

## Information for Authors

### *Advances in Laboratory Medicine – Avances en Medicina de Laboratorio*

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## 1 About the Journal

*Advances in Laboratory Medicine – Avances en Medicina de Laboratorio* (Adv Lab Med) is the official journal of the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC-ML). *Adv Lab Med* publishes contributions in the field of medical sciences, including Biochemistry, Hematology, Toxicology, Microbiology and Parasitology, Immunology, and Genetics. Articles focusing on the choice, performance or interpretation of clinical tests are especially welcome. Animal or cell-culture studies need to justify their eligibility for a clinical laboratory.

*Adv Lab Med* is an international scientific peer-review, open access, and bilingual journal that publishes articles in the following categories:

- Research Articles: full length articles and short communications.
- Reviews and Mini Reviews. Reviews and Mini Reviews are normally published by invitation, but suggestions to the Editors are welcome.
- Opinion Papers.
- Editorials. Editorials are normally published by invitation, but suggestions to the Editors are welcome.
- Letters to the Editor and Replies.
- Case Reports.
- Guidelines and Recommendations.

Submissions in the following fields are welcome:

- Clinical Chemistry
- Clinical Hematology and Coagulation
- Genetic and Molecular Biology
- Clinical Immunology and Autoimmunity
- Clinical Microbiology and Parasitology
- Drug Monitoring and Toxicology
- Evaluation of Diagnostic Biomarkers
- New Technologies and Methodologies
- Reference Materials and Methods
- Reference Values and Decision Limits
- Quality Control
- Translational Laboratory Medicine
- Endocrinology and Metabolism
- Lipids and Lipoproteins
- Cardiovascular Risk Factors
- Cancer Biomarkers
- Clinical Metrology
- Laboratory Management
- POCT

### **1.1 Open Access Journal**

*Adv Lab Med* is an Open Access journal, which is issued quarterly. Authors are not charged for manuscript processing and publication. The Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine-ML (SEQC-ML) will cover processing and publication charges. SEQC-ML plays no role in the selection and publication of the articles, nor does it influence peer review.

### **1.2 Language**

*Adv Lab Med* accepts manuscripts in either English or Spanish language, but not both. Manuscripts submitted in both languages will be returned to the author. Once accepted, the article will be published in the submitted language. Upon publication, the article will be translated into the complementary language and subsequently published online next to the original article. SEQC-ML will cover the translation costs.

### **1.3 Turnaround times**

*Adv Lab Med* aspires to notify authors about the peer review decision within 4-6 weeks from submission date. Revised manuscripts should be returned within 6 weeks. Accepted articles are published online within 4 weeks after acceptance in the original language of submission and two months later in the translated language.

### **1.4 Review process**

*Adv Lab Med* is a single-blind journal. Manuscripts are reviewed anonymously by at least two independent reviewers selected by the Editors. The internal procedures of *Adv Lab Med* ensure that this standard is also maintained for all articles authored by members of the Editorial Team.

### **1.5 Rejection of manuscripts**

Manuscripts dealing with subjects that have been well studied in the literature, and that do not resolve questions raised by previous studies, or manuscripts that are statistically underpowered, are likely to be rejected without peer re-view. This applies in particular to studies of genetic associations, which will be considered only if they contribute new insights and are statistically valid according to generally accepted criteria. Articles which are likely to affect the choice, performance or interpretation of clinical tests will be favored over those which do not, and animal or cell-culture studies need to justify their eligibility. Reporting of negative results must be justified by prior evidence that a positive result would be expected. Manuscripts are also returned to authors if they do not comply with the Information for Authors (e.g., if the number of words allowed for a certain article type will be exceeded).

### **1.6 Unpublished material**

Submission of a manuscript to *Adv Lab Med* implies that the work described has not been published previously, except in the form of an abstract, academic thesis or

lecture; that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere; that publication of the work is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that upon acceptance for publication the submission will be published under the Creative Commons License [CC BY 4.0](#) (Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially).

