DESCRIPTION

Contemporary Clinical Trials is an international peer reviewed journal that publishes manuscripts pertaining to all aspects of clinical trials, including, but not limited to, design, conduct, analysis, regulation and ethics. Manuscripts submitted should appeal to a readership drawn from disciplines including medicine, biostatistics, epidemiology, computer science, management science, behavioural science, pharmaceutical science, and bioethics. Full-length papers and short communications not exceeding 1,500 words, as well as systemic reviews of clinical trials and methodologies will be published. Perspectives/commentaries on current issues and the impact of clinical trials on the practice of medicine and health policy are also welcome.

The following topics are covered in the journal: Unconventional design features of specific trials and their rationale Preliminary or full results of clinical trials with unconventional design features Statistical methods for all aspects of clinical trials Methodologies for clinical trial operations including trial management and optimization; patient recruitment and retention; and trial quality monitoring and assessment Data management methodologies including data collection; database maintenance; data quality assurance; safety monitoring and risk management; and patient registries Regulatory requirements and their impact on clinical trials Ethical and legal considerations in clinical trials Risk-benefit, cost-effectiveness and decision analyses in clinical trials

Contemporary Clinical Trials is unique in that it is outside the confines of disease specifications, and it strives to adapt and grow with an expanding clinical trials landscape as the needs of clinical research evolve in today's dynamic healthcare environment.

Having taken upon the important role as a platform for knowledge exchange between experts in different disciplines related to clinical trials, the ultimate goal of Contemporary Clinical Trials is to advance this field of research for the benefit of patients.

We look forward to receiving your contribution! Authors are also welcome to submit to the journal's open access companion title, Contemporary Clinical Trials Communications.

Benefits to authors
Contemporary Clinical Trials also provides 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.
Please see our Guide for Authors for information on article submission. If you require any further information or help, please visit our Support Center

**IMPACT FACTOR**

2019: 1.832 © Clarivate Analytics Journal Citation Reports 2020

**ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING**

PubMed/Medline

**EDITORIAL BOARD**

*Editor-in-Chief*

JoAnn E. Manson, Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America

*Executive Editor*

Sue-Jane Wang, US Food and Drug Administration, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States of America

*Managing Editor*

Shari S. Bassuk, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America

*Deputy Editors*

Heike A. Bischoff-Ferrari, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

Victor DeGruttola, Harvard University T H Chan School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America

Michael J. LaMonte, University at Buffalo School of Public Health and Health Professions, Buffalo, New York, United States of America

Yunzhi Lin, Sanofi Genzyme, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States of America

Olivia I. Okereke, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, United States of America

Pamela M. Rist, Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America

Howard Sesso, Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America

Mei-Chiung Shih, VETERANS AFFAIRS PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, Palo Alto, California, United States of America

Chrisandra Shufelt, CEDARS-SIANI MEDICAL CENTER, Los Angeles, California, United States of America

Fatima Cody Stanford, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America

Victor Volovici, Erasmus University Medical Center, Department of Neurosurgery, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Rui Wang, Harvard Medical School, Harvard-Pilgrim HealthCare, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America

Guosheng Yin, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong

Ming Zhu, Deerfield Management LP, New York, New York, United States of America

*Associate Editors*

Heather Baer, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America

Hailey R. Banack, University at Buffalo Department of Epidemiology and Environmental health, Buffalo, New York, United States of America

Ian H. de Boer, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, United States of America

Theodore Brasky, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Centre Division of Medical Oncology, Columbus, Ohio, United States of America

Julie E. Buring, Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America

MarianneCanonico, Paris Saclay University, Paris Est University, Doctoral School of Public Health, Villejuif, France

Andreas Clemens, University of Freiburg, Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany

Mace Coday, University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee, United States of America

