



ACADEMIC PEDIATRICS

Official Journal of the [Academic Pediatric Association](#)

AUTHOR INFORMATION PACK

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DESCRIPTION

Academic Pediatrics, the official journal of the [Academic Pediatric Association](#), is a peer-reviewed publication whose purpose is to strengthen the research and educational base of academic general **pediatrics**. The journal provides leadership in pediatric education, research, patient care and advocacy. Content areas include **pediatric education, emergency medicine, injury, abuse, behavioral pediatrics, holistic medicine, child health services** and **health policy**, and the **environment**. The journal provides an active forum for the presentation of pediatric educational research in diverse settings, involving medical students, residents, fellows, and practicing professionals. The journal also emphasizes important research relating to the quality of child health care, health care policy, and the organization of child health services. It also includes systematic reviews of primary care interventions and important methodologic papers to aid research in child health and education.

Benefits to authors

We also provide many author benefits, such as free PDFs, a liberal copyright policy, special discounts on Elsevier publications and much more. Please click here for more information on our [author services](#).

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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

Academic Pediatrics strives to improve the health and wellbeing of children, their families, and their communities through:

- Providing a forum for the publication of general pediatric studies, commentaries and reviews that are of interest to learners and professionals who care for children and adolescents;
- Helping to advance the field of academic pediatrics;
- Strengthening the research and educational base of academic pediatrics; and
- Providing the evidence base for optimal child health care, pediatric education, and child health policy.

The content areas of the Journal reflect the general interests of Academic Pediatric Association members and other health professionals who care for children. Areas of particular interest include child health services research, quality of clinical care, pediatric education, child health policy, and research methodology. Content areas for the Journal include such diverse topics as adolescent medicine, child maltreatment and protection, chronic illness, community pediatrics, developmental and behavioral pediatrics, emergency medicine, environmental medicine, financing, global pediatrics, health disparities, holistic medicine, hospital medicine, informatics, injury, medical education across the continuum, pediatric advocacy, prevention, pediatric primary care problems, and public health.

Please address editorial questions to:

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Research articles - Quantitative and Qualitative Research

Most research articles published in the Journal use quantitative methods, and the maximum length for these manuscripts is 3500 words. The word limit for manuscripts reporting qualitative research is 4000 words. Mixed methods research will also be accepted. Concise, clear writing is one of the criteria by which editors and reviewers evaluate submissions. Manuscripts reporting original research should have a clear organization with an abstract and What's New, described below, an introduction, a methods sections (including a CONSORT flow diagram and checklist for randomized clinical trials [RCTs]), a results section, and a discussion. Academic Pediatrics will take into consideration the registration of RCTs in a public trials registry, as described by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (See www.icmje.org). Starting January 2015, all clinical trials must have been registered before enrolling the first subject.

Brief Reports

The Journal also publishes brief reports that describe interesting new ideas or innovations in pediatric medicine, health services, and medical education. Brief reports may raise new questions of interest to the Journal readership. Brief reports typically are judged using the same metrics as are other research articles. Brief reports should have no more than 2,000 words (excluding abstract, tables, and references) and a maximum of three tables or figures and 25 references. Other elements (abstract, What's New and references) meet usual Journal requirements for length and formatting, and peer review.

Articles on Educational Research

Articles describing educational research and interventions should measure and report outcomes beyond participants' reactions and change in knowledge. Demonstration of the impact of educational interventions should include changes in observed behaviors of learners as a result of the intervention. Ultimately, new learned behaviors should have measurable impact through improved patient outcomes and/or enhanced child health.

View from the Association of Pediatric Program Directors (APPD)

Anyone with an interest in pediatric graduate medical education (GME) can submit a manuscript for consideration for publication in the View from APPD pages. Although any topic will be considered, we are particularly interested in manuscripts that address curricular innovation in pediatric GME or across the undergraduate medical education/GME continuum, implementation of ACGME program

requirements, compliance with the new ACGME accreditation system, implementation and validation of the Pediatric Milestones, competency-based assessment (including the development and use of EPAs), and other innovative approaches to pediatric GME training.

Manuscripts should be less than 2000 words and the use of figures or tables will need clear justification. Importantly, all manuscripts should be well grounded in evidence published in the medical and education literature. Manuscripts that pair more junior authors with well-established senior authors are particularly desirable. Finally, all manuscripts will undergo peer review consistent with the policies of Academic Pediatrics.

To submit a manuscript, or an idea for a manuscript, please contact the Associate Editor for APPD Pages, Daniel West at westdc@peds.ucsf.edu. The associate editor will work with you to develop the best approach for your submission.

