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**GUIDE FOR AUTHORS**

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**Aims and scope**

*Drug Targets and Therapeutics (DTT)* is an open-access international journal publishing studies on discovery and evaluation of molecular targets for new drugs and various disease therapy and their clinical applications. The journal seeks to understand the molecular mechanisms involved in all aspects of human diseases, and aims to provide useful information on the discovery, evaluation and clinical application of target molecules for disease therapy.

**Types of article**

- Original research articles
- Reviews
- Minireview
- Brief Report
- Meta-analyses

**Submission of manuscript**

- 1) Submission: All submissions should be made online at <https://www.~> by a corresponding author.
- 2) Article-processing charges (APC): This journal is an open-access journal. However, there is no APC.
- 3) English editing: To refine English used in the manuscripts prior to submission, it is required to use a professional language-editing service for non-English speaking authors.

**Submission checklist**

Ensure that the following items are present:

- Cover letter
- Manuscript format: 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced & one column text.
- Section order: Title page, Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conflict of Interest, Acknowledgements, References, Tables, Figure Legends, and Figures.
- Title page: A short running title, E-mail address of corresponding author(s). The institutional e-mail address MUST be used for corresponding author(s).
- Abstract: No more than 250 words. Four to six keywords.
- Reference Format
- High-resolution digital images

**Format of manuscript**

Manuscripts must be in English, typewritten using Times New Roman fonts (12-point size) only, and double-spaced throughout on A-4 size with at least 2.5 cm margin. Original articles should contain the following sections in the orders listed; Cover letter, Title page, Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, results, Discussion, Conflict of interest, Acknowledgements, References, Tables, Figure legends, and Figures. Each section must begin on a new

page and all pages should be numbered consecutively.

**Cover letter**

A cover letter should include:

- A brief description of novelty and significance.
- A statement that the work has not been previously published and is not under consideration for publication anywhere else.
- A statement that the contents and publication of the manuscript have been approved by all co-authors and the responsible authorities at the institute(s) where the work has been carried out.

**Title Page**

This must be provided on a separated page and include:

- A concise and informative title.
- The name(s) of all author(s), the affiliation of authors, with symbols to link each name with that author's institutional affiliation and an asterisk to denote the corresponding author
- The e-mail address(es) of the corresponding author(s): The institutional e-mail address MUST be included for corresponding author(s).
- A running title of no more than 50 characters including spaces

**Abstract**

The abstract must be a single paragraph with no more than 250 words, presenting the hypothesis being tested, general methods, results, and conclusions. Four to six keywords should be provided.

**Graphical Abstract (optional)**

Authors may submit a visual or graphic abstract depicting an essence of the article, that is intended to catch a reader's attention. The graphic abstract should use color, be clear, and be entirely original. This must be supplied as the high resolution image file.

**Introduction**

The introduction must start on a separate page and should provide the statement of the essential background, the hypothesis being tested, and the purpose of the work.

**Materials and Methods**

All human and animal studies must have been approved by the author's institutional review board and the name of the review board and the approval number must be stated. This section must contain sufficient details of all new procedures to provide reproducibility and reliability of the experiments. Published procedures should be briefly summarized by mentioning the reference(s) and only described in detail if the procedures have been modified. The name of manufacturer should be specified with city, state (for USA), and country.

## Results

Only the experimental data must be described without further discussion or interpretation. Results are typically presented in figures or tables, with no repetition of numerical values of the data in the text.

## Discussion

This section must be provided separately from the Results. A combined "Results and Discussion" section is not allowed. Speculative discussion is allowed only if it is based on the data presented. Conclusions must be included in the discussion section.

## Conflict of Interest

All authors must disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest including any financial, personal or other relationships with other people or organizations within three years of beginning the perceived to influence, their work. Potential sources of conflict of interest include employment, consultancies, honoraria, stock ownership, stock options, expert testimony, grants received and pending, patents received and pending, royalties, and in-kind contributions. Manuscripts that do not include a conflict of interest statement will be returned to the authors for amendment before any editorial consideration.

## Acknowledgements

The section should include credits [last name and initial(s)] for technical assistance, research funding information, financial support, and other appropriate recognition. Research funding must include the funder and grant number.

## References

### 1) Citation

- Cite references in the text by name and year in parentheses, and sort them by year. Examples are as follows.
- Single author: (Thompson 2018).
- Two authors: (Becker and Seligman 2020).
- Three or more authors: (Lee et al. 2021)
- Sort by year: (Abbott et al. 2019; Barakat et al. 2020; Kim and Lee 2022)

## Reference list

The list of references must only include works that are cited in the text and that have been published or accepted for publication. Reference list entries should be alphabetized by the last names of the first author of each work. Also, the names of all authors should be provided.

