DESCRIPTION

Journal of Reproductive Health and Medicine (JRHM) is the official journal of Indian Society for the Study of Reproduction and Fertility (ISSRF). JRHM is published bi-annual (January and July) by Elsevier India. JRHM publishes juried original scientific articles in clinical, laboratory, and population research and timely peer-reviewed review articles, editorials, opinions/commentaries and practice guidelines to promote clinical and basic reproductive sciences relevant to reproductive and development biology, andrology, physiology, immunology, genetics, contraception, menopause and infertility. Besides human reproduction, high-quality research on animal reproduction is also encouraged.

The journal covers all scientific and medical aspects of reproductive physiology and pathology, endocrinology, andrology, gonad function, gametogenesis, fertilization, embryo development, implantation, pregnancy, fetal development, genetics, genetic diagnosis, oncology, infectious disease, surgery, contraception, infertility, epidemiology, population dynamics, ethics and social issues.

Benefits to authors

We provide many author benefits, such as free PDFs, 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 pages: http://help.elsevier.com/app/answers/list/p/8045

EDITORIAL BOARD

Chief Editors
Debabrata Ghosh, Department of Physiology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India
Jayasree Sengupta, Former Professor and Head, Department of Physiology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India

Editorial Board
M.A. Akbarsha, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India
T. D’Hooghe, University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium
S.K. Guha, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, West Bengal, India
S.K. Gupta, National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, India
B. Huppertz, Medical University of Graz, Graz, Austria
V.P. Kamboj, Former Director, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India
A. Karande, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Karnataka, India
D. Kennaway, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia
G. Pradeep Kumar, Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India
P.G.L. Lalitkumar, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden
N.K. Lohiya, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India
M.L. Madan, Society of Animal Physiologists of India, Karnal, Haryana, India
S. Mahale, National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
S. S. Majumdar, Director, DBT Institute of Animal Biotechnology Hyderbad, Telangana, India
S Malik, Southend Fertility and IVF Hospital, Gurgaon, Haryana, India
K.M.J. Menon, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA
P.K. Mishra, Central University (DHSGSU), Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, India
K. Muralidhar, University of Delhi, New Delhi, India
N.R. Nayak, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, Michigan, USA
C.V. Rao, Florida International University, Miami, Florida, USA
T.K. Sundari Ravindran, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India
S. Saito, University of Toyama, Toyama, Japan
D. Sakkas, Yale University School of Medicine, Connecticut, USA
B.N. Saxena, Formerly Senior Deputy Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, India
S. Sengupta, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, West Bengal, India
P.B. Seshagiri, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
A. Sharma, CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, New Delhi, India
G. Taru Sharma, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, India
J.B. Sharma, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India
R.S. Sharma, Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, India
S. Sharma, American Society of Reproductive Immunology, Rhode Island, USA
C. Simon, MD, PhD, University of Valencia, Valencia, Spain
D. Singh, National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, Haryana, India
A. Suri, National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, India
G.P. Talwar, Talwar Research Foundation, New Delhi, India
R. Vaidya, Former Dean of Medical Research Centre of Kasturba Health Society, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
INTRODUCTION
Click here for guidelines on Special Issues.

Affiliated to the Indian Society for the Study of Reproduction and Fertility

The Journal of Reproductive Health and Medicine (JRHM) intends to publish juried original scientific articles in clinical, laboratory, and population research and timely peer-reviewed review articles, editorials, opinions/commentaries and practice guidelines to promote clinical and basic reproductive sciences relevant to reproductive and development biology, andrology, physiology, immunology, genetics, contraception, menopause and infertility.

JRHM is targeted to obstetricians, gynaecologists, reproductive endocrinologists, physiologists, pathologists, urologists, basic scientists, and other specialists associated with human reproduction. It also aims to serve the interest of researchers, clinicians, practitioners, academics, patients and policy makers; and to provide a publishing platform for basic and clinical scientists from around the world so that they can share their research with a wider and relevant reader community.

Scope
Scientific and medical aspects of reproductive physiology and pathology, endocrinology, andrology, gonad function, gametogenesis, fertilization, embryo development, implantation, pregnancy, fetal development, genetics, genetic diagnosis, oncology, infectious disease, surgery, contraception, infertility, epidemiology, population dynamics, ethics and social issues. High quality research on animal reproduction in encouraged when it helps to clarify the human situation. The high scientific and editorial standard is maintained throughout the journal along with timed (quarterly) publication.

