



## **Author Instructions of *The Journal of Cardiovascular Aging***

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## **1. Submission Overview**

Before you decide to publish with *The Journal of Cardiovascular Aging (JCA)*, please read the following items carefully and make sure that you are well aware of [Editorial Policies](#) and the following requirements.

### **1.1 Topic Suitability**

The topic of the manuscript must fit the scope of the journal. Please refer to [Aims and Scope](#) for more information.

### **1.2 Open Access and Copyright**

The journal adopts [Gold Open Access](#) publishing model and distributes content under the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](#). Copyright is retained by authors. Please make sure that you are well aware of these policies.

### **1.3 Publication Fees**

*JCA* is an open access journal. When a paper is accepted for publication, authors are required to pay Article Processing Charges (APCs) to cover its editorial and production costs. The APC for each submission is \$600. There are no additional charges based on color, length, figures, or other elements. For more details, please refer to OAE [Publication Fees](#).

### **1.4 Language Editing**

All submissions are required to be presented clearly and cohesively in English. Authors whose first language is not English are advised to have their manuscripts checked or edited by a native English speaker before submission to ensure the high quality of expression.

If needed, authors are recommended to consider the language editing services provided by Charlesworth to ensure that the manuscript is written in correct scientific English before submission. Authors who publish with OAE journals enjoy a special discount for the services of Charlesworth via the following two ways.

- Submit your manuscripts directly at <http://www.charlesworthauthorservices.com/~OAE>;
- Open the link <http://www.charlesworthauthorservices.com/>, and enter Promotion Code "OAE" when you submit.

### **1.5 Work Funded by the National Institutes of Health**

If an accepted manuscript was funded by National Institutes of Health (NIH), the author may inform Editors of the NIH funding number. The Editors are able to deposit the paper to the [NIH Manuscript Submission System](#) on behalf of the author.



## **2. Submission Preparation**

### **2.1 Cover Letter**

A cover letter is required to be submitted accompanying each manuscript. It should be concise and outline the key message of the manuscript, explain how it fits within scope of the journal, describe significance of the findings, and attractiveness of the topic to the readership of the journal.

The cover letter should include the followings:

1. Title of the manuscript;
2. Type of the manuscript (e.g., Original Research Article, Review Article, Commentary, *etc.*);
3. State the key question that is being addressed in the study;
4. One sentence summary of the experimental design;
5. One sentence summary of the main findings;
6. Describe how the manuscript fits the [Aims and Scope](#) of the journal;
7. Confirm that the manuscript has not been published elsewhere and not under consideration of any other journal;
8. Confirm that all authors have approved the manuscript and agreed on its submission to the journal;
9. Confirm that journal specific requirements have been met if any.

If the manuscript is contributed to a special issue, please also mention it in the cover letter.

If the manuscript was presented partly or entirely in a conference, the author should clearly state the background information of the event, including the conference name, time and place in the cover letter.

### **2.2 Types of Manuscripts**

The journal publishes Original Research Article, Review Article, Commentary, Editorial, News, *etc.* For more details about paper type, please see below:

**Original Research articles:** This type of articles describe the findings of research projects which have not been published. The focus should be on originality, robustness and novelty of the findings. Clinical studies as well as experimental research findings are considered.

Provision of new mechanistic insights raises the priority rating of the manuscripts. Likewise, articles addressing fundamental issues in medicine and biomedical sciences are considered favorably, as opposed to studies addressing a minor issue or providing incremental findings.

The manuscript should be organized as:

- Title page



- Abstract
- Introduction
- Material and Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- References

The original research article must have a structured abstract including Introduction, Aim, Methods and Results, and Conclusion (word limit: 300 words) and a brief paragraph describing potential impact of the findings (word limit: 50 words). There is no word limit to the original research articles (except for the abstract and potential impact). However, it is important to be concise and avoid redundant and duplicate statements. In general, an original research article should not be longer than 10,000 words (all sections, including references) and should not contain more than 8 display items (figures and tables).

**Brief reports:** Brief reports describe original discoveries as in original research articles except that the main findings could be described concisely. However, the findings must be solid and compelling. This type of articles should include an abbreviated abstract of about 150 words. The main body of the manuscript could be described as unstructured. It should not be longer than 4,000 words (including references) and contain more than 4 display items.

**Case reports:** Case reports and case series will be considered if they are unique and provide novel findings. This type of articles should be very concise.

