Future Science OA Author Guidelines

This document outlines how to prepare articles for submission. We recommend you read these guidelines in full before submitting your article or making an article proposal.

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Journal aims & scope

**Future Science OA** is an online, open access, peer-reviewed title from the Future Science Group. The journal’s broad coverage includes all areas of biotechnology and medicine, as well as topics in biological, life and physical sciences that are of relevance to human health.

The journal embraces the importance of publishing all good-quality research with the potential to further the progress of medical science. All original research articles will be considered that are within the journal’s scope, and have been conducted with scientific rigour and research integrity. The journal also features review articles, editorials and perspectives, providing readers with a leading source of commentary and analysis.

**Future Science OA** provides readers the rigorous publication standards and article production quality they expect from the Future Science Group, with all articles subject to review by a minimum of three independent experts. The journal follows a gold open access model, publishing all articles under the Creative Commons CC-BY license to allow maximum dissemination. Authors are required to comply fully with the journal's Disclosure & Conflict of Interest Policy as well as major publishing guidelines, including ICMJE and GPP2.

Audience

The audience for **Future Science OA** consists of research scientists, decision-makers and other professionals from across the sciences. The journal will act as a valuable reference for all those whose research interests lie in the improvement of human health.

Future Science Group articles have been engineered specifically for the time-constrained professional. The structure is designed to draw the reader’s attention directly to the information they require.
### At-a-glance article formatting checklist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article type</th>
<th>Word limit (excluding abstract and references)</th>
<th>Abstract</th>
<th>Lay Abstract</th>
<th>Author Contributions</th>
<th>Key words</th>
<th>Future Perspective and Executive Summary</th>
<th>Reference limit</th>
<th>Figures and tables permitted (Combined limit of eight in total – additional will be made supplementary)</th>
<th>Supporting cover letter</th>
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Search engine optimization

Why are search engines important?
One of the most common ways for readers to find an article is using a search engine, such as Google, Google Scholar or Bing etc. Therefore it is important to write your article with a few points in mind, to help interested readers find your work.

How can I help my article be discovered?

- Include key phrases that represent your research in the abstract. Think about what you might search for when looking for articles yourself, and include this.
- Make sure the most important/relevant key phrase is also in the article title whilst ensuring the content has a natural flow.
- Choose appropriate keywords that reflect the content of your work – where different words are commonly used to describe the same thing (i.e., a full term and an abbreviation), include both.
- Aim to be as concise as possible in the abstract (within the journals’ word limit of 120 words or fewer).
Article types

*Future Science OA* publishes a range of article types, descriptions of which are outlined below. Authors are encouraged to consult the ‘at-a-glance formatting checklist’ for details on word counts and other formatting requirements.

The information below gives an overview of the requirements for each article type published by *Future Science OA*. However, authors should consult the ICMJE “Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals” ([http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/](http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/)), in particular the section on “Preparing a Manuscript for Submission to a Medical Journal” prior to submitting to *Future Science OA*, for more detailed information.

**Original Research Articles**

Authors of original research **must** provide a supporting cover letter on submission briefly detailing:

- Relevance to the journal’s audience;
- Where the novelty in the study lies;
- Direct and potential implications of the findings.

Authors are also advised to consult the Methods Reporting Checklist for Authors, available [here](http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/).

**Experimental details and data:**

Only where a novel experimental procedure has been employed full details must be provided, such that a skilled scientist would be able to reproduce the results presented. Details of routine or previously reported experimental procedures should be provided via references only. Experimental procedures and/or data running to more than two Word document pages should be placed in a supplementary information file.

*Future Science OA* encourages authors to submit their data to an open repository, allowing readers to form a complete picture of the manuscript, and to utilize the data in future research endeavours. Where authors are able to do this, please provide details on how to find this information in the main body of the manuscript and at the end of the abstract.

Authors should include ethical information in the methods section of their research articles.

**Required sections:** (for a more detailed description of these sections see [Article sections](http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/)):

- Title
- Author(s) names & affiliations
- Structured abstract
- Defined key terms
- Introduction
  - Should only cite directly pertinent references
  - Should not include data of conclusions from the work being reported
- Materials & methods/Experimental
  - Where an organization was paid or otherwise contracted to help conduct the research (e.g., data collection and management), this should be detailed
  - Should include information indicating that the research was approved or exempted from the need for review by the responsible review committee (institutional or

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national). Where no formal ethics committee is available, a statement indicating that the research was conducted according to the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki should be included

- Information on the selection and description of participants should define how authors measured race or ethnicity and justify their relevance

