

Instructions for Reviewers: Summary

- **Send a hard copy to the Section Editor.**
- **Send me a hard copy and a copy on disk, with the copyright transfer form. Alternatively, please send an electronic copy via email.**
- **Figures for inclusion must be original if possible. Figures or tables that have been previously published or are derived from previously published material must be marked as such. The details of the original paper and a copy of the original figure or table must be supplied.**
- **No deletions or additions will be accepted once the manuscript has been received.**
- **There will be a charge of \$1000 per page for the reproduction of colour figures.**
- **WE CANNOT PUBLISH YOUR REVIEW WITHOUT RECEIVING, BY POST, AN ORIGINAL COPY OF THE COPYRIGHT TRANSFER FORM SIGNED BY EACH AUTHOR.**

Format

The review must be

- double-spaced and printed single-sided on A4 or American Letter paper
- Approximately 2500 words in length

The review must contain

- a structured abstract (see more detailed guidelines)
- an introduction
- text, subdivided by headings
- a conclusion
- a reference section

References must

- be in numerical sequence (Vancouver style)
- include the first three authors, or all authors if there are four or fewer
- annotated and bulleted as detailed below

Figures and tables must be

- original whenever possible
- clearly marked as "original" or "previously published" upon submission
- accompanied by full source details when not original

References cited in figures or tables must be numbered in sequence, according to the position of the first text citation of the figure or table

Bullets and Annotations

The important references (~75%) from the period reviewed must have one or two bullets ('stars') and an annotation. These are a key feature of Current Opinion journals.

Bulleted references must

- have been published during the period reviewed by the issue
- have two bullets if the paper is of outstanding interest
- be annotated with a brief description of the paper's importance. More comprehensive annotations should be used for references with two bullets.

Please read the full Instructions below for further details.

Full Instructions for Reviewers

Aims of the Journal

The *Current Opinion* journals were developed out of the recognition that specialists have increasing difficulty in keeping up to date with the expanding volume of information published in their subject.

We aim to help the reader by providing in a systematic manner

1. the views of experts on current advances in the field, in a clear and readable format.
2. selections, annotated by experts, of the most interesting papers from the great wealth of original publications.
3. comprehensive bibliographic listings from the major journals for the field.

Reviewers write short articles in which they present developments in their topic, emphasising the aspects that, in their opinion are the most important. In addition, they provide short annotations to the papers published in their topic during the period reviewed. This selected bibliography is printed at the end of each review. Papers chosen by a reviewer as being 'of special interest' or 'of outstanding interest' are clearly identified.

Selection of articles for review

You should aim to review recent articles published in your subject, *with particular emphasis on those articles published during the review period.*

The Review

Your review should be 2500 words in length and should highlight and discuss all interesting developments in your subject, as reflected in the recent literature. In addition to describing recent trends, you are encouraged to give your own opinions of the topics discussed. However, do be particularly careful of expressing conclusions in a way that might be construed as biased against a particular researcher, product or manufacturer.

Review Structure

Cover Page: include the full title of the review, the word count of the text (excluding references), and each author's full name and affiliations. The full postal address, telephone number, fax number and email address of the corresponding author should also be provided.

Structured abstract: three labelled paragraphs of no more than 250 words in total detailed below. 3-5 key words or phrases should also be listed.

Purpose of review: describe why this review is timely and relevant.

Recent findings: describe the main themes in the literature covered by the article.

Summary: describe the implications of the findings for clinical practice or research.

Introduction: a paragraph outlining the scope of the review and mentioning any earlier work that will place the review in context.

Text of review: include headings and titled paragraphs to subdivide the text. Ensure that at least one sentence divides two headings.

Conclusion: a paragraph drawing together the implications of the review topic and, if appropriate, giving suggestions for future research.

Acknowledgements: of professional colleagues and funding bodies only.

References: in *Vancouver* style (see below). 75–80% of references published during the annual period of review should be bulleted and annotated (see below).

Figure titles and legends: must be provided for all figures

Figures and tables: must be cited in text.

Please note:

- **Abbreviations** should be used sparsely and should be defined on their first appearance. Any abbreviations that are not accepted by international bodies should be avoided.
- **Manufactured products, equipment and drugs:** give the manufacturer, town (state) and country in brackets.
- **Quotations:** the source should be referenced, and the page number given in brackets in the text.

References

Articles (published or in press) should be included in the reference list at the end of the review. They should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are cited in the text (Vancouver system). Abstracts should also be entered in the reference list with full publication details of the source.

Every study mentioned in the text must be accompanied by a relevant reference.

References cited in figures or tables must be numbered in sequence, according to the position of the first text citation of the figure or table.

