JOURNAL OF ALLERGY AND CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY
Official Journal of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology

AUTHOR INFORMATION PACK

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DESCRIPTION

The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology publishes high-impact, cutting-edge clinical and translational research papers for allergists, immunologists, dermatologists, gastroenterologists, and other physicians and researchers interested in allergic diseases and clinical immunology. Articles cover such topics as asthma, food allergy, allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, primary immune deficiencies, occupational and environmental allergy, and other allergic and immunologic diseases, and include clinical trials and mechanistic studies that report on novel therapies, insights into underlying mechanisms, and other discoveries that will inform our understanding of these diseases and ultimately improve the diagnosis and management of patients. With an impact factor of 12.485, the journal ranks 1st of 25 in the Allergy category and 5th of 150 in the Immunology category in the 2015 Journal Citation Reports®, published by Thomson Reuters. The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology is also recommended for initial purchase in the Brandon-Hill study, Selected List of Books and Journals for the Small Medical Library.

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(10) Be limited to a total of 2 figures and/or tables. (Essential figures or tables may be placed in the article's Online Repository but cannot exceed 10 printed pages. For more information, please see the relevant section below.)

Correspondence and replies

C. Correspondence concerning recent publications in the Journal will be considered for publication and accepted based on their pertinence, their scientific quality, and available space in the Journal. If the correspondence is considered acceptable, a response will be requested from the authors of the referenced JACI article. Upon review and approval by the Editor, the Correspondence and relevant Reply will both be published together.

Both Correspondence and Reply manuscripts must:

(1) Be no longer than 500 words.

(2) Have a short, relevant title, distinct from the title of the referenced article. Please note that all Replies should have the title "Reply to [Corresponding author's name]."

(3) Have a complete title page (see section A1).

(4) List the references as complete bibliographic citations at the end of the letter with the journal article being discussed as the first reference (see section A9 for formatting). The total number of references should be no more than seven. Replies should include the Correspondence to which they are replying as one of the references.
(5) Have no more than one graphic presentation (table or figure). (See the section on Graphic Presentations below).
(6) Begin with the salutation "To the Editor:" and close with the author's name(s), academic degree(s), institutions(s), and location(s).

Review articles

D. Review articles published in the Journal are invited by the Editors. Proposals for review articles may be emailed to the Editorial Office (jaci@aaaai.org), but current space constraints do not usually allow for the acceptance of unsolicited review manuscripts.

Rostrum articles

E. Opinion articles about subjects of particular interest and/or debate may be accepted for peer review after preliminary review by the Editor. Proposals for rostrum articles may be emailed to the Editorial Office (jaci@aaaai.org); they will be evaluated based on level of interest, novelty, and the current needs of the Journal.

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.

Structured abstract

A structured abstract, by means of appropriate headings, should provide the context or background for the research and should state its purpose, basic procedures (selection of study subjects or laboratory animals, observational and analytical methods), main findings (giving specific effect sizes and their statistical significance, if possible), and principal conclusions. It should emphasize new and important aspects of the study or observations.

JACI graphical abstracts

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 × 1328 pixels (h × w) or proportionally more. The image should be readable at a size of 5 × 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. Authors can make use of Elsevier’s Illustration Services to ensure the best presentation of their images and in accordance with all technical requirements. Please visit our graphical abstracts page for JACI-specific guidelines and downloadable icons.

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.

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Follow internationally accepted rules and conventions: use the international system of units (SI). If other units are mentioned, please give their equivalent in SI.

Math formulae
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).

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.

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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):
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- TIFF (or JPG): Color or grayscale photographs (halftones): always use a minimum of 300 dpi.
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Please do not:
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- Supply files that are too low in resolution.
- Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

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Figures
If illustrations appear in the manuscript, they must be submitted in electronic format along with the rest of the manuscript. Each figure should be submitted as a separate electronic file, and should not be inserted into the file containing the text of the manuscript.