Nancy R. Cook, Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America
Martina Baiardo Redaelli, San Raffaele Hospital, Milano, Italy
Nancy P. Barnett, Brown University School of Public Health Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Providence, Rhode Island, United States of America
Sara J. Becker, Brown University School of Public Health, Providence, Rhode Island, United States of America
Kirstine Skov Benthien, Frederiksberg University Hospital Center for Clinical Research and Prevention, Frederiksberg, Denmark
David Berg, Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America
Cady Berkel, Arizona State University College of Health Solutions, Phoenix, Arizona, United States of America
Steven L. Bernstein, Dartmouth College Geisel School of Medicine, Hanover, New Hampshire, United States of America
Katie Biello, Brown University School of Public Health Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Providence, Rhode Island, United States of America
Amanda Blatch-Jones, University of Southampton Wessex Institute, Southampton, United Kingdom
Christina Boisseau, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois, United States of America
Sayem Borhan, McMaster University, Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
Steven Boyd, McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Rebecca Brendel, Harvard Medical School Center for Bioethics, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America
Richard A. Brown, The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing, Austin, Texas, United States of America
Lora E. Burke, University of Pittsburgh Clinical and Translational Science Institute, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States of America
Elizabeth Burner, University of Southern California Department of Emergency Medicine, Los Angeles, California, United States of America
Courtney Byrd-Williams, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health, Houston, Texas, United States of America
Jocelyn Carter, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, United States of America
Robin Casten, Thomas Jefferson University Sidney Kimmel Medical College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States of America
Satish Chandra, Tawam Hospital Johns Hopkins Medicine Affiliate, Department of Clinical Research-Academic Affairs, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates
Arthur B. Chausmer, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, United States of America
Winnie Chee, International Medical University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Cong Chen, Merck and Co Inc Global Human Health Business Development, North Wales, Pennsylvania, United States of America
Jie Chen, Overland Pharmaceuticals, Dover, Delaware, United States of America
Mengtong ("Jenna") Chen, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Department of Applied Social Sciences, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Shuo Chen, University of Maryland Division of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Baltimore, Maryland, United States of America
Tian Chen, Bristol Myers Squibb Co, Princeton, New Jersey, United States of America
Yuan ("Irene") Chen, Columbia University, Department of Biostatistics, Mailman School of Public Health, New York, New York, United States of America
Jeffrey W. Christie, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, California, United States of America
Brian C. Clark, Ohio University Ohio Musculoskeletal and Neurological Institute, Athens, Ohio, United States of America
Daniel O. Clark, Indiana University Department of Medicine, Indianapolis, Indiana, United States of America
Steve Godd, Queen Mary University of London, London, United Kingdom
Gerald Cochran, The University of Utah Department of Internal Medicine, Salt Lake City, Utah, United States of America
Virmarie Correa-Fernández, University of Houston Department of Educational Psychology, Houston, Texas, United States of America
Christopher E. Cox, Duke University Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine, Durham, North Carolina, United States of America
Noe Crespo, San Diego State University Graduate School of Public Health, San Diego, California, United States of America
Hesam Dashti, Broad Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States of America
Clarissa J. Diamantidis, Duke University Department of Medicine, Durham, North Carolina, United States of America
Neal Dickert, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America
Pamela Dillon, Virginia Commonwealth University C. Kenneth and Dianne Wright Center for Clinical and Translational Research, Richmond, Virginia, United States of America
John J. Dziak, The Pennsylvania State University Edna Bennett Pierce Prevention Research Center, University Park, Pennsylvania, United States of America
Golfo Tzilos Wernette, Michigan State University Department of Family Medicine, East Lansing, Michigan, United States of America
Maya K. Vadiveloo, University of Rhode Island Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences, Ercole Vellone, University of Rome Tor Vergata Department of Biomedicine and Prevention, Roma, Italy
Roger Vilardaga, Duke University Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Durham, North Carolina, United States of America
Ana-Maria Vranceanu, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, United States of America
Anka A. Vujanovic, University of Houston, Houston, Texas, United States of America
Jennifer Schuster Wachen, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America
David V. Wagner, Oregon Health and Science University Department of Pediatrics, Portland, Oregon, United States of America
Brian Waterhouse, AbbVie Inc, North Chicago, Illinois, United States of America
Guy M. Weissinger, Villanova University M Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, Villanova, United States of America
Sara Wilcox, University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health, Columbia, South Carolina, United States of America
Rachel L. Winer, University of Michigan Department of Epidemiology, Ann Arbor, Michigan, United States of America
Adam J. Woods, University of Florida McKnight Brain Institute, Gainesville, Florida, United States of America
Susanne Wurm, University Medicine Greifswald Institute of Community Medicine, Greifswald, Germany
Dong Xi, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp, East Hanover, New Jersey, United States of America
Jianjin Xu, US Food and Drug Administration, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States of America
Betina R. Yanez, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois, United States of America
Jun (Vivien) Yin, Mayo Clinic, Department of Health Sciences Research, Jacksonville, Florida, United States of America
Binbing Yu, AstraZeneca R&D Gaithersburg, Gaithersburg, Maryland, United States of America
Yong Zang, Indiana University Richard M Fairbanks Department of Biostatistics, Indianapolis, Indiana, United States of America
Wei (Michelle) Zhang, Protech Pharmaservices Corporation, Taipei, Taiwan
Miaobing Zheng, Deakin University School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences, Geelong, Australia
Xiaobo Zhong, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Department of Population Health Science and Policy, New York, New York, United States of America
Xuan Zhou, Merck & Co Inc Biostatistics and Research Decision Sciences, Kenilworth, New Jersey, United States of America
Julie M. Zito, University of Maryland Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, Baltimore, Maryland, United States of America
Jamie Zoellner, University of Virginia Department of Public Health Sciences, Charlottesville, Virginia, United States of America
GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

