

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, Haematology, 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.
- 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 Haematology 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 favoured 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 [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#). 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 animal's 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 animal's 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

All authors must sign a [License to Publish Agreement](#) and a [Template for Ethical and Legal Declarations](#) attached to the submitted manuscript.

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).

Author contributions: All the authors have accepted responsibility for the entire content of this submitted manuscript and approved submission.

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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 type, title and running title of the manuscript (less than 10 words), 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. 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, tumour-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 only accepts manuscripts in Microsoft Word format. Avoid submitting manuscripts in PDF format. Papers should be written in Arial, font size 11pt, spacing 1.5, with margins set to 2.54 cm. Number all pages. Do not use footnotes in the text, use parentheses instead.

General structure of manuscripts:

Research article

- Structure of the body of the manuscript: *Introduction, Material and Methods, Results and Discussion*. The Results and Discussion sections can be combined.
- **Abstract**: structured into *Introduction, Material and Methods, Results and Conclusions*. Word limit: 250 words.
- **Word limit for the body of the manuscript**: 3,500 words
- **Maximum number of tables and figures (combined)** 6

- **Maximum number of references:** 50

Short communication

- Structure of the body of the manuscript: No standard structure
- **Abstract:** Word limit: 200 words.
- **Word limit for the body of the manuscript:** 1,500
- Maximum number of tables and figures (combined) 3
- Maximum number of references: 15

Review article

- Structure of the body of the manuscript: Structured into subsections.
- **Abstract:** structured into *Introduction, Body, Abstract and Perspective*. Word limit: 200 words.
- **Word limit for the body of the manuscript:** 5,000
- Maximum number of tables and figures (combined) 6.

Mini-review

- Structure of the body of the manuscript: Structured into subsections.
- **Abstract:** structured into *Introduction, Body, Abstract and Perspective*. Word limit: 200 words.
- **Word limit for the body of the manuscript:** 3,500
- Maximum number of tables and figures (combined) 4

Leading article (editorial)

- Structure of the body of the manuscript: No standard structure is required
- **Abstract:** No abstract is required
- **Word limit for the body of the manuscript:** 1,500
- Maximum number of tables and figures (combined) 1.
- Maximum number of references: 4

Letter to the editor

- Structure of the body of the manuscript: No standard structure is required
- **Abstract:** No abstract is required
- **Word limit for the body of the manuscript:** 750

- Maximum number of tables and figures (combined) 2
- Maximum number of references: 10

Case report

- Structure of the body of the manuscript: *Introduction, case report, discussion and (up to) 5 lessons learned*
- **Abstract:** structure into *Introduction, case report, discussion*. Word limit: 200 words.
- **Word limit for the body of the manuscript:** 1,500
- Maximum number of tables and figures (combined) 4
- Maximum number of references: 15

Guidelines and Recommendations

- Structure of the body of the manuscript: Structured into subsections.
- **Abstract:** structured into *Introduction, Body, Abstract and Perspective*. Word limit: 200 words.
- **Word limit for the body of the manuscript:** 3,500
- Maximum number of tables and figures (combined) 6.

4.6 Aspects to considerer when you submit your work

- 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, captions, legends and references in Vancouver style 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 should be cited in the text between brackets in order of appearance in the appropriate format (Vancouver style).
- References mentioned in the reference list are cited in the text and vice versa.
- If applicable, Ethical approval is obtained and mentioned in the text and in the Publication Ethics and Publication Malpractice Statement.
- 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.

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.

4.7 Acknowledgments

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

4.8 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 [square brackets]. Please, format the text as follows:

Single reference	[1]
Series of references	[2, 8, 25]
Range of references	[5–12]
Order of appearance	Sequential

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 Science ([NIH.Linkout.Journals](#); [Web of Science](#)), 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.

Please, format the list of references as follows:

- **Journal paper:** Raustorp A, Mattsson E, Svensson K, Costa PT Jr. Physical activity, body composition and physical self-esteem: a 3-year follow-up study among adolescents in Sweden. *Scand J Med Sci Sports* 2006;16:258–66.