**State-of-the-Art Review articles:** The Editors typically commission the leading clinicians and scientists to write the state-of-the-art review articles on timely topics of interest to the broad readership of the *JCA*. The Editors will consider unsolicited review articles. A good review article must provide a comprehensive, in-depth, and critical analysis of the literature and extract or advocate new concepts based on the existing data. A review article that simply compile the existing literature without critical analysis will not be considered favorably. A general recommendation for the length of the review article is not to exceed 12,000 words and not to contain more than 8 display items.

**Editorials:** Editorials are typically solicited by the Editors from the experts in the field to discuss original research articles or brief reports published in *JCA*.

**Commentaries on Impactful Discoveries (CIDs):** The CIDs are typically commissioned by the Editors. However, unsolicited CIDs also will be considered. The Commentaries typically address important discoveries published in other journals. They must be less than 1,500 words and contain no more than one display item and less than 8 references.



**Resource Reports:** The Resource Reports describe original datasets that are of interest to a large group of investigators. The Resource Reports typically describe valuable large datasets that are benefit to investigators in the field, such as describing the transcriptome or proteome in normal and pathological conditions. The dataset should be uploaded to the journal site and be available to the investigators for their use. The Resource Reports should include an abbreviated abstract of ~ 150 words, a graphic abstract; depicting the main findings, and an unstructured main body. The Resource Reports should be less than 3,000 words in length and should not contain more than 4 display items. The main dataset should be provided as online supplementary material.

**Et cetera:** This category of articles is unsolicited articles that address timely or historic topics of interest to the broad readership of the *JCA*. They could be simply opinions expressed on timely topics. Such articles should not exceed 1500 words and should not contain more than one display items and 8 references.

**Early Career Investigators forum:** The journal will publish commentaries, personal experiences, opinions, and perspectives by those who are in early stages of their academic careers.

## **2.3 Manuscript Structure**

The initial submission could be format-free. However, during the revisions and all accepted manuscripts must conform to the journal's format, as outlined below.

### 2.3.1 Title Page

#### 2.3.1.1 Title of the manuscript

The title of the manuscript should be concise, specific and relevant, with no more than 16 words if possible. When gene or protein names are included, the standard symbols rather than full names should be used.

#### 2.3.1.2 Authors and Affiliations

Authors' full names should be listed. The initials of middle names can be provided. Institutional addresses and email addresses for all authors should be listed. At least one author should be designated as corresponding author. In addition, corresponding authors are suggested to provide their [Open Researcher and Contributor ID](#) upon submission. Please note that any change to authorship is not allowed after manuscript acceptance, except during the revisions.

#### 2.3.1.3 Short title

A short title comprised of 2 to 4 words should be included in the title page.

#### 2.3.1.4 Corresponding author information



Name and detailed contact information of the author(s) to whom all correspondence will be addressed must be included.

## 2.3.2 Abstract

The abstract should be a single paragraph with word limitation and specific structure requirements (for more details please refer to Types of Manuscripts). It should describe the main objective of the study, explain how the study was conducted, including any model organisms used, without methodological detail, and summarize the most important results and their significance. The abstract must be an objective representation of the study: it is not allowed to contain results which are not presented and substantiated in the manuscript, or exaggerate the main conclusions. Citations should not be included in the abstract.

### 2.3.2.1 Keywords

Three to eight keywords should be provided, which are specific to the article, yet reasonably common within the subject discipline.

## 2.3.3 Main Text

Manuscripts of different types are structured with different sections of content. Please refer to Types of Manuscripts to make sure which sections should be included in the manuscripts.

### 2.3.3.1 Introduction

The introduction should contain background that puts the manuscript into context, allow readers to understand why the study is important, include a brief review of key literature to set the stage for the research performed, and conclude with a brief statement of the overall aim of the work and a comment about whether that aim was achieved. Relevant controversies or disagreements in the field should be introduced as well.

### 2.3.3.2 Material and Methods

Material and Methods should contain sufficient details to allow others to fully replicate the study. New methods and protocols should be described in detail while well-established methods can be briefly described or appropriately cited. Experimental participants selected, the drugs and chemicals used, the statistical methods taken, and the computer software used should be identified precisely. Statistical terms, abbreviations, and all symbols used should be defined clearly. Protocol documents for clinical trials, observational studies, and other non-laboratory investigations may be uploaded as supplementary materials.