**Appeals** Manuscripts that have been declined for publication will be reconsidered only at the discretion of the editor(s). Authors who wish to request reconsideration of a previously rejected manuscript must do so in written form with a rebuttal emailed to the journal editorial office. Authors should explain in detail the reasons why they believe the manuscript should be reconsidered. If the rebuttal is accepted, the author will be asked to re-submit. The new manuscript will receive a new ID and submission date and then undergo peer review.

## 2 Ethical conduct of research

For information on plagiarism, please refer to [COPE Committee on Publication Ethics](#). Please note that *Adv Lab Med* uses the check program "iThenticate" to assess for potential overlap in prior publication(s). Any previously published material must be referenced appropriately in the manuscript.

### 2.1 Informed consent

The protection of privacy is a legal right that must not be infringed without individual informed consent. In cases where the identification of personal information is necessary for scientific reasons, authors should obtain full documentation of informed consent, including written permission from the patient or their legal guardians prior to inclusion in the study.

**Authorization for the use of human subjects:** Manuscripts containing information related to human use should clearly state that the research complies with all relevant national regulations and institutional policies and has been approved by the authors' Institutional Review Board or any equivalent Committee. Copies of the guidelines and policy statements must be available for review by the Managing Editor if necessary. The editors reserve the right to seek additional information or guidance from reviewers on any cases in which concerns arise. All investigations with human subjects must have been conducted by following the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki, what is more authors must identify the committee or review board approving the experiments, and provide a statement indicating approval of the research. The following (or similar) statement should be included in the manuscript as a separate paragraph under a separate section heading:

Ethical statement: The research related to human use has been complied with all the relevant national regulations, institutional policies and in accordance the tenets of the Helsinki Declaration, and has been approved by the authors' Institutional Review Board or equivalent committee. Informed consent was obtained from all individuals included in this study. (If applicable)

**Authorization for the use of experimental animals:** Manuscripts containing information related to animals use should clearly state that the research has complied with all

relevant national regulations and institutional policies and has been approved by the authors' institutional review board or equivalent committee. Copies of the guidelines and policy statements must be available for review by the Managing Editor if necessary. The editors reserve the right to seek additional information or guidance from reviewers on any cases in which concerns arise. The research using animal subjects should be conducted according to the Principles of Laboratory Animal Care and similar documents (e.g. NIH). For manuscripts reporting experiments on live vertebrates or higher invertebrates, authors must identify the committee approving the experiments, and must confirm that all experiments were performed in accordance with relevant regulations. The following (or similar) statement should be included in the manuscript as a separate paragraph under a separate section heading:

Ethical statement: The research related to animals use has been complied with all the relevant national regulations and institutional policies for the care and use of animals.

If the manuscript reports on a study that requires no human or animal ethical approval, the following statement should be included in the manuscript :

Ethical statement: The conducted research is not related to either human or animal use and therefore the it is exempted from approval by the Institutional Review Board.

## **2.2 Conflict of interest and author contributions**

A conflict of interest for a given manuscript exists when a participant in the peer review and publication process – author, reviewer, and editor – has ties to activities that could inappropriately influence his or her judgment, regardless of whether judgment is, in fact, affected. Financial relationships with industry (for example, employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, expert testimony), either directly or through immediate family, are usually considered the most important conflicts of interest. However, conflicts can occur for other reasons, such as financial support of the study, ties to health insurance, politics or other stakeholders, personal relationships, academic competition, and intellectual passion.

To ensure fair and objective decision-making, authors must declare any associations that pose a conflict of interest (financial, personal or professional) in connection with the manuscript under evaluation. This must be declared during the submission process and also at the end of the manuscript. If you have no declaration to make, please insert None declared. The below mentioned statement should be included before the Reference section (or after the Acknowledgments section, if applicable). Authors must also declare responsibility for the entire content of the manuscript and may declare individual contributions of each author, if applicable.

**Acknowledgments:** (If applicable).

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**Employment or leadership:** Declaration or None declared.

