



THE AAPS JOURNAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

SCOPE

The AAPS Journal, an official journal of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS), publishes novel and significant findings in the various areas of pharmaceutical sciences impacting human and veterinary therapeutics, including:

- Drug Design and Discovery
- Pharmaceutical Biotechnology
- Biopharmaceutics, Formulation, and Drug Delivery
- Metabolism and Transport
- Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics, and Pharmacometrics
- Translational Research
- Clinical Evaluations and Therapeutic Outcomes
- Regulatory Science

We invite submissions under the following article types:

- Original Research Articles
- Reviews and Mini-reviews
- White Papers, Commentaries, and Editorials
- Letters to the Editor
- Meeting Reports
- Brief/Technical Reports and Rapid Communications
- Regulatory Notes
- Tutorials
- Protocols in the Pharmaceutical Sciences

In addition, *The AAPS Journal* publishes themes, organized by guest editors, which are focused on particular areas of current interest to our field.

The AAPS Journal publishes six issues a year.

ACCEPTED ARTICLE SPECIFICATIONS

The AAPS Journal publishes the following article types:

Article Type	Abstract requirements* (Text abstract / Graphical abstract)	Word Count**	Description	Supplementary Materials	Tables/Figures Combined (maximum)	References (maximum)
Original Research Article	Yes / Yes	5,000	Contain innovative, hypothesis-driven research that is	Yes	10	100

			supported by sound experimental design, methodology, and data interpretation.			
Review Article	Yes / Yes	5,000	Usually by invitation and organized into themes, report on recent advances in pharmaceutical research.	Yes	10	150
Mini-Review	Yes / Yes	2,500	Discuss a more narrowly focused topic of recent research. Unsolicited reviews are considered only if they are authored by investigators who have demonstrated expertise in the relevant areas.	Yes	6	50
White Paper	Yes / Optional	5,000	Authoritative articles that have been coauthored by a wide panel of experts who are associated with an AAPS-affiliated group, such as a programming committee for a workshop/symposium, a focus group, a section, or an ad hoc group formed to examine the current state of a particular issue in pharmaceutical science. A White Paper should include evaluation of state-of-the-art subject matter and make consensus policy recommendations for future consideration to the relevant scientific community. The authorship should ideally be composed of the essential stake holders pertaining to the issue at hand, including representatives from academia, industry, and government. White Papers adhere	Yes	10	150

			to the " AAPS Guideline for Review of Opinions and Summary Reports. "			
Editorial	Optional / Optional	5,000	Usually published by invitation only. These articles contain topical issues of public and scientific interest.	Yes	10	100
Commentary	Yes / Yes	5,000	Usually published by invitation only. These articles are opinion pieces, not related to any prior publications in the journal. Can be full-length.	Yes	10	100
Letter to the Editor	Optional / Optional		A brief and vetted note which directly addresses or criticizes a previous publication in <i>The AAPS Journal</i> .	No	5	5
Meeting Report	Yes / Yes	5,000	Provide readers with summaries of AAPS or AAPS-affiliated meetings, including consensus views. When a meeting report purports to be a Consensus Report or White Paper, authors should review and adhere to the " AAPS Guideline for Review of Opinions and Summary Reports. "	Yes	10	150
Brief Technical Note	Optional / Optional	1,200	Normally more limited in scope than Original Research Articles; must be of high quality, general interest, and sufficient importance to warrant publication.	Yes	6	50
Rapid Communication	Yes / Yes	1,200	Provide a venue for fast-breaking research updates. The justification for rapid communication should be stated in the cover letter during submission.	Yes	6	20
Regulatory Note	Optional / Optional	1,200	Provide a summary of regulatory decisions	Yes	6	50