### 2.3.3.3 Results

This section contains the findings of the study. Results of statistical analysis should also be included either as text or as tables or figures if appropriate. Authors should emphasize and summarize only the most important observations. Data on all primary and secondary



outcomes identified in the section Methods should also be provided. Extra or supplementary materials and technical details can be placed in supplementary documents.

#### 2.3.3.4 Discussion

This section should discuss the implications of the findings in context of existing research and highlight limitations of the study. Future research directions may also be mentioned.

#### 2.3.3.5 Conclusion

It should state clearly the main conclusion and include the explanation of their relevance or importance to the field.

#### 2.3.4 Back Matter

##### 2.3.4.1 Acknowledgments

Anyone who contributed towards the article but does not meet [the criteria](#) for authorship, including those who provided professional writing services or materials, should be acknowledged. Authors should obtain permission to acknowledge from all those mentioned in the Acknowledgments section. This section is not added if the author does not have anyone to acknowledge.

##### 2.3.4.2 Authors' Contributions

Each author is expected to have made substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work, or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data, or the creation of new software used in the work, or have drafted the work or substantively revised it.

Please use the last name and Initial of the first name to refer to an author's contribution. For example: made substantial contributions to conception and design of the study and performed data analysis and interpretation: Salas H, Castaneda WV; performed data acquisition, as well as provided administrative, technical, and material support: Castillo N, Young V.

If an article is single-authored, please include "The author contributed solely to the article." in this section.

##### 2.3.4.3 Availability of Data and Materials

In order to maintain the integrity, transparency and reproducibility of research records, authors should include this section in their manuscripts, detailing where the data supporting their findings can be found. Data can be deposited into data repositories or published as supplementary information in the journal. Large-scale datasets, such as RNA-Seq and genomic data should be deposited in public databases. Authors who cannot share their data should state that the data will not be shared and explain it. If a manuscript does not involve such issue, please state "Not applicable." in this section.



#### 2.3.4.4 Financial Support and Sponsorship

All sources of funding for the study reported should be declared. The role of the funding body in the experiment design, collection, analysis and interpretation of data, and writing of the manuscript should be declared. Any relevant grant numbers and the link of funder's website should be provided if any. If the study is not involved with this issue, state "None." in this section.

#### 2.3.4.5 Conflicts of Interest

Authors must declare any potential conflicts of interest that may be perceived as inappropriately influencing the representation or interpretation of reported research results. If there are no conflicts of interest, please state "All authors declared that there are no conflicts of interest." in this section. Some authors may be bound by confidentiality agreements. In such cases, in place of itemized disclosures, we will require authors to state "All authors declare that they are bound by confidentiality agreements that prevent them from disclosing their conflicts of interest in this work." If authors are unsure whether conflicts of interest exist, please refer to the "Conflicts of Interest" of [JCA Editorial Policies](#) for a full explanation.

#### 2.3.4.6 Ethical Approval and Consent to Participate

Research involving human subjects, human material or human data must be performed in accordance with the [Declaration of Helsinki](#) and approved by an appropriate ethics committee. An informed consent to participate in the study should also be obtained from participants, or their parents or legal guardians for children under 16. A statement detailing the name of the ethics committee (including the reference number where appropriate) and the informed consent obtained must appear in the manuscripts reporting such research.

Studies involving animals and cell lines must include a statement on ethical approval. More information is available at [Editorial Policies](#).

If the manuscript does not involve such issue, please state "Not applicable." in this section.

#### 2.3.4.7 Consent for Publication

Manuscripts containing individual details, images or videos, must obtain consent for publication from that person, or in the case of children, their parents or legal guardians. If the person has died, consent for publication must be obtained from the next of kin of the participant. Manuscripts must include a statement that a written informed consent for publication was obtained. Authors do not have to submit such content accompanying the manuscript. However, these documents must be available if requested. If the manuscript does not involve this issue, state "Not applicable." in this section.

#### 2.3.4.8 Copyright



Authors retain copyright of their works through a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](#) that clearly states how readers can copy, distribute, and use their attributed research, free of charge. A declaration "© The Author(s) 2021." will be added to each article. Authors are required to sign License to Publish before formal publication.

## 2.3.4.9 References

Preferably original research articles that directly support the statements should be cited. Review articles could be cited when they specifically address the statement made in the manuscript. An abstract should not be used as a reference. Non-specific citations should be avoided.

