

## GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

Updated : February 28, 2023

### INTRODUCTION

*Personalized Medicine Universe(PMU)*, the official peer-reviewed journal of the International Society of Personalized Medicine, aims to publish the highest quality articles in the field of personalized medicine.

Articles can be submitted as review papers, original articles, short communications, case reports, and letters to the editor.

The journal provides a forum for exchange of ideas between basic and clinical scientists as well as medical professionals, healthcare organizations, and patients who seek the best strategies for integrating personalized medicine into clinical practice.

The journal covers all aspects of personalized medicine. Key areas include:

- Basic and Clinical Immunology
- Bioinformatics
- Biomarker studies
- Cell, Molecular, and Stem Cell biology
- Cytogenetics, Genomics, Proteomics, and Metabolomics
- Drug discovery and delivery
- Epigenetics
- Ethical, legal, and social issues in personalized medicine
- Molecular diagnostics
- Neuroscience
- Nutrigenomics
- Oncology
- Orthomolecular medicine
- Pathology
- Pharmacogenomic
- Preemptive medicine (Personalized prevention)
- Regenerative medicine

### *Types of paper*

The Journal publishes review, original articles, case report and letter to the Editor.

#### **Review**

Reviews should describe either research or clinical scientific topics. The length is between 4,000 and 6,000 words; no more than a total of 8 tables and figures. Abstract should be less than 250 words.

#### **Original article**

Original articles should describe original research and clinical practice. The length is between 3,000 and 4,000 words; no more than a total of 8 tables and figures. Abstract should be less than 250 words. The

manuscript should be structured into sections as shown in "Article structure" below.

### **Short communication**

Short Communications should contain new and important information which has not been published and for which urgent publication is desirable. Short communications should be divided into the same sections as Original articles, but the Results and Discussion sections may be combined at the discretion of the authors. The Length should not exceed 2,000 words; no more than a total of 3 tables and figures. Abstract should be less than 250 words.

### **Case report**

Case Reports should describe new observations of disease, clinical findings or novel/unique treatment outcomes, should be presented by up to six authors as concisely as possible, and should not exceed 1,500 words; no more than a total of 3 tables and figures and 10 references. Abstract should be less than 100 words.

### **Letter to the Editor**

These should be less than 1,000 words with no more than 5 references and no illustration, and should be describe comments to recently published articles in the Journal or author's response to such comment. Abstract and keywords are not required.

### **Page charges**

This journal has no page charges.

### **Submission checklist**

You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

#### **Ensure that the following items are present:**

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:

- E-mail address
- Full postal address

All necessary files have been attached:

#### *Manuscript:*

- Include keywords
- All figures (include relevant captions)
- All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
- Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
- Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print

*Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files* (where applicable)

*Supplemental files* (where applicable)

Further considerations

- Manuscript has been 'spell checked' and 'grammar checked'
- All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text, and vice versa
- Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)

- Relevant declarations of interest have been made
- Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
- Referee suggestions and contact details provided, based on journal requirements

For further information, contact PMU Editorial Office([info@is-pm.org](mailto:info@is-pm.org)).

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

#### *Policy and ethics*

The work described in your article must have been carried out in accordance with *The Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki)* for experiments involving humans <http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html>; *Uniform Requirements for manuscripts submitted to Biomedical journals* <http://www.icmje.org>. This must be stated at an appropriate point in the article.

#### *Declaration of interest*

All authors are requested to disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest including any financial, personal or other relationships with other people or organizations within one year of beginning the submitted work that could inappropriately influence, or be perceived to influence, their work.

#### *Submission declaration and verification*

Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis or as an electronic preprint), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically without the written consent of the copyright-holder.

#### *Authorship*

All authors should have made substantial contributions to all of the following: (1) the conception and design of the study, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, (2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content, (3) final approval of the version to be submitted. When a manuscript is submitted, the author contribution form MUST be filled out and signed by the corresponding author.

#### *Changes to authorship*

Authors are expected to consider carefully the list and order of authors before submitting their manuscript and provide the definitive list of authors at the time of the original submission. Any addition, deletion or rearrangement of author names in the authorship list should be made only before the manuscript has been accepted and only if approved by the journal Editor. To request such a change, the Editor must receive the following from the corresponding author: (a) the reason for the change in author list and (b) written confirmation (e-mail, letter) from all authors that they agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement. In the case of addition or removal of authors, this includes confirmation from the author being added or removed. Only in exceptional circumstances will the Editor consider the addition, deletion or rearrangement of authors after the manuscript has been accepted. While the Editor considers the request, publication of the manuscript

will be suspended. If the manuscript has already been published in an online issue, any requests approved by the Editor will result in a corrigendum.

### **Copyright**

PMU is fully Open Access and use Creative Commons (CC) licenses that, in line with the license, allow users to use, reuse and build upon the material published in the journal without charge or the need to ask prior permission from the publisher or author.

