

JOURNAL OF DEVELOPMENTAL ORIGINS OF HEALTH AND DISEASE

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Mission Statement

Journal of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (J DOHaD) is the official scientific journal of the International Society for Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD).

J DOHaD is a forum for leading research in the field, focusing on how the environment during early animal and human development, and interactions between environmental and genetic factors, influence health in later life and risk of disease.

Submissions may be in the form of original research articles, short communications and reviews. The journal seeks themed issues, with guest editors; and is also a platform for conference/workshop reports, and for opinion, comment and interaction.

The journal is multi-disciplinary, and invites contributions from basic scientists working in the fields of physiology, nutrition, endocrinology and metabolism, developmental biology, molecular biology and epigenetics, human biology and anthropology, evolutionary developmental biology, and clinicians, nutritionists, epidemiologists, social scientists, economists, public health specialists and policy makers.

Categories of papers

Original research articles - This category is intended for full-scale basic, clinical or epidemiological studies including large controlled trials. Articles may contain up to 5,000 words (not including references, figures and tables) and should include an abstract of up to 250 words and 3–5 key words. (Exceptions to the length limitation will be considered for unusually large or complex studies.)

Brief reports - This category is for smaller, self-contained laboratory or clinical studies or analyses. Papers in this category may contain up to 2,500 words (not including references, figures and tables) and should include a maximum of 25 references, up to 2 illustrations (figures or tables), an abstract of up to 150 words and 3–5 key words.

Rapid communications - This category is for 'fast-breaking' new work, which is of great potential interest and can be succinctly presented.

Authors who wish to submit a rapid communication must first send an abstract to the Editor in Chief, Michael Ross (DOHaDeditor@cambridge.org) for approval of submission in this category.

Submissions that do not have prior approval will be reviewed on the regular track.

Papers in this category may contain up to 2,500 words (not including references, figures and tables) and should include a maximum of 25 references, up to 2 illustrations (figures or tables), an abstract of up to 150 words and 3–5 key words. Rapid communications will be reviewed and published on a "fast track" basis.

Reviews – *J DOHaD* will publish scholarly, comprehensive reviews that summarize and critically evaluate research in the field addressed and identify future implications. Reviews will be invited by the Editors but may also be submitted. Authors wishing to submit papers in this category are advised to contact either the Editor-in-Chief or appropriate Associate Editor before doing so.

Reviews may contain up to 5,000 words (not including references, figures and tables) and should include an abstract of up to 250 words and 3–5 key words. (Exceptions to the length limitation will be considered if justified by the scope of the Review).

Focus Papers – These papers focus attention on a research paper published in the same issue in the journal. Focus Papers should highlight, discuss and amplify the issues addressed in the research paper adding perspectives derived the author's own work and the literature and should consider the implications of the findings. Focus papers need not necessarily agree with the paper they address. Focus Papers may contain up to 1500 words (not including references, figures and tables) and 3–5 key words. No abstract is needed. Focus Papers are invited by the Editor-in-Chief.

Papers in all categories, whether invited or submitted, will be peer reviewed.

Clinical Trials

As a condition of consideration for publication, registration of clinical trials in a public trials registry is required. A clinical trial is defined by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (in accordance with the definition of the World Health Organisation) as any research project that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes. Trials must be registered before the start of patient enrollment. The registry must be accessible to the public at no charge. It must be open to all prospective registrants and managed by a not-for-profit organization. There must be a mechanism to ensure the validity of the registration data, and the registry should be electronically searchable. An acceptable registry must include at minimum a unique trial number, trial registration date, secondary identification information if assigned by sponsors or others, funding source(s), primary and secondary sponsor(s), responsible contact person, research contact person, official scientific title of the study, research ethics review, the medical condition being studied, intervention(s), key inclusion and exclusion criteria, study type, anticipated trial start date, target sample size, recruitment status, primary outcome, and key secondary outcomes. Registration information must be provided at the time of submission. Trial registry name, registration identification number, and the URL for the registry should be included at the end of the abstract.

Manuscripts reporting the results of randomized controlled trials should include a "CONSORT" flow diagram as a figure in the manuscript to illustrate the progress of all patients in the study (See: Schulz KF, Altman D, for the CONSORT Group. The CONSORT statement: revised recommendations for improving the quality of reports of parallel-group randomized trials. *JAMA*. 2001; 285, 1987-1991.)

Originality and copyright

To be considered for publication in *J DOHaD*, a manuscript cannot have been published previously, nor can it be under review for publication elsewhere. (Previously published figures may be sparingly used in Reviews, with appropriate permission.) The posting of a brief summary of clinical trial outcomes on a pharmaceutical website (such as the PhRMA-sponsored database www.clinicalstudyresults.org) will not necessarily count as prior publication nor impede full consideration of a manuscript: *J DOHaD* will look at this on a case-by-case basis to determine the extent of overlap between the trial data posted and the manuscript as submitted, and will decide whether the manuscript contains a sufficiently new perspectives or sufficient additional data for it to count as original. Authors should declare when submitting manuscripts that such data have already been posted and *J DOHaD* will review this sympathetically.

