Manuscript Submission Guidelines and Policies for *Journal of Integrative and Complementary Medicine*

Last updated 3/14/2023 5:45:54 PM

Journal Information

- **Manuscript Submission Site: mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jintcompmed**
- Editorial Office Contact: jicm_eo@liebertpub.com
- Support Contact: prosupport@liebertpub.com
- Journal Model: Hybrid (Open Access Option)
- Blinding: Single Blind
- File formatting requirement stage: Upon submission
- Instant Online Option (immediate publication of accepted version): No
- Submission Fee: None
- Average time to initial decision: 38 days

About the Journal

Journal of Integrative and Complementary Medicine has a mission to assist health care professionals, delivery organization leaders, policymakers, and scientists to evaluate and manage the evidence-informed inclusion of integrative, complementary, alternative, and traditional products, practices, and practitioners into clinical protocols, standards of care and health policy. Toward this aim, *Journal of Integrative and Complementary Medicine* publishes original human clinical trials, systematic reviews, qualitative and observational studies, implementation and cost-related research, unique or significant surveys, and focused commentaries. Journal of Integrative and Complementary Medicine also publishes articles on standards to foster effective and reliable measurement, data collection, analysis, and interpretation. The Journal does not typically publish studies containing animal models or lab-based cellular work, except in the most extraordinary of circumstances, and with prior approval for submission from the Editor.

Given the whole-person, multi-modal nature of most traditional and integrative clinical strategies, *Journal of Integrative and Complementary Medicine* is interested in manuscripts related to the establishment and development of appropriate research methodologies and funding mechanisms for examining multimodal alternative and complementary diagnoses and interventions. More on the current editorial direction of the journal since June 2016 can be found at **www.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/acm.2016.29005.jjw** If you are uncertain if your work falls within the scope of the journal, please email the title and abstract of the article to the **Editor** prior to submission.

Manuscript Types and Guidelines

Original Articles	• 3,000-word limit • Structured abstract of no more than 300 words • Maximum of eight (8) figures • Maximum of six (6) tables • Maximum of 100 references

	• Reporing Requirements: RCTs: STRICTA and CONSORT. Obervational studies: STROBE
Review Articles	• 4,500-word limit • Structured abstract of no more than 400 words • Maximum of eight (8) figures • Maximum of six (6) tables • Maximum of 200 references • Reporting requirements: PRISMA
Short Reports	• 1,500-word limit • Abstract of no more than 100 words • Maximum of one (1) figure • Maximum of two (2) tables • Maximum of 15 references
Research Letters	• 600-word limit • No abstract • May include one figure OR table • Maximum of 10 references
Case Reports	• 2,000-word limit • Structured abstract of no more than 100 words • Maximum of four (4) figures • Maximum of two (2) tables • Maximum of 10 references
Commentaries	• 1,500-word limit • No abstract • Maximum total of two (2) figures or tables • Maximum of 15 references
Letters to the Editor	• 500-word limit • May include one figure OR table • Reference citations are identical in style to those of full original articles, but should not exceed five (5).

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

Description of Manuscript Types

- Original Articles- JICM's mission is to assist healthcare professionals, delivery organization leaders, policymakers, and scientists evaluate and integrate traditional, complementary, alternative, and integrative products, practices, and practitioners into patient care protocols, payment strategies, and appropriate policies. The focus is on human clinical trials and observational studies. JICM is interested in whole system research and other methods that seek to research the multi-modal methods that typify traditional and integrative practices. (See the JICM Special Focus Issue on Multimodal Approaches in Integrative Health: Whole Persons, Whole Practices, Whole Systems and particularly "Whole Systems Research Methods in Health Care: A Scoping Review", Ijaz et al., March 2019.) Challenges of inclusion strategies have elevated JICM's interest in research related to implementation decisions and practices including costs, cost-offsets, credible whole-cost accounting that document and assist efforts to transition treatment toward integrative health methods. JICM maintains its interest in frontier science, with the caveat that any research so categorized will be held to the exacting standard that claims on the frontier warrant.