Perspectives

Perspectives presents important pediatric topics, with an emphasis on research findings in the previous five years and identifying areas for future study. The Perspectives Editors solicit most articles with input about topics and potential authors from the Journal's senior editorial group. Authors will generally be respected authorities in the area and may include a fellow or junior faculty member as a co-author. The manuscript should be about 4500-5000 words. It should include an overview of key questions and important research in a field, indicating the recent advances in the underlying science, and ending with a vision of the research and/or policy issues that should be addressed in the near future. Where appropriate, Perspectives should also discuss implications for pediatric education and practice. The editors will work with authors as needed and may request an annotated outline of the manuscript. All Perspectives manuscripts are peer-reviewed. For questions or suggestions about a Perspectives topic, please contact John Pascoe at john.pascoe@wright.edu or Paul C. Young at Paul.Young@hsc.utah.edu

Systematic Reviews

Systematic reviews are critical assessments of literature and data sources pertaining to one of four areas: 1) pediatric research methods, 2) pediatric education and pediatric professional development, 3) pediatric health policy, and 4) pediatric health care delivery. All articles or data sources should be selected systematically for inclusion in the review and critically evaluated, and the selection process should be described in the article. Typical length: 2000 to 3500 words (not including tables, figures, and references). Evidence tables that list specific studies would generally be published in an online-only appendix, while the print version would include the critical summary tables. Any manuscript over 4000 words will not be considered unless this has been previously discussed with the editor. Robert Jacobson at jacobson.robert@mayo.edu. Specific requirements for Systematic Reviews are described in more detail below.

Narrative Reviews

Narrative reviews, as opposed to systematic reviews, are particularly useful for topics with a fragmentary evidence base, such as emerging issues, singular events, or new approaches. Our journal's four-fold focus is for topics in pediatric healthcare delivery, education, research, and public policy. Before conducting such a narrative review, prospective authors may wish to contact the Reviews Editor, Robert M Jacobson, MD, to gauge the acceptability of the topic. As with all submissions to Academic Pediatrics, submitted manuscripts will undergo peer-review for determination of acceptance.

Narrative reviews should be limited in scope and length. The title should specify that the report is a narrative review. The content should be limited to 2400 words with a maximum of 4 figures and tables total, and no more than 50 references. The structure should be organic, taking its organization from the topic, rather than forced into that of an original scientific contribution. Include neither an abstract nor a call-out box entitled, "What this study adds." As with other manuscript-types, the review should not have been published previously.

Scholarly Innovations

This type of manuscript provides an opportunity for medical educators to disseminate projects related to teaching activities, curricular interventions, learner assessment, advising and mentoring and program evaluation. These articles should report on educational innovations that have been recently implemented (within the past 2 years). The innovations described should represent a new approach or the application of an established method/tool in a novel setting or context (e.g., projects that utilize established methods/tools in a novel setting/context with no new insights gained would not be

considered innovative). Pilot projects, projects that are part of a larger but not yet published research project, projects from one program and projects with early/short term outcomes are appropriate for this type of manuscript.

Content Requirements: Maximum of 1000 words in length (excluding What's New?, table/figure and references) with maximum 1 table or figure. Maximum of 10 key references. An abstract is not required. These reports should be organized into the following sections o **What's New?** - Summarize innovation and outcomes in maximum of 40 words. o **Background** - Brief background to establish the importance of the issue addressed in the intervention. o **Educational Approach and Innovation** - Description of the educational innovation and methods utilized in assessing the intervention. Justification of what makes the approach to or type of education innovative o **Results** - Assessment of the intervention's outcomes. o **Discussion and Next Steps** - Discussion of the impact of the work in advancing what is already known about the topic. Outline next steps to further understand the issues related to the problem.

These articles will undergo the peer review process and be evaluated on the importance of the problem being addressed, the innovative nature of the project, the methods utilized in assessing the intervention, and the significance of the outcomes. We aim to publish one report in each issue.

Supplements

The Journal publishes supplements on topics of interest to its readers. Authors interested in supplements to the Journal should contact the Editor-in-Chief to discuss interest and procedures. Supplements should have a guest editor, who helps with the initial review of manuscripts and organization of the supplement, as well as suggesting reviewers for the manuscripts. All manuscripts proposed for a supplement have external review (as with other submissions to the Journal), and final decisions on publication remain with the Journal's editors, in consultation with the guest editor for the supplement.

In The Moment - Personal Narratives

We invite submissions to "In the Moment", the personal narratives section of Academic Pediatrics. "In the Moment" is a forum for authors to relate their personal experience of pediatrics. We are seeking narrative pieces about research, contact with patients, the influence of mentors, the impact of policy and current events, and the relationship of the author's work to their lives and the lives of others. Essays should describe these experiences and make connections to larger themes in pediatrics education, research, policy, and clinical care. The section is a vibrant forum for all of us to relate the stories and perspectives that are such an important part of our work and ongoing medical education. Submissions should be no more than 2500 words in length and do not need abstracts or "What's New" descriptions. Data and the work of others must be appropriately referenced. Papers should be submitted through the editorial website. Please direct questions to Anjali Jain, MD at anjali.jain@lewin.com.

Commentaries

The editors occasionally solicit brief (about 1000 word) commentaries regarding papers published in the Journal or recent reports of activities of interest to readers. Commentaries differ from Perspectives by being briefer and more focused on specific topics, questions, or manuscripts. Most commentaries are solicited by the editors. If you wish to submit a commentary, please contact the editor-in-chief at journals@academicpeds.org.

