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.

**Guidelines for Writing Articles**

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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 (jdnelsonocularsurf@gmail.com) and Managing Editor Susan Erickson (erickson.ocularsurf@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.

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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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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.

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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.
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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: 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

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