Relevant Topics
- Assisted reproduction
- In-vitro fertilization and embryo transfer
- Reproductive endocrinology
- Reproductive pathology
- Reproductive physiology
- Fertilization
- Gamete donation
- Gametogenesis
- Ovulation
- Embryology
- Implantation
- Placenta
- Organogenesis
- Genetics and genetic diagnosis
- Epigenetics in reproduction
- Embryonic stem cells and cloning
- Pregnancy and fetus
- Birth
- Environmental effects on reproduction
- Reproductive Health Statistics
- Ethics, social, legal

Indian Society for the Study of Reproduction and Fertility (ISSRF)
The comprehensive approach to reproductive health demands increased awareness on methods of family planning, maternal health, neonatal morbidity and a growing burden of reproductive ill health resulting from reproductive tract infections, concerns of reproductive organs, sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, infertility and the adverse effect on gender based violence. In order to provide a common Scientific Platform for all these specialties and for the common cause of promoting Reproductive Health Research, The Indian Society for the Study of Reproduction and Fertility (ISSRF) was formed and registered in 1988. Over the years, the mandate of the Society has broadened and includes various multidisciplinary components of reproductive health.

Objectives
1. To provide a forum for the discussion of Scientific, Clinical, Social and Veterinary knowledge on all aspects of Human and Animal Reproduction.
2. To facilitate exchange of knowledge and ideas in the area of reproduction through Seminars, Workshops, Conferences and Meetings held from time to time.
3. To promote the growth of the discipline of Reproductive Biology and Reproductive Medical Care.

Activities
One of the most regular activities of the Society has been its annual meetings wherein the scientists belonging to the broad area of reproductive health gather to discuss newer developments in the area. To date more than thirty national and international conferences have been organized and the proceedings of most of them have been published. Young scientists are particularly encouraged to participate in the meetings by way of financial support, holding special sessions and presenting awards for the best presentations. On the recommendations of the General Body/Executive Committee, the Society has instituted following awards: (i) Labhsetwar Award, (ii) Founder President Dr. T. C. Anand Kumar Gold Medal, (iii) Prof. G. P. Talwar Young Scientist Award, (iv) Prof. G. P. Talwar Gold Medal for Middle Career Scientists and (v) Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding research contributions on different aspect of Reproductive Health. These awards are given at the Annual meetings of the Society. The other initiative of the Society has been the publication of its quarterly Newsletter, ISSRF Newsletter, to disseminate information on reproductive health and also facilitate interpersonal communication between the members.

Facilities to Members
Members (Founder and Life) of the Society will have the right to participate in the scientific and business meetings of the Society. Founder and Life members with at least three years of membership with the Society can seek sponsorship to participate in International meetings related to Reproductive Health and apply for financial assistance from the Society. Founder and Life members would have the right to contest any of the Executive Committee posts. Members of the Society would receive free of charge circulars, newsletters, notifications etc. which will be issued by the Society from time to time. Periodicals or proceedings of the meetings published by the Society would be provided either free of cost or at a subsidized rates, to be determined from time to time. Strength As on today the strength of the Society has grown almost 1181 founder and life members, representing biomedical sciences, social sciences, veterinary sciences, clinicians-particularly gynecologists and andrologists, health care providers and women's health groups.

Invitation to Join the Society
You may down-load the membership form and complete required formalities to join the Society.

Website of the Society
The Society website is timely up-dated and could be used for seeking relevant information about its activities. You may log on to http://www.issrf.org for further information about the Society.

Contact details for submission
If assistance is required by the authors, please refer to the tutorials for authors and/or customer support that are available on the EVISE® website; you may also contact the Editorial Office. Please do not post, fax or e-mail your manuscripts to the Editorial Office.

Editorial Office
Indian Journal of Reproductive Health and Medicine
Dr. Debabrata Ghosh
Professor, Department of Physiology,
All India Institute of Medical Sciences,
New Delhi 110029
Email: debabrata.ghosh1@gmail.com

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)
• Relevant declarations of interest have been made
• 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**

Manuscripts submitted to *Journal of Reproductive Health and Medicine* should not have been published previously or be under simultaneous consideration for publication by any other journal. Violation may lead to a retraction of the published article by the Journal and other actions as deemed necessary by the editor. All articles (including those invited) will be peer-reviewed, and accepted articles will be edited to the Journal's style. Accepted manuscripts become the permanent property of the Journal and may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, without the written permission of the editor. Studies involving human subjects or animals should have received the approval of the institutional ethics committee. A statement to this effect and that informed consent was obtained from participating human subjects must be included in the manuscript text.