Cover Letter

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Formatting

All manuscripts should be prepared with standard word processing software. Text, abstract and "What's New" should be double spaced in 12-point font, and pages numbered. Tables and figures should be placed together at the end of the manuscript. Tables may be submitted in word processor

format at the end of the manuscript's text or as separate files after uploading the text, but figures must be submitted as separate files. Black and white figures will be printed without charge. Authors bear the costs for printing colored tables or figures. More information regarding figures appears below.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

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All authors should have made substantial contributions to all of the following: (1) the conception and design of the study, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, (2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content, (3) final approval of the version to be submitted.

Authorship

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Authorship Criteria

In order to meet authorship criteria, each author must have participated sufficiently in the work of the study and manuscript to acknowledge publicly responsibility for the manuscript. At least one author must be able to take public responsibility for the entire work, from idea to complete manuscript. *Academic Pediatrics* follows published uniform recommendations for criteria for authorship (see references). All three of the following criteria must be met for authorship:

1. Substantial involvement and contribution to the idea or the study question, or to the study design, or to the fieldwork component, or to the analysis, or to the interpretation of study findings; and
2. Writing drafts of the manuscript, or reviewing drafts or revisions critically with substantial input; and
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PREPARATION

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- **Author names and affiliations.** Where the family name may be ambiguous (e.g., a double name), please indicate this clearly. Present the authors' affiliation addresses (where the actual work was done) below the names. Indicate all affiliations with a lower-case superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the e-mail address of each author.
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The title page is the first page of all manuscripts. It includes:

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- Name, mailing address, email address, phone and fax number of the corresponding author; contact details must be kept up to date by the corresponding author.

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- 3-5 keywords (not required for In The Moment or commentaries);
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- Separate word counts for the abstract and the main text;
- Acknowledge the research or project support with the relevant agency, grant or project number, and the principal investigator. Briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if any in study design, in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; and in the decision to submit the article for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement then this should be stated. Relevant information should be included on the title page. please see <http://www.elsevier.com/funding>.
- Description of potential conflicts of interest and corporate sponsors.

Abstract

A concise and factual abstract is required. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself.

The abstract is the second page of all manuscripts with the exception of "In the Moment - Personal Narratives" for which an abstract is not required. Abstracts should be prepared with a structured format with a maximum of 250 words. Four elements should be addressed: objective, methods, results, and conclusions. Please label each section clearly with the appropriate subheading.

What's New

What's New provides authors an opportunity to summarize in no more than 40 words how this research contributes to the knowledge base of the field. What's New is not required for In the Moment, commentaries, and systematic reviews.

Manuscript Text

The manuscript's text, double spaced, varies with the type of article submitted. Please direct specific questions to the Editorial Office or section editor. Special requirements for Systematic Reviews appear below.

All manuscripts, including title page, tables, figures, and references, should be prepared according to "Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals." Grammar, punctuation, scientific writing style and abbreviations should follow the American Medical Association Manual of Style, 10th edition. Any uncommon abbreviations should be listed at the beginning of the article. Confidence intervals usually provide more helpful information than *P* values.

Human Subjects

Appropriate approval by all institutional or other human subjects review boards must be designated in the methods section. Authors should indicate formal review and approval, or formal review and waiver.

Funding

All sources of funding for the study should be identified in the Acknowledgements section. In addition, if not apparent from the type of study, the specific role of the funder should be delineated as described in the Conflicts of Interest section on the title page.

Language (usage and editing services)

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- Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
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A detailed guide on electronic artwork is available on our website:

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You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.

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Please do not:

- Supply files that are optimized for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); these typically have a low number of pixels and limited set of colors;
- Supply files that are too low in resolution;
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References

All authors should have read all cited references. Please number references in the order they appear in the text. Unpublished references or meeting abstracts should not be included although articles accepted for publication or in press are permissible. Include the names of all authors for four and fewer; for references with more than four authors, provide the names of the first three and then et al. References to Web sites should include the date accessed. References should be double-spaced and generally not exceed 35. Spell out journal titles or use standard AMA abbreviations. References should follow AMA style.

Reference style

Text: Indicate references by (consecutive) superscript arabic numerals in the order in which they appear in the text. The numerals are to be used *outside* periods and commas, *inside* colons and semicolons. For further detail and examples you are referred to the AMA Manual of Style, A Guide for Authors and Editors, Tenth Edition, ISBN 0-978-0-19-517633-9 (see <http://www.amanualofstyle.com>).

List: Number the references in the list in the order in which they appear in the text.

Examples:

Reference to a journal publication:

1. Van der Geer J, Hanraads JAJ, Lupton RA. The art of writing a scientific article. *J Sci Commun*. 2010;163:51–59.

Reference to a book:

2. Strunk W Jr, White EB. *The Elements of Style*. 4th ed. New York, NY: Longman; 2000.

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3. Mettam GR, Adams LB. How to prepare an electronic version of your article. In: Jones BS, Smith RZ, eds. *Introduction to the Electronic Age*. New York, NY: E-Publishing Inc; 2009:281–304.

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