Your Paper Your Way
We now differentiate between the requirements for new and revised submissions. You may choose to submit your manuscript as a single Word or PDF file to be used in the refereeing process. Only when your paper is at the revision stage, will you be requested to put your paper in to a 'correct format' for acceptance and provide the items required for the publication of your article.
To find out more, please visit the Preparation section below.

INTRODUCTION
Contemporary Clinical Trials accepts for consideration manuscripts containing original material if neither the article nor any part of its essential substance, tables, or figures has been or will be published or is currently submitted elsewhere before appearing in Contemporary Clinical Trials. This restriction does not apply to abstracts or press reports published in connection with scientific meetings.

For more details on how to write a world class paper, please visit our Pharmacology Author Resources page.

Authors are encouraged to submit video material or animation sequences to support and enhance your scientific research. For more information please see the paragraph on video data below.

Types of papers
Besides Full Length Articles, Contemporary Clinical Trials invites Short Communications (manuscripts of 1500 or fewer words, excepting references, tables and figures) and Letters to the Editor (500 or fewer words, 12 or fewer references) for possible publication.

Contact details for submission
Credit for authorship requires substantial contributions to: (a) conception and design, or analysis and interpretation of data; and (b) the drafting of the article or critical revision for important intellectual content.

For questions please contact Dr. JoAnn Manson, Editor-in-Chief, E-mail: jmanson@rics.bwh.harvard.edu.

Submission checklist
You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

Ensure that the following items are present:

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:
• E-mail address
• Full postal address

All necessary files have been uploaded:
Manuscript:
• Include keywords
• All figures (include relevant captions)
• All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
• Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
• Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print
Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files (where applicable)
Supplemental files (where applicable)

Further considerations
• Manuscript has been 'spell checked' and 'grammar checked'
• All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text, and vice versa
• Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)
• A competing interests statement is provided, even if the authors have no competing interests to declare
• Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
• Referee suggestions and contact details provided, based on journal requirements

For further information, visit our Support Center.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING WORD LIMITS:

**Full length papers**
- Abstract: max. 250 words
- Introduction: max. 500 words
- Discussion-section: max. 1500 words
- Note: There are no word limits for the other sections of the paper.

**Short Communications**
Overall 1500 or fewer words, excepting references, tables and figures.

**Letters to the Editor**
Overall 500 or fewer words, 12 or fewer references.

**Ethics in publishing**
Please see our information pages on Ethics in publishing and Ethical guidelines for journal publication.

**Studies in humans and animals**
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. The manuscript should be in line with the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals and aim for the inclusion of representative human populations (sex, age and ethnicity) as per those recommendations. The terms sex and gender should be used correctly.

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 sex of animals must be indicated, and where appropriate, the influence (or association) of sex on the results of the study.