References should be numbered in order of appearance at the end of manuscripts. In the text, reference numbers should be placed in square brackets and the corresponding references are cited thereafter. If the number of authors less than or equal to six, we require to list all authors' names. If the number of authors is more than six, only the first three authors' names are required to be listed in the references, other authors' names should be omitted and replaced with "et al.". Abbreviations of the journals should be provided on the basis of [Index Medicus](#). Information from manuscripts accepted but not published should be cited in the text as "Unpublished material" with written permission from the source.

References should be described as follows, depending on the types of works:

Types	Examples
<b>Journal articles by individual authors</b>	Weaver DL, Ashikaga T, Krag DN, et al. Effect of occult metastases on survival in node-negative breast cancer. <i>N Engl J Med</i> 2011;364:412-21. [PMID: 21247310 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1008108]
<b>Organization as author</b>	Diabetes Prevention Program Research Group. Hypertension, insulin, and proinsulin in participants with impaired glucose tolerance. <i>Hypertension</i> 2002;40:679-86. [PMID: 12411462]
<b>Both personal authors and organization as author</b>	Vallancien G, Emberton M, Harving N, van Moorselaar RJ; Alf-One Study Group. Sexual dysfunction in 1,274 European men suffering from lower urinary tract symptoms. <i>J Urol</i> 2003;169:2257-61. [PMID: 12771764 DOI: 10.1097/01.ju.0000067940.76090.73]



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- Journal articles not in English** Zhang X, Xiong H, Ji TY, Zhang YH, Wang Y. Case report of anti-N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor encephalitis in child. *J Appl Clin Pediatr* 2012;27:1903-7. (in Chinese)
- 
- Journal articles ahead of print** Odibo AO. Falling stillbirth and neonatal mortality rates in twin gestation: not a reason for complacency. *BJOG* 2018; Epub ahead of print [PMID: 30461178 DOI: 10.1111/1471-0528.15541]
- 
- Books** Sherlock S, Dooley J. Diseases of the liver and biliary system. 9th ed. Oxford: Blackwell Sci Pub; 1993. pp. 258-96.
- 
- Book chapters** Meltzer PS, Kallioniemi A, Trent JM. Chromosome alterations in human solid tumors. In: Vogelstein B, Kinzler KW, editors. The genetic basis of human cancer. New York: McGraw-Hill; 2002. pp. 93-113.
- 
- Online resource** FDA News Release. FDA approval brings first gene therapy to the United States. Available from: <https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm574058.htm>. [Last accessed on 30 Oct 2017]
- 
- Conference proceedings** Harnden P, Joffe JK, Jones WG, editors. Germ cell tumours V. Proceedings of the 5th Germ Cell Tumour Conference; 2001 Sep 13-15; Leeds, UK. New York: Springer; 2002.
- 
- Conference paper** Christensen S, Oppacher F. An analysis of Koza's computational effort statistic for genetic programming. In: Foster JA, Lutton E, Miller J, Ryan C, Tettamanzi AG, editors. Genetic programming. EuroGP 2002: Proceedings of the 5th European Conference on Genetic Programming; 2002 Apr 3-5; Kinsdale, Ireland. Berlin: Springer; 2002. pp. 182-91.
- 
- Unpublished material** Tian D, Araki H, Stahl E, Bergelson J, Kreitman M. Signature of balancing selection in Arabidopsis. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. Forthcoming 2002.



For other types of references, please refer to [U.S. National Library of Medicine](#).

The journal also recommends that authors prepare references with a bibliography software package, such as EndNote to avoid typing mistakes and duplicated references.

#### 2.3.4.10 Supplementary Materials

Additional data and information can be uploaded as Supplementary Materials to accompany the manuscripts. The supplementary materials will also be available to the referees as part of the peer-review process. The following file format is acceptable, for data sheet (word, excel, csv, cdx, fasta, pdf or zip files), presentation (PowerPoint, pdf or zip files), image (cdx, eps, jpeg, pdf, png or tiff), table (word, excel, csv or pdf), audio (mp3, wav or wma) or video (avi, divx, flv, mov, mp4, mpeg, mpg or wmv). All information should be clearly presented. Supplementary materials should be cited in the main text in numeric order (e.g., Supplementary Figure 1, Supplementary Figure 2, Supplementary Table 1, Supplementary Table 2, *etc.*). The style of supplementary figures or tables complies with the same requirements on figures or tables in main text. Videos and audios should be prepared in English, and limited to a size of 500 MB.

## **2.4 Manuscript Format**

### 2.4.1 File Format

Manuscript files can be in DOC and DOCX formats and should not be locked or protected.

