resources, or other analysis tools.)
- Software (Programming, software development; designing computer programs; implementation of the computer code and supporting algorithms; testing of existing code components.)
- Supervision (Oversight and leadership responsibility for the research activity planning and execution, including mentorship external to the core team.)
- Validation (Verification, whether as a part of the activity or separate, of the overall replication/reproducibility of results/experiments and other research outputs.)
- Visualization (Preparation, creation and/or presentation of the published work, specifically visualization/data presentation.)
- Writing – original draft (Preparation, creation and/or presentation of the published work, specifically writing the initial draft (including substantive translation).)
- Writing – review & editing (Preparation, creation and/or presentation of the published work by those from the original research group, specifically critical review, commentary or revision – including pre- or post-publication stages.)>

## Example

Author 1: review and editing (equal). **Author 2:** Conceptualization (lead); writing – original draft (lead); formal analysis (lead); writing – review and editing (equal). **Author 3:** Software (lead); writing – review and editing (equal). **Author 4:** Methodology (lead); writing – review and editing (equal). **Author 5:** Conceptualization (supporting); Writing – original draft (supporting); Writing – review and editing (equal).

## Changes in Authorship

Changes in authorship after submission, revision, or acceptance of a paper are generally not permitted, but the editorial leadership recognizes that in rare circumstances, it may be required. The policy for such cases is as follows:

- A request to alter authorship must be made in writing from the corresponding author to the Editor-in-Chief, with a detailed explanation for the request, the nature of the changes, and the names and affiliations of all authors.
- Written approval of all authors named on the manuscript, as well as any individual(s) being added to or removed from the author list must be provided. The Publisher can provide a form for this, if needed.
- Upon receipt of the request and all written approvals of all involved parties, the Editor-in-Chief will consider the request, render a decision, and notify the corresponding author.
- Post-publication changes or alterations to conference abstracts are prohibited.

- If authors are added or removed upon revision submission, without accompanying documentation of the request, the manuscript will be unsubmitted.

## Name Change Policy

Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. supports the implementation of name changes for reasons including (but not limited to) gender identity, changes to marital status, religious conversion, etc.

Please contact the [Director of Production and Editorial](#) to confidentially update your record. Identification or documentation is not required, apart from confirmation that the change is on behalf of yourself (requests cannot be made for other individuals).

Updates will be made to the online versions of the article, but without a formal correction notice and without coauthors being notified.

We recommend authors update ScholarOne and ORCID records with any name changes.

## Author Disclosure Statements

Upon submission, authors are required to fully disclose any interests, funding or employment that may inappropriately influence or affect the integrity of the submission. Authors should disclose

- *Competing Interests.* A competing interest exists when an individual (or the individual's institution) has financial or personal relationships that may inappropriately influence his actions. These competing interests may be potential or actual, financial or other.
- *Personal Financial Interests.* Stocks or shares in a company that may gain or lose financially from publication of the article; consulting fees or other remuneration from an organization that may gain or lose financially from publication of the article; patents or patent applications that are owned by or licensed to companies/institutions that may gain or lose value from publication of the article.
- *Funding.* Research support by organizations that may gain or lose financially from publication of the article. This support includes salary, equipment, supplies, honoraria, reimbursement or prepayment for attending symposia, and other expenses.
- *Employment.* Recent (within the past 5 years), current, or anticipated employment by an organization that may gain or lose financially from publication of the article.
- *Other Competing Interests.* Any personal relationship which may inappropriately affect the integrity of the research reported (by an author) or the objectivity of the review of the manuscript (by a reviewer or Editor), for example, competition between investigators, previous disagreements between investigators, or bias in professional judgment.

## Affiliations

Authors should identify as their institution(s) the facility where the work was performed and executed. Changes in an author's affiliation after the work was completed, but prior to the submission or publication of the manuscript should be noted using a superscript asterisk in the author listing and a footnote on the title page indicating "Current Address" and listing the new affiliation. Corrections to affiliations or contact information due to relocation after publication is not permitted.

## Permissions

When reproducing copyrighted material such as figures, tables, or excerpted text, the author(s) of the submitted paper

must obtain permission from the original publisher or owner of material and submit it concurrently with the manuscript. The figure or table source must be listed in the reference list. With any copyrighted material, include a footnote with proper attribution (e.g. "Reprinted by permission from Jones et al.") and the appropriate reference. All

permissions must be supplied at the time of submission. Authors are responsible for any fees that may be incurred by securing permission to reproduce or adapt material from other published sources.

## **Appropriate use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Published Research**

Mary Ann Liebert, publishers, Inc. understands that emerging computing methodologies and tools are critical parts of advancing research. The policies below will be reviewed and updated as technologies, best practices and ethical considerations in AI evolve.

## **Transparency and Disclosure**

Liebert Journals require authors to disclose any use of AI systems in their research and manuscript preparation.

Authors are required to provide descriptions of an AI system's use in their Materials and Methods section. Include the name and version of the software, the date of the original use, and all relevant prompts, queries or cues that initiated the AI's response. Potential biases and limitations of the outcomes of AI use should be discussed by the authors when presenting their results.