**Informed consent and patient details**
Studies on patients or volunteers require ethics committee approval and informed consent, which should be documented in the paper. Appropriate consents, permissions and releases must be obtained where an author wishes to include case details or other personal information or images of patients and any other individuals in an Elsevier publication. Written consents must be retained by the author but copies should not be provided to the journal. Only if specifically requested by the journal in exceptional circumstances (for example if a legal issue arises) the author must provide copies of the consents or evidence that such consents have been obtained. For more information, please review the Elsevier Policy on the Use of Images or Personal Information of Patients or other Individuals. Unless you have written permission from the patient (or, where applicable, the next of kin), the personal details of any patient included in any part of the article and in any supplementary materials (including all illustrations and videos) must be removed before submission.

**Declaration of competing interest**
All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential conflicts of interest include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. Authors should complete the declaration of competing interest statement using this template and upload to the submission system at the Attach/Upload Files.
step. **Note: Please do not convert the .docx template to another file type. Author signatures are not required.** If there are no interests to declare, please choose the first option in the template. More information.

**Submission declaration and verification**
Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract, a published lecture or academic thesis, see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' for more information), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically without the written consent of the copyright-holder. To verify originality, your article may be checked by the originality detection service Crossref Similarity Check.

**Preprints**
Please note that preprints can be shared anywhere at any time, in line with Elsevier's sharing policy. Sharing your preprints e.g. on a preprint server will not count as prior publication (see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' for more information).

**Use of inclusive language**
Inclusive language acknowledges diversity, conveys respect to all people, is sensitive to differences, and promotes equal opportunities. Content should make no assumptions about the beliefs or commitments of any reader; contain nothing which might imply that one individual is superior to another on the grounds of age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, disability or health condition; and use inclusive language throughout. Authors should ensure that writing is free from bias, stereotypes, slang, reference to dominant culture and/or cultural assumptions. We advise to seek gender neutrality by using plural nouns ("clinicians, patients/clients") as default/wherever possible to avoid using "he, she," or "he/she." We recommend avoiding the use of descriptors that refer to personal attributes such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, disability or health condition unless they are relevant and valid. These guidelines are meant as a point of reference to help identify appropriate language but are by no means exhaustive or definitive.

**Author contributions**
For transparency, we encourage authors to submit an author statement file outlining their individual contributions to the paper using the relevant CRediT roles: Conceptualization; Data curation; Formal analysis; Funding acquisition; Investigation; Methodology; Project administration; Resources; Software; Supervision; Validation; Visualization; Roles/Writing - original draft; Writing - review & editing. Authorship statements should be formatted with the names of authors first and CRediT role(s) following. More details and an example

**Changes to authorship**
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.

**Article transfer service**
This journal is part of our Article Transfer Service. This means that if the Editor feels your article is more suitable in one of our other participating journals, then you may be asked to consider transferring the article to one of those. If you agree, your article will be transferred automatically on your behalf with no need to reformat. Please note that your article will be reviewed again by the new journal. More information.
Copyright
Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' (see more information on this). An e-mail will be sent to the corresponding author confirming receipt of the manuscript together with a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' form or a link to the online version of this agreement.

Subscribers may reproduce tables of contents or prepare lists of articles including abstracts for internal circulation within their institutions. Permission of the Publisher is required for resale or distribution outside the institution and for all other derivative works, including compilations and translations. If excerpts from other copyrighted works are included, the author(s) must obtain written permission from the copyright owners and credit the source(s) in the article. Elsevier has preprinted forms for use by authors in these cases.

For gold open access articles: Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'License Agreement' (more information). Permitted third party reuse of gold open access articles is determined by the author's choice of user license.

Author rights
As an author you (or your employer or institution) have certain rights to reuse your work. More information.

Elsevier supports responsible sharing
Find out how you can share your research published in Elsevier journals.

Role of the funding source
You are requested to identify who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article and to 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.

Open access
Please visit our Open Access page for more information.

Elsevier Researcher Academy
Researcher Academy is a free e-learning platform designed to support early and mid-career researchers throughout their research journey. The "Learn" environment at Researcher Academy offers several interactive modules, webinars, downloadable guides and resources to guide you through the process of writing for research and going through peer review. Feel free to use these free resources to improve your submission and navigate the publication process with ease.