Authors are required to assign all copyrights in the work to the International Society of Personalized Medicine, who then publish the work under the Creative Commons CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 (Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International) license. This license allows users to share unmodified articles, non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given.

Some funding bodies require articles funded by them to be published under a specific Creative Commons license. Before submitting your work to the journal, check with the relevant funding bodies to ensure that you comply with any mandates.

### **Role of the funding source**

You are requested to identify who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article and to briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; and in the decision to submit the article for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement then this should be stated.

### **Language (usage and editing services)**

Please write your text in good English (American or British usage is accepted, but not a mixture of these). Authors who require information about language editing and copyediting services pre- and post-submission please contact our editorial office via e-mail ([info@is-pm.org](mailto:info@is-pm.org)).

### **Patient details**

Unless you have written permission from the patient (or, where applicable, the next of kin), the personal details of any patient included in any part of the article and in any supplementary materials (including all illustrations and videos) must be removed before submission.

### **Submission**

Editable files (e.g., Word, LaTeX) are required to typeset your article for final publication. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, is sent by e-mail.

### **Submit your article**

Please submit your article via <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/pmuniverse>

### **Referees**

Please submit the names and institutional e-mail addresses of several potential referees.

Note that the editor retains the sole right to decide whether or not the suggested reviewers are used.

## **PREPARATION**

### **Peer review**

This journal operates a single blind review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for

suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final.

### ***Use of word processing software***

It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. The text should be in single-column format. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the word processor's options to justify text or to hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. When preparing tables, if you are using a table grid, use only one grid for each individual table and not a grid for each row. If no grid is used, use tabs, not spaces, to align columns.

The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts. Note that source files of figures, tables and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed your figures in the text. See also the section on Electronic artwork.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

### ***Article structure***

#### ***Subdivision - numbered sections***

Divide your article into clearly defined and numbered sections. Subsections should be numbered 1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...), 1.2, etc. (the abstract is not included in section numbering). Use this numbering also for internal cross-referencing: do not just refer to 'the text'. Any subsection may be given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line.

#### ***Introduction***

State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

#### ***Material and methods***

Provide sufficient detail to allow the work to be reproduced. Methods already published should be indicated by a reference: only relevant modifications should be described.

#### ***Results***

Results should be clear and concise.

#### ***Discussion***

This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

#### ***Conclusions***

The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

#### ***Appendices***

If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq.

(B.1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

### Essential title page information

- **Title.** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
- **Author names and affiliations.** Please clearly indicate the given name(s) and family name(s) of each author and check that all names are accurately spelled. Present the authors' affiliation addresses (where the actual work was done) below the names. Indicate all affiliations with a lowercase superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the e-mail address of each author.
- **Corresponding author.** Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication. Ensure that the e-mail address is given and that contact details are kept up to date by the corresponding author.
- **Present/permanent address.** If an author has moved since the work described in the article was done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address' (or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author actually did the work must be retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes.

### Abstract

A concise and factual abstract is required. The abstract of review and original article should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions with following headings in a structured format.

Review: Purpose, Study selection, Results, Conclusions

Original article: Purpose, Methods, Results, Conclusions

An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Also, nonstandard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself. The length should be less than 250 words for review and original article, less than 100 words for case report. Letter to the Editor is not required.

### Keywords

Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 5, but at least 4, keywords, using American spelling and avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, 'and', 'of'). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes. Letter to the editor doesn't require keywords.

### Abbreviations

Define abbreviations that are not standard in this field in a footnote to be placed on the first page of the article. Such abbreviations that are unavoidable in the abstract must be defined at their first mention there, as well as in the footnote. Ensure consistency of abbreviations throughout the article.

### Acknowledgements

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not,

therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

### **Footnotes**

Footnotes should be used sparingly. Number them consecutively throughout the article. Many word processors can build footnotes into the text, and this feature may be used. Otherwise, please indicate the position of footnotes in the text and list the footnotes themselves separately at the end of the article. Do not include footnotes in the Reference list.

### **Artwork**

#### *Electronic artwork*

##### *General points*

- Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork.
- Embed the used fonts if the application provides that option.
- Aim to use the following fonts in your illustrations: Arial, Courier, Times New Roman, Symbol, or use fonts that look similar.
- Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text.
- Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
- Provide captions to illustrations separately.
- Size the illustrations close to the desired dimensions of the published version.
- Submit each illustration as a separate file.

##### *Formats*

If your electronic artwork is created in a Microsoft Office application (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) then please supply 'as is' in the native document format.

Regardless of the application used other than Microsoft Office, when your electronic artwork is finalized, please 'Save as' or convert the images to one of the following formats (note the resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations given below):

EPS (or PDF): Vector drawings, embed all used fonts.

TIFF (or JPEG): Color or grayscale photographs (halftones), keep to a minimum of 300 dpi.

TIFF (or JPEG): Bitmapped (pure black & white pixels) line drawings, keep to a minimum of 1000 dpi.