- Journal article
  - Kunnumakkara AB, Bordoloi D, Padmavathi G, Monisha J, Roy NK, Prasad S, Aggarwal
  - BB (2017) Curcumin, the golden nutraceutical: multitargeting for multiple chronic diseases.
  - Br J Pharmacol 174:1325-1348. doi:10.1111/bph.13621
- Article by DOI
  - Slifka MK, Whitton JL (2000) Clinical implications of dysregulated cytokine production. J
  - Mol Med. doi:10.1007/s001090000086
- Online document
  - Cartwright J (2007) Big stars have weather too. IOP Publishing PhysicsWeb.
  - <http://physicsweb.org/articles/news/11/6/16/1>. Accessed 26 June 2007

### • Book

- South J, Blass B (2001) The future of modern genomics. Blackwell, London

### • Book chapter

- Brown B, Aaron M (2001) The politics of nature. In: Smith J (ed) The rise of modern genomics, 3rd edn. Wiley, New York, pp 230–257

## Tables

Each table must be double-spaced and provided on a separate page. Tables must be numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals in the order cited in the text. Supply a brief title for each, but place explanatory matter in the footnotes (not in the heading). Do not use internal horizontal and vertical lines. Tables should be editable and not embedded images or excel files.

## Figure Legends

Legends must provide sufficient explanation for the reader to understand the figure independent of the text.

## Figures

Figures should be numbered consecutively in the order of first citation in the text, and each figure should be provided on a separate page. Figures should be submitted in different file formats, including TIFF, EPS, JPEG, GIF, high-resolution PDF, and power point format. Figures should be high-resolution images. All figures will be published in color for online version and in black and white for printed version. Figures will be appropriately scaled down and embedded in the paper. The font size of the text contained in the figures should be legible when scaled down.

## Review

Review is comprehensive analyses of the important or emerging topics relevant to the Journal's scope. Review may be invited or unsolicited. The review should have the following sections in the orders listed; a title page, abstract (no more than 250 words), main text (Authors should break up their reviews into headed sections), References, Figures/Tables (a minimum of two figures, one of which should illustrate the major findings/pathways discussed).

## Minireview

Minireview is a concise overview of recent advances in the specified subject area.

## Brief reports

Brief report is a short and complete report of novel research findings of high importance to the field. Reports of preliminary experiments are unacceptable. Brief report should be especially significant and timely and reach a clear conclusion.

## Meta-analyses

All meta-analyses should have clear objectives regarding drug targets and their clinical application and be based on thorough, systematic and recent review of the literature. Meta-analyses reports should follow the guidelines above for Full Original Research Articles.

### ***Changes to authorship***

Authors should consider carefully the list and order of authors before submitting their manuscript and provide the definitive list of authors at the time of the original submission. Any addition, deletion or rearrangement of author names in the authorship list must be made only before the manuscript has been accepted and only if approved by the journal Editor. To request such a change, the Editor must receive the following from the corresponding author: (1) the reason for the change in author list and (2) written confirmation (e-mail, 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.

### ***Review of Manuscripts***

All manuscripts are first evaluated for their scientific content and significance by the editors and will be subjected to at least two independent reviewers. However, editors reserve the right to reject a manuscript if they feel that the

manuscript is out of the scope or does not meet the minimal acceptance criteria for publication. The same rules will apply to invited manuscripts.

### ***Proofs***

Authors are responsible for the factual accuracy of their papers. One set of proofs will be supplied for the author to check for typesetting accuracy, to be returned to the publisher within 3 days of receipt. No changes to the original manuscript will be allowed at this stage. In addition, the editors reserve the right to make any necessary correction to a paper prior to publication.

### ***Transfer of Copyright***

All authors must sign the 'Transfer of Copyright' agreement before the article can be published. This transfer agreement enables the Pharmaceutical Society of Korea to protect the copyrighted material for the authors, but does not relinquish the author's proprietary rights.

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**PUBLISHING ETHICS OF DTT**

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Researchers should conduct their research from research proposal to publication in line with best practices and codes of conduct of relevant professional bodies and/or national and international regulatory bodies.