Language (usage and editing services)
Please write your text in good English (American or British usage is accepted, but not a mixture of these). Authors who feel their English language manuscript may require editing to eliminate possible grammatical or spelling errors and to conform to correct scientific English may wish to use the English Language Editing service available from Elsevier's Author Services.

Submission
Our online submission system guides you stepwise through the process of entering your article details and uploading your files. The system converts your article files to a single PDF file used in the peer-review process. Editable files (e.g., Word, LaTeX) are required to typeset your article for final publication. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, is sent by e-mail.

Referees
The author must suggest 5 peer reviewers in the field for consideration by the editorial staff.

Additional information
Submission Categories & Reviewers: When submitting a manuscript to Contemporary Clinical Trials, the author will need to assign it to one of the following major categories:

- Clinical Trial Results
- Special Interest Paper
• Clinical Trial Management & Optimization
• Patient Recruitment
• Patient Registries
• Study Design, Statistical Design, Study Protocols

Please make sure to adhere to the following word limits:

Abstract: max. 250 words
Introduction: max. 500 words
Discussion: max. 1500 words

PREPARATION

NEW SUBMISSIONS
Submission to this journal proceeds totally online and you will be guided stepwise through the creation and uploading of your files. The system automatically converts your files to a single PDF file, which is used in the peer-review process.

As part of the Your Paper Your Way service, you may choose to submit your manuscript as a single file to be used in the refereeing process. This can be a PDF file or a Word document, in any format or layout that can be used by referees to evaluate your manuscript. It should contain high enough quality figures for refereeing. If you prefer to do so, you may still provide all or some of the source files at the initial submission. Please note that individual figure files larger than 10 MB must be uploaded separately.

References
There are no strict requirements on reference formatting at submission. References can be in any style or format as long as the style is consistent. Where applicable, author(s) name(s), journal title/book title, chapter title/article title, year of publication, volume number/book chapter and the article number or pagination must be present. Use of DOI is highly encouraged. The reference style used by the journal will be applied to the accepted article by Elsevier at the proof stage. Note that missing data will be highlighted at proof stage for the author to correct.

Formatting requirements
There are no strict formatting requirements but all manuscripts must contain the essential elements needed to convey your manuscript, for example Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Conclusions, Artwork and Tables with Captions.

If your article includes any Videos and/or other Supplementary material, this should be included in your initial submission for peer review purposes.

Divide the article into clearly defined sections.

Figures and tables embedded in text
Please ensure the figures and the tables included in the single file are placed next to the relevant text in the manuscript, rather than at the bottom or the top of the file. The corresponding caption should be placed directly below the figure or table.

Peer review
This journal operates a single anonymized 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. Editors are not involved in decisions about papers which they have written themselves or have been written by family members or colleagues or which relate to products or services in which the editor has an interest. Any such submission is subject to all of the journal's usual procedures, with peer review handled independently of the relevant editor and their research groups. More information on types of peer review.

REVISED SUBMISSIONS

Use of word processing software
Regardless of the file format of the original submission, at revision you must provide us with an editable file of the entire article. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier). See also the section on Electronic artwork.
To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

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

Material and methods
Provide sufficient details to allow the work to be reproduced by an independent researcher. Methods that are already published should be summarized, and indicated by a reference. If quoting directly from a previously published method, use quotation marks and also cite the source. Any modifications to existing methods should also be described.

Results
Results should be clear and concise.

Discussion
This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

Conclusions
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.

Appendices
If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B.1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

Essential title page information
• Title. Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
• Author names and affiliations. Please clearly indicate the given name(s) and family name(s) of each author and check that all names are accurately spelled. You can add your name between parentheses in your own script behind the English transliteration. 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.
• Corresponding author. Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication. This responsibility includes answering any future queries about Methodology and Materials. Ensure that the e-mail address is given and that contact details are kept up to date by the corresponding author.
• Present/permanent address. If an author has moved since the work described in the article was done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address' (or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author actually did the work must be retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes.

Highlights
Highlights are optional yet highly encouraged for this journal, as they increase the discoverability of your article via search engines. They consist of a short collection of bullet points 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 and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point).

