Instructions for Authors

Scandinavian Journal of Pain (SJPAIN)

1. Aims and Scope

The Scandinavian countries have a long and distinguished tradition of excellent scientific and medical contributions to pain research. The Scandinavian Journal of Pain (SJPAIN) was created out of this tradition. As the scientific journal of the Scandinavian Association for the Study of Pain (www.SASP.org) SJPAIN serves as a comprehensive forum for original research from international researchers on all aspects of pain. In order to bring pain-researchers and pain-clinicians up-to-date on important issues, the journal also encourages submissions of topical reviews.

Topics include: Clinical Science and Epidemiology; Neurophysiology and Neuropathic Pain; Neurobiology and Pharmacology; Pain Measurement, Experimental, Statistics, and Imaging; Psychology.

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2. Editorial Policy

The journal operates a single-blind peer-review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final.

Authorship

Authorship is restricted to those who have made a significant contribution to the conceptual design of the study and/or the execution of the study.

Authors are expected to consider carefully the list and order of authors before submitting their manuscript and provide the definitive list of authors at the time of the original submission. Any addition, deletion or rearrangement of author names in the authorship list should be made only before the manuscript has been accepted and only if approved by the journal Editor. To request such a change, the Editor must receive the following from the corresponding author: (a) the reason for the change in author list and (b) written confirmation (e-mail, letter) from all authors that they agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement. In the case of addition or removal of authors, this includes confirmation from the author being added or removed.

Only in exceptional circumstances will the Editor consider the addition, deletion or rearrangement of authors after the manuscript has been accepted. While the Editor considers the request, publication of the manuscript will be suspended. If the manuscript has already been published in an online issue, any requests approved by the Editor will result in a corrigendum.

Unpublished material

Submission of a manuscript to SJPAIN 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 to SJPAIN.

Ethical conduct of research

If the work involves the use of human subjects, the author should ensure that the work described has been carried out in accordance with The Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki) for experiments involving humans; Uniform Requirements for manuscripts submitted to Biomedical journals. Authors should include a statement in the manuscript that informed consent was obtained for experimentation with human subjects. The privacy rights of human subjects must always be observed.

All animal experiments should comply with the ARRIVE guidelines and should be carried out in accordance with the U.K. Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, 1986 and associated guidelines, EU Directive 2010/63/EU for animal experiments, or the National Institutes of Health guide for the care and use of Laboratory animals (NIH Publications No. 8023, revised 1978) and the authors should clearly indicate in the manuscript that such guidelines have been followed.
The protocol for interventional pain studies on humans should be approved by an institutional clinical research board/committee.

**Conflict of Interest**

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 personal relationships, academic competition, and intellectual passion.

When authors submit a manuscript, they are responsible for recognizing and disclosing financial and/or other conflicts of interest that might bias their work. Any financial support for and financial or personal connections related to the work have to be clearly disclosed in the manuscript. If no specified acknowledgment is given, the Publishers assume that no conflicts of interests exist.

**Reporting Clinical Trials**

Randomized controlled trials should be presented according to the CONSORT guidelines. At manuscript submission, authors must provide the CONSORT checklist accompanied by a flow diagram that illustrates the progress of patients through the trial, including recruitment, enrolment, randomization, withdrawal and completion, and a detailed description of the randomization procedure. The [CONSORT checklist and template flow diagram](#) are available online.

Please submit the CONSORT check-list with the cover-letter to the Editor. In addition, authors should consider describing the outcome measures following the IMMPACT recommendations (Dworkin et al., Pain 2005:113;9-19).

**Registration of clinical trials**

All trials initiated after July 1, 2005 must be registered in a publicly accessible registry before patient inclusion has begun. The name of the registry and the registry number must be included in the method section. Examples of acceptable registries: WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP) and ClinicalTrials.gov.

We also recommend that the protocols for systematic reviews be registered at PROSPERO (www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/).