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

**Ethical approval of studies and Informed consent**
Studies involving human subjects or animals should have received the approval of the institutional ethics committee. A statement to this effect and that informed consent was obtained from participating human subjects must be included in the manuscript text. Please 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 [http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html](http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html); EU Directive 2010/63/EU for animal experiments [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/legislation_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/legislation_en.htm); Uniform Requirements for manuscripts submitted to Biomedical journals [http://www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org). 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.

**Conflict Of Interest**
JRHM follows the ICMJE recommendations regarding conflict of interest disclosures. All authors are required to report the following information with each submission: (1) All third-party financial support for the work in the submitted manuscript. (2) All financial relationships with any entities that could be viewed as relevant to the general area of the submitted manuscript. (3) All sources of revenue with relevance to the submitted work who made payments to you, or to your institution on your behalf, in the 36 months prior to submission. (4) Any other interactions with the sponsor of outside of the submitted work should also be reported. (5) Any relevant patents or copyrights (planned, pending, or issued). (6) Any other relationships or affiliations that may be perceived by readers to have influenced, or give the appearance of potentially influencing, what you wrote in the submitted work. As a general guideline, it is usually better to disclose a relationship than not. This information will be acknowledged at publication in a Transparency Document link directly in the article. Additional
information on the ICMJE recommendations can be found at: http://www.icmje.org/. The form for conflict of interest disclosure can be downloaded here: http://www.icmje.org/coi_disclosure.pdf (if this link does not display properly in your browser, please right-click the link and select "Save Target As..." or "Save Link as..." from the pop-up menu).

**Declaration of 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. If there are no conflicts of interest then please state this: 'Conflicts of interest: none'. 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 or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis or as an electronic preprint, see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' section of our ethics policy 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 CrossCheck.

**Authorship**

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. Please give contribution of each author on the cover page of the manuscript.

**Changes to Authorship**

Ideally there should not be any change in authorship after the manuscript is submitted. In situations where there has been an omission or substantial work is done when the article is revised, an author’s name may be added. This policy concerns the addition, deletion, or rearrangement of author names in the authorship of accepted manuscripts:

Before the accepted manuscript is published in an online issue: Requests to add or remove an author, or to rearrange the author names, must be sent to the Journal Manager from the corresponding author of the accepted manuscript and must include: (a) the reason the name should be added or removed, or the author names rearranged and (b) written confirmation (e-mail, fax, 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. Requests that are not sent by the corresponding author will be forwarded by the Journal Manager to the corresponding author, who must follow the procedure as described above. Note that: (1) Journal Managers will inform the Journal Editors of any such requests and (2) publication of the accepted manuscript in an online issue is suspended until authorship has been agreed upon by the editor.

After the accepted manuscript is published in an online issue: Any requests to add, delete, or rearrange author names in an article published in an online issue will follow the same policies as noted above and result in a corrigendum

**Reporting clinical trials**

All randomized controlled trials submitted for publication should include a completed Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) flow chart. Please refer to the CONSORT statement website at http://www.consort-statement.org for more information. This journal has adopted the proposal from the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) which require, as a condition of consideration for publication of clinical trials, registration in a public trials registry. Trials must register at or before the onset of patient enrolment. The clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract of the article.

For this purpose, a clinical trial is defined as any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects of health outcomes. Health-related interventions include any intervention used to modify a biomedical or health-related outcome (for example drugs, surgical procedures, devices, behavioral treatments,
dietary interventions, and process-of-care changes). Health outcomes include any biomedical or health-related measures obtained in patients or participants, including pharmacokinetic measures and adverse events.

Purely observational studies (those in which the assignment of the medical intervention is not at the discretion of the investigator) will not require registration. Further information can be found at http://www.icmje.org.

Copyright

Journal of Reproductive Health and Medicine (JRHM) is the official, peer-reviewed publication of the Indian Society for the Study of Reproduction and Fertility (ISSRF). All articles published in the Journal are protected by copyright, which covers the exclusive rights to reproduce and distribute the article, as well as translation rights. No JRHM article, in part or whole, may be reproduced, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, by photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior written permission from ISSRF.