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.
Keywords
Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords, using American spelling and 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 in a footnote to be placed on the first page of the article. Such abbreviations that are unavoidable in the abstract must be defined at their first mention there, as well as in the footnote. 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 (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

Formatting of funding sources
List funding sources in this standard way to facilitate compliance to funder's requirements:

Funding: This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health [grant numbers xxxx, yyyy]; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA [grant number zzzz]; and the United States Institutes of Peace [grant number aaaa].

It is not necessary to include detailed descriptions on the program or type of grants and awards. When funding is from a block grant or other resources available to a university, college, or other research institution, submit the name of the institute or organization that provided the funding.

If no funding has been provided for the research, please include the following sentence:

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Footnotes
Footnotes should be used sparingly. Number them consecutively throughout the article. Many word processors build footnotes into the text, and this feature may be used. Should this not be the case, indicate the position of footnotes in the text and present the footnotes themselves separately at the end of the article.

Artwork
Electronic artwork
General points
• Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork.
• Preferred fonts: Arial (or Helvetica), Times New Roman (or Times), Symbol, Courier.
• Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text.
• Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
• Indicate per figure if it is a single, 1.5 or 2-column fitting image.
• For Word submissions only, you may still provide figures and their captions, and tables within a single file at the revision stage.
• Please note that individual figure files larger than 10 MB must be provided in separate source files.

Formats
Regardless of the application used, when your electronic artwork is finalized, please 'save as' or convert the images to one of the following formats (note the resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations given below):
EPS (or PDF): Vector drawings. Embed the font or save the text as 'graphics'.
TIFF (or JPG): Color or grayscale photographs (halftones): always use a minimum of 300 dpi.
TIFF (or JPG): Bitmapped line drawings: use a minimum of 1000 dpi.
TIFF (or JPG): Combinations bitmapped line/half-tone (color or grayscale): a minimum of 500 dpi is required.

Please do not:
• Supply files that are optimized for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); the resolution is too low.
• Supply files that are too low in resolution.
• Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

Color artwork
Please make sure that artwork files are in an acceptable format (TIFF (or JPEG), EPS (or PDF) or MS Office files) and with the correct resolution. If, together with your accepted article, you submit usable color figures then Elsevier will ensure, at no additional charge, that these figures will appear in color online (e.g., ScienceDirect and other sites) in addition to color reproduction in print. Further information on the preparation of electronic artwork.

Illustration services
Elsevier's Author Services offers Illustration Services to authors preparing to submit a manuscript but concerned about the quality of the images accompanying their article. Elsevier's expert illustrators can produce scientific, technical and medical-style images, as well as a full range of charts, tables and graphs. Image 'polishing' is also available, where our illustrators take your image(s) and improve them to a professional standard. Please visit the website to find out more.

Figure captions
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.

Tables
Please submit tables as editable text and not as images. Tables can be placed either next to the relevant text in the article, or on separate page(s) at the end. Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text and place any table notes below the table body. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in them do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article. Please avoid using vertical rules and shading in table cells.

References
Citation in text
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. If these references are included in the reference list they should follow the standard reference style of the journal and should include a substitution of the publication date with either 'Unpublished results' or 'Personal communication'. Citation of a reference as 'in press' implies that the item has been accepted for publication.

Reference links
Increased discoverability of research and high quality peer review are ensured by online links to the sources cited. In order to allow us to create links to abstracting and indexing services, such as Scopus, CrossRef and PubMed, please ensure that data provided in the references are correct. Please note that incorrect surnames, journal/book titles, publication year and pagination may prevent link creation. When copying references, please be careful as they may already contain errors. Use of the DOI is highly encouraged.

A DOI is guaranteed never to change, so you can use it as a permanent link to any electronic article. An example of a citation using DOI for an article not yet in an issue is: VanDecar J.C., Russo R.M., James D.E., Ambeh W.B., Franke M. (2003). Aseismic continuation of the Lesser Antilles slab beneath northeastern Venezuela. Journal of Geophysical Research, https://doi.org/10.1029/2001JB000884. Please note the format of such citations should be in the same style as all other references in the paper.