- **Journal with supplementary material:** Sallis JF, Saelens BE. Assessment of physical activity by self-report: status, limitations, and future directions. *Res Q Exerc Sport* 2000;71(2 Suppl):S1–14.
- **Collaboration:** WHO. The diagnosis and management of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease: practice guideline by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, American College of Gastroenterology, and the American Gastroenterological Association. *Hepatology* 2012;55:2005–23.
- **Use of “et al”** (más de 6 autores = 6 autores + et al.): Kaye K, Day RD, Hair EC, Moore KA, Hadley AM, Teixeira PJ, et al. Parent marital quality and the parent-adolescent relationship: effects on sexual activity among adolescents and youth. *Marriage Fam Rev* 2009;45:270–88.
- **Epub ahead of print:** Mason EB, Burkhart K, Lazebnik R. Adolescent stress management in a primary care clinic. *J Pediatr Health Care* 2018 Sep 3. DOI: 10.1016/j.pedhc.2018.08.001 [Epub ahead of print].
- **Press magazine:** Tappy L, Lara KA. Metabolic effects of fructose and the worldwide increase in obesity. *Physiol Rev*, in press.
- **Book/ Monograph:** Shek DTL, Sun RCF, Merrick J. University and college students. Health and development issues for the leaders of tomorrow. New York: Nova Science; 2013.
- **Book with multiple editions:** Joannopoulos JD, Johnson SG, Winn JN, Meade RD. Photonic crystals: molding the flow of light, 2nd ed. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press; 2008:350 p.
- **Edited book:** Shek DTL, Ma C, Yu L, Merrick J, editors. Human developmental research. Experience from research in Hong Kong. New York: Nova Science; 2014.
- **Edited book with chapter titles and editors:** Halpen-Felsher BL, Morrell HE. Preventing and reducing tobacco use. In: Berlan ED, Bravender T, editors. Adolescent medicine today: a guide to caring for the adolescent patient [Internet]. Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co.; 2012.
- **Series of edited books:** Forghieri F, Tkach RW, Chraplyvy AR. Optical fiber telecommunications, Kaminov IP, Koch TL, editors. San Diego, CA: Academic; 1997, vol IIIA.
- **Minutes / Record / Lecture:** Musaka K, Akasaka Y, Suzuki Y, Kamiya T. Novel network fiber to manage dispersion at 1.55 μm with combination of 1.3 μm zero dispersion single mode fiber. In: Proceedings of the symposium on robotics, mechatronics and animatronics in the creative and entertainment industries and arts. SSAISB 2005. University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, UK; 2005.
- **Online publications (available at:):** European Medicines Agency, Benefit-Risk Methodology Project. Work package 2 report: applicability of current tools and processes for regulatory

benefit-risk assessment (revision 1). London: European Medicines Agency; 2010. Available from: <https://www.ema.europa.eu/> [Accessed 17 Nov 2021].

- **Thesis / Dissertation:** Cotruvo, J. Kinetic model for chlorophyll degradation [Ph.D. thesis]. Cambridge, MA: Massachusetts Institute of Technology; 1996.
- **Report:** Rowe IL, Carson NE. Medical manpower in Victoria. East Bentleigh (AU): Monash University, Department of Community Practice; 1981. 35 p., Report No. 4.
- **Patent:** Pagedas AC. Flexible endoscopic grasping and cutting device and positioning tool assembly. United States patent 20020103498, 2002.
- **Standard:** Frequency response and bias, NERC Reliability Standard BAL-003-0.1b, May 2009 [Online]. Available from: http://www.nerc.com/files/BAL-003-0_1b.pdf

4.9 Tables

All tables should be supplied in Word format or in a compatible format. Please, avoid tables in .pdf format. 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). Please, include a list of the abbreviations and acronyms used in the table. Refer to Tables in the text as Table 1, etc. Use Table 1 (boldface), etc. in the title of the Table.

4.10 Figures

General requirements: All figures should be presented in Word or PowerPoint format or a compatible format. Please, avoid figures in .pdf format. 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 grayscales.

Colour plates: Authors are encouraged to submit illustrations in colour.

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. Please, include a list of all the abbreviations and acronyms used in the figure. Remember to use the same abbreviations as in the text body.

4.11 Videos

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

4.12 Supplemental material

You may submit Supplemental material, e.g., 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.

4.13 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.

4.14 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.

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