

# INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

**Zanco Journal of Medical Sciences** (Zanco J Med Sci) welcomes author submissions of original and significant contributions. The journal will consider for publication manuscripts of interest to readers in Iraq, Middle East, and around the World.

## AIMS AND SCOPE

Zanco J Med Sci aims to publish peer-reviewed manuscripts of Iraqi, regional and international interest. Submissions on clinical, basic, scientific or laboratory investigations of relevance to medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing and other health sciences come within the scope of its publication. Original articles, review articles, case reports, brief communications, insights and letters to the editor are all considered.

## GENERAL

To present your original work for consideration, A complete copy of the manuscript, written in English language, accompanied by tables, and one set of figures (if applicable), should be submitted to the Editor. Authors should also provide the manuscript on a CD (in Word format). The Zanco J Med Sci editorial office uses Microsoft 'Office' word processing and 'Excel' programs.

## ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

For prospective studies involving human investigations or animal experiments, authors are expected to mention about the approval of regional, national, institutional or independent Ethics Committee or Scientific Committee, obtaining assent for children aged over seven years participating in the trial. The journal will not consider any paper which is ethically unacceptable. A relevant statement on ethics committee permission and ethical practices must be included in all research articles under Subjects and Methods section.

All manuscripts reporting the results of an experimental investigation involving human subject should include a statement confirming that informed consent was obtained from each subject or subject's guardian, after approval of the experimental protocol by a local human ethics committee.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All conflicts of interest must be outlined in the manuscript. If authors have no conflicts of interest to report, this must be explicitly stated. The suggested wording in such an instance is: The author(s) report no conflicts of interest.

## **AUTHORSHIP AND PLEDGE FORM**

Authorship must be based on having substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, drafting the article or revising it critically, and final approval of the version to be published. All contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in an acknowledgments section at the end of the article.

All authors must give their signed consent for publication in a pledge form, which should accompany the manuscript. The form contains the following statements:

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## **REVIEW PROCESS**

The editorial office of Zanco J Med Sci and the subject editors check each submitted manuscript for general quality, suitability and whether it conforms to the journal guidelines. Submissions that do not comply with the journal guidelines will be returned to the author for correction before being considered for publication. All manuscripts are checked by the editorial office for plagiarism. If the manuscript is found suitable and acceptable in principle, it will be sent out for double-blind review. All reviewers treat the manuscript with the strictest confidentiality and must declare any conflicts of interest. Comments and suggestions from the reviewers are conveyed to the authors. Revised manuscripts are subject to further review by the original reviewers and the responsible subject editors. The final decision as to acceptance or rejection lies with the Editor, with advice from the journal editorial board. The corresponding author will be advised of the final decision; acceptance or rejection of the manuscript, in a formal letter.

## **EDITING**

The editorial office edits the papers selected for publication for brevity, clarity, grammar, spelling, and style. When the editing is extensive, with the possibility of altered meaning, queries are sent to the corresponding author by email. A galley proof will be forwarded to the corresponding author before publication of accepted papers which must be returned to the journal office with specific comments if any. Corrections in the galley proof, in case any, must be limited to typographical errors, or missing contents only.

## **MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION**

The manuscript of Zanco J Med Sci should be typed as 'normal text' on one side of A4 size (29.7 x 21cm) paper in a single column format, one and a half spaced line. No artwork and/or special effects are acceptable for the text and/or table(s). Italics should not be used other than for foreign/Latin expressions and/or special terminologies such as names of microorganisms. Maintain a minimum of 2 cm margin on both sides of the text and a 3 cm margin at the top and bottom of each page. No part of the text other than abbreviations and/or subtitles shall be written in upper case (ALL capital). Header/footnotes, endnotes, lines drawn to separate the paragraphs or pages are not acceptable. Typing is with the normal, Times New Roman font 12 throughout the manuscript including all the headings, subheadings, text, tables and legends (figures).

The manuscript should be paginated consecutively, commencing with the title page and should not exceed 13 pages. However, longer manuscripts for review articles and qualitative studies can be considered. Main headings, introduction, subjects, and methods, etc., should be placed on separate lines. Key Words should be preferably MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) terms, and must not duplicate words already in the manuscript title; MeSH terms can be checked at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/MBrowse.html>.

**Original Articles:** Title page, Abstract (in structured format for original articles) of no more than 200 words, Key Words (up to five), followed by Introduction, Subjects (or Materials) and methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, Acknowledgement/s (if any), References, Legends to figures, Tables, and Figures.

**Review Articles:** Title Page, Abstract of no more than 200 words, Key Words (up to five), followed by Introduction, Methods/History (if applicable), Literature Review, Conclusion, Acknowledgement/s (if any), References, Legends to figures, Tables, and Figures. Each section should begin on a new page.

**Case Studies:** Title page followed by Abstract ( a summary of not more than 200 words), Key Words, Introduction, Case history/report, Discussion, Conclusion, Acknowledgement/s (if any), References, Legends to figures, Tables, and Figures.

### **THE TITLE PAGE**

The title page of the submitted manuscript should provide a clear title of the article followed by full names of all authors, the highest academic degree, the official academic and/or clinical title and affiliation, the name and address of the institution/s where the work was done including the department, the name and complete address of the corresponding author to whom proofs and correspondences shall be sent, duly supported with contacts such as telephone, mobile/cell, fax and e-mail address (if available) if it differs from the first author, and any disclaimers.

### **STRUCTURED ABSTRACT**

A structured abstract (no more than 250 words) is required for studies under the section "Original Articles." It must provide an overview of the entire paper, and should contain succinct statements and should be divided where appropriate into the followings: Background and Objective(s), Methods, Results, and Conclusion(s). Abstract for all other categories of submissions shall be a short summary followed by Keywords and the report or review.