- Results & Discussion
  - Numeric results should be given not only as derivatives (e.g. percentages) but also as the absolute numbers from which the derivatives were calculated
  - Statistical significance of results should be specified, if any
  - Authors should avoid claiming priority or alluding to work that has not been completed

- Conclusions
- Future perspective
- Executive Summary
- References
- Reference annotations
- Financial disclosure/Acknowledgements
- Ethical conduct of research

Six types of research article are accepted, all of which undergo peer review:

1. **Primary research article**
   Research articles should present methodologically accurate work that has potential to be applied to improving human health. Research should be reported succinctly; the inclusion of detailed background discussion is to be avoided. Supporting data or further experimental details can be submitted as Supplementary Information. If requested by the Editor or reviewers, authors should be able to provide additional relevant original data underpinning their research.

2. **Preliminary communication**
   Preliminary communication articles are intended for short reports of studies that present promising improvements or developments on existing areas of research.

3. **Methodology**
   Methodology articles should provide an overview of a new experimental or computational method, test or procedure. The method described may be either completely novel, or may offer a demonstrable improvement on an existing method.

4. **Study Protocol and Trial Design Articles**
   Study protocols or trial design articles can cover proposed or ongoing research. For protocols of registered trials, the last line of the abstract should include the trial registry and the unique identifying number.

5. **Case Reports**
   Case reports present a notable medical case or series of related cases of interest, and aim to further the reader’s understanding of the issues relating to such situations.

6. **Trial Results**
   Trial result articles describe and discuss either positive or negative results from trials. For negative studies, authors should highlight and discuss any Exceptional Responders. For protocols of registered trials, the last line of the abstract should include the trial registry and the unique identifying number.
For authors presenting the results of clinical trials, the guidelines recommended by CONSORT (http://www.consort-statement.org/) and GPP3 (http://www.ismpp.org/gpp3) should be followed. In addition, where available the clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract, and on the first mention of the trial in the main body of text. Unregistered clinical trials should be declared as such, and the reason for nonregistration should be provided. Mention of other trials should also include the relevant registration number, where available.

Secondary outcomes, exploratory analyses, and post hoc analyses should be clearly identified as such; these may be included in the primary publication or published separately, in which case they should clearly reference the primary publication and should not be published before it.

**Observational studies:** where observational research has been carried out, authors should follow the recommendations of STROBE (http://www.strobe-statement.org/).

**Reviews**
Reviews aim to highlight recent significant advances in research, ongoing challenges and unmet needs; authors should be concise and critical in their appraisal of the subject matter, and strive for clarity. The focus should be on key, defining developments rather than providing a comprehensive literature survey. Reviews should provide balanced coverage of the field and not focus predominantly on the author’s own research. Authors are encouraged to include their own perspective on current trends and future directions, particularly in the ‘Future perspective’ section. Review articles undergo external peer review.

**Systematic Reviews:**
Systematic reviews should be conducted following the recommendations of PRISMA (http://www.prisma-statement.org/).

**Perspectives**
Perspectives have the same basic structure and length as review articles; however, they should be more speculative and forward-looking, even visionary. They offer the author the opportunity to present criticism, address controversy or provide a personal angle on a significant issue. Authors of perspectives are encouraged to be opinionated, with all positions concisely and clearly argued and referenced. Referees will be briefed to review these articles for quality and relevance of argument only. They will not necessarily be expected to agree with the author’s position.

**Special Reports**
Special reports are short review-style articles that highlight a particular niche area, be it a specific emerging field, novel hypotheses or method. Articles are categorized as Special Reports at the discretion of the Editorial team.

**Editorials**
Editorials are short articles that provide an insight into, or snapshot of issues of topical importance to the journal’s target audience or researchers and other professionals. The intention is that the article should offer an expert perspective on a topic of recent interest. More detailed discussions can take the form of Commentary articles. Invited Editorial articles undergo internal review; unsolicited Editorial articles undergo external peer review at the Editor’s discretion.

**Commentaries**
Commentaries are short articles that are similar to Editorials, yet provide a more detailed discussion of a topic. Invited Commentary articles undergo internal review; unsolicited Commentaries will undergo external peer review at the Editor’s discretion.

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Conference Reports
Conference reports aim to summarize the most important research presented at a recent relevant meeting or event. It is not usually feasible to attempt comprehensive coverage of the conference; authors should therefore focus on those presentations that are most topical, interesting or thought-provoking. Reports should be submitted within 6 weeks of the end of the conference.

Interviews
Interviews are conducted with key opinion leaders in the field, and can include a look back over their career and achievements to date, a discussion on their current research, and their thoughts and observations on the field as a whole. Individuals are invited to take part in an Interview, either verbal or written, at the Editor’s discretion, and the contents of the interview undergo internal review. The opinions expressed in an Interview are those of the Interviewee, and do not necessarily reflect the views of Future Science.