Registration in a public trials registry is a condition for publication of clinical trials in this journal in accordance with [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors](#) recommendations. Trials must be registered at or before the onset of patient enrolment. The clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract of the article. A clinical trial is defined as any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects of health outcomes. Health-related interventions include any intervention used to modify a biomedical or health-related outcome (for example drugs, surgical procedures, devices, behavioural treatments, dietary interventions, and process-of-care changes). Health outcomes include any biomedical or health-related measures obtained in patients or
participants, including pharmacokinetic measures and adverse events. Purely observational studies (those in which the assignment of the medical intervention is not at the discretion of the investigator) will not require registration.

Copyright

Manuscripts are accepted on the condition of transfer of copyright (for U.S. government employees: to the extent transferable) to the publisher on behalf of the Scandinavian Association of Pain. Once the manuscript is accepted, it may not be published elsewhere without the consent of the copyright holders.

Copyright transfer is not required for open access publications as described below.

3. Preparation of manuscripts

Manuscript submission

Manuscripts should be submitted in electronic form to our online submission, peer review and production system at http://www.editorialmanager.com/sjpain.

Language

Manuscripts should be written in clear and concise English. Please have your text proofread by an English native speaker before you submit it for consideration. At the proof stage, only minor changes other than corrections of printers’ errors are allowed.

Cover Letter

Each manuscript should be accompanied by a cover letter.

Your cover letter should include the following:

- Title, authors, number of pages, and number of tables and figures
- Indication that all the authors have read and approved the paper
- Description of how each author contributed to the manuscript and others who may have assisted
- Specification of article type (see below)
- Information about any previous presentation of the data (e.g., at a specific meeting or as a thesis).
- Information about the existence of any closely related manuscripts that you have submitted for simultaneous consideration to the same or another journal.
- Notice of any conflicts of interests that might be seen as influencing the research, as defined above
- Where relevant: a copy of the permission granted to reproduce or adapt any copyrighted material from another source or a notice that permissions are pending. Indicate the original source(s) in the legend of the illustration, or as appropriate in a footnote to the text
- Where relevant: the CONSORT-check-list for articles that cover clinical trials, the ARRIVE-checklist for animal studies, and the PRISMA checklist for systematic reviews
• Optional: the names of three potential reviewers with complete contact details. As our objective is to obtain independent reviews that are free from bias, please do NOT suggest people with whom you have worked or published in recent years or anyone who works at your institution. There is no assurance that the editors will choose reviewers from the list you provided.

**Article Types**

SJPAIN welcomes high quality reports on original basic and clinical research; comprehensive systematic and topical reviews; hypothesis-generating or educational case-reports and observational studies; short communications and letters to the Editor. Open Access publication is possible.

**Basic and Clinical Research**

Word limits; Abstract (structured): 500 words, Introduction: 500 words, Methods: no limit; Results: no limits; Discussion: 1500 words.

**Comprehensive Systematic Reviews and Topical Reviews**

Topical reviews focus on recent research and development of important issues in pain medicine. Comprehensive reviews can include meta-analysis when appropriate or be narrative when meta-analysis is not possible. Word limits: same as for basic and clinical research, see above.

**Case-reports and Observational Studies**

Should describe new and important observations that may generate hypotheses that can subsequently be tested in proper clinical and/or basic research. Case reports that clearly have educational value may also be accepted. Word limits: These should generally be brief reports (about 4000 words).

**Short Communications**

Short communications report novel research findings of timely importance. These brief reports should contain around 1,500 words, about 15 references, and not more than 4 tables and figures. The (unstructured) Abstract should not exceed 200 words. The (unstructured) text should include information on background and reasons for the research hypothesis, methods, results, discussion, conclusion and implications.

**Letters to the Editor**

Letters containing critical assessment of papers recently published in the Scandinavian Journal of Pain will be considered for publication in the correspondence section. Letters should not exceed 1000 words including references as necessary, one table or one figure. Letters should have a heading and no abbreviations. If related to a previously published article, the article should be identified by title, author(s), and volume/page numbers. All letters are subject to editorial review. At the Editor's discretion, a letter may be sent to authors of the original paper for comment, and both letter and reply may be published together.
Please note: To ensure ethical conduct of research each manuscript needs to include an “Authors’ Statements” section before the References. Please use the format of the following example:

Research funding: Authors state no funding involved.
Conflict of interest: Authors state no conflict of interest.
Informed consent: Informed consent has been obtained from all individuals included in this study.
Ethical approval: The research related to human use complies with all the relevant national regulations, institutional policies and was performed in accordance with the tenets of the Helsinki Declaration, and has been approved by the authors’ institutional review board or equivalent committee.