			made and the scientific rationale regarding a drug product or a class of drug products.			
Tutorial	Yes / Yes	5,000	Instructional articles that provide extensive treatments of a specific research topic or concept, including methods of data analysis, that are not commonly found in textbooks or other articles. These articles may provide examples or case studies to guide the reader to apply the concepts to their own work. Example: Pattern Recognition in Pharmacokinetic Data Analysis and Pattern Recognition in Pharmacodynamic Data Analysis .	Yes	10	150
Protocols in Pharmaceutical Sciences	Yes / Yes	2,500	Describe well-tested and validated experimental or computational procedures that may be adopted in relevant pharmaceutical research studies. Example: Quantifying Trace Amounts of Aggregates in Biopharmaceuticals Using Analytical Ultracentrifugation Sedimentation Velocity: Bayesian Analyses and F Statistics .	Yes	5	100
Correction				Correction requests should be sent to the editorial office with proposed correction text. See below for our correction policies.		

*Abstracts should be unstructured, and should not exceed 250 words. Systematic reviews accompanied by PRISMA checklists are exceptions; these can contain structured abstracts.

**Word count only includes the text abstract and full text.

The AAPS Journal also publishes theme issues, organized by guest editors, which are focused on particular areas of current interest to our field.

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST, SUBMISSION, AND MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

Submission Checklist

Authors can use the below for a Submission Checklist. All submissions should be formatted in the following order. **Several components of the manuscript must be submitted as individual files within Editorial Manager; these files are marked as “**”**.

For further information on each, see the descriptions in the sections immediately below.

1. Cover Letter (Optional; to be provided if authors wish to convey information to the editorial office or Editor)**
2. Article File** (lines must be continually numbered throughout)
 - a. Title page**
 - b. Abstract (See “Accepted Article Specifications,” above, for directions)
 - c. Introduction
 - d. Materials and Methods
 - e. Results
 - f. Discussion
 - g. Conclusion
 - h. References (listed by number, in order of appearance)
 - i. Acknowledgements
 - j. Funding statement (mandatory)
 - k. Conflict of Interest section (mandatory)
 - l. Author contributions (mandatory) for all authors
 - m. Figure legends (Figures should be uploaded as separate attachments; authors must obtain permission for any figures/graphics that are not original)
3. Tables
4. Figures**
5. Supplemental material**
6. Other files: Reporting guidelines

Submission

Submissions to *The AAPS Journal* should be done via the journal's [submission portal here](#). Please visit that webpage for author tutorials, login options, contacts for the helpdesk, and information on resetting your password, etc.

Manuscript Preparation: General Notes and Description of Each Section

General Notes

It is important that papers are prepared in the general editorial style of the journal. Please note:

- You must include **continuous line numbers** in the manuscript body file.
- Use abbreviations sparingly and define them at the first insertion in the text. Define all abbreviations used in tables within the table footnotes.
- Use the metric system for all measurements. Express metric abbreviations in lowercase letters without periods (cm, mL, sec). Define all symbols used in equations and formulas. When symbols are used extensively, the authors may include a list of all symbols in a table.
- Numbers should be reported to reflect the precision of the instrumentation utilized. Calculated numbers, such as means and standard deviations, should be expressed to no more than one significant digit beyond the precision of the instrument. **Normally, numerical data reported to more than 3 significant figures should be justified. The precision of the variability (e.g., standard deviation) should not exceed that of the reported mean value.**
- Use SI units throughout.
- Commas should be used to separate thousands.

- Acceptable file formats include .doc, .docx, LaTeX, and .rtf. Please do not upload .pdf files.
 - A note on LaTeX: If using, please use Springer's [LaTeX macro package](#) and choose the formatting option "smallexended". The submission should include the original source (including all style files and figures) and a PDF version of the compiled output.
- Footnotes should be avoided. When their use is absolutely necessary, footnotes should be numbered consecutively using Arabic numerals and should be typed at the bottom of the page to which they refer. Place a line above the footnote, so that it is set off from the text. Use the appropriate superscript numeral for citation in the text.