Company/Institutional Profiles
Company or Institutional profiles allow representatives from the body to describe the work currently being carried out within their particular organization, relevant to the field of the journal in question.

These reports are intended to provide an insight into the history and strategy of the body. Individuals are invited to write a Company or Institutional Profiles at the Editor’s discretion, and the contents of the piece undergo internal review.

Article sections
The following list provides notes on the key article sections; authors should consult the ‘at-a-glance formatting checklist’ to determine which sections are required for their submission.

Title
Concisely and clearly conveys the scope/novelty of the article; not more than 120 characters.

Author(s) names & affiliations
Including full name, postal address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address. Note: we can only list one corresponding author.

Guidance on author sequence:
Author sequence is at the authors’ discretion; however, Future Science journals suggest following the recommendations in GPP3 Appendix Table 2 (http://www.ismpp.org/gpp3), whereby authors are listed either in order of the level of their contribution, or alphabetically. The corresponding author should always be indicated.

Guidance on a change of affiliation during writing:
Where an author has changed their affiliation prior to the publication of an article, the affiliation should reflect where the major part of the work was completed. Current affiliation and contact information should be listed in an acknowledgement.

Author Contributions
Please list the contributions to the manuscript made by each author.

Abstract
Not more than 120 words; no references should be cited in the abstract. The abstract should highlight the importance of the field under discussion within the journal’s scope, and clearly define the parameters of the article.
Structured abstract (for research articles)
Not more than 120 words, broken down into Aims, Patients & Methods/Materials & Methods, Results and Conclusions. For authors presenting the results of clinical trials, the guidelines recommended by CONSORT should be followed when writing the abstract (http://www.consort-statement.org/), and the clinical trial registration number included at the end of the abstract, where available.
Data deposition: where data have been deposited in a public repository, authors should state at the end of the abstract the data set name, repository name and number.

Lay Abstract
Not more than 100 words; no references should be cited in the abstract. The abstract should concisely explain the current state of knowledge and the key contributions of the paper in a language suitable for the general public. Authors should avoid technical terms and assume the reader is intelligent, yet unschooled in the history of the discipline. Please note that this abstract is in addition to the scientific abstract.

Keywords
A selection of 5-10 words that encapsulate the scope of the article.

Body of the article
The article content should be arranged under relevant headings and subheadings to assist the reader.

Future Perspective
A speculative viewpoint on how the field will evolve in 5–10 years’ time, what further research is needed, etc.

Executive Summary
Bulleted summary points that illustrate the main conclusions made throughout the article. Where appropriate, relevant headings that correspond to those in the manuscript should be inserted.

Accession Numbers
All appropriate datasets, images, and information should be deposited in public resources. Please provide the relevant accession numbers (and version numbers, if appropriate) after first use of the entity and at the end of the abstract (see “abstract” section above). Please also provide accession numbers of all entities such as genes, proteins, mutants, diseases, etc. for which there is an entry in a public database.

Financial disclosure/Acknowledgements
Disclosing any financial and/or material support that was received for the research or the creation of the work. Also disclosing any relationships any authors have (personal, academic or financial relationships that could influence their actions) or financial involvement with an organization or entity with a financial interest in or financial conflict with the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript. If writing assistance has been used in the creation of the manuscript, this should also be stated and any sources of funding for such assistance clearly identified.

Ethical conduct of research
For studies involving data relating to human or animal experimental investigations, authors should obtain appropriate institutional review board approval and state this within the article (for those investigators who do not have formal ethics review committees, the principles outlined in the...
Declaration of Helsinki should be followed). In addition, for investigations involving human subjects, authors should obtain informed consent from the participants involved and include an explanation of how this was obtained in the manuscript.

References

Key points
- Authors should focus on recent papers and papers older than 5 years should not be included except for an over-riding purpose.
- Primary literature references, and any patents or websites, should be numerically listed in the reference section in the order that they occur in the text (including any references that only appear in figures/tables/boxes).
- Information from manuscripts submitted but not accepted should be cited in the text as “unpublished observations” with written permission from the source.
- Avoid citing a “personal communication” unless it provides essential information not available from a public source, in which case the name of the person and date of communication should be cited in the text, with written permission from the source.
- References should be denoted numerically and in sequence in the text, using Arabic numerals placed in square brackets, i.e., [12].
- Reference annotations: 6–8 references should be highlighted that are of particular significance to the subject under review as “* of interest” or “** of considerable interest”, along with a brief (1–2 line) synopsis.
- The Future Science Reference Manager and EndNote styles can be downloaded from our website at: https://www.future-science.com/authorguide