### 2.4.2 Length

There are no restrictions on paper length, number of figures, or number of supporting documents. Authors are encouraged to present and discuss their findings concisely. A typical original research article should not contain more than 10,000 words and 8 display items (figures and tables).

### 2.4.3 Language

Manuscripts must be written in English.

### 2.4.4 Multimedia Files

The journal supports manuscripts with multimedia files. The requirements are listed as follows:

- Video or audio files are only acceptable in English. The presentation and introduction should be easy to understand. The frames should be clear, and the speech speed should be moderate.
- A brief overview of the video or audio files should be given in the manuscript text.
- The video or audio files should be limited to a size of up to 500 MB.



- Please use professional software to produce high-quality video files, to facilitate acceptance and publication along with the submitted article. Upload the videos in mp4, wmv, or rm format (preferably mp4) and audio files in mp3 or wav format.

## 2.4.5 Figures

- Figures should be cited in numeric order (e.g., Figure 1, Figure 2) and placed after the paragraph where it is first cited;
- Figures can be submitted in format of tiff, psd, AI, eps or jpeg, with resolution of 300-600 dpi;
- Figure caption is placed under the Figure;
- Diagrams with describing words (including, flow chart, coordinate diagram, bar chart, line chart, and scatter diagram, *etc.*) should be editable in word, excel or PowerPoint format. Non-English information are not permitted;
- Labels, numbers, letters, arrows, and symbols in figure should be clear, of uniform size, and contrast with the background;
- Symbols, arrows, numbers, or letters used to identify parts of the illustrations must be identified and explained in the legend;
- Internal scale (magnification) should be explained and the staining method in photomicrographs should be identified;
- All non-standard abbreviations should be explained in the legend;
- Permission for use of copyrighted materials from other sources, including re-published, adapted, modified, or partial figures and images from the internet, must be obtained. It is authors' responsibility to acquire the licenses, to follow any citation instruction requested by third-party rights holders, and cover any supplementary charges.

## 2.4.6 Tables

- Tables should be cited in numeric order and placed after the paragraph where it is first cited;
- The table caption should be placed above the table and labeled sequentially (e.g., Table 1, Table 2);
- Tables should be provided in editable form like DOC or DOCX format (picture is not allowed);
- Abbreviations and symbols used in table should be explained in footnote;
- Explanatory matter should also be placed in footnotes;



- Permission for use of copyrighted materials from other sources, including re-published, adapted, modified, or partial tables from the internet, must be obtained. It is authors' responsibility to acquire the licenses, to follow any citation instruction requested by third-party rights holders, and cover any supplementary charges.

## 2.4.7 Abbreviations

Abbreviations should be defined upon first appearance in the abstract, main text, and in figure or table captions and used consistently thereafter. Non-standard abbreviations are not allowed unless they appear at least three times in the text. Commonly-used abbreviations, such as DNA, RNA, ATP, *etc.*, can be used directly without definition. Abbreviations in titles and keywords should be avoided, except for the ones which are widely used.

## 2.4.8 Italics

General italic words like *vs.*, *et al.*, *etc.*, *in vivo*, *in vitro*; *t* test, *F* test, *U* test; related coefficient as *r*, sample number as *n*, and probability as *P*; names of genes; names of bacteria and biology species in Latin.

## 2.4.9 Units

**SI Units** should be used. Imperial, US customary and other units should be converted to SI units whenever possible. There is a space between the number and the unit (i.e., 23 mL). Hour, minute, second should be written as h, min, s.

## 2.4.10 Numbers

Numbers appearing at the beginning of sentences should be expressed in English. When there are two or more numbers in a paragraph, they should be expressed as Arabic numerals; when there is only one number in a paragraph, number < 10 should be expressed in English and number > 10 should be expressed as Arabic numerals. 12345678 should be written as 12,345,678.

## 2.4.11 Equations

Equations should be editable and not appear in a picture format. Authors are advised to use either the Microsoft Equation Editor or the MathType for display and inline equations.

## 2.5 Submission Link

Submit an article via <https://oaemesas.com/login?JournalId=jca>.