**1. Ethical responsibilities of authors**

This journal is committed to upholding the integrity of the scientific record. As a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) the journal will follow the COPE guidelines on how to deal with potential acts of misconduct. Authors should refrain from misrepresenting research results which could damage the trust in the journal, the professionalism of scientific authorship, and ultimately the entire scientific endeavor. Maintaining integrity of the research and its presentation can be achieved by following the rules of good scientific practice, which include:

- The manuscript has not been submitted to more than one journal for simultaneous consideration.
- The manuscript has not been published previously (partly or in full), unless the new work concerns an expansion of previous work (please provide transparency on the re-use of material to avoid the hint of text-recycling ('self-plagiarism')).
- A single study is not split up into several parts to increase the quantity of submissions and submitted to various journals or to one journal over time (e.g. 'salami-publishing').
- No data have been fabricated or manipulated (including images) to support your conclusions
- No data, text, or theories by others are presented as if they were the author's own ('plagiarism'). Proper acknowledgements to other works must be given (this includes material that is closely copied (near verbatim), summarized and/or paraphrased), quotation marks are used for verbatim copying of material, and permissions are secured for material that is copyrighted.
- Important note: the journal may use software to screen for plagiarism.
- Consent to submit has been received explicitly from all co-authors, as well as from the responsible authorities - tacitly or explicitly - at the institute/organization where the work has been carried out, before the work is submitted.
- Authors whose names appear on the submission have contributed sufficiently to the scientific work and therefore share collective responsibility and accountability for the results.
- Authors are strongly advised to ensure the correct author group, corresponding author, and order of authors at submission. Changes of authorship or in the order of authors are not accepted after acceptance of a manuscript.
- Adding and/or deleting authors at revision stage may be justifiably warranted. A letter must accompany the revised manuscript to explain the role of the added and/or deleted author(s). Further documentation may be required to support your request.
- Requests for addition or removal of authors as a result of authorship dis-

putes after acceptance are honored after formal notification by the institute or independent body and/or when there is agreement between all authors.

- Upon request authors should be prepared to send relevant documentation or data in order to verify the validity of the results. This could be in the form of raw data, samples, records, etc. Sensitive information in the form of confidential or proprietary data is excluded.

If there is a suspicion of misconduct, the journal will carry out an investigation following the COPE guidelines. If, after investigation, the allegation seems to raise valid concerns, the accused author will be contacted and given an opportunity to address the issue. If misconduct has been established beyond reasonable doubt, this may result in the Editor-in-Chief's implementation of the following measures, including, but not limited to:

- If the article is still under consideration, it may be rejected and returned to the author.
- If the article has already been published online, depending on the nature and severity of the infraction, either an erratum will be placed with the article or in severe cases retraction of the article will occur. The reason must be given in the published erratum or retraction note. Please note that retraction means that the paper is maintained on the platform, watermarked "retracted" and explanation for the retraction is provided in a note linked to the watermarked article.
- The author's institution may be informed.

**2. Compliance with ethical standards**

To ensure objectivity and transparency in research and to ensure that accepted principles of ethical and professional conduct have been followed, authors should include information regarding sources of funding, potential conflicts of interest (financial or non-financial), informed consent if the research involved human participants, and a statement on welfare of animals if the research involved animals.

Authors should include the potential conflicts of interest and sources of funding (if applicable) in a separate section entitled "Conflict of interest" or "Acknowledgements", respectively, before the References when submitting a paper:

The corresponding author should be prepared to collect documentation of compliance with ethical standards and send if requested during peer review or after publication.

The Editors reserve the right to reject manuscripts that do not comply with the above-mentioned guidelines. The author will be held responsible for false statements or failure to fulfill the above-mentioned guidelines.

**2-1. Disclosure of potential conflicts of interest**

Authors must disclose all relationships or interests that could have direct or potential influence or impart bias on the work. Although an author may not feel there is any conflict, disclosure of relationships and interests provides a more complete and transparent process, leading to an accurate and objective assessment of the work.

Awareness of a real or perceived conflicts of interest is a perspective to which the readers are entitled. This is not meant to imply that a financial relationship with an organization that sponsored the research or compensation received for consultancy work is inappropriate.

Examples of potential conflicts of interests that are directly or indirectly related to the research may include but are not limited to the following:

- Research grants from funding agencies (please give the research funder and the grant number)
- Honoraria for speaking at symposia
- Financial support for attending symposia
- Financial support for educational programs
- Employment or consultation
- Support from a project sponsor
- Position on advisory board or board of directors or other type of management relationships
- Multiple affiliations
- Financial relationships, for example equity ownership or investment interest
- Intellectual property rights (e.g. patents, copyrights and royalties from such rights)
- Holdings of spouse and/or children that may have financial interest in the work

In addition, interests that go beyond financial interests and compensation (non-financial interests) that may be important to readers should be disclosed. These may include but are not limited to personal relationships or competing interests directly or indirectly tied to this research, or professional interests or personal beliefs that may influence your research.