Format
- Author’s names should appear without full stops in their initials
- List up to six authors’ names. If there are more than six authors, then quote the first three only followed by et al.
- A full stop follows authors’ names
- Article title given in full
- Journal name should be in italics and abbreviated to standard format
- Volume number, with the issue number in brackets (if available), followed by comma, not bold
- Page number range separated by a hyphen with no spaces, followed by the year in brackets, and then a full stop

Reference annotations
Papers or of particular interest should be identified using one or two asterisk symbols:

- * = of interest
- ** = of considerable interest

Each of the chosen references should be annotated with a brief sentence explaining why the reference is considered to be of interest/particular interest.
Making the most of article abstracts

Multimedia abstracts can include graphical abstracts (or infographics), video or audio abstracts.

If you are interested in including a graphical, video or audio abstract with your article, please discuss with the Journal Editor at any stage.

Graphical abstracts

Future Science OA encourages the use of graphical abstracts, a concise, visual summary of the main findings of the article, helping readers to quickly understand the findings of the paper and its relevance to them.


Graphical abstracts will be made freely accessible to all readers and feature prominently on the article webpage alongside the main abstract. They will also be used by the journal Editors to promote articles to audiences via social media.

Graphical abstracts will be peer-reviewed alongside the article and should be submitted with the first draft. However this does not need to be the final version – we are happy to accept a rough sketch or equivalent that will resemble the final version. The final version can then be created whilst the draft is being reviewed and finalized based on the reviewers’ feedback.

The graphical abstract should feature the essential elements discussed in the article, ideally with a short description or legend. There are no limits on the size of the graphical abstract and you should provide a single image or split panels in one image, ideally using font HELVETICA; size 8 points. Files should be supplied as a .jpg, .pdf or .tif file.

TIP: If your article features an Executive Summary or Summary Points section, why not use this information as the base for your graphical abstract?

If required, we can provide a range of design support services, from polishing an existing figure to completely creating the graphical abstract from a hand-drawn figure.
Using our in-house graphic designers
We offer a number of creative services for authors interested in having a graphical abstract.

Polishing service
Our Graphics Team can work with you to refine and polish your graphical abstract. An example can be found below. This service is available to authors at no additional cost.

Before

After


Creative service
If you are interested in featuring a graphical abstract alongside your article but do not have the resources to create this, our graphics team can assist. Our team will work with you on the concept and design of an abstract. A preliminary version can be created (to be submitted for peer review alongside the article) and the final version created based on editorial feedback.

Cost: £250

Video abstracts
Video abstracts are featured alongside articles as well as on our YouTube channel (where they will be tagged with keywords, a short description and a link to the original publication). These types of video give you the opportunity to introduce readers to your work in your own words. Various formats are accepted including you discussing your work on camera or providing audio commentary that is complemented with a series of slides/images. Video abstracts should be short and to the point – no more than 2–3 mins in total. The aim is to create something that will draw in potentially interested readers – so keep your language clear, and include any key words or phrases associated with your work.

Videos can be published at the time of publication or at a later date post-publication. In each instance, the journal Editor will post links to the video via the journal’s social media accounts. Therefore we recommend that you suggest keywords or hashtags the Editor could use when promoting your papers to aid its discoverability.

Videos are freely available to all readers and featured alongside the article abstract as supplemental files within the Details section (as in the example below). Videos will be shared by the journal Editor.
via social media (across Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook) and can also be made available via the Future Science Group YouTube channel.

We are able to offer a number of options for video abstracts, including, for a fee, filming or creating a video from scratch. If you are interested in this service please contact Joanne Walker, Senior Manager.

Getting started
Before you begin, please let the Editor of the journal know that you are interested in using a video abstract alongside your article.

We recommend that you do not film or create your video until the paper has undergone peer-review. The Editor will need to see a transcript of the video when the article is submitted that will be sent to peer-reviewers alongside the article. Any recommendations for changes will be returned with the editorial feedback. Only once the Editor and/or peer-reviewers have approved any changes should filming of the video begin. The video will then be published simultaneously with the article.

If the video is to be created post-publication, the reviewers of the original article will be asked to review the transcript of the video. As above, any recommendations for changes will be returned to you and filming should begin following approval of the Editor/peer-reviewers. The video once finalized will be published alongside the article online.

Preparing the transcript
The aim of video abstracts is to go beyond the information presented in your article abstract, providing readers with more in-depth detail and discussion. Videos should be 2-3 mins in length.

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