Web references
As a minimum, the full URL should be given and the date when the reference was last accessed. Any further information, if known (DOI, author names, dates, reference to a source publication, etc.), should also be given. Web references can be listed separately (e.g., after the reference list) under a different heading if desired, or can be included in the reference list.
Data references
This journal encourages you to cite underlying or relevant datasets in your manuscript by citing them in your text and including a data reference in your Reference List. Data references should include the following elements: author name(s), dataset title, data repository, version (where available), year, and global persistent identifier. Add [dataset] immediately before the reference so we can properly identify it as a data reference. The [dataset] identifier will not appear in your published article.

References in a special issue
Please ensure that the words 'this issue' are added to any references in the list (and any citations in the text) to other articles in the same Special Issue.

Reference management software
Most Elsevier journals have their reference template available in many of the most popular reference management software products. These include all products that support Citation Style Language styles, such as Mendeley. Using citation plug-ins from these products, authors only need to select the appropriate journal template when preparing their article, after which citations and bibliographies will be automatically formatted in the journal's style. If no template is yet available for this journal, please follow the format of the sample references and citations as shown in this Guide. If you use reference management software, please ensure that you remove all field codes before submitting the electronic manuscript. More information on how to remove field codes from different reference management software.

Users of Mendeley Desktop can easily install the reference style for this journal by clicking the following link:
http://open.mendeley.com/use-citation-style/contemporary-clinical-trials
When preparing your manuscript, you will then be able to select this style using the Mendeley plug-ins for Microsoft Word or LibreOffice.

Reference formatting
There are no strict requirements on reference formatting at submission. References can be in any style or format as long as the style is consistent. Where applicable, author(s) name(s), journal title/book title, chapter title/article title, year of publication, volume number/book chapter and the article number or pagination must be present. Use of DOI is highly encouraged. The reference style used by the journal will be applied to the accepted article by Elsevier at the proof stage. Note that missing data will be highlighted at proof stage for the author to correct. If you do wish to format the references yourself they should be arranged according to the following examples:

Reference style
Text: Indicate references by number(s) in square brackets in line with the text. The actual authors can be referred to, but the reference number(s) must always be given.
Example: '..... as demonstrated [3,6]. Barnaby and Jones [8] obtained a different result ....'
List: Number the references (numbers in square brackets) in the list in the order in which they appear in the text.
Examples:
Reference to a journal publication:
Reference to a journal publication with an article number:
Reference to a book:
Reference to a chapter in an edited book:
Reference to a website:
Reference to a dataset:
Reference to software:

**Journal abbreviations source**
Journal names should be abbreviated according to the List of Title Word Abbreviations.

**Video**
Elsevier accepts video material and animation sequences to support and enhance your scientific research. Authors who have video or animation files that they wish to submit with their article are strongly encouraged to include links to these within the body of the article. This can be done in the same way as a figure or table by referring to the video or animation content and noting in the body text where it should be placed. All submitted files should be properly labeled so that they directly relate to the video file's content. In order to ensure that your video or animation material is directly usable, please provide the file in one of our recommended file formats with a preferred maximum size of 150 MB per file, 1 GB in total. Video and animation files supplied will be published online in the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including ScienceDirect. Please supply 'stills' with your files: you can choose any frame from the video or animation or make a separate image. These will be used instead of standard icons and will personalize the link to your video data. For more detailed instructions please visit our video instruction pages. Note: since video and animation cannot be embedded in the print version of the journal, please provide text for both the electronic and the print version for the portions of the article that refer to this content.

**Data visualization**
Include interactive data visualizations in your publication and let your readers interact and engage more closely with your research. Follow the instructions here to find out about available data visualization options and how to include them with your article.

**Supplementary material**
Supplementary material such as applications, images and sound clips, can be published with your article to enhance it. Submitted supplementary items are published exactly as they are received (Excel or PowerPoint files will appear as such online). Please submit your material together with the article and supply a concise, descriptive caption for each supplementary file. If you wish to make changes to supplementary material during any stage of the process, please make sure to provide an updated file. Do not annotate any corrections on a previous version. Please switch off the 'Track Changes' option in Microsoft Office files as these will appear in the published version.

**Research data**
This journal encourages and enables you to share data that supports your research publication where appropriate, and enables you to interlink the data with your published articles. Research data refers to the results of observations or experimentation that validate research findings. To facilitate reproducibility and data reuse, this journal also encourages you to share your software, code, models, algorithms, protocols, methods and other useful materials related to the project.