The corresponding author collects the conflict of interest disclosure forms from all authors. In author collaborations where formal agreements for representation allow it, it is sufficient for the corresponding author to sign the disclosure form on behalf of all authors.

Examples of forms can be found here.

- COI-all authors form
- COI-corresponding author form
- COI-HCMJE modified form
- ICMJE form

### Examples of disclosures

The corresponding author will include a summary statement in the text of the manuscript in a separate section before the reference list, that reflects what is recorded in the potential conflict of interest disclosure form(s).

Topic	Examples of disclosures
Funding	Acknowledgements: This study was funded by X (grant number X).
Conflict of Interest	Conflict of Interest: Author A has received research grants from Company A. Author B has received a speaker honorarium from Company X and owns stock in Company Y. Author C is a member of committee Z.
If no conflict exists, the authors should state	Conflict of Interest: The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

## 2-2. Research involving human participants and/or animals

### 1) Statement of Human Rights

When reporting studies that involve human participants, authors should include a statement that the studies have been approved by the appropriate institutional and/or national research ethics committee and have been performed in accordance with the ethical standards as laid down in the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards. If doubt exists whether the research was conducted in accordance with the 1964 Helsinki Declaration or comparable standards, the authors must explain the reasons for their approach, and demonstrate that the independent ethics committee or institutional review board explicitly approved the doubtful aspects of the study.

The following statements should be included in the text of the Materials and methods section: "All procedures were approved by the institutional research ethics committee, and performed in accordance with the recommendations of the Declaration of Helsinki on biomedical research involving human subjects."

### 2) Statement on the Welfare of Animals

The welfare of animals used for research must be respected. When reporting experiments on animals, authors should indicate whether the international, national, and/or institutional guidelines for the care and use of animals have been followed, and that the studies have been approved by a research ethics committee at the institution or practice at which the studies were conducted (where such a committee exists).

For studies with animals, the following statement should be included in the text of the Materials and methods section: "All procedures were approved by the institutional ethics committee for the care and use of animals."

### 3) Informed consent

All individuals have individual rights that are not to be infringed. Individual participants in studies have, for example, the right to decide what happens to the (identifiable) personal data gathered, to what they have said during a study or an interview, as well as to any photograph that was taken.

Hence it is important that all participants gave their informed consent in writing prior to inclusion in the study. Identifying details (names, dates of birth, identity numbers and other information) of the participants that were studied should not be published in written descriptions, photographs, and genetic profiles unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the participant (or parent or guardian if the participant is incapable) gave written informed consent for publication. Complete anonymity is difficult to achieve in some cases, and informed consent should be obtained if there is any doubt.

For example, masking the eye region in photographs of participants is inadequate protection of anonymity. If identifying characteristics are altered to protect anonymity, such as in genetic profiles, authors should provide assurance that alterations do not distort scientific meaning.

The following statement should be included: "Written informed consent was obtained from all subjects."

### 3. Appeals and complaints

The below procedure applies to appeals to editorial decisions, complaints about failure of processes such as long delays in handling papers and complaints about publication ethics. The complaint should in first instance be handled by the Editor-in-Chief(s) responsible for the journal and/or the Editor

who handled the paper.

***Complaint about scientific content, e.g. an appeal against rejection***

The Editor-in-Chief or Handling Editor considers the authors' argument, the reviewer reports and decides whether

- The decision to reject should stand;
- Another independent opinion is required
- The appeal should be considered.

The complainant is informed of the decision with an explanation if appropriate. Decisions on appeals are final and new submissions take priority over appeals.

***Complaint about processes, e.g. time taken to review***

The Editor-in-Chief together with the Handling Editor (where appropriate)

and/or in-house contact (where appropriate) will investigate the matter. The complainant will be given appropriate feedback. Feedback is provided to relevant stakeholders to improve processes and procedures.

***Complaint about publication ethics, e.g., researcher's author's, or reviewer's conduct***

The Editor-in-Chief or Handling Editor follows guidelines published by the COPE. The Editor-in-Chief or Handling Editor may ask the publisher via their in-house contact for advice on difficult or complicated cases. The Editor-in-Chief or Handling Editor decides on a course of action and provides feedback to the complainant. If the complainant remains dissatisfied with the handling of their complaint, he or she can submit the complaint to the Committee on Publication Ethics of this journal.