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.

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.

Funding/support statement

All financial and material support for the research, work, writing and editorial assistance from internal or external agencies, including commercial companies, should be clearly and completely identified in a Funding/Support Statement. 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. Please see http://www.elsevier.com/funding.

Green open access

Authors can share their research in a variety of different ways and Elsevier has a number of green open access options available. We recommend authors see our green open access page for further information. Authors can also self-archive their manuscripts immediately and enable public access from their institution's repository after an embargo period. This is the version that has been accepted for publication and which typically includes author-incorporated changes suggested during submission, peer review and in editor-author communications. Embargo period: For subscription articles, an appropriate amount of time is needed for journals to deliver value to subscribing customers before an article becomes freely available to the public. This is the embargo period and it begins from the date the article is formally published online in its final and fully citable form. Find out more.

This journal has an embargo period of 12 months.

Elsevier Publishing Campus

The Elsevier Publishing Campus (www.publishingcampus.com) is an online platform offering free lectures, interactive training and professional advice to support you in publishing your research. The College of Skills training offers modules on how to prepare, write and structure your article and explains how editors will look at your paper when it is submitted for publication. Use these resources, and more, to ensure that your submission will be the best that you can make it.
**Language (usage and editing services)**
Articles should be written in English, using American English spelling. 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 WebShop [http://webshop.elsevier.com/languagediting/](http://webshop.elsevier.com/languagediting/) or visit our customer support site [http://support.elsevier.com](http://support.elsevier.com) for more information.

**Identification of patients in descriptions, photographs and pedigrees**
A signed statement of informed consent to publish (in print and online) patient descriptions, photographs and pedigrees should be obtained from all persons (parents or legal guardians for minors) who can be identified (including by the patients themselves) in such written descriptions, photographs or pedigrees. Such persons should be shown the manuscript before its submission. Omitting data or making data less specific to de-identify patients is acceptable, but changing any such data is not acceptable. State explicitly in the methods section of the manuscript that informed consent was obtained from all participating adult subjects or from parents or legal guardians for minors or incapacitated adults, together with the manner in which informed consent was obtained (i.e., oral or written).

**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.

The Journal only accepts online submissions in electronic format. All new manuscripts must be submitted through Journal of Reproductive Health and Medicine online and review website [http://www.evise.com/evise/faces/pages/navigation/NavController.jspx?JRNL_ACR=JRHM](http://www.evise.com/evise/faces/pages/navigation/NavController.jspx?JRNL_ACR=JRHM). Please follow the following steps to submit your manuscript:

2. Register yourself for free by clicking on register on the top and create a user profile with a desired username and mandatory details. On submission of the information, you will receive an email confirming your registration along with the 'Password'
3. Click "Log In" on the main navigation menu at the top of the journal screen to open the login page.
4. Enter your username and password in the appropriate fields (e-mailed to you at the time of registration).
5. Click "Author Log in", this takes you to the "Author Main Menu".
6. After that you can submit the manuscript by following the instructions provided on the screen.
7. Revised manuscripts can be uploaded online using the same log in.

If you have any problems in submission of your manuscript, please send an email to debabrata.ghosh1@gmail.com

**Note**: Please note that the username and password combination required for Elsevier Editorial System is different from your username and password combination used to "Track your paper" on the Elsevier "Authors' Home" website.

By submitting a manuscript online, the author agrees to the following:
1. The work is original and free from plagiarism.
2. It has neither been published, nor is it not under consideration for publication at another journal.
3. All authors are aware of the authorship order. The corresponding author shall be responsible in case of dispute.
4. Once published, copyright of manuscript shall stand transferred to the Journal.
5. 'Conflict of interest' if any, must be explicitly stated at the end of the manuscript.

**Submit your article**

**PREPARATION**
Manuscripts must conform to the instructions given below:
General
Type the manuscript using 'Times New Roman' font, size 12 in double space throughout. Please arrange the manuscript as follows: Title page, Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and References. Number all pages consecutively, beginning with the title page. All figures and Tables must be referred to in the manuscript. Consult a recent issue of the Journal for details. Only the Title page should bear the names and addresses of the author(s). Editorials, perspective and review articles are generally by invitation. However if you are interested in writing a review/perspective, you can send an email to the editor with the topic and a short summary of contents to be included. The Chief Editors will convey their decision in 7-10 days' time.