Basic guidelines:
Text within the figure should be in Times New Roman font. Keep a consistent font size throughout each figure, and for all figures. Images need to be easily readable with good contrast, particularly figures that have multiple parts and/or a lot of different symbols or components. Clarity and consistency should be uniform among the parts of a multi-part figure, and among all the figures in a manuscript. In colorizing your figure(s), we ask that you keep in mind that some of our readers are colorblind and may be unable to distinguish different colors easily. To accommodate these readers, we suggest that you consider some type of aid, such as labeling each column of a bar graph with an identifier or providing a key with differently shaped symbols to identify each set of data. It is also helpful to use colors of varying intensity so that they are distinguishable as different shades of gray when viewed by the colorblind. It is important that you submit all figures in the dimensions in which they are to be published in the journal. They must be sized to the smallest dimensions that allow legibility and clarity without undue use of space.

Figure legends
Note regarding figure legends: Figure legends should be listed in the manuscript file, on a separate page after the tables. They should not appear in the figure files. The figure legend will be included when sizing the figure and its length must therefore be taken into consideration. The figure title should appear at the beginning of each legend. The legends themselves should be succinct (no more than 200 words), identifying the data or subject being presented, but not explaining methods or results. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum but explain all symbols and abbreviations used.

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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.

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If tables appear in the manuscript, they must be included in the electronic submission. They may be placed within the manuscript file or loaded as separate files (in .doc or .docx format). Tables should supplement, not duplicate, the text; they should be on separate pages, one table per page, and should be numbered with Roman numerals in order of mention. A brief title should be provided directly above each table. Any abbreviations should be defined at the bottom of the table. When creating a table, use the word-processing program's table formatting feature; otherwise, use only tabs (not spaces) to align columns.

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.

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Examples of Reference Formatting

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Book:

Chapter in a book:

Internet resource:

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On an individual basis, the Editors will determine whether ancillary material submitted in support of a manuscript is warranted. In some instances, an Editor may suggest when requesting a revision that part of the data be presented for the OR and removed from the manuscript, perhaps at the request of the reviewers.

The ancillary material must be submitted in EM simultaneously with the rest of the manuscript. The OR material should be loaded as separate files, and should follow the end of the regular manuscript. For revisions that will include newly designated OR material, the Marked Manuscript should show where materials were removed from the original version, and include appropriate statements directing readers of the article in the print journal to the OR. The Unmarked Manuscript will reflect the latter changes. Guidelines for Online Repository text: All text files for the OR should be formatted per directions for regular manuscript materials (see section A). If citations are made within the ancillary material, a list of references, separate from the manuscript’s references, must be included and labeled E1, E2, etc. Authors may repeat sentences or references in the OR that are included in the manuscript, if necessary for reader comprehension.

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Additional information
Special instructions regarding submissions using animal models
(1) Animal model studies of interest to the JACI. The Editors would be interested in an animal-model study only if it highlights a new conceptual advance using an experimental approach that would be very difficult, impractical, or unethical to do in human beings. The authors should clearly indicate in their cover letter how their animal-model study meets these criteria.

(2) Mouse pulmonary function tests. The JACI’s policy is that measurement of airway responsiveness by unrestrained, single-chamber barometric plethysmography (the Penh method) must be confirmed by invasive techniques. For further explanation of this policy, please see Finkelman FD. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2008;121:334-5.

(3) The JACI encourages authors of animal-model papers to consult and adhere to the ARRIVE (Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments) guidelines, available at http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/ARRIVE.
Special instructions regarding statistical analyses and reporting

Although referees with statistical expertise typically review manuscripts submitted to the JACI, the Editorial Board decided that the quality of the manuscripts could be improved by providing authors some guidance on statistical analyses and reporting. Therefore, the JACI Statistical Editor has constructed the following guidelines, which incorporate many comments from Editorial Board members and statistical referees.

1. METHODS: Reporting on Statistical Methods. The Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) statement is a set of guidelines for reporting on the methods and results of randomized and nonrandomized medical research studies. It is available at the following Web site: http://www.consort-statement.org.

