

Instructions for Authors

Scope

Open Health is an open-access, peer-reviewed journal that is a forum for presenting novel research, systematic reviews, and discussions on the promotion of health and disease prevention. A special focus is on factors relating to social and personal aspects of human health. Our journal provides academically thoughtful and up-to-date reports within the research community on topics including:

- Physical and mental health
- Public, environmental, and occupational health
- Nutrition and dietetics
- Physical activity
- Lifestyle change
- Health policy and systems
- Global health
- Health economics
- Digital health
- Epidemiology
- Geo-political influences on health

In parallel we aim at emphasizing the importance of published research in building health-promoting awareness and behaviors in society. The global importance and dynamics of many health-related matters, including human rights, epidemiology, and migration place them within the journal scope. The open-access publishing model for *Open Health* allows a wide group of individuals to access meaningful data and make informed decisions.

Publication in *Open Health* is free of charge.

Editorial policy

Unpublished material

Submission of a manuscript implies that the work described is not copyrighted, published or submitted elsewhere, except in abstract form. The corresponding author should ensure that all authors approve the manuscript before its submission.

Conflict of interest

When authors submit a manuscript, they are responsible for recognizing and disclosing financial and/or other conflicts of interest that might bias their work and/or could inappropriately influence his/her judgment. If no specified acknowledgment is given, the Editors assume that no conflict of interest exists.

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Authorship

Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study. All those who have made significant contributions should be listed as co-authors. Where there are others who have participated in certain substantive aspects of the research project, they should be named in an Acknowledgment section.

Peer review process

The Editors reserve the right to decline the submitted manuscript without review, if the studies reported are not sufficiently novel or important to merit publication in the journal. Manuscripts deemed unsuitable (insufficient originality or of limited interest to the target audience) are returned to the author(s) without review. The Editor seeks

advice from experts in the appropriate field. Research articles and communications are refereed by a minimum of two reviewers, review papers by at least three. The journal uses single-blind peer review model. Authors are requested to suggest persons competent to review their manuscript. However, please note that this will be treated only as a suggestion, and the final selection of reviewers is exclusively the Editor's decision. The final decision of acceptance is made by the Managing Editor or, in case of conflict, by the Editor-in-Chief.

Data sharing policy

The journal requires authors to follow data sharing policy. Research data should be made widely available to the research community in order to demonstrate the robustness and validity of the research presented in the journal, to encourage replication of the results, and to provide the community with opportunities to learn. By publishing in the journal authors are required to provide a data availability statement (DAS) in their articles. Authors are encouraged to share their data but not required to. The decision to publish will not be affected by whether or not authors share their research data.

Scientific misconduct

This journal publishes only original manuscripts that are not also published or going to be published elsewhere. Multiple submissions/publications, or redundant publications (re-packaging in different words of data already published by the same authors) will be rejected. If they are detected only after publication, the journal reserves the right to publish a Retraction Note. In each particular case Editors will follow [COPE's Code of Conduct](#) and implement its advice.

Electronic submission

Open Health encourages the submission of both substantial full-length bodies of work and shorter manuscripts that report novel findings. There are no specific length restrictions for the overall manuscript or individual sections; however, we urge the authors to present and discuss their findings in a concise and accessible manner. All submitted manuscripts must be written in English language.

Manuscripts submitted under multiple authorship are reviewed on the assumption that all listed authors concur in the submission and are responsible for its content; they must have agreed to its publication and have given the corresponding author the authority to act on their behalf in all matters pertaining to publication. The corresponding author is responsible for informing the co-authors of the manuscript status throughout the submission, review, and production process.

All manuscripts must be made electronically via Editorial Manager, an online submission and peer review system (<https://www.editorialmanager.com/openhe>). First-time users must create an Author account in order to obtain a user ID and password required to enter the system. All manuscripts receive individual identification codes that should be used in any correspondence with regard to the publication process. If you experience difficulties with the manuscript submission website, please contact the Editorial Office of this journal (openhealth@degruyter.com).

Publication formats

This journal considers submissions of:

- Research Articles
- Short Communications
- Review Articles
- Commentaries
- Letters to the Editor

Electronic formats allowed

We accept submission of text, tables and figures as separate files or as a composite file. For your initial submission, we recommend you upload your entire manuscript, including tables and figures, as a single PDF file. If you are invited to submit a revised manuscript, please provide us with individual files: an editable text and publication-quality figures.

- Text files can be submitted in the following formats:

- MS Word – standard DOCUMENT (.DOC/.DOCX)
- RICH TEXT FORMAT (.RTF)
- PDF (not applicable for re-submitted or accepted manuscripts)

– Tables should be submitted as MS Word or PDF (not applicable for re-submitted or accepted manuscripts). Please note that a straight Excel file is not an acceptable format.

– Graphics files can be submitted in any of the following graphic formats: EPS, BMP, JPG, TIFF, GIF, PDF. Please note that PowerPoint files are not accepted.

Post-acceptance, text files of the revised manuscript and tables are required for use in the production. Authors should clearly indicate the location(s) of tables and figures in the text if these elements are given separately or at the end of the manuscript. If this information is not provided to the editorial office, we will assume that they should be left at the end of the text.