Cover Letter

Recommended but not required in all cases except for Rapid Communication (in that case, it is mandatory). Cover letters should include:

- A statement regarding whether or not animal and/or human experiments were conducted
- Article submission number, if the article was previously submitted
- Recommended reviewers (optional)
- Any other information that will help the editor in her/his decision

Title Page with Keywords

This page should contain the title, the list of authors and affiliations, including the full postal and email address of the corresponding author. For the designated corresponding author, indicate their complete mailing address, telephone number, and email address.

Please also include keywords. The journal will publish no more than five keywords. However, to ensure that your manuscript is easily searchable in PubMed and other repositories, be sure to include any relevant keywords in the title or abstract of your manuscript.

Abstract and Introduction

Graphical abstracts in addition to text abstracts are now mandatory for most article types. The journal will accept initial submissions into peer review without a graphical abstract, but a graphical abstract must be included as an image with your **first revision**. Please refer to the "Accepted Article Specifications" table above for abstract requirements per article type.

The Introduction should be a separate section and should assume that the reader is knowledgeable in the field and should therefore be brief; it can include a short historical review where desirable. It should also include the study objective.

Materials and Methods

This section should contain sufficient detail such that all experimental procedures can be reproduced and include references. Methods that have been published in detail elsewhere should not be described in detail. Authors should provide the name of the manufacturer and their location for any specifically named equipment and instruments, and all drugs should be identified by their pharmaceutical names, with their trade name, if relevant, in parentheses following, at first use. Please carefully read the "Editorial Policies" section for links to information about animal handling, informed consent, and IRB approval.

Study Compound(s) Disclosure: Our policy regarding compound disclosure centers on the data presented. If specific data relating to the study compound are reported, then the Journal requires identification so that reviewers and readers can judge, based on general principles, whether the data are plausible and internally consistent, and to potentially allow future examination and/or validation of the results and conclusions reported. If, however, a library of compounds is used to generate correlations, such as in QSAR, then it is possible that the specific chemical compositions of the compounds need not be identified, subject to the discretion of the reviewers and the Editor. For

this purpose, the journal can accept an OFFICIAL company compound/entity ID#; in such a case, some additional qualitative description of nature of the study entity should also be provided.

Results and Discussion

Do not combine the Results and Discussion sections. The Results section should briefly present the experimental data in text, tables, or figures. Tables and figures should not be described extensively in the text. The Discussion should focus on the interpretation and the significance of the findings with concise objective comments that describe their relation to other work in the area. It should not repeat information in the results.

Conclusions

The conclusions section should highlight the main conclusion(s), stating the answer to the study objective. The Conclusions section should be a distinct section.

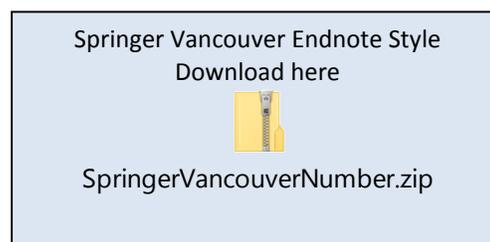
References

The AAPS Journal follows Vancouver style for references; specifically, the journal cites references in order of appearance in a "References" list. In the text, numbers should be in brackets parenthetically, e.g., "Several studies [1–4, 12]..."

Include all authors up to six. If there are more than six authors, list the first six followed by "et al." Periodical abbreviations should follow those used by *Index Medicus*. Number all references cited in the text first; if additional references are cited in figure legends and tables, add them to the end of the reference list. If using Endnote, please choose the style Springer Vancouver Number (see inset).