- Review Articles- For systematic reviews and meta-analyses, use of the PRISMA checklist and inclusion of the PRISMA flow diagram are the expected norm: Alternatively, the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions may be followed. Non-systematic, narrative, or other reviews must be accompanied by clear reasoning in the cover letter supporting the decision for not following a systematic review.
- Research Letters- This short format for research findings, described below, may in rare instances be offered to authors during the review process for publications that are deemed valuable but are not considered by the editorial board to merit publication as full research articles. If based on a trial or review, Research Letters should report the information as per the instructions above. JICM may in rare circumstances accept manuscripts in Research Letter format on initial submission, but only after prior approval from the Editor.
- Case Reports- Case reports will be considered for publication only in very rare circumstances of findings that are extraordinary. Case reports should be provided in the format of the CARE Guidelines. Contact the Editor of JICM for suitability prior to submission. Approved submissions are subject to peer review and acceptance is not guaranteed, even with approval for submission.
- Commentaries- From time to time, JICM may publish commentaries, opinions, attitude, or perception articles when such submissions are rooted in evidence and provide exceptional insight or guidance on substantial challenges or opportunities related to paradigm, practice and policy advancing integrative health. These should clearly lay out their purpose in the first paragraph or two, and then build their case.
- Letters to the Editor- Letters to the Editor should be in response to an article or idea previously published in JICM. Otherwise, these should be submitted, even if short, as Commentaries.

References

Journal of Integrative and Complementary Medicine uses Mary Ann Liebert's **Vancouver** reference format. Templates are available in **Zotero** and through the CSL Style Repository. An **Endnote template** is also available.

Liebert Vancouver Style: Order of Citation

- Reference List: Prepared in sequential order as cited in text.
- In-text Citations: All references must be cited in text in numerical order, set in superscript Arabic numerals outside of any punctuation. Do not set reference numbers in parentheses or brackets. To cite several references at once, use commas to separate non-sequential citations and use dashes to separate sequential citations; do not include spaces. Ex: 3,7,12–15
- Journal titles should follow the abbreviation style of PubMed/Medline.
- 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.

Style Examples for Reference List:

Type of Reference	Punctuation and Order of Elements in Reference List
Journal article with 1-3 authors	Wang Q, Nambiar K, Wilson JM. Isolating natural adeno-associated viruses from primate tissues with a high-fidelity polymerase. Hum Gene Ther 2021;32(23-24):1439-1449; doi: 10.1089/hum.2021.055 [insert article-specific DOI if available].
Journal article with more than 3 authors	Pfister EL, DiNardo N, Mondo E, et al. Artificial miRNAs reduce human mutant Huntington throughout the striatum in a transgenic sheep model of Huntington's disease. Hum Gene Ther 2018;29(6):663–673; doi: 10.1089/hum.2017.199 [insert article-specific DOI if available].

Edited Book	Herzog RW, Zolotukhin S, (eds). A Guide to Human Gene Therapy. World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd.: Singapore; 2010.
Chapter in an Edited Book	Nicklin SA, Baker AH. Adenoviral Vectors. In: A Guide to Human Gene Therapy. (Herzog RW, Zolotukhin S. eds.) World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd.: Singapore; 2010; pp. 21-36.
Authored Book	Isaacson W. The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race. Simon & Schuster: New York, NY; 2021.
Website	Last name, first/middle initial(s) of author(s) [if available]. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. What is Gene Therapy? Silver Spring, MD; 2018. Available from: **https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/cellular-gene-therapy-products/what-gene-therapy** [Last accessed: month/date/year].
Personal communications	References that are unpublished (ie: personal communications, emails, letters) are not to be included in the reference list. Instead, insert "Personal communication; [name], date" parenthetically at the point of citation within text.
Using previously published images or tables as a reference	Reused/adapted images, tables, or any published material must be officially cited as a reference in the reference list, and the author(s) of the submitted work must obtain written permission from the copyright holder. Verbal approvals are not acceptable. Any fees associated with the reuse or adaptation of any material is the sole responsibility of the author(s).

Other

Animal and Laboratory Studies: With JICM's focus on human clinical trials, Animal and Laboratory Studies will be considered for publication only in the rarest of circumstances and only if the study contains findings that are extraordinarily groundbreaking and revolutionary. Note that these studies are generally not accepted for publication; contact the editor prior to submission.

Surveys: The maturation of the field has diminished the need for basic use surveys, yet manuscripts based principally on survey data may be considered for publication if they provide new insights into important populations or conditions. Such manuscripts should be submitted as Original Articles.