First-time submission of manuscripts

It is important that authors include a cover letter with their manuscript. Please explain why you consider your manuscript to be suitable for publication in *Open Health*, why your paper will inspire the other members of your field, and how will it drive academic discussion forward.

The cover letter should explicitly state that the manuscript (or one with substantially the same content, by any of the authors) has not been previously published in any language anywhere and that it is not under simultaneous consideration or in press by another journal. If related work has been submitted, then we may require a preprint to be made available. Reviewers will be asked to comment on the overlap between the related submissions.

Manuscripts that have been previously rejected, or withdrawn after being returned for modification, may be resubmitted if the major criticisms have been addressed. The cover letter must state that the manuscript is a resubmission, and the former manuscript number should be provided.

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Submission of revised articles

Resubmitted manuscripts should be accompanied by a letter outlining a point-by-point response to Editor's and reviewers' comments and detailing the changes made to the manuscript. A copy of the original manuscript should be included for comparison if the Editor requests one. If it is the first revision, authors need to return the revised manuscript within 28 days; if it is the second revision, authors need to return the revised manuscript within 14 days. Additional time for resubmission must be requested in advance. If the above-mentioned deadlines are not met, the manuscript will be treated as a new submission.

For resubmitted manuscripts, please provide us with an editable text and publication-quality figures. Supply any figures as separate high-resolution, print-ready digital versions.

In addition to the editorial remarks, authors are asked to take care that they have prepared the revised version according to the journal's style.

Organization of the manuscript

We draw particular attention to the importance of carefully preparing the title, keywords and abstract, as these elements are indicators of the manuscript content in bibliographic databases and search engines.

Title

We suggest the title should be informative, specific to the project, yet concise (200 characters or fewer). Please bear in mind that a title that is comprehensible to a broad academic audience and readers outside your field will attract a wider readership. Avoid specialist abbreviations and non-standard acronyms. Titles should not be presented in title

case (words should not be capitalized). Please also provide a brief "short title" of not more than 70 characters.

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In the cover letter, provide the first names (or initials – if used), middle names (or initials – if used), and surnames for all authors. Affiliations should include:

- Department
- University or organization
- City
- Postal code (optional)
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One of the authors should be designated as the corresponding author to whom inquiries regarding the paper should be directed. It is the corresponding author's responsibility to ensure that the author list and the summary of the author contributions to the study are accurate and complete.

Abstract

The abstract should not exceed 250 words. The abstract should give a summary of the content of the paper. Mention the main findings without going into methodological detail and summarize briefly the most important items of the paper. The abstract should not contain literature citations. All nonstandard symbols and abbreviations should be defined. Because the abstract will be published separately by abstracting services, it must be complete and understandable without reference to the text.

Keywords

List keywords for the work presented (maximum of 6), separated by commas. We suggest that keywords do not replicate those used in the title.

Acknowledgments

This section should describe recognition of personal assistance: people who contributed to the work, but do not fit the criteria for authors should be listed along with their contributions. You must ensure that anyone named in the acknowledgments agrees to being so named.

Author statements

This section should describe:

- Funding information (required)
- Author contributions (optional)
- Conflict of interest (required)
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- Ethical approval (if applicable)
- Data availability statement (required)

Please refer to the Author Statements document.

References

Please use the Vancouver/ICMJE reference style: https://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html

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[1] Rose ME, Huerbin MB, Melick J, Marion DW, Palmer AM, Schiding JK, et al. Regulation of interstitial excitatory amino acid concentrations after cortical contusion injury. *Brain Res.* 2002;935(1–2):40–6. doi: 10.1016/s0006-8993(02)02445-9.

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Symbols and abbreviations

The use of special symbols, abbreviations, and acronyms is permitted so long as they are defined upon first mention in the article. The list of abbreviations can be provided before Acknowledgments/Author statements.

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Authors may use photographs, schemes, diagrams, line graphs and bar charts to illustrate their findings. Figures should be suitable for onscreen viewing and desktop printing. High resolution images should be provided on request or on manuscript acceptance. The figures and their lettering should be clear and easy to read. We remind the authors that it is not acceptable scientific conduct to modify any separate element within an image.

Figures should be numbered consecutively using Arabic numerals and referred to in the text by number (Figure 1, Figures 1a and 1b). Each figure legend should have a concise title and should provide enough information so that the figure is understandable without frequent reference to the text.

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Supplementary materials

We encourage authors to submit essential supplementary files that additionally support the authors' conclusions with their manuscripts (the principal conclusions should be fully supported without referral to the supplemental material). Supplemental material will always remain associated with its article and is not subject to any modifications after publication. The decision to publish the material with the article if it is accepted will be made by the Editor. Supporting files of no more than 10 MB in size may be submitted in a variety of formats, but should be publication-ready, as the files will be published exactly as supplied. Material must be restricted to large or complex data sets or results that cannot be readily displayed because of space or technical limitations. Material that has been published previously is not acceptable for posting as supplemental material.

Supporting files should fall into one of the following categories:

- Dataset
- Additional Figure or Table
- Text
- Protocol
- Multimedia – Audio/Video/Animations (AVI, MPEG, WAV, QuickTime, animated GIF or Flash)

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Outline of the production process

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