**Honorarium:** Declaration or None declared.

**Competing interests:** The funding organization(s) played no role in the study design; in the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; or in the decision to submit the report for publication.

## 2.3 Copyright

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## 2.4 Note for authors of NIH-funded research

De Gruyter acknowledges that the author of a US-agency-funded article retains the right to provide a copy of the final manuscript to agency upon acceptance for publication or thereafter, for public archiving in PubMed Central 12 months after publication in *Adv Lab Med*. Note that only the accepted author's version of the manuscript, not the PDF file of the published article, may be used for NIH archiving.

## 3 Submission of manuscripts

Please submit manuscripts exclusively online at: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/almed>

## 4 Preparation of manuscripts

Manuscripts should be written in clear and concise language. Please have your text proof-read by a native speaker or professional language service before you submit it for consideration. At proof stage, only minor changes other than corrections of printers' errors are allowed.

### 4.1 Cover letter

Each manuscript should be accompanied by a cover letter addressed to the Editor-in-Chief containing a brief statement by the authors describing the novelty and importance of their research.

### 4.2 Title page

Each submission should be accompanied by a title page containing the title and the short title of the manuscript, the full names of all authors (personal name, middle initials, family name) followed by their affiliations: department, institution, city, country, and the full name, postal address and e-mail address of the corresponding author. The title page should also include word count, number of tables and figures, and, if applicable, information about supplemental material.

### 4.3 Abstract and keywords

The manuscript should start with the Abstract. The Abstract in original Research Articles should be structured into Background, Methods, Results, Conclusion. The Abstract in Guidelines, Recommendations, Reviews and Mini Reviews, and Opinion PApers should be structured into Background, Content, Summary and Outlook.

Below the Abstract, Keywords should be given in alphabetical order and separated by semicolons.

### 4.4 Abbreviations

All non-standard abbreviations should be listed alphabetically, (e.g.: TEX, tumor-derived exosomes;) after the Keywords. In the Abstract and in the text body, abbreviations are spelt out when first mentioned followed by the abbreviation in parenthesis. Thereafter, only abbreviations are to be used.

### 4.5 General format and length

*Adv Lab Med* accepts manuscripts in Microsoft Word. Please do not send a PDF. Type the manuscript (including table legends, figure legends and references) double spaced using 12 pt font size and 2.54 cm margins. Number all pages. Do not use footnotes in the text, use parentheses instead.

General structure of the text body:

- Two types of original Research Articles can be submitted for publication: full length articles and short communications. The main text of full length articles should be structured into Introduction, Materials (Subjects) and methods, Results, and Discussion (and Conclusion, if not contained in the Discussion section). In the Discussion section, you may also add separate paragraphs describing the Strength and Limitations of your study. Short Communications contain an Abstract, the main text is unstructured. Materials and methods are described in the legend to Figures and Tables.
- The main text of Case Reports should be structured into Introduction, Case presentation, Discussion and up to 5 learning points.
- Guidelines and Recommendations, Reviews and Mini Reviews should be structured into subsections.
- Editorials and Letters to the Editor & Reply are unstructured.

When you submit your work, please ensure the following:

- The manuscript is complete and uploaded correctly. (The HTML version and the PDF file generated from the submitted files must be approved.)
- The title page, Abstract, Keywords, List of Abbreviations, Tables and Figures, and captions and legends are included.
- All Figures and Tables have been uploaded and appear correctly at the end of the PDF.
- Manuscript is spell-checked and within the word limit for the type of article.

- References are in the correct format (Vancouver style) and cited sequentially in the text.
- References mentioned in the reference list are cited in the text and vice versa.
- Ethical approval is obtained and mentioned in the text.
- Numbers in the text, tables, or figures use decimal points, not commas.
- Supplier names, incl. city and country, are provided for reagents and apparatus reported in the manuscript.