The first CONSORT statement provides a checklist of items that should be included in a manuscript that reports the results of a randomized clinical trial (RCT). Items 7 through 12 of the checklist are relevant to the statistical methods section for a manuscript submitted to the JACI based on a RCT. Thus:

With respect to item 12, the statistical methods and commercial software should be cited.

Item 7 and item 12 of the checklist are relevant to the Statistical Methods section of a manuscript submitted to the JACI based on a nonrandomized study. Thus:

2. Results.

Items 13 through 19 of the CONSORT checklist describe items that are important to the Results section for a manuscript submitted to the JACI based on a RCT (some of the items might not be relevant if the study is nonrandomized). Thus:

2A. Results: Descriptive Statistics at Baseline
If the distribution for a continuous variable is approximately normally distributed, then report either
• the sample mean and the sample standard deviation
or
• the sample mean and the 95% confidence interval for the population mean.

If the distribution for a continuous variable is known (or suspected) to be non-normal, then report either
• the sample median and the sample interquartile range
or
• the sample median and the sample first and third quartiles.

Many blood and urine measurements are log-normally distributed-i.e., the log-transformed variable is approximately normally distributed. If the distribution for a continuous variable is known (or suspected) to be lognormal, then an alternative to sample medians and quartiles is to report either
• the sample geometric mean (calculate as the exponentiation of the sample mean of the natural log-transformed data) and the sample coefficient of variation
or
• the sample geometric mean and the 95% confidence interval.

If the distribution of the variable is categorical, then report the raw numbers and the percentages for the categories. Do not use more than three digits for the percentages-i.e., 79% or 79.3% are fine, but 79.32% is not.

Statistical tests, along with reported P values, for comparing groups at baseline are not necessary unless there is a strong reason to include them.

2B. Results: Outcomes
Every $P$ value should be reported using two digits after the decimal point. If each of the first two digits after the decimal point is zero, then a third digit can be used. If each of the first three digits after the decimal point is zero, then simply report $P < .001$.

If the $P$ value is close to the level to be used for claiming a statistical significance or if each of the first two digits after the decimal point is zero, then a third digit can be used. For example, if the significance level is 0.05, then $P = .046$ or $P = .054$ can be reported. Nonsignificant results (e.g., where the $P$ value is $>0.05$) should be accompanied by $P$ values; it should not simply be stated that they are nonsignificant (NS).

$P$ values alone are not sufficient to report the results of statistical tests. The JACI'S readers need to see the magnitude of the effects via point estimates and 95% confidence intervals for the group comparisons.

An estimate of odds ratios and relative risks (and their corresponding confidence interval estimates) should not exceed two digits beyond the decimal point.

The following is an excellent article that discusses many of the statistical errors that arise in immunologic research:


The following is an excellent article that discusses the reporting of subgroup analyses in clinical research: Wang R, Lagakos SW, Ware JH, Hunter DJ, Drazen JM. Statistics in medicine-reporting of subgroup analyses in clinical trials. NEJM 2007;357:2189-2194.

Finally, if authors desire more detailed guidance on appropriate methods for analyzing study outcomes, then they can visit the Web sites of other biomedical journals. An excellent example is the Web site of Annals of Internal Medicine (http://www.annals.org/shared/author_info.html).

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1. Authors may appeal decisions. All appeals must be submitted in writing to the Editorial Office at jaci@aaaai.org and must provide detailed reasons for the appeal and point-by-point responses to the reviewers' and/or Editor's comments.

2. All appeals are reviewed by the editors. Decisions on appeals are final with no exception.

3. Manuscripts rejected without review comprise the majority of submissions given the volume of original research papers submitted. If the manuscript was rejected without external review, the authors must detail their reasons as to what they think is exceptional about the submission.

4. Appeals will not be discussed by phone or personal e-mails.

5. Accepting an appeal is not an acceptance of the paper. Rather, it is an affirmation that the Journal will review the paper again, either internally or by sending it back to peer review.

**Editorial office**

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