DESCRIPTION

Due to the COVID-19 situation, we fully understand most labs are fully or partially shut down so please let us know if you need additional support and contact your Editor to ask for an extension of your revision if you need one.

Clinical Biochemistry is the official journal of the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists (CSCC). The journal publishes articles relating to clinical chemistry, molecular biology and genetics, therapeutic drug monitoring and toxicology, laboratory immunology and laboratory medicine in general, with the focus on analytical and clinical investigation of laboratory tests in humans used for diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and therapy, and monitoring of disease.

AUDIENCE

Clinical chemists, laboratory directors, physicians, as well as other laboratory professionals including, hematologists, geneticists, microbiologists, pathologists, biochemists, toxicologists, immunologists, analytical chemists, and molecular biologists.

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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

Types of submission and criteria

Manuscripts are categorized as Analytical or Clinical Investigations. See sections below for specific details such as structural components, word limits and formatting.

Full Papers require: 275 words structured abstract List of keywords Highlights 4000 word structured manuscript 40 references 6 tables and/or figures.

Short Communications require: 275 words structured abstract List of keywords Highlights 1500 words structured manuscript 15 references 2 tables and/or figures.

Case Reports should provide unique insight into disease mechanisms or diagnostic applications and require: 275 words structured abstract List of keywords Highlights 1500 words structured manuscript 15 references 2 tables and/or figures.

Review Articles should address new topics or trends and require: 275 words structured abstract (does not have to be structured) List of keywords Highlights Manuscript (no word limit) References (no limit) Tables and figures (no limit). Prospective authors are strongly advised to seek authorization from the Editor-in-Chief or Reviews Editor to avoid conflict with scheduled reviews invited by the Editorial Board.

Consensus Recommendations, Special Reports or Practice Guidelines include the use of laboratory test for clinical practice. Priority will be given if they are endorsed or developed with support from a recognized professional organization or expert panel (e.g. CSCC/CACB, IFCC, IUPAC, ADLM [formerly AACC], etc.) and require: Abstract (does not have to be structured but 275 words) List of keywords Highlights Manuscript (no word limit) References (no limit) Tables and figures (no limit). Please contact the Editor-in-Chief for consideration. The responsibility for such material remains with the originating body/society/authors.

Letters to the Editor require: List of keywords 500 words manuscript 5 references Upto 1 table and/or figures.

Editorials and Opinion Pieces require: List of keywords 2000 words manuscript 20 references Contributors are encouraged to contact the Editor-in-Chief to avoid conflict with other forthcoming publications.

Article structure/Requirements

Nomenclature and units

Follow internationally accepted rules and conventions: use the international system of units (SI). If other quantities are mentioned, give their equivalent in SI. You are urged to consult IUB: Biochemical Nomenclature and Related Documents for further information.

Structured Abstract

A concise and factual abstract is required. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions, and should not exceed 275 words. There are no strict formatting requirements, but headings for Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, and Conclusions are generally the most effective. Ensure the structure headings parallel those of the manuscript body. 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.

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Although a graphical abstract is optional, its use is encouraged as it draws more attention to the online article. The graphical abstract should summarize the contents of the article in a concise, pictorial form designed to capture the attention of a wide readership. Graphical abstracts should be submitted as a separate file in the online submission system. Image size: Please provide an image with a minimum of 531 x 1328 pixels (h x w) or proportionally more. The image should be readable at a size of 5 x 13 cm using a regular screen resolution of 96 dpi. Preferred file types: TIFF, EPS, PDF or MS Office files. You can view Example Graphical Abstracts on our information site.

**Keywords**

Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords, avoiding 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.

**Abbreviations**

Define abbreviations that are not standard in this field at first use. Such abbreviations that are unavoidable in the abstract must be defined at their first mention there, as well as at their first use in the manuscript itself. Ensure consistency of abbreviations throughout the article.

**Acknowledgements**

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

**Highlights**

Highlights are mandatory for this journal as they help increase the discoverability of your article via search engines. Highlights consist of 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point) that capture the novel results of your research as well as new methods that were used during the study (if any). Please have a look at the examples here: example Highlights. Highlights should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name.