Trial Registration: Please include the evidence of the registration of the trial via the **NIH** or similar service: Provide information on the type of trial in the Materials and Methods section and in the abstract. We encourage authors to include the Clinical Trial Registration number at the end of the abstract, in parentheses (ie: CTR #: xxxxxxxx)

Controlled Trials: For randomized controlled trials, JICM strongly recommends close adherence to STRICTA and CONSORT Guidelines as follows:

- For controlled trials of acupuncture, use the preferred reporting criteria based on the STRICTA Guidelines
- For homeopathy, use the preferred reporting criteria based on the supplement to the CONSORT Guidelines
- For herbal medicines and Chinese herbal medicines, use additional, appropriate CONSORT Extensions
- For observational studies, follow the STROBE guidelines

Cover letter: A cover letter is required and should be uploaded in Scholarone Manuscripts as a separate file. The cover letter specifically explains the importance and impact of the results of the submitted manuscript towards a clinical application. The cover letter must contain the following language for the manuscript to be considered suitable for

review: “This original manuscript has never been published before and has not been, nor will be, submitted elsewhere while under consideration for publication by JICM.”

Manuscript Text: In general, the text should be organized under the headings: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Limitations, Discussion, and Conclusions. In the event slightly different subheadings might fit your research better (for instance, “design” and “interventions” for “materials and methods”), such substitutions can be made, as long as the categories are covered. In no case should limitations or author disclosure statements be omitted.

Pages should be numbered sequentially. Use of a template with numbered lines in the left margin is acceptable. Preferred fonts are Times New Roman, Arial, and Symbol (for equations) in size 12. Other fonts may not translate properly, and the authors should ensure that all special characters (e.g., Greek characters, mathematical symbols, etc.) are represented correctly in the body of the text and not as uninterpretable graphic representations.

All original research and review manuscripts should be presented in the third person, rather than with personal pronouns.

Use only standard abbreviations, which can be found in the AMA’s Manual of Style for Authors & Editors or the Council of Biology Editors Style Manual, 10/e. At first usage, spell out terms and provide abbreviations in parentheses. Thereafter, use only the abbreviations. It is not necessary to spell out standard units of measure. For botanical names, use the Linnaean classification in its first appearance in text; thereafter, use the common or Latin name. Use generic names for drugs if possible. If you wish to use a proprietary drug name the first time it appears, use the generic name followed by the proprietary name, manufacturer, and location in parentheses.

The Introduction should clearly state the premise on which the research is being reported throughout in the rest of the manuscript and should be concise and supported by appropriately cited published literature to present a clear hypothesis and platform for the rest of the manuscript. Background material should be brief and relevant to the research described. Lengthy reviews of the literature in submissions labeled as “Original” should be avoided. These types of submissions should be classified as a Review.

The Materials and Methods (or Design and Interventions) section should be presented concisely. It should include information on Institutional Review Board approval and adherence to protocols. This section must make clear that the sources of all the methods/interventions presented in the manuscript include adequate information to ensure that all of the study can be fully reproducible. Any novel experimental procedures should be presented in detail. Be certain to describe any differences between published methods and the methods actually used. Published procedures should appropriately cite the original work and reference any subsequent modification unless it would benefit the reader to provide a full detailed explanation.

The Discussion should be used to discuss and interpret the meaning of the results and their relevance to prior results in the literature such as to be able to draw conclusions and put the results into context where they can be applied by other researchers.

Conclusions should be used to place the results and discussion into their full value and meaning, with care taken to distinguish between conclusions that follow logically and directly from the Results, and speculations which the authors choose to make based upon the Results. Advances should be clearly stated as such, including their potential impact, and negative results should also be presented, as those also provide value to researchers. Conclusions should reflect the size and power of the study.

Acknowledgments of collaborations and other acknowledgments must be listed in a separate section at the end of the text ahead of the Reference section.

Footnotes should be used only when essential.

ALL ORIGINAL SUBMISSIONS CONTANING HUMAN SUBJECTION MUST INCLUDE:

- An Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval (or waiver) statement as a separate paragraph before the Materials and Methods section
- Clinical Trial Registration number, listed at the end of the abstract and within the Materials and Methods section
- A statement of patient consent within the Materials and Methods section

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). 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), the International Committee of Journal Medical Editors (ICJME; www.icmje.org), the World Medical Association (WMA); www.wma.net), and the American Medical Association (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 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 paragaphs 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.

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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.

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

- **NIH Grants Policy Statement**
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