



THE OCULAR SURFACE

A Journal of Review Linking Laboratory Science, Clinical Science, and Clinical Practice

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DESCRIPTION

The Ocular Surface, a quarterly, a peer-reviewed journal, is an authoritative resource that integrates and interprets major findings in diverse fields related to the **ocular surface**, including **ophthalmology, optometry, genetics, molecular biology, pharmacology, immunology, infectious disease, and epidemiology**. Its critical review articles cover the most current knowledge on medical and surgical management of ocular surface pathology, new understandings of ocular surface physiology, the meaning of recent discoveries on how the ocular surface responds to injury and disease, and updates on drug and device development. The journal also publishes select original research reports and articles describing cutting-edge techniques and technology in the field.

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A peer-reviewed quarterly journal, *The Ocular Surface (TOS)* features concise, state-of-the-art, referenced review articles to elucidate the vast body of findings in this rapidly evolving field. Its purview ranges from molecular biology to surgery, encompassing lacrimal, lid, and ocular surface physiology, pathology, pharmacology, and medical/surgical therapeutic interventions. TOS also publishes select original research reports and articles describing innovative techniques and technology. Descriptions of desired content and requirements for articles are described below under the section headings: *Review Articles*; *Original Research Articles*; *Innovative Techniques and Technology*. All manuscripts undergo peer review by two or more reviewers. Authors are asked to revise their manuscripts, addressing all the reviewers' suggestions or explaining their reasons for declining to do so.

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Review Articles

Most reviews are written at the invitation of the editors, but independent proposals of articles are welcomed. To propose a review, please email a brief description of the intended review to Editor-in-Chief J. Daniel Nelson, MD, FACS (jdnelsonocularsurface@gmail.com) and Managing Editor Susan Erickson (erickson.oculsurf@gmail.com). If the editors consider the topic to be appropriate, you will be asked to submit a detailed outline and tentative bibliography for peer review.

Reviews should follow a topic-based outline, labeled with headings and subheadings [I,A,1,a, (1), (a)]. A TOS review should not be a general overview of a topic, but rather an in-depth, literature-based, critical review that emphasizes areas of new information, controversies, etc. The authors' own findings may be cited in the context of findings published in the literature, but original work should not be the focus of the review. The readers will have various levels of understanding about specific topic areas, so it is important for authors to provide the background, definitions, and explanations necessary to enhance understanding. Illustrative figures and diagrams are very helpful.

Length

Appropriate length is usually about 10-14 printed pages (equivalent to about 24-34 double-spaced manuscript pages, including references, figures and tables).

References

A review article should not cite all publications relevant to the topic of the article; rather, the references should be selected according to their importance and usefulness in clarifying, documenting, and providing historical background. Multiple similar references to document a statement are usually not needed.

The appropriate number of references varies according to the length of the article and the complexity of the topic. The number of references in a 12-14 page review article (20-30 double-spaced typed pages of text) should seldom exceed 150, although there may be exceptions to this guideline. Authors are encouraged to request advice from the editors if it seems that more references are appropriate.

The review manuscript should state the method of literature selection, specifying search words and data bases used, as well as the date of search; number of articles retrieved; criteria for selecting articles for inclusion in review; criteria for excluding articles.

Innovative Techniques and Technology

Evolving technologies and techniques in both the basic and clinical arenas often do not have sufficient published peer-reviewed data to permit a comprehensive review for inclusion in the basic science, clinical research, or clinical practice sections of *The Ocular Surface*. Nonetheless, there is a value to both researcher and clinician in being aware of the potential applications and pitfalls of such new technology. In order to inform our readership of evolving technologies and techniques, publication of articles describing such options with adequate peer review is appropriate.

Appropriate length for ITT articles is usually about 6-8 printed pages, including figures and references (equivalent of about 9-14 double-spaced typed pages).

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Suggested format Brief introduction describing purpose of the procedure, other procedures used for the same purpose, and advantages of (need for) the new procedure. Description of the technique, including theoretical basis and steps in performing (including figures and diagrams). Outcome data Summary/Conclusion

Original Research Reports

The goal of including original research articles in TOS is to provide rapid, peer-reviewed publication of high-quality, high-impact information that holds promise of significantly advancing the understanding of the ocular surface. The work should present new conceptual frameworks or novel research findings that challenge or enhance our current approach to clinical practice or research. To this end, the research must: 1. Be original research of the author that is conducted with sound scientific method 2. Provide new information that answers a specific question regarding ocular surface health or disease 3. Provide new, mechanistically based information 4. Be presented according to the author guidelines and format listed below 5. Be performed according to tenets of good laboratory and clinical practice: a. If involving laboratory animals, the work should conform to the ARVO guidelines for humane use of such animals; b. If involving human subjects, the work should conform to the Declaration of Helsinki and provide for informed consent in an IRB approved protocol; c. If involving a clinical trial, should be registered with a clinical trial registry 6. Be presented in a clear, logical manner with sufficient detail to be reproducible by other researchers 7. Present rationale and statistical analysis of data to support conclusions

Format 1. Title Page: (As above under "Manuscript Preparation") 2. Structured abstract: A structured abstract of fewer than 250 words is required for original research articles and should be arranged under the following headings: Purpose, Methods, Results, and Conclusions. Abbreviations should be defined at first mention, Do not include references. The abstract must be included as part of the main manuscript file. 3. Text: *The Ocular Surface* recommends a 3,500 or fewer word count, excluding title page, legends, and references. The text should be double-spaced.

In a brief **Introduction**, provide the research rationale and objectives without extensively reviewing the literature. In the **Methods** section, describe the experimental design, subjects used, and procedures followed. Previously published procedures should be identified by reference only. Provide sufficient detail to enable others to duplicate the research. Use standard chemical or nonproprietary pharmaceutical nomenclature. In parentheses, identify specific sources by brand name, company, city, and state or country. A description of the statistical analysis techniques should be included.

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

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Provide sufficient detail to allow the work to be reproduced. Methods already published should be indicated by a reference: only relevant modifications should be described.

Results

Results should be clear and concise.

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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.

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

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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.

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Provide appropriate disclosures or insert statement: "The authors have no commercial or proprietary interest in any concept or product described in this article."

State sources of support.

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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.

Keywords

Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 8 keywords in alphabetical order, 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.

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Acknowledgements

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Journal Article

2. Jones JP. Pitfalls in the design of clinical trials for anti-dry eye agents. Ocul Surf 2015;13:2-16

Abstract

3. Smith PS, Williams LC. Effects of artificial tear solutions on osmolarity of dry eyes (abstract). Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci 2015;59, ARVO E-Abstract 4015

Book

4. Charles PO, van Housen Q Jr, Duchon PX, et al (eds): Cornea, conjunctiva, lid: new concepts. New York, NY, Random House, 2015

Chapter in book

5. Aay OK: Effect of estrogen medications on the cornea, in Charles PO, van Housen Q Jr, Duchon PX, et al (eds): Cornea, conjunctiva, lid: new concepts. New York, NY, Random House, 2015, pp 234-25

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