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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**Guidelines for Writing Articles**

**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 Ali Djallilian, MD (adjallili@uic.edu) and Managing Editor David Newcombe (ocularsurface@stellarmed.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
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**Length**

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

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**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).

**Guidelines**

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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

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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:

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3. Provide new, mechanistically based information
4. Be presented according to the author guidelines
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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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