TIFF (or JPEG): Combinations bitmapped line/half-tone (color or grayscale), keep to a minimum of 500 dpi.

#### **Please do not:**

- Supply files that are optimized for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); these typically have a low number of pixels and limited set of colors;
- Supply files that are too low in resolution;
- Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

#### *Color artwork*

Please make sure that artwork files are in an acceptable format (TIFF (or JPEG), EPS (or PDF), or MS Office

files) and with the correct resolution. If, together with your accepted article, you submit usable color figures then PMU will ensure, at no additional charge, that these figures will appear in color online regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in color in the printed version.

For color reproduction in print, you will receive information regarding the costs from PMU Editorial Office after receipt of your accepted article. Please indicate your preference for color: in print or online only.

### *Figure captions*

Ensure that each illustration has a caption. Supply captions separately, not attached to the figure. A caption should comprise a brief title (**not** on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum but explain all symbols and abbreviations used.

### *Tables*

Please submit tables as editable text and not as images. Tables can be placed either next to the relevant text in the article, or on separate page(s) at the end. Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text and place any table notes below the table body. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in them do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article. Please avoid using vertical rules.

### *References*

#### *Citation in text*

Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full. Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these references are included in the reference list they should follow the standard reference style of the journal and should include a substitution of the publication date with either 'Unpublished results' or 'Personal communication'. Citation of a reference as 'in press' implies that the item has been accepted for publication.

#### *Web references*

As a minimum, the full URL should be given and the date when the reference was last accessed. Any further information, if known (DOI, author names, dates, reference to a source publication, etc.), should also be given. Web references can be listed separately (e.g., after the reference list) under a different heading if desired, or can be included in the reference list.

#### *References in a special issue*

Please ensure that the words 'this issue' are added to any references in the list (and any citations in the text) to other articles in the same Special Issue.

#### *Reference style*

*Text:* Indicate references by number(s) in square brackets in line with the text. The actual authors can be referred to, but the reference number(s) must always be given. *List:* Number the references (numbers in square brackets) in the list in the order in which they appear in the text.

#### *Examples:*

Reference to a journal publication:

[1] Van der Geer J, Hanraads JAJ, Lupton RA. The art of writing a scientific article. J Sci Commun



2010;163:51–9.

Reference to a book:

[2] Strunk Jr W, White EB. The elements of style. 4th ed. New York: Longman; 2000.

Reference to a chapter in an edited book:

[3] Mettam GR, Adams LB. How to prepare an electronic version of your article. In: Jones BS, Smith RZ, editors. Introduction to the electronic age, New York: E-Publishing Inc; 2009, p. 281–304.

Note shortened form for last page number. e.g., 51–9, and that for more than 3 authors the first 3 should be listed followed by 'et al.' For further details you are referred to 'Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts submitted to Biomedical Journals' (J Am Med Assoc 1997;277:927–34) (see also [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform\\_requirements.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html)).

*Journal abbreviations source*

Journal names should be abbreviated according to the [List of Title Word Abbreviations](#).

(<http://www.issn.org/services/online-services/access-to-the-ltwa/>)

### **Video**

Note: since video and animation cannot be embedded in the print version of the journal, please provide text for both the electronic and the print version for the portions of the article that refer to this content.

### **Supplementary material**

Supplementary material can support and enhance your scientific research. Supplementary files offer the author additional possibilities to publish supporting applications, high-resolution images, background datasets, sound clips and more. Please note that such items are published online exactly as they are submitted; there is no typesetting involved (supplementary data supplied as an Excel file or as a PowerPoint slide will appear as such online). Please submit the material together with the article and supply a concise and descriptive caption for each file. If you wish to make any changes to supplementary data during any stage of the process, then please make sure to provide an updated file, and do not annotate any corrections on a previous version. Please also make sure to switch off the 'Track Changes' option in any Microsoft Office files as these will appear in the published supplementary file(s).

## **AFTER ACCEPTANCE**

### **Proof correction**

Corresponding authors will receive an e-mail, allowing annotation and correction of proofs of PDF files. The environment is similar to MS Word: in addition to editing text, you can also comment on figures/tables and answer questions from the Copy Editor. We will do everything possible to get your article published quickly and accurately. Please use this proof only for checking the typesetting, editing, completeness and correctness of the text, tables and figures. Significant changes to the article as accepted for publication will only be considered at this stage with permission from the Editor. It is important to ensure that all corrections are sent back to us in one communication. Please check carefully before replying, as inclusion of any subsequent corrections cannot be guaranteed. Proofreading is solely your responsibility.

### **PDF Offprints**

The corresponding author will, at no cost, receive the PDF data, the final published version of the article on PMU.

#### **AUTHOR INQUIRIES**

Contact: [info@is-pm.org](mailto:info@is-pm.org)

You can check the status of your submitted article or find out when your accepted article will be published.