Length of articles
Text of original articles should be between 2000 and 3500 words. The article should not ordinarily contain more than 3 tables, 2 figures and 25 references. Case Reports with an interesting image can be accepted as 'Images in Rheumatology'. This report should be of about 750 words including discussion with 1–2 images and 5–6 references. Letters discussing or criticizing material published recently in the Journal, brief presentations of data, or those pertaining to issues of relevance to health policy, practice of medicine, or the like, are welcome. These should not exceed 500 words, 1 table and 5 references.

Peer review
This journal operates a double blind review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then 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. More information on types of peer review.

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. 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. 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.

Length of articles
Original articles: These are full-length reports of original basic and clinical investigation. The text of original articles should not be more than 3,500 words with additional 250 words abstract. Abstract should be easily comprehensible to readers before they read the article. Avoid abbreviations and reference citations. The rest of the paper should be structured as follows: Introduction, Materials and methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements, and References. The Journal gives priority to reports of original research that are likely to have high impact on notions and practices in reproductive health and medicine. Submission of randomized controlled trials requires inclusion of a checklist and flowchart in accordance with the CONSORT guidelines and the registration number of the trial and the name of the trial registry. The article should not ordinarily contain more than 3 tables, 2 figures and 25 references.

Review articles: These are comprehensive reviews based on prior publications relating to important strategic topics. The review articles should not be more that 6,000 words. An Abstract of no more than 250 words is required. The Introduction should indicate why the topic is important and should state the specific objectives of the review. The Conclusion should include the strategic implications on human reproduction, observations regarding the need for additional research, and lead questions for future research. Systematic reviews should
follow the PRISMA guidelines. Meta-analysis of observational studies should follow the MOOSE guidelines. Further information can be obtained from the EQUATOR network web site at http://www.equator-network.org/resource-centre/library-of-health-research-reporting/reporting-guidelines.

**Short communications:** These are compact reports not exceeding 1,000 words with no more than one table and one illustration (or two tables) and ten references. An Abstract of not more than 100 words is required. The text should be structured in four parts: Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion.

**Ethics, social, legal:** These include articles on ethical, religious and political topics arising through the treatment and care of various clinical conditions in the field of reproductive research and medicine. The Abstract should be in a single paragraph with no subheadings, 250 words maximum. The text may preferably be structured under headings of author’s choice.

**Opinions/Commentaries:** These include compact articles for topics that authors wish to share ‘novel’ thoughts on. Must not exceed 2,000 words with no more than one table and one illustration (or two tables or two illustrations) and 10 references. An abstract of 150 words maximum is required. The text may be either unstructured or structured under headings of author’s choice.

**Letters to the Editor:** Letters must be received within 8 weeks of publication of the article to which they refer and should be no longer than 250 words, and may be published at the Editor’s discretion.

**News:** International news from a wide variety of sources, and other matters of relevance to the journal’s fields of study are invited. These should be 200-500 words in length and may be published at the Editor’s discretion.

**Title page**
In animal studies, the title should state the species; all other titles will refer to human studies. State names of authors (including first names), the departments and the institution where the work was done. Please do not add your academic qualifications, designation etc. State contribution of each author clearly. A short, running title, not exceeding 40 characters, should be provided. Please provide the name, postal address with PIN code, facsimile number and E-mail address of the author to whom communications and proofs are to be sent. Acknowledgements, if any, may be mentioned on this page.

**Abstract**
Original articles should include a structured abstract of upto 250 words under the following headings: Background/Objectives/Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, and Conclusions/ Discussion. [See Ann Intern Med 1990; 113: 69–76]. References should not be included. Upto 10 key words, not present in the title, to assist indexing, should be provided below the Abstract in alphabetical order; these may be obtained from the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) database of National Library of Medicine, USA.

**Acknowledgements**
These should appear at the end of the manuscript. The source of funding as well as a disclosure statement mentioning conflict of interest, if any, should appear under this heading.

