

## Guidance for Authors on the Preparation and Submission of Manuscripts to *Anti-Cancer Drugs*

Note: These instructions comply with those formulated by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. For further details, authors should consult the following article: International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. *N Engl J Med* 1997; 336:309–315. The complete document appears at [www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org).

Full details concerning many of the points below, including standard forms, are provided in the guidelines on the journal's web site ([www.anticancerdrugs.com](http://www.anticancerdrugs.com)).

### Scope

*Anti-Cancer Drugs* is devoted to the rapid publication of innovative investigations on therapeutic agents against cancer and methods to diminish adverse effects of drugs. The journal publishes peer reviewed articles on anti-cancer drug design, drug delivery, pharmacology and chemotherapy evaluation.

### Points to consider before submission

**Redundant or duplicate publication.** Submissions are accepted on the understanding that they have not been published in their current form or a substantially similar form (in print or electronically, including on a web site), that they have not been accepted for publication elsewhere and they are not under consideration by another publication.

**Conflicts of interest.** Authors must state all possible conflicts of interest, including financial, consultant, institutional and other relationships that might lead to bias or a conflict of interest. If there is no conflict of interest, this should be explicitly stated. All sources of funding should be acknowledged in the paper.

**Permissions to reproduce previously published material.** Authors should include with their submission copies of written permission to reproduce material published elsewhere (such as illustrations) from the copyright holder. Authors are responsible for paying any fees to reproduce material.

**Patient consent forms.** Patients have a right to privacy that should not be infringed without informed consent. Identifying details (written or photographic) should be omitted if they are not essential, but patient data should never be altered or falsified in an attempt to attain anonymity. Complete anonymity is difficult to achieve and a consent form should be obtained if there is any doubt. For example, masking the eye region in photographs of patients is inadequate protection of anonymity. When informed consent has been obtained it should be indicated in the published article.

**Ethics committee approval.** All authors must sign a declaration that the research was conducted within the guidelines below and under the terms of all relevant local legislation. (Such a statement is included in the model submission letter on the journal's web site.) The Editors reserve the right to judge the appropriateness of the use and treatment of humans or animals in experiments for publication in the journal.

**Human experiments:** All work must be conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. Papers describing experimental work on human participants which carries a risk of harm must include (1) a statement that the experiments were conducted with the understanding and the consent of each participant, and (2) a statement that the responsible ethical committee has approved the experiments.

**Animal experiments:** In papers describing experiments on living animals, include (1) a full description of any anaesthetic and surgical procedure used, and (2) evidence that all possible steps were taken to avoid animals' suffering at each stage of the experiment. In experiments involving the use of muscle relaxants, describe the precautions taken to ensure adequate anesthesia (*J Physiol* 1990; 420:xii–xiii).

**Experiments on isolated tissues:** Indicate precisely how you obtained the donor tissue. The NIH guide for the care and use of laboratory animals (National Institutes of Health Publications No. 80-23, revised 1978) gives guidelines for the acquisition and care of animals.

**Authorship.** All authors must sign the letter accompanying their submission to confirm that they have read and approved the paper, that they have met the criteria as established by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, that they believe that the paper represents honest work, and that they are able to verify the validity of the results reported.

**Copyright assignment.** Papers are accepted for publication on the understanding that exclusive copyright in the paper is assigned to the Publisher. Authors are asked to sign a copyright assignment form after acceptance of their papers. They may use material from their paper in other works published by them.

### Submissions

Submissions, which should include both a printed manuscript and a disk or CD-ROM, should be sent to:

**Dr Mels Sluysen, Editor-in-Chief: *Anti-Cancer Drugs*,  
The Netherlands Cancer Institute, Plesmanlaan 121,  
1066 AC Amsterdam, The Netherlands.  
Tel: (+31) 35 52 59 943; Fax: (+31) 20 51 22 029;  
E-mail: [m.sluyser@planet.nl](mailto:m.sluyser@planet.nl)**

Include the following where appropriate: patient consent forms; transfer of copyright form; permission to reproduce previously published material; checklist. Submit the required number of paper copies and keep copies of everything submitted.

Manuscripts should be submitted in quadruplicate (the original plus three copies; including the illustrations). Manuscripts should be typed on white bond paper. Margins should be not less than 3 cm. Double spacing should be used throughout the manuscript, which should include the following sections, each starting on a separate sheet: title page, abstract and keywords, text, acknowledgments, references, individual tables and captions. Pages should be numbered consecutively, beginning with the title page, and the page number should be placed in the top right-hand corner of each page. Abbreviations should be defined on their first appearance in the text; those not accepted by international bodies should be avoided.

**Disks and CD-ROMS.** All submissions should include electronic files using either floppy disks or CD ROMs. Put only the latest version of the manuscript on the disk; name the file clearly; label the disk with the format of the file and the file name; provide information on the hardware and software used. Authors should consult the Electronic Submissions page on the journal's web site for full details of acceptable formats, including electronic artwork.

Authors who wish to submit papers by E-mail should contact the Editorial Office first.

Authors are invited to list up to four potential reviewers, including their full addresses, telephone and fax numbers, and E-mail addresses.

