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](http://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

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<th>Original Articles</th>
<th>3,000-word limit</th>
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<td>Structured abstract of no more than 300 words</td>
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<td>Maximum of eight (8) figures</td>
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<td>Maximum of six (6) tables</td>
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<td>Maximum of 100 references</td>
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<td>Manuscript Type</td>
<td>Reporting Requirements: RCTs: STRICTA and CONSORT. Observational studies: STROBE</td>
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| 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Reference</th>
<th>Punctuation and Order of Elements in Reference List</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Example</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal communications</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using previously published images or tables as a reference</td>
<td>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).</td>
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**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)

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- 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

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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 CONTAINING 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

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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 11/27/2023 5:26:57 PM

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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.
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- A legend should be provided for each supplied figure.
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- Cite tables sequentially in text within parentheses.
- Explain abbreviations used in the body of the table in footnotes using superscript letters, not symbols.
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- 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,
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- 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.

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**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.

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Sharing of Materials

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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/)

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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.)

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