#### General format and length of the types of articles accepted for submission

Article Category	Word count in main text*	Word count in abstract	Number of keywords	Number of Tables & Figures	Number of references
Full length articles	3,500	250	3-6	6	50
Short Communication	1,500	200	3-5	3	15
Review Article	5,000	200	3-6	6	70
Mini Review	3,500	200	3-6	4	40
Opinion Paper	3,500	250	3-6	2	40
Editorial	1,500	n/a**	n/a	1	10
Letter to the Editor & Reply	750	n/a	3-5	2	10
Case Report	1,500	n/a	3	4	15
Guidelines and Recommendations	3,500	200	3-6	6	60

\*Word count does not include title page, abstract, keywords, acknowledgments, conflict of interest, references, tables, figure legends, figures or learning points. \*\* n/a: non applicable.

**Studies dealing with diagnostic accuracy:** Please refer to the 2015 Standards for Reporting of Diagnostic Accuracy checklist ([STARD](#)).

**Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses of randomized controlled trials:** Please refer to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta- Analyses statement ([PRISMA](#)). Authors must include a suitable PRISMA flow chart in their submission. The flow diagram depicts the flow of information through the different phases of a systematic review. A template of the PRISMA flow diagram is available [here](#) as a PDF and Word document.

#### 4.6 Acknowledgments

Acknowledgments (if applicable) should be placed at the end of the main text.

#### 4.7 References

Adhere strictly to the reference style of the Journal (Vancouver; recommendations of the "International Committee of Medical Journals Editors"; see [Reference Style](#)). All references mentioned in the Reference list must be mentioned in the text, and vice versa. List and number the references consecutively in the order that they appear in the text, including Tables and Figures. In the text, identify references by Arabic numerals in [parentheses]. Italic and boldface font type in the Reference section is not allowed. List all authors; if the number is 7 or



more, list the first 6 names followed by et al. Identify authors by last name first, followed by up to 2 initials, without periods, indicating the authors' first name. Only the first name of the title is capitalized, as well as proper names within the title. Journal names are abbreviated as indicated in PubMed and in the Web of Knowledge ([NIH.Linkout.Journals](#); [Web of Knowledge](#)), without periods. After the abbreviated journal name, give the year of publication, followed by a semicolon, volume number (but no issue number), followed by a double colon, and the page numbers, with the last page number in shortened format. Meeting abstracts may be cited only if published in journals. Unpublished observations and personal communications are cited only in the text. Correct linking of the references depends on strict adherence to Journal style.

- Articles in journals: Cohen L, Keegan A, Melanson SEF, Walt DR. Impact of clinical sample handling and processing on ultra-low level measurements of plasma cytokines. *Clin Biochem* 2019;65:38-44.
- Articles ahead of print: Dangaj D, Barras D, Coukos G. Tumor Landscapes:  $\beta$ -Catenin Drives Immune Desertification. *Clin Cancer Res* 2019 Mar 5. doi: 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-19-0188. [Epub ahead of print]
- Articles in online only journals: Tominaga T, Akiyoshi T, Yamamoto N, Taguchi S, Mori S, Nagasaki T, et al. Clinical significance of soluble programmed cell death-1 and soluble programmed cell death-ligand 1 in patients with locally advanced rectal cancer treated with neoadjuvant chemoradiotherapy. *PLoS One* 2019 Feb 26;14:e0212978.
- Supplements: Daudon M, Frochot V. Crystalluria. *Clin Chem Lab Med* 2015;53 Suppl 2:s1479-87.
- Books and Monographs: Kahn CR, Weir GC, editors. *Joslin's diabetes mellitus*, 13th ed. Philadelphia: Lea and Febiger, 1994:1068.
- Chapters in Books: Karnofsky DH, Burchenal JH. The clinical evaluation of chemotherapeutic agents in cancer. In: Macleod CM, editor. *Evaluation of chemotherapeutic agents*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1949:191–205.
- Website: World Health Organization. WHO information for laboratory diagnosis of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus in humans update. Available at: [http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/swineflu/WHO\\_Diagnostic\\_Recommendation\\_sH1N1\\_20\\_090521.pdf](http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/swineflu/WHO_Diagnostic_Recommendation_sH1N1_20_090521.pdf). Accessed: 6 Nov 2009.

