Manuscript Submission Guidelines and Policies for *Cancer Biotherapy and Radiopharmaceuticals*

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Journal Information

- **Manuscript Submission Site: https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cancerbiotherapy**
- Editorial Office Contact: kcloudhansen@liebertpub.com
- Support Contact: prosupport@liebertpub.com
- Journal Model: Hybrid (Open Acess 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: 18 days

About the Journal

Cancer Biotherapy and Radiopharmaceuticals invites original contributions on all research related to furthering the study of cancer therapeutics and research at the intersection of that therapy with radiopharmaceuticals for both diagnostic and therapeutic applications. The mission of the journal is to communicate advances in fields including biotherapy, targeted drug and radionuclide delivery, nanotechnology, and studies that advance the understanding of the mechanism of action and response of cancer to therapeutics. It is the expectation of this journal that all of the biological, chemical, and radiochemical tools be rigorously applied, characterized appropriately with the results of the studies in submitted manuscripts supported by the application of both rigorous controls and wherever appropriate, statistics. If you are uncertain if your work falls within the scope of the journal, please email the title and abstract of the paper to the editorial office prior to submission.

Manuscript Types and Guidelines

Original Articles	*Comprehensive complete accounts of significant studies should be submitted as Original Articles (the majority of submissions fall under this category).* • 3,000-word limit • Structured abstract of no more than 200 words • Maximum total of ten (10) figures and/or tables • Maximum of 100 references • Uncropped western blots must be uploaded as supplemental data.
Review Articles	*Suitable review articles that fall within the purview of the journal may introduce readers to topics of current interest or provide comprehensive updates to specific fields and topics that fall within the purview of the journal. Reviews should provide a concise overview of fundamental topics and*

	translational issues. Reviews should be accessible to the broad readership of Cancer Biotherapy and Radiopharmaceuticals. • 5,000-word limit • Abstract of no more than 250 words • Maximum total of ten (10) figures and/or tables • Maximum of 150 references • Uncropped western blots must be uploaded as supplemental data.
Short Reports	*Technical Notes or Short Reports are a third category that is intended to provide publication of brief transformative techniques and methodology that researchers will potentially find of value and use in their respective laboratories. These are, by their nature, intended to be brief and concise (2-3 journal pages), yet fully informative to facilitate immediate use of the related information.* • 1,200-word limit • Abstract of no more than 100 words • Maximum total of five (5) figures and/or tables • Maximum of 10 references • Uncropped western blots must be uploaded as supplemental data.
Technical Notes	*Technical Notes or Short Reports are a third category that is intended to provide publication of brief transformative techniques and methodology that researchers will potentially find of value and use in their respective laboratories. These are, by their nature, intended to be brief and concise (2-3 journal pages), yet fully informative to facilitate immediate use of the related information.* • 1,000-word limit • Abstract of no more than 100 words • Maximum total of one (1) figure • Maximum total of one (1) table • Maximum of 4 references • Uncropped western blots must be uploaded as supplemental data.
Letters to the Editor	• 500-word limit • No abstract • May include one figure OR table • Reference citations are identical in style to those of full original articles, but should not exceed four (4).
Protocol	The Protocol manuscript type is dedicated to supporting the awareness and publication of operating procedures for methodologies that reinforce key advances in the field. The step-by-step protocol provided in a Protocol Article is intended to establish peer-reviewed methodologies and enable technical improvements for specialists and non-specialists. The Protocol Article submission should describe a method that has already been used to produce results in a peer-reviewed original research article and should describe a technological or methodological update or advancement when compared to the “state-of-the art” methodology. **Every submitted Protocol Article must provide data and compare the new process to existing processes or identify gaps in prior related protocol publications.** • 4,000-word limit • 350-word structured abstract • Composition: Introduction, Method, Experiment, Results, and Discussion • 10 figures maximum • 6 tables maximum

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

Details

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.

The Methods and Materials section should include a declaration of adherence to Institutional Review Board protocols in the beginning of this section of the manuscript. The sources of all materials and the methods applied to all experimentation that are being presented in the manuscript must be provided in adequate detail as to ensure that all studies are fully reproducible. Novel experimental procedures should be described in detail. Describe any differences between published methods and methods that were actually used. Published procedures should cite the literature for the original and any published modifications thereof, unless it would benefit the reader to provide a full detailed explanation.

Safety: Authors must state any unexpected, new, and/or significant hazards or risks associated with the reported work. Precautions for handling dangerous or controlled materials (e.g., radioactive materials) or for executing hazardous procedures must be included. A high standard of chemical characterization, to confirm the identity and purity of the compounds under study is expected. For small organic molecules, conventional methods apply, including nuclear magnetic resonance data and elemental analyses, and/or high resolution mass spectrometry of all new small molecules. The numerical results for all elemental analyses must be reported.? For medium-sized or larger peptides, evidence for homogeneity by separation methods of adequate resolving power and by amino acid analysis is normally required; results of mass spectrometry techniques in tandem are useful to include.

Biological Data: Manuscripts generally will contain biological data. Biological test methods must be appropriately cited and/or sufficiently described to promote reproducibility. Statistical limits (statistical significance) are required for all biological data. Doses and concentrations should be expressed as molar quantities (e.g., mol/kg, nM). System International (SI) units should be used throughout. Chemical and biological nomenclature should conform to **International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) recommendations**. A statement describing the statistical analyses that were used to analyze the data should be provided at the end of this section. Radiopharmaceutical nomenclature should also follow the guidance provided in Coenen HH, Gee, AD, Adams, M, et al. *Am J Nucl Med Mol Imaging* 2018;8(1):70-72.

Results. The results should be presented concisely and in a logical progression to communicate clearly to the reader those results obtained from the experiments that were described in Methods and Materials along with their statistical importance and value where relevant. Referring to the tables and figures of data should be performed to facilitate ease of understanding for the reader. The same data should not be presented in more than one figure or in both a figure and a table in the manuscript. In some cases, it is appropriate to validate the significance of processed data (e.g., a graph), by including the underlying raw data (e.g., a gel or biodistribution).

Discussion. The discussion section 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 to put the results into context where they can be applied by other researchers.

Conclusions. The conclusion section should be used in brief to place the results and discussion into their full value and meaning with minimal speculation or hyperbole. Advances should be clearly stated as such and what their impact will carry forward, while negative results should also be presented here as those also provide value to researchers.

Acknowledgments. This section is to be used to credit collaborations or record specific research agreements, sources

of research funds, contributors that are not authors, etc. This section must be listed separately at the end of the main body of text ahead of the Reference section.

Footnotes

Footnotes are acceptable, but should be used sparingly and only when essential. Footnotes to text should be typed single spaced at the bottom of the corresponding page.

References

Cancer Biotherapy and Radiopharmaceuticals 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

Third-Party Submissions

- Third-party submissions must be disclosed: Submitting agents must use the submitting agent author role, and indicate the company name and contact information in the cover letter. We reserve the right to reject any third-party submission.

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

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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).

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.)
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- 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.

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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.

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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.
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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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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.

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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

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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

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