Unpublished data, submitted manuscripts and personal communications must be referenced in the text **only** as follows:

- Personal communication: (Churchill SW, personal communication).
- Submitted paper: (Bell S, Gordon S, unpublished data).

You are responsible for the accuracy of the references and for obtaining permission to use personal communications.

Reference format

In the text, reference citations should be typed inside square brackets, e.g.[1]. Asterisks should be used to indicate bulleted references, e.g.[1,2,3*,4**]. In the reference list, bulleted references should include the asterisk to the **left** of the number, with the annotation beneath the reference details (see below).

Please list **the first three** authors for each reference and then *et al*, unless there are four authors or fewer, in which case all authors should be listed. Provide full reference details (*author(s), title, journal, year, volume, pages*). Capitalise the first letter and all initials of authors' names, the first letter of the title of the paper, and any proper nouns in the title.

Journal names should be abbreviated as in the *Index Medicus*. If you are not familiar with the appropriate abbreviation, the journal name should be given in full.

References should be structured as follows:

Journal:

* Author A, Author B, Author C. Title of the paper. Journal Abbreviation 2000; 4:25–27.

With annotation describing importance of reference, if bulleted

Book:

* Author A, Author B, Author C. Title of the book section. In: Book name. Edition number. Edited by Editor A, Editor B, Editor C (editors). Location of Publisher: Publisher; 2000. pp. 25–27.

With annotation describing importance of reference, if bulleted

Annotations should highlight the importance of papers published during the review period. Annotations should not summarise the content of a paper. 75–80% of papers published during the annual period of review should be given one bullet and have a short (one or two line) annotation describing the paper's interest to the reader. Papers which are of outstanding interest and are essential reading should be given two bullets and a more comprehensive annotation. See below for examples.

AT LEAST 80% OF THE REFERENCES IN A REVIEW SHOULD BE FROM THE PERIOD REVIEWED. MOST OF THESE SHOULD HAVE ONE OR TWO BULLETS AND ANNOTATIONS.

Examples of Bulleted and Annotated References

One bullet annotations:

*67 Fitzgerald P, Kulkarni J. Home-oriented management programme for people with early psychosis. Br J Psychiatry 1998; 172 (suppl 33):39–44.

This paper outlines an innovative model for the home-based treatment of clients with first episode psychosis.

*29 Kantipong P, Panich V, Pongsurachet V, Watt G. Hepatic penicillosis in patients without skin lesions. Clin Infect Dis 1998; 26:1215–1217.

Interesting case reports to increase one's awareness and understanding of the disease and its unusual presentation.

Two bullet annotations:

**3 Rothblat GH, Llera-Moya M, Atger V *et al*. Cell cholesterol efflux: integration of old and new observations provides new insights. J Lipid Res 1999; 40:781–796.

An excellent and comprehensive review of the various mechanisms whereby cholesterol efflux may occur. It ties together the findings of numerous biochemical studies.

**2 Zeier M, Mandelbaum A, Ritz E. Hypertension in the transplanted patient. Nephron 1998; 80:257–268.

An elegant discussion, on the basis of case reports, of the mechanisms and management of hypertension in renal transplant patients. The authors therefore give a good, clinically oriented overview.

References published before the review period may not be annotated or bulleted.

Illustrations

Original ideas for explanatory diagrams are welcomed and will be redrawn by our art department. Either hand-drawn figures or electronic figures (preferably generated from Photoshop Illustrator or Coreldraw) are acceptable.

In order to incorporate illustrations into our reviews, we must receive them as early as possible. Authors are encouraged to send figures in advance of their manuscripts. Please state clearly whether each figure has been published previously. Tables should be submitted with the manuscript. Please state in a covering letter whether each table has been published previously.

If you wish to use illustrations or tables that have been previously published or that are derived from previously published material, please provide a photocopy of the original, a new caption if necessary, and full source details. Please provide contact numbers for the original authors if you have access to them.

IN SOME INSTANCES WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO USE MATERIAL WHICH HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED. PLEASE USE ORIGINAL MATERIAL WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

Glossy prints of photographs should be supplied. Text, arrows, etc. should not be pasted directly onto the photograph. Please indicate on a separate photocopy where the labels should appear.

Authors will be asked to contribute to the cost of any colour reproduction. This will be \$1000 per page.

Preparation of disk

Check the final copy of the review carefully before submission for spelling mistakes, inconsistencies, and errors. In the case of a discrepancy between the disk and the hard copy, the disk will be taken as the definitive version. **We do not check the computer file against the hard copy.**

Label the disk with the first named author, the word processing package, and the version used. Text should be on PC formatted disks. We prefer to receive PC processed text, but are able to accommodate Apple processed manuscripts, *if saved in PC format text*.

When sending the disk, ensure it is adequately protected to avoid damage from bending or X-ray inspection.