## **Authorship and Contributions**

AI systems are not authors and should not be used or named as authors on a manuscript.

Authorship of a scholarly work requires responsibility for the conduct of the research and the content of the written work created as a result of that research. The contributions of each author should be stated in the paper, noting their specific roles in the research and writing. An AI system used to generate any part of the content must be stated in the Methods section, as above. The listed authors are expected to review a final text and accept responsibility for its accuracy.

## **Peer Review**

All scholarly works considered for publication undergo thorough and rigorous peer review. Manuscripts with AI-generated content are no exception.

Reviewers will evaluate the rigor, methodology, and significance of the research, considering the involvement of AI systems. Reviewers should consider the appropriateness of the use of AI tools when they assess the work, along with the authors' discussion of their use. If any AI tools were used by the Reviewer in the process of preparing their comments, this must be acknowledged to the Editor as part of your report.

## **Intellectual Property and Copyright**

Ownership and copyright of any work can only be awarded to human authors or human-operated institutions, ensuring compliance with intellectual property laws.

## **How to report concerns**

Authors and readers who wish to identify concerns with a manuscript either before or after publication should contact the journal's editorial office.

## **Ethics**

## **Institutional Review Board Approvals/Waivers**

When reporting research involving human data, authors must document the procedures followed in securing approvals from the responsible institutional and national review committee(s), along with confirmation that the research was completed in accordance with the [Declaration of Helsinki as revised in 2013](#).

An institution without an Institutional Review Board must arrange for an outside/external IRB to be responsible for initial and continuing review of studies conducted at the non-IRB institution. Such arrangements must be documented in writing in the manuscript.

If doubt exists whether the research was conducted in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration, the authors must explain the rationale for their approach and demonstrate that the institutional review body explicitly approved the doubtful aspects of the study. Approval by a responsible review committee does not preclude editors from forming their own judgment whether the conduct of the research was appropriate. Please see <https://www.icmje.org/icmje-recommendations.pdf> for additional information.

The publisher requires a statement from authors in the Materials and Methods section to confirm that the appropriate ethical approval has been received, that appropriate processes have been followed, and the name of the committee.

Informed consent by patients/participants should always be secured. A statement confirming that informed patient/participant consent was obtained is required in the Materials and Methods section. The statement of IRB review is accepted as covering the review of consent documentation.

If the study is judged exempt from review, a statement from the committee is required in the Materials and Methods section, including, if applicable, documentation of institutionally approved waiver of informed consent.

## Ethics of Experimentation

See the following resources for studies involving human fetuses, fetal tissue, embryos, and embryonic cells:

- [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#)
- [National Conference of State Legislatures Embryonic and Fetal Research Laws](#)

## Ethical Treatment of Animals

All peer-reviewed submissions containing animal experiments must comply with local and national regulatory principles and contain a statement in the **Materials and Methods** section of the main text stating whether national and institutional guidelines for the care and use of laboratory animals were followed.

## Human Subjects: Patient Consent and Release

If applicable, it is incumbent upon the author(s) to obtain permission to reproduce any identifiable images of patients. Any identifying information should not be published in descriptions or photographs unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the patient (or patients' parent/guardian) gives written informed consent for publication. Informed consent for this purpose requires that an identifiable patient be shown the manuscript to be submitted. Authors should disclose to these patients whether any potential identifiable material might be available via the Internet as well as in print after publication. Nonessential identifying details should be omitted. Informed consent should be obtained if there is any doubt that anonymity cannot be maintained. For example, masking the eye region in photographs of patients is inadequate protection of anonymity. If identifying characteristics are de-identified, the manuscript should contain assurances/statements that such changes do not distort scientific meaning.

In keeping with patients' rights of privacy, the Journal does not require the submission of patient consent forms, but instead requires the author(s) to retain and archive all patient consent documentation. Upon submission of a

instead requires the author(s) to retain and archive all patient consent documentation. Upon submission of a manuscript for review, the authors must make a statement in the cover letter to the Editor/Journal which attests that

they have received and archived written patient consent in addition to providing the requisite statement in the manuscript.

## **Data Sharing**

We recommend, but do not require, the sharing and archiving of data and any other artifacts that define and support the results stated in a manuscript in a suitable public repository (in accordance with valid privacy, legal, and ethical guidelines). We recommend that a data availability statement be included in the manuscript in the Methods section or as a separate section at the end of the main text file. Describe the location of the data, details on how it can be accessed and any licensing information. If the data is not publicly available or accessible, that information should also be provided.

Datasets should be cited in the reference list.

**Important:** Please check with your funding agencies to ensure that you are following their data sharing policies. If your funding agency has additional requirements exceeding our policy, you must follow the requirements of your funder.

Update: [New NIH policies for data management and sharing are in effect as of January 25, 2023](#). If your research has NIH funding, please refer to the guidelines for new requirements.

## Preprint Servers

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