**Units**
All measurements must be in metric units, preferably with corresponding SI units in parentheses.

**Artwork**
*Electronic artwork*

**General points**
- Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork.
- Embed the used fonts if the application provides that option.
- Aim to use the following fonts in your illustrations: Arial, Courier, Times New Roman, Symbol, or use fonts that look similar.
- Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text.
- Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
- Provide captions to illustrations separately.
- Size the illustrations close to the desired dimensions of the published version.
- Submit each illustration as a separate file.

A detailed guide on electronic artwork is available.
You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.

Formats
If your electronic artwork is created in a Microsoft Office application (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) then please supply 'as is' in the native document format. Regardless of the application used other than Microsoft Office, 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 all used fonts.
- TIFF (or JPEG): Color or grayscale photographs (halftones), keep to a minimum of 300 dpi.
- TIFF (or JPEG): Bitmapped (pure black & white pixels) line drawings, keep to a minimum of 1000 dpi.
- TIFF (or JPEG): Combinations bitmapped line/halftone (color or grayscale), keep to a minimum of 500 dpi.

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;
- Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

Figures/Illustrations/Photographs
Photographs of 300 dpi or higher resolution may be submitted as ‘jpeg’, or ‘tiff’ files in a zipped folder. In clinical photographs, identity of the subjects should be suitably masked; in case this is not possible, a written permission from the concerned person should accompany the manuscript.

Legends to figures
The figure number (numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals), title and explanations of the figures should appear in the legend (not on the figure). Type the legends on a separate page. Enough information should be included to interpret the figure without reference to the text.

Tables
Each table should be typed on a separate page and numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals. Each table should have a title and all abbreviations should be explained in the footnote. Necessary explanatory notes, if any, may be given below the table.

References
Number the references in the order in which they first appear in the text and identify the reference numbers in the text in superscript. References must be placed at the end of the manuscript. Please use recent references as much as possible. The responsibility for accuracy of references lies with the respective authors. The Journal is in agreement with the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (http://www.icmje.org). The general arrangement, abbreviations of Journal names and punctuations followed are as per the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts submitted to Biomedical Journals (http://www.icmje.org). Please pay attention to the style of references and punctuations as follows:

Journal article
List all authors when six or less as shown in the example below:


When there are seven or more authors, list only the first six and add et al.

Book or monograph

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.
**Editorial Process**
All articles submitted to the Journal undergo initial review by the Editors and articles that are outside the scope of Journal or are not in the journal format are excluded. Later each article is reviewed by at least two reviewers. The time to first decision is usually less than 6 weeks. As per the policy of the Journal, an Editor, who is either author of a manuscript or belongs to the same institution as any of the authors, is not assigned that manuscript and is not involved in decision-making regarding its publication. Reviewers/Editorial Board members should decline the invitation to review a manuscript which is submitted by authors from their institution.

**Preparation for Publication and Proofs**
Once a manuscript has been accepted for publication, authors should submit the final version of their manuscript in MS Word format, with all tables/figures as applicable, via the online submission system. Accepted manuscripts are then copyedited according to the Journal's style and the galley proofs in the form of a PDF file are sent by the Publisher to the corresponding author for final approval. Authors are responsible for all statements made in their work, including changes made by the copy editor. Proofreading is solely the authors' responsibility. Note that the Editorial Board reserves the right to make revisions to the manuscript and the Publisher may proceed with the publication of your article if no response from the author(s) is received.

**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.

**AFTER ACCEPTANCE**

**Proofs**
One set of page proofs (as PDF files) will be sent by e-mail to the corresponding author (if we do not have an e-mail address then paper proofs will be sent by post) or, a link will be provided in the e-mail so that authors can download the files themselves. Elsevier now provides authors with PDF proofs which can be annotated; for this you will need to download the free Adobe Reader, version 9 (or higher). Instructions on how to annotate PDF files will accompany the proofs (also given online). The exact system requirements are given at the Adobe site. If you do not wish to use the PDF annotations function, you may list the corrections (including replies to the Query Form) and return them to Elsevier in an e-mail. Please list your corrections quoting line number. If, for any reason, this is not possible, then mark the corrections and any other comments (including replies to the Query Form) on a printout of your proof and scan the pages and return via e-mail. 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. We will do everything possible to get your article published quickly and accurately. 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 Webshop. Corresponding authors who have published their article 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.

**Correspondence**
Address all correspondence to: Chief Editor, Journal of Reproductive Health and Medicine at editorjrhm@gmail.com.
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.

© Copyright 2014 Elsevier | http://www.elsevier.com