#### 4.8 Tables

Number Tables consecutively using Arabic numerals. Provide a short descriptive title, column headings, and (if necessary) footnotes to make each Table self-explanatory. In the footnote, refer to information within the Table with superscript lowercase letters, and do not use special characters or numbers. Separate units with a comma and use parentheses or square brackets for additional measures (e.g., %, range, etc). Refer to Tables in the text as Table 1, etc. Use Table 1 (boldface), etc. in the title of the Table.

## 4.9 Figures

**General requirements:** All illustrations must be of reproduction-ready quality. They will be reduced in size to fit, whenever possible, the width of a single column. Lettering of all Figures within the article should be uniform in style (preferably a sans serif typeface like Helvetica) and of sufficient size (ca. 10 pt.). Uppercase letters A, B, C, etc. should be used to identify parts of multi-part Figures. In the legend, these letters are included in parentheses. Cite all Figures in the text in numerical order. Indicate the approximate placement of each Figure. Do not embed Figures within the text body of the manuscript.

**Halftone figures and line drawings:** Figures should have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi (halftone figures) and 1200 dpi (line drawings) and be of good contrast. Faint shading may be lost upon reproduction. When drawing bar graphs, use patterning instead of greyscales.

**Color plates:** Authors are encouraged to submit illustrations in color.

**Figure legends:** Provide a short descriptive title and a legend, either below the Figure, in the main text, or on separate pages, to make each Figure self-explanatory. Explain all symbols used in a Figure. Remember to use the same abbreviations as in the text body.

## 4.10 Videos

Authors are encouraged to submit videos accompanying the article as Supplemental Material.

## 4.11 Supplemental material

You may submit Supplemental material, i.e. additional tables, figures, videos, appendices or other additional material (e.g. references) that exceeds the limitation of the article and/or illustrates the contents of your article. Supplemental material should be uploaded as separate file(s) during submission. Within the text, Supplemental material must be cited consecutively and be referred to as Supplemental material (e.g. see Supplemental Material, Figure 1, or Supplemental Figure 1). Supplemental material is subject to peer review as part of the manuscript. If the manuscript is accepted and the Supplemental material is posted online, it will be referenced in the article of the printed version together with the URL where it can be found.

## 4.12 Nomenclature

**Nomenclature** Follow the rules of the IUPAC-IUB Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature, as indicated in [IUB Biochemical Nomenclature and Related Documents](#). Enzyme names should be in accordance with the recommendations of the [IUPAC-IUB Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature](#), 1978, as in *Enzyme Nomenclature*, published by Academic Press, New York, 1992. Genotypes should be given in italics, phenotypes should not be italicized. Indicate the gene symbol and gene name as approved by the [HUGO Gene Nomenclature Committee](#). Nomenclature of bacterial genetics should follow Damerec et al. *Genetics* 1966; 54:61–76 ([Damerec et al.](#)).

### 4.13 Permissions

It is the authors' responsibility to obtain permission to reproduce original or modified material that has been previously published elsewhere.

## 5 Post-acceptance

### 5.1 Proofs

The corresponding author of an article will receive the proofs in electronic form to check for editing and type-setting accuracy. Proofs will be sent in the original submission language of the article. Major changes to the article as accepted for publication will not be considered at this stage, unless the authors pay for these changes.

### 5.2 Offprints

The electronic files of typeset articles in Adobe Acrobat PDF format are provided free of charge; corresponding authors receive an e-mail notification that their article has been published online.

**Please contact the Editorial Office with any further questions:** Albert Bastias González, E-mail: [alm@seqc.es](mailto:alm@seqc.es); or Heike Jahnke, E-mail: [almed.editorial@degruyter.com](mailto:almed.editorial@degruyter.com);