Below are a number of ways in which you can associate data with your article or make a statement about the availability of your data when submitting your manuscript. If you are sharing data in one of these ways, you are encouraged to cite the data in your manuscript and reference list. Please refer to the "References" section for more information about data citation. For more information on depositing, sharing and using research data and other relevant research materials, visit the research data page.

**Data linking**
If you have made your research data available in a data repository, you can link your article directly to the dataset. Elsevier collaborates with a number of repositories to link articles on ScienceDirect with relevant repositories, giving readers access to underlying data that gives them a better understanding of the research described.

There are different ways to link your datasets to your article. When available, you can directly link your dataset to your article by providing the relevant information in the submission system. For more information, visit the database linking page.

For supported data repositories a repository banner will automatically appear next to your published article on ScienceDirect.
In addition, you can link to relevant data or entities through identifiers within the text of your manuscript, using the following format: Database: xxxx (e.g., TAIR: AT1G01020; CCDC: 734053; PDB: 1XFN).

**Mendeley Data**
This journal supports Mendeley Data, enabling you to deposit any research data (including raw and processed data, video, code, software, algorithms, protocols, and methods) associated with your manuscript in a free-to-use, open access repository. During the submission process, after uploading your manuscript, you will have the opportunity to upload your relevant datasets directly to Mendeley Data. The datasets will be listed and directly accessible to readers next to your published article online.

For more information, visit the Mendeley Data for journals page.

**Data statement**
To foster transparency, we encourage you to state the availability of your data in your submission. This may be a requirement of your funding body or institution. If your data is unavailable to access or unsuitable to post, you will have the opportunity to indicate why during the submission process, for example by stating that the research data is confidential. The statement will appear with your published article on ScienceDirect. For more information, visit the Data Statement page.

**Additional information**
**Drug Names.** Generic names should generally be used. When proprietary brands are used in research, include the brand name in parentheses to refer to drugs.

**Permissions.** Materials taken from other sources must be accompanied by a written statement from both author and publisher giving permission to *Contemporary Clinical Trials* for reproduction. For unpublished data and personal communications, obtain permission in writing from at least one author.

**Review.** The editorial staff reviews all manuscripts. Two outside referees review all manuscripts accepted for peer review. The editorial staff encourages authors to suggest names of possible reviewers, but reserves the right of final selection.

**AFTER ACCEPTANCE**

**Online proof correction**
To ensure a fast publication process of the article, we kindly ask authors to provide us with their proof corrections within two days. Corresponding authors will receive an e-mail with a link to our online proofing system, allowing annotation and correction of proofs online. The environment is similar to MS Word: in addition to editing text, you can also comment on figures/tables and answer questions from the Copy Editor. Web-based proofing provides a faster and less error-prone process by allowing you to directly type your corrections, eliminating the potential introduction of errors. If preferred, you can still choose to annotate and upload your edits on the PDF version. All instructions for proofing will be given in the e-mail we send to authors, including alternative methods to the online version and PDF.

We will do everything possible to get your article published quickly and accurately. Please use this proof only for checking the typesetting, editing, completeness and correctness of the text, tables and figures. Significant changes to the article as accepted for publication will only be considered at this stage with permission from the Editor. It is important to ensure that all corrections are sent back to us in one communication. Please check carefully before replying, as inclusion of any subsequent corrections cannot be guaranteed. Proofreading is solely your responsibility.

**Offprints**
The corresponding author will, at no cost, receive a customized Share Link providing 50 days free access to the final published version of the article on ScienceDirect. The Share Link can be used for sharing the article via any communication channel, including email and social media. For an extra charge, paper offprints can be ordered via the offprint order form which is sent once the article is accepted for publication. Both corresponding and co-authors may order offprints at any time via Elsevier's Author Services. Corresponding authors who have published their article gold open access do not receive a Share Link as their final published version of the article is available open access on ScienceDirect and can be shared through the article DOI link.
AUTHOR INQUIRIES
Visit the Elsevier Support Center to find the answers you need. Here you will find everything from Frequently Asked Questions to ways to get in touch. You can also check the status of your submitted article or find out when your accepted article will be published.