Examples for references are below:

- Journal article
Smith JJ. The world of science. *Am J Sci.* 1999;36:234–5.
- Journal article with DOI (and with page numbers)
O'Mahony S, Rose SL, Chilvers AJ, Ballinger JR, Solanki CK, Barber RW, et al. Finding an optimal method for imaging lymphatic vessels of the upper limb. *Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging.* 2004;31:555–63. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00259-003-1399-3>.
- Article in electronic journal by DOI (no paginated version)
Slifka MK, Whitton JL. Clinical implications of dysregulated cytokine production. *Dig J Mol Med.* 2000. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s801090000086>.
- Journal article in a supplement
Frumin AM, Nussbaum J, Esposito M. Functional asplenia: demonstration of splenic activity by bone marrow scan. *Blood.* 1979;59 Suppl 1:26–32.
- Book chapter
Wyllie AH, Kerr JFR, Currie AR. Cell death: the significance of apoptosis. In: Bourne GH, Danielli JF, Jeon KW, editors. *International review of cytology.* London: Academic; 1980. p. 251–306.
- Online First chapter in a series (without a volume designation but with a DOI)
Saito Y, Hyuga H. Rate equation approaches to amplification of enantiomeric excess and chiral symmetry breaking. *Top Curr Chem.* 2007. https://doi.org/10.1007/128_2006_108.
- Book, authored
Blenkinsopp A, Paxton P. *Symptoms in the pharmacy: a guide to the management of common illness.* 3rd ed. Oxford: Blackwell Science; 1998.
- Online document



Doe J. Title of subordinate document. In: The dictionary of substances and their effects. Royal Society of Chemistry. 1999. [http://www.rsc.org/dose/title of subordinate document](http://www.rsc.org/dose/title%20of%20subordinate%20document). Accessed 15 Jan 1999.

- Online database

Healthwise Knowledgebase. US Pharmacopeia, Rockville. 1998. <http://www.healthwise.org>. Accessed 21 Sept 1998.

- Supplementary material/private homepage

Doe J. Title of supplementary material. 2000. <http://www.privatehomepage.com>. Accessed 22 Feb 2000.

- University site

Doe, J.: Title of preprint. <http://www.uniheidelberg.de/mydata.html> (1999). Accessed 25 Dec 1999.

- Preprint

Babichev, S. A., Ries, J. & Lvovsky, A. I. Quantum scissors: teleportation of single-mode optical states by means of a nonlocal single photon. Preprint at <http://arxiv.org/abs/quant-ph/0208066> (2002).

Note: Personal communications should simply be referred to in the text (“Brown et al., personal communication”); the authors must obtain permission from the individual concerned to quote their unpublished work.

Acknowledgements

This section is optional and is for special thanks or dedications. Work done by a contributor or medical writer that does not qualify them for authorship, but which warrants acknowledgement, should be noted here. Funding information does not belong in this section, but instead in the “Funding” section below. Acknowledgements will be published as part of the article.

Funding Statement

The Funding section is mandatory. Authors must declare sources of study funding including sponsorship (e.g., university, charity, commercial organization) and sources of material (e.g., novel drugs) not available commercially. See the “Editorial Policy” section for further information. The Funding Statement will be published as part of the article.

Conflict of Interest Statement

This section is also mandatory; in this section, authors must disclose their particular financial relationships to the work described. This information will be published as part of the paper. See the “Editorial Policy” section for further information.

Author Contributions

A statement outlining each author’s contributions is mandatory. In order to meet requirements of authorship, each author must have contributed to at least one of the aspects below. The [ICMJE](#) and *The AAPS Journal* considers authorship to be based on the following four criteria:

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; and
- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and
- Final approval of the version to be published; and
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Additional information can be found under “Editorial Policies > Authorship.” As per ICMJE best practice, information provided in this section is the responsibility of the authors. This Author Contributions section will be published as part of the article.

Tables

Tables must be created in Microsoft Word table format. Tables should be numbered (with Roman numerals) and referred to by number in the text. Center the title above the table, and type explanatory footnotes (indicated by superscript lowercase letters) below the table. Data must be placed in separate cells of the table to prevent text and numbers from shifting when the table is converted for publication online. Empty cells may be inserted to create spacing. Each table should be self-explanatory.