## Presentation of papers

**Title page.** The title page should carry the full title of the paper and a short title to be used as a 'running head' (and which should be so identified). The first name, middle initial and last name of each author should appear. If the work is to be attributed to a department or institution, its full name should be included. Any disclaimers should appear on the title page, as should the name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and E-mail address of the author responsible for correspondence concerning the manuscript, and the name and address of the author to whom requests for reprints should be made. Finally, the title page should include the sources of any support for the work in the form of grants, equipment, drugs or any combination of these.

**Abstracts.** The second page should carry a structured abstract of no more than 250 words. The abstract should state the **Objective(s)** of the study or investigation, basic **Methods** (selection of study subjects or laboratory animals; observational and analytical methods), main **Results** (giving specific data and their statistical significance, if possible) and the principal **Conclusions**. It should emphasize new and important aspects of the study or observations.

**Key words.** The abstract should be followed by a list of 3–10 key words or short phrases which will assist the cross-indexing of the article and which may be published. When possible, the terms used should be from the Medical Subject Headings list of the *Index Medicus* (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.html>).

**Text.** Full papers of an experimental or observational nature may be divided into sections headed Introduction, Methods (including ethical and statistical information), Results and Discussion (including a conclusion), although reviews may require a different format.

**Acknowledgments.** Acknowledgments should be made only to those who have made a substantial contribution to the study. Authors are responsible for obtaining written permission from people acknowledged by name in case readers infer their endorsement of data and conclusions.

**References.** References should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they first appear in the text. They should be assigned Arabic numerals, which should be given in brackets, e.g. [17], *not superscript*. References should include the names of all authors when six or fewer; when seven or more, list only the first six names and add *et al.* References should also include full title and source information. Journal names should be abbreviated as in the *Index Medicus* (<http://www.medscape.com/Home/Search/Index-Medicus/IndexMedicus.html>).

### Standard journal article:

Hayakawa S, Kimura T, Saeki K,  
Koyama Y, Aoyagi Y, Nero T, *et al.*  
Apoptosis-inducing activity of high  
molecular weight fractions of tea extracts.  
*Biosci Biotechnol Biochem* 2001; **65**:459–462.

### Book:

Banzet P, Holland JF, Khayat D, Weil  
N. *Cancer Treatment Update*. Paris:  
Springer-Verlag; 1994.

### Chapter in a book:

Hrushesky WJM, Cope FO.  
Fluoropyrimidine cancer chemotherapy.  
In: Banzet P, Holland JF, Khayat D,  
Weil N (editors): *Cancer Treatment Update*.  
Paris: Springer-Verlag; 1994, pp. 29–39.

Personal communications and unpublished work should not feature in the reference list but should appear in parentheses in the text. Unpublished work accepted for publication but not yet released should be included in the reference list with the words 'in press' in parentheses beside the name of the journal concerned. References must be verified by the author(s) against the original documents.

**Tables.** Each table should be typed on a separate sheet in double spacing. Tables should not be submitted as photographs. Each table should be assigned an Arabic numeral, e.g. (Table 3) and a brief title. Vertical rules should not be used. Place explanatory matter in footnotes, not in the heading. Explain in footnotes all non-standard abbreviations that are used in each table. Identify statistical measures of variations, such as standard deviation and standard error of the mean.

Be sure that each table is cited in the text. If you use data from another published or unpublished source, obtain permission and acknowledge the source fully.

**Illustrations.** References to figures and tables should be made in order of appearance in the text and should be in Arabic numerals in parentheses, e.g. (Figure 2). If hard copies are submitted they should have a label pasted to the back bearing the figure number, the title of the paper, the author's name and a mark indicating the top of the figure. Illustrations should not be mounted. Half-tone illustrations should be presented as glossy prints to a width of 80 mm; line illustrations should be presented as original artwork or prints to a width of 82 mm or, when the illustration demands it, to a width of 176 mm. Photomicrographs must have internal scale markers. If photographs of people are used, their identities must be obscured or the picture must be accompanied by written consent to use the photograph. If a figure has been published before, the original source must be acknowledged and written permission from the copyright holder for both print and electronic formats should be submitted with the material. Permission is required regardless of authorship or publisher, except for documents in the public domain. Figures may be reduced, cropped or deleted at the discretion of the Editor. Color illustrations are acceptable but authors will be expected to cover the extra reproduction costs (for current charges, contact the publisher).

**Legends for illustrations.** Captions should be typed in double spacing, beginning on a separate sheet of paper. Each one should have an Arabic numeral corresponding to the illustration to which it refers. Internal scales should be explained and staining methods for photomicrographs should be identified.

**Units of measurement.** Measurements of length, height, weight and volume should be reported in metric units (meter, kilogram or liter) or their decimal multiples. Temperatures should be given in degrees Celsius. Blood pressures should be given in millimeters of mercury.

All hematologic and clinical chemistry measurements should be reported in the metric system in terms of the International System of Units (SI). Editors may request that alternative or non-SI units be added by the authors before publication.

**Abbreviations and symbols.** Use only standard abbreviations. Avoid abbreviations in the title and abstract. The full term for which an abbreviation stands should precede its first use in the text unless it is a standard unit of measurement.

### Offprints

Offprints may be purchased using the appropriate form that will be made available with proofs. Orders should be sent when the proofs are returned; orders received after this time cannot be fulfilled.