## 3. Research and Publication Ethics

### 3.1 Research Involving Human Subjects



All studies involving human subjects must be in accordance with the [Helsinki Declaration](#) and seek approval to conduct the study from an independent local, regional, or national review body (e.g., ethics committee, institutional review board, *etc.*). Such approval, including the names of the ethics committee, institutional review board, *etc.*, must be listed in a declaration statement of Ethical Approval and Consent to Participate in the manuscript. If the study is judged exempt from ethics approval, related information (e.g., name of the ethics committee granting the exemption and the reason for the exemption) must be listed. Further documentation on ethics should also be prepared, as Editors may request more detailed information. Manuscripts with suspected ethical problems will be investigated according to [COPE Guidelines](#).

### 3.1.1 Consent to Participate

For all studies involving human subjects, informed consent to participate in the studies must be obtained from participants, or their parents or legal guardians for children under 16. Statements regarding consent to participate should be included in a declaration statement of Ethical Approval and Consent to Participate in the manuscript. If informed consent is not required, the name of the ethics committee granting the exemption and the reason for the exemption must be listed. If any ethical violation is found at any stage of publication, the issue will be investigated seriously based on [COPE Guidelines](#).

### 3.1.2 Consent for Publication

All articles published by OAE are freely available on the Internet. All manuscripts that include individual participants' data in any form (i.e., details, images, videos, *etc.*) will not be published without Consent for Publication obtained from that person(s), or for children, their parents or legal guardians. If the person has died, Consent for Publication must be obtained from the next of kin. Authors must add a declaration statement of Consent for Publication in the manuscript, specifying written informed consent for publication has been obtained.

### 3.1.3 Trial Registration

OAE requires all authors to register all relevant clinical trials that are reported in manuscripts submitted. OAE follows the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)'s definition of clinical trials: "A clinical trial is any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes. Interventions include but are not restricted to drugs, cells, other biological products, surgical procedures, radiologic procedures, devices, behavioral treatments, process-of-care changes, preventive care, *etc.*".

In line with International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) recommendation, OAE requires the registration of clinical trials in a public trial registry at or before the time of first patient enrollment. OAE accepts publicly accessible registration in any registry that is a



primary register of the [WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform](#) or in [ClinicalTrials.gov](#). The trial registration number should be listed at the end of the Abstract section.

Secondary data analyses of primary (parent) clinical trials should not be registered as a new clinical trial, but rather reference the trial registration number of the primary trial.

Editors will consider carefully whether studies failed to register or had an incomplete trial registration. Because of the importance of prospective trial registration, if there is an exception to this policy, trials must be registered and the authors should indicate in the publication when registration was completed and why it was delayed. Editors will publish a statement indicating why an exception was allowed. Please note such exceptions should be rare, and authors failing to prospectively register a trial risk its inadmissibility to OAE journals.

Authors who are not sure whether they need trial registration may refer to [ICMJE FAQs](#) for further information.

### **3.2 Research Involving Animals**

Experimental research on animals should be approved by an appropriate ethics committee and must comply with institutional, national, or international guidelines. OAE encourages authors to comply with the [AALAS Guidelines](#), the [ARRIVE Guidelines](#), and/or the [ICLAS Guidelines](#), and obtain prior approval from the relevant ethics committee. Manuscripts must include a statement indicating that the study has been approved by the relevant ethical committee and the whole research process complies with ethical guidelines. If a study is granted an exemption from requiring ethics approval, the name of the ethics committee granting the exemption and the reason(s) for the exemption should be detailed. Editors will take account of animal welfare issues and reserve the right to reject a manuscript, especially if the research involves protocols that are inconsistent with commonly accepted norms of animal research.

### **3.3 Research Involving Cell Lines**

Authors must describe what cell lines are used and their origin so that the research can be reproduced. For established cell lines, the provenance should be stated and references must also be given to either a published paper or to a commercial source. For de novo cell lines derived from human tissue, appropriate approval from an institutional review board or equivalent ethical committee, and consent from the donor or next of kin, should be obtained. Such statements should be listed on the Declaration section of Ethical Approval and Consent to Participate in the manuscript.



Further information is available from the [International Cell Line Authentication Committee \(ICLAC\)](#). OAE recommends that authors check the [NCBI](#) database for misidentification and contamination of human cell lines.

### **3.4 Research Involving Plants**

Experimental research on plants (either cultivated or wild), including collection of plant material, must comply with institutional, national, or international guidelines. Field studies should be conducted in accordance with local legislation, and the manuscript should include a statement specifying the appropriate permissions and/or licenses. OAE recommends that authors comply with the [IUCN Policy Statement on Research Involving Species at Risk of Extinction](#) and the [Convention on the Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#).

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### **8.1 Initial check**

#### 8.1.1 Initial manuscript check

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