Please note: It is the author's responsibility to ensure they have obtained permissions for the use of tables or figures which they do not expressly own. For more information, visit [here](#) (Artwork > Permissions).

Figures

Figures should be uploaded individually upon submission and not included in the manuscript body.

Color is free in all versions of the article. For full specifications on Figures and Artwork, please visit the below links:

- [Electronic figure submission](#)
- [Line Art](#)
- [Halftone Art](#)
- [Combination Art](#)
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- [Figure Numbering](#)
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Supplementary Files

Supplementary information is material directly relevant to the conclusion of an article that cannot be included in the printed version owing to space or format constraints. It is posted on the journal's web site and linked to the article when the article is published. It may consist of data files, graphics, movies, or extensive tables.

Please visit the below for further information on supplementary information:

- [Submission](#)
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- [Text and Presentations](#)
- [Spreadsheets](#)
- [Specialized Formats](#)
- [Collecting Multiple Files](#)
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- [Processing](#)
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Other Files: Reporting Guidelines

The relevant [EQUATOR Network reporting guidelines](#) should be followed, depending on the type of study. For example, all randomized controlled trials submitted for publication should include a completed [Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials \(CONSORT\) flow chart as a figure, and a completed CONSORT checklist](#) as a Supplementary file.

Note about English Language Editing and Support

For editors and reviewers to accurately assess the work presented in your manuscript, authors need to ensure the English language is of sufficient quality to be understood. If authors need help with writing in English, they should consider:

- Asking a colleague who is a native English speaker to review the manuscript for clarity.
- Visiting the [English language tutorial](#) which covers the common mistakes when writing in English.
- Using a professional language editing service where editors will improve the English to ensure that their meaning is clear and identify problems that require your review. Two such services are provided by our affiliates [Nature Research Editing Service](#) and [American Journal Experts](#).

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ETHICAL POLICIES

Clinical Trials Registration

The World Health Organization (WHO) definition of a clinical trial is "*any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes*". The WHO defines health interventions as "*A health intervention is an act performed for, with or on behalf of a person or population whose purpose is to assess, improve, maintain, promote or modify health, functioning or health conditions*" and a health-related outcome is generally defined as a change in the health of a person or population as a result of an intervention.

To ensure the integrity of the reporting of patient-centered trials, authors must register prospective clinical trials (phase II to IV trials) in suitable publicly available repositories. For example www.clinicaltrials.gov or any of the primary registries that participate in the [WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform](#).

The trial registration number (TRN) and date of registration should be included as the last line of the manuscript abstract.

For clinical trials that have not been registered prospectively, authors are encouraged to register retrospectively to ensure the complete publication of all results. The trial registration number (TRN), date of registration and the words 'retrospectively registered' should be included as the last line of the manuscript abstract.

Purely observational trials will not require registration.

EDITORIAL POLICIES

The AAPS Journal is committed to maintaining high standards for the integrity of the published scientific record. The journal will investigate any instances of suspected scientific fraud, image manipulation, plagiarism, duplicate publication, undocumented sources of funding or conflicts of interest, and other cases that compromise research ethics or the journal's scientific integrity. We provide here quicklinks to each of our journal policies:

- [Editorial Policies](#)
- [Appeals and Complaints](#)
- [Authorship Principles](#)
- [Biosafety and Biosecurity](#)
- [Competing Interests](#)
- [Complementary and Alternative Medicine Standards for Research](#)
- [Corrections and Retractions](#)

