

INSTRUCTIONS

ETHICAL AND LEGAL DECLARATIONS

The author and ethical statements in their default format are a requirement for submission to De Gruyter Journals. Statements are to be customised as described below and submitted alongside with manuscripts.

RESEARCH FUNDING

This section should describe sources of funding that have supported the work. Authors should state how the research described in their article was funded, including grant numbers if applicable. Whenever funding has been obtained the following statement should be included: 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.

The template default statement applies for the case that no funding has been involved, with no further customization needed.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

We follow The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals ([ICMJE Recommendations 2018](#)) with regards to the definition of authorship, contributorship and group authorship:

1. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
2. Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
3. Final approval of the version to be published; AND
4. 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.

Each author listed must meet all 4 criteria of authorship. All remaining contributors should be listed in the Acknowledgments. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the editor.

The template default statement represents the minimum declaration needed for submission. Individual contributions may be included if desired or requested by the individual journal.

COMPETING INTERESTS

To ensure fair and objective decision-making, authors must declare any relationships that pose an actual or potential conflict of interest (financial, personal or professional), in connection with evaluated manuscripts.

When submitting their manuscript, all authors must read and complete the [Author Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest](#) (the form is based on the ICMJE Disclosure Form that can be found [here](#)).

The template default statement applies for cases where no competing interests exist. Include any additional information regarding the work under consideration for publication: sources of support (grants); consulting fee or honorarium; support for travel to meetings for the study or other purposes; fees for participation in review activities such as data monitoring boards, statistical analysis, end point committees, and the like; payments for writing or reviewing the manuscript; provisions of writing assistance, medicine, equipment or administrative support etc. Also include all relevant financial activities outside the submitted work: board membership; consultancy; employment; expert testimony; grants/grants pending; Payment for lectures including service on speakers bureaus; patents (planned, pending or issued), royalties, Payment for development of educational presentations;

Stock/stock options; Travel/ accommodations/ meeting expenses unrelated to activities listed; monetary interests in the products studied; etc.)
The declaration has to be in accordance with the declarations made within the Disclosure Form.

ETHICAL APPROVAL

→ Please note: If the research conducted does not relate to either human or animal use, the statements do not apply and can be removed!

Authorization for the use of human subjects

Manuscripts containing information related to human 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. All investigation conducted with human subjects must have followed the tenets of the [Helsinki Declaration](#). Additionally, authors must identify the committee or review board approving the experiments, and provide a statement indicating approval of the research.

The template default statement applies in cases where the local Institutional Review Board deemed the study exempt from review. In all other cases, the following statement has to be included (do not forget to give the respective Board/committee number!):
The research related to human use has complied with all the relevant national regulations, institutional policies, and in accordance with the tenets of the Helsinki Declaration, and has been approved by the authors' Institutional Review Board (xxxx) or equivalent committee. (xxx-Nr.: xx/x).

Authorization for the use of experimental animals

Manuscripts containing information related to animal 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](#). 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.

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The protection of privacy is a legal right that must not be breached 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 prior to inclusion in the study.

The template default statement applies in cases where Informed consent was obtained from all individuals included in the study. For all trials that involve children, informed consent was obtained from the parents or legal guardians.