Structured Abstract & Keywords

A structured abstract, by means of appropriate headings, should provide the context or background for the research and should state its purpose, basic procedures (selection of study subjects or laboratory animals, observational and analytical methods), main findings (giving specific effect sizes and their statistical significance, if possible), and conclusion(s) strictly based on the findings. A last paragraph with subheading: Implications should emphasize new, important, and any clinical aspects of the study-results.

Case reports and letters to the Editor may deviate from this structure, as appropriate.

Use 500 words with the following subheadings:

- Background and aims
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusions (based on your data)
- Implications (your opinion on what your findings may mean in a wider context)

Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords, and avoid general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, ‘and’, ‘of’). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.

Nomenclature

Units
Temperatures should be given in degrees Celsius and blood pressures in millimeters of mercury or kPa with the alternative units in parentheses. All other measurements including laboratory measurements should be reported in the metric system in terms of the International System of Units (SI), e.g. metre [m], litre [L], kilogram [kg].

Abbreviations should be limited and must be defined when first used in the text.

Drug names
Generic names of drugs should be used where possible. When quoting from specific materials on proprietary drugs, authors must state in parentheses the name and address of the manufacturer.
Reference lists have to be written in Vancouver style, except that we require all authors listed, unless there are more than 20 authors (see examples below). Please see:
http://guides.lib.monash.edu/citing-referencing/vancouver

Examples:


- **Articles in online-only journals**: Hassani-Pak K, Rawlings C. Knowledge discovery in biological databases for revealing candidate genes linked to complex phenotypes. J Integr Bioinform 2017;14:20160002.


Tables

Submit tables on separate pages and number them consecutively using Arabic numerals. Provide a short descriptive title, column headings, and (if necessary) footnotes to make each table self-explanatory. Refer to tables in the text as Table 1, etc. Use Table 1, etc. in the table legends. Please indicate in the manuscript the approximate position of each table.

Figures

Illustrations will be reduced in size to fit, whenever possible, the width of a single column. Lettering in all figures within the article should be uniform in style, preferably a sans serif typeface, and of sufficient size, so that it is readable at the final size of approximately 2 mm. Uppercase letters A, B, C, etc. should be used to identify parts of multi-part figures. Cite all figures in the text in a numerical order. Indicate
the approximate position of each figure. Refer to figures in the text as Figure 1, etc. Use Figure 1, etc. in the figure legends.

Please note that if any of the figures you used are copyrighted, you need to obtain permission from the copyright owners to reproduce these figures in SJPAIN. You also need to document the copyright permission in the respective figure legend. The same holds true for copyrighted tables you use.

Colour figures

Authors are encouraged to submit illustrations in colour if necessary for their scientific content. Publication of colour figures is provided free of charge both in online and print editions. Line drawings and photographs must be of high quality. Please note that faint shading may be lost upon reproduction.

Figure legends

Provide a short descriptive title, and (if necessary) footnotes to make each figure self-explanatory on separate pages. Explain all symbols used in the figures. Remember to use the same abbreviations as in the body-text.

4. Offprints

The electronic files of typeset articles in Adobe Acrobat PDF format are provided free of charge; corresponding authors receive notification that their article has been published online with a link to De Gruyter Author Services, where they can pick up their authors’ copy. Paper offprints can be ordered in addition at the time of submission or at the page proof stage.

Note for authors of NIH-funded research

Walter de Gruyter Publishers acknowledge that the author of an NIH-funded article retains the right to provide a copy of the final manuscript to NIH upon acceptance for publication or thereafter, for public archiving in PubMed Central 12 months after publication in SJPAIN 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.

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