**Manuscript**

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Subdivision - numbered sections
Divide your article into clearly defined and numbered sections. Subsections should be numbered 1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...), 1.2, etc. (the abstract is not included in section numbering). Use this numbering also for internal cross-referencing: do not just refer to 'the text'. Any subsection may be given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line.

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State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

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A Theory section should extend, not repeat, the background to the article already dealt with in the Introduction and lay the foundation for further work. In contrast, a Calculation section represents a practical development from a theoretical basis. Please submit math equations as editable text and not as images. Present simple formulae in line with normal text where possible and use the solidus (/) instead of a horizontal line for small fractional terms, e.g., X/Y. In principle, variables are to be presented in italics. Powers of e are often more conveniently denoted by 'exp'. Number consecutively any equations that have to be displayed separately from the text (if referred to explicitly in the text).

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Results should be clear and concise, focused on the data unique to the study. Avoid including details that are more appropriate to the Methods or Discussion sections (unless Results and Discussion are presented together).

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Ensure that each illustration has a caption. A caption should comprise a brief title (not on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum but explain all symbols and abbreviations used within the caption.

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The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

References
See below for description.

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Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full. Unpublished results and personal communications are NOT recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text and should include a disclaimer of either 'Unpublished results' or 'Personal communication'. Citation of a reference as 'in press' implies that the item has been accepted for publication.

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One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:

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- Highlights
- Manuscript
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Further considerations

Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print. Graphical Abstracts. For further information, visit our Support Center.
ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

Authorship
All authors should have made substantial contributions to all of the following: (1) the conception and design of the study, 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.

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Statement: During the preparation of this work the author(s) used [NAME TOOL / SERVICE] in order to [REASON]. After using this tool/service, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take(s) full responsibility for the content of the publication.

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to avoid offensive or exclusionary terms such as "master", "slave", "blacklist" and "whitelist". We suggest using alternatives that are more appropriate and (self-) explanatory such as "primary", "secondary", "blocklist" and "allowlist". These guidelines are meant as a point of reference to help identify appropriate language but are by no means exhaustive or definitive.

**Reporting sex- and gender-based analyses**

**Reporting guidance**

For research involving or pertaining to humans, animals or eukaryotic cells, investigators should integrate sex and gender-based analyses (SGBA) into their research design according to funder/sponsor requirements and best practices within a field. Authors should address the sex and/or gender dimensions of their research in their article. In cases where they cannot, they should discuss this as a limitation to their research's generalizability. Importantly, authors should explicitly state what definitions of sex and/or gender they are applying to enhance the precision, rigor and reproducibility of their research and to avoid ambiguity or conflation of terms and the constructs to which they refer (see Definitions section below). Authors can refer to the Sex and Gender Equity in Research (SAGER) guidelines and the SAGER guidelines checklist. These offer systematic approaches to the use and editorial review of sex and gender information in study design, data analysis, outcome reporting and research interpretation - however, please note there is no single, universally agreed-upon set of guidelines for defining sex and gender.

**Definitions**

Sex generally refers to a set of biological attributes that are associated with physical and physiological features (e.g., chromosomal genotype, hormonal levels, internal and external anatomy). A binary sex categorization (male/female) is usually designated at birth ("sex assigned at birth"), most often based solely on the visible external anatomy of a newborn. Gender generally refers to socially constructed roles, behaviors, and identities of women, men and gender-diverse people that occur in a historical and cultural context and may vary across societies and over time. Gender influences how people view themselves and each other, how they behave and interact and how power is distributed in society. Sex and gender are often incorrectly portrayed as binary (female/male or woman/man) and unchanging whereas these constructs actually exist along a spectrum and include additional sex categorizations and gender identities such as people who are intersex/have differences of sex development (DSD) or identify as non-binary. Moreover, the terms "sex" and "gender" can be ambiguous—thus it is important for authors to define the manner in which they are used. In addition to this definition guidance and the SAGER guidelines, the resources on this page offer further insight around sex and gender in research studies.

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