- [Data Availability Statement](#) (See below for this journal's Research Data Policy specifically)
- [Ethical responsibilities of authors](#)
- [Informed Consent](#)
- [List of Recommended Repositories](#)
- [Predatory Journals and References](#)
- [Preprint Sharing](#)
- [Policy, Process and Guidance for Peer Reviewers](#)
- [Research involving animals, and their data or biological material](#)
 - We recommend authors to consult the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) [Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals \(2020\)](#), as a comprehensive resource for guidance on veterinary best practice for the anaesthesia and euthanasia of animals.
- [Research Involving Human Participants, their Data or Biological Material](#)
- [Research Involving Human Embryos](#)
- [Sex and Gender in Research \(SAGER Guidelines\)](#)
- [Utilization of plants, algae, fungi](#)

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The AAPS Journal adheres to Springer Nature's [Research Data Policy Type 1](#). The journal encourages authors, where possible and applicable, to deposit data that support the findings of their research in a public repository. Authors and editors who do not have a preferred repository should consult Springer Nature's list of repositories and research data policy.

- [List of Repositories](#)
- [Research Data FAQs](#)

General repositories, for all types of research data—such as figshare and Dryad—may also be used.

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Springer Nature provides a research data policy support service for authors and editors. They can be contacted via the [Helpdesk](#), which provides advice on research data policy compliance and on finding research data repositories. It is independent of journal editorial offices, and it does not advise on specific manuscripts.

Financial Interests and Transparency

The AAPS Journal values full transparency, and expects authors to disclose funding for the research, the authors' financial relationships to the research, and to acknowledge any special thanks or support for those whose contributions were meaningful.

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Below, prospective *AAPS Journal* authors can find three distinct sections with the description of what belongs in each (also found in the Manuscript Preparation section, above):

- *Acknowledgements*: This section is optional and is for special thanks or dedications. Work done by a contributor or medical writer that does not qualify them for authorship, but which warrants acknowledgement, should be noted here. Funding information does not belong in this section, but instead in the “Funding” section below.
- *Funding Statement*: The Funding section is mandatory. Authors must declare sources of study funding including sponsorship (e.g., university, charity, commercial organization) and sources of material (e.g., novel drugs) not available commercially. More information on this section [can be found here](#).
- *Conflict of Interest Statement*: This section is also mandatory; in this section, authors must disclose their particular financial relationships to the work described. This information will be published as part of the paper. They should include any of the following:
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 - Patents or patent applications whose value may be affected by publication.
 More information on the Conflict of Interest section [can be found here](#).

Image Integrity and Standards

Images submitted with a manuscript for review should be minimally processed (for instance, to add arrows to a micrograph). Authors should retain their unprocessed data and metadata files, as editors may request them to aid in manuscript evaluation. If unprocessed data are unavailable, manuscript evaluation may be stalled until the issue is resolved. All digitized images submitted with the final revision of the manuscript must be of high quality and have resolutions of at least 300 dpi for color.

A certain degree of image processing is acceptable for publication (and for some experiments, fields, and techniques is unavoidable), but the final image must correctly represent the original data and conform to community standards. The guidelines below will aid in accurate data presentation at the image processing level; authors must also take care to exercise prudence during data acquisition, where misrepresentation must equally be avoided.

- Authors should list all image acquisition tools and image processing software packages used. Authors should document key image-gathering settings and processing manipulations in the Methods.
- Images gathered at different times or from different locations should not be combined into a single image, unless it is stated that the resultant image is a product of time-averaged data or a time-lapse sequence. If juxtaposing images is essential, the borders should be clearly demarcated in the figure and described in the legend.
- The use of touch-up tools, such as cloning and healing tools in Photoshop, or any feature that deliberately obscures manipulations, must be avoided.

- Processing (such as changing brightness and contrast) is appropriate **only when it is applied equally across the entire image and is applied equally to controls**. Contrast should not be adjusted so that data disappear. Excessive manipulations, such as processing to emphasize one region in the image at the expense of others (for example, through the use of a biased choice of threshold settings), is inappropriate, as is emphasizing experimental data relative to the control.

Further guidance can be found below on the following points:

- [Electrophoretic gels and blots](#)
- [Microscopy](#)
- [Useful editorials on the topic](#)

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