### **TEXT**

The body of the manuscript should be divided into sections preceded by appropriate heads (introduction, subjects/patients/materials (as appropriate) and methods, results, discussion, conclusion (when appropriate), acknowledgment (when appropriate), conflicts of interest and references). Major headings should be typed bold in capital letters at the left-hand margin; subheading should appear typed bold at the left-hand margin with only the first letter of each word capitalized; additional subdivisions should be underlined only.

### **INTRODUCTION**

State the study's objective (the question the paper intends to answer) and omit an extensive review of the literature, which is normally found in a thesis.

### **MATERIALS (SUBJECTS, PATIENTS) AND METHODS**

Describe the study design procedures and subjects used, methods, definitions such as for diagnostic criteria, the population or patient samples, and laboratory and statistical methods. Provide the details only if the methods are original or essential for understanding, otherwise, provide references.

## **RESULTS**

The pertinent findings in a logical sequence with tables, chart, figures, and photographs as necessary to clarify the findings.

## **DISCUSSION**

Point out the significance of the data and the limitations, conclusions based on the findings, evidence from the literature that supports the conclusions and opposing views, conflicting evidence, the applicability of conclusions, and implications for future research or clinical application.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The objective of this section is to disclose affiliations with or association with any organization with a direct financial interest in the study. Otherwise, it will be considered as having no such interests. Contributions of others who have involved in the study, such as statisticians, radiologists etc. and/or those who have assisted in the preparation of manuscript being submitted could also be included in this section.

## **REFERENCES**

List references in consecutive numerical order (the order of citation in the manuscript, not alphabetically). The reference number must be in superscript after a comma or full stop without space, for example: "Road traffic injuries are a major public health problem around the world.<sup>1</sup>" Once a reference is cited, all subsequent citations should be to the original number. Identify references in the text, tables, and legends by Arabic numerals. Unpublished data and personal communication will not be accepted as references. Reference to a journal should include in this order: (1) author's name, (2) Title of article, (3) journal name that should be abbreviated as per the Journals Database section in PubMed (From: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals>), (4) year, (5) Volume and issue number, and (6) inclusive page number. References to books should include (1) authors, (2) chapter title (if any), (3) editors name (if any), (4) title of book, (5) city 3 of publication, (6) publisher, and (7) year. Volume and edition numbers and specific page numbers should be included when appropriate. Use et al. when the number of authors exceeds 6. Where available, the DOI numbers to all the references listed in the reference list should be added.

The author(s) is/are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the references and correct textual citation. Please refer to reference citations and listings in the text for proper format. Use the style of the examples given below in listing the references:

*Journal article without DOI*

Strand JE, Nybäck H. Tobacco use in schizophrenia: a study of cotinine concentrations in the saliva of patients and controls. *Eur Psychiatry* 2005; 20:50-4

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Roberts CL, Algert C, Ford JB, Todd AL, Morris JM. Pathways to a rising caesarean section rate: a population-based cohort study. *BMJ Open* 2012; 2(5):e001725. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2012-001725.

*Book*

Spitzer R, Endicott J. Schedule for affective disorders and schizophrenia – lifetime version. New York: New York State Psychiatry Institute; 1978. Chapter in book Laruelle M. Dopamine transmission in the schizophrenic brain. In: Weinberger DR, Hirsch S, editors. *Schizophrenia*, 2nd ed. Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishing; 2003. p. 365-87.

*Weblinks*

U.S. positions on selected issues at the third negotiating session of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Washington, D.C.: Committee on Government Reform, 2002. (Accessed June 4, 2003, at [http://www.house.gov/reform/min/inves.tobacoo/index\\_accord.htm](http://www.house.gov/reform/min/inves.tobacoo/index_accord.htm)).

**TABLES**

Tables should be self-explanatory. All tables must have a title placed above the table. Identify tables with Arabic numbers; the word Table should be bold and Capitalized the first letter. Cite each table in the text in the order in which it appears. No borderlines or gridlines should be shown on the tables except the top and bottom lines of table headings and the bottom line of the table as shown in the below example

**Table 1:** Demographic characteristics of the participants

<b>Variable</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>(%)</b>
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	102	(48.3)
Female	109	(51.7)
<b>Age group</b>		
≤20 years	65	(30.8)
> 20 years	146	(69.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>(100)</b>

## **FIGURES AND ILLUSTRATIONS**

All figures must have a title placed below the figure. All figures with Arabic numbers (e.g. **Figure 1**: Gender variations). Cite each figure in the text in the order in which it is to appear. Charts and drawings must be professionally done, duly titled and submitted in Excel format as separate files. When charts are submitted, the numerical data on which they were based should be supplied.

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

Except for units of measurement, abbreviations should be defined on first use and then applied consistently throughout the article. Non-standard abbreviations or those appearing fewer than three times are not accepted. Use abbreviated units of measure, only when used with numbers.

## **NUMBERS AND UNITS**

Measurements of length, height, weight and volume must be reported in metric units (meter, kilogram, liter, etc.) or their decimal multiples. The temperature should be given in degrees Celsius. Blood pressure in mm Hg, and hematological and biochemical measurements in International (SI) units. Use a comma for numbers > 10,000 and do not use a comma for numbers <9999, (e.g., 6542).

## **NAMES OF DRUGS**

Non-proprietary (generic) names of the product should be employed. If a brand name for a drug is used, the British or international non-proprietary (approved) name should be given in parentheses. The source of any new or experimental preparation should also be given.

## **FEES**

A non-refundable submission fee of (60000) I.D. is paid with submission of the paper.

## **SUBMISSION OF A MANUSCRIPT**

Manuscripts should be submitted to:

The Editor

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Erbil, Iraq.

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