Papers with multiple authors are reviewed with the assumption that all authors have contributed materially to the research reported, have approved the submitted manuscript and concur with its submission to *J DOHaD*. A Copyright Transfer Agreement, with certain specified rights reserved by the author, must be signed and returned to the Editor by the senior author of accepted manuscripts (Signing on behalf of all the other authors), prior to publication. This is necessary for the wide distribution of research findings, and the protection of both author and the International Society for Developmental Origins of Health and Disease under copyright law.

Authorship

All individuals included as authors of papers must have contributed substantially to the scientific process leading up to the writing of the paper. Such contribution includes the conception and design of the project, the performance of experiments and the analysis and interpretation of data. In addition the author should have made a substantial contribution to drafting or critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content.

We are aware that authors sometimes receive assistance from technical writers, language editors and/or writing agencies in preparing manuscripts for publication. Such assistance must be noted in the cover letter and in the Acknowledgements section along with a declaration that the author(s) are entirely responsible for the scientific content of the paper.

Failure to acknowledge assistance from technical writers, language editors and/or writing agencies in preparing manuscripts for publication in the Acknowledgements section may lead to disqualification of the paper.

Under no circumstances will J DOHaD accept submissions by writing or editorial agencies on behalf of authors and there will be no correspondence with writing or editorial agencies regarding submitted or revised manuscripts.

Manuscript submission

All manuscripts must be submitted online via the website:

<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/dohad>

Detailed instructions for submitting your manuscript online can be found at the submission website by clicking on the 'Instructions and Forms' link in the top right of the screen; and then clicking on the 'Author Submission Instructions' icon on the following page.

The Editor-in-Chief will acknowledge receipt of the manuscript, provide it with a manuscript reference number and assign it to an Associate Editor and to reviewers. The reference number of the manuscript should be quoted in all correspondence with the *J DOHaD* Office and Publisher.

Initial Submission

The following instructions must be followed carefully:

- The preferred file format for submission is Microsoft Word; however you can also submit Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) files readable with Acrobat Reader. The tables and figures should be included in the same file.
- Word Perfect or other word-processor files or Macintosh-based files are not acceptable.
- Tables should be placed at the end of the document and not within the text.
- Do not use “enter” in order to start a new page. “Hard” page or section breaks must be used.
- A cover letter should be attached as a separate file. In the cover letter, the category under which the manuscript is submitted should be indicated and the corresponding author identified, including phone number, fax number and electronic mail address. The cover letter must include a statement regarding authorship (see Authorship section above).
- File-names should indicate the name of the first author of the paper or an abbreviated version thereof and the content of the file (text, tables, figures).
- Printed copies of the manuscript, tables and figures are not required and should not be sent.

Please note that correspondence regarding submitted and revised manuscripts will be with the Corresponding Author only.

Revised\Final Submission

- The uploaded manuscript must be in the form of a Word for Windows file with figures (prepared as instructed below) in separate files. Word Perfect or other word-processor files or Macintosh-based files are not acceptable.
- Do not use “enter” in order to start a new page. “Hard” page or section breaks must be used.
- Figures should be prepared using appropriate formats and saved as TIFF or JPEG files. It is essential that JPEGs are greater than 320dpi. PowerPoint files or figures “pasted” into Word files are not acceptable for revised or final submissions.
- File names should indicate the manuscript number assigned by the journal and the content of the file (text, figures).

Review process

Manuscripts submitted to *J DOHaD* including those for supplements will be reviewed by at least two external reviewers and evaluated by an Associate Editor. Authors are requested to suggest up to 4 reviewers who are especially qualified to referee the work and would not have a conflict of interest. Please provide the names, email addresses, fax numbers and mailing addresses of the suggested reviewers. If authors would prefer that a particular reviewer(s) not evaluate the paper, they may indicate this request with appropriate justification, which will be treated confidentially. Suggestions and requests regarding reviewers will be considered by the Editor without obligation to accept them.

Authors should note that manuscripts may be returned after initial review by the Editors if the paper is deemed unlikely to be reviewed favorably. This rapid rejection process enables the author to submit promptly for publication elsewhere.

Every effort will be made to provide the author with a review within 6 weeks of receipt of the manuscript. If the Editor requests that revisions be made to a manuscript before publication, a maximum of 3 months shall be allowed for preparation of the revision, except in unusual circumstances.

Manuscript preparation and style

The manuscript should be typed double-spaced throughout on 'Letter' or A4 paper. Pages should be numbered sequentially beginning with the Title Page. Margins should not be less than 2.5cm on all sides and the font should be clearly legible and uniform throughout.

A **Short Title** of up to forty-five characters should be provided on the title page and should be repeated at the top right of every following page. The names of the authors (e.g. Smith et al. or Smith and Jones) should be given at the top left of every page besides the title page.

The **Abstract** should be unstructured (i.e., no sub-headings) but must provide the reader with a self-contained summary of the paper. It should include a brief introduction to the paper, the method, the key findings, and the conclusions. A list of 3–5 key words or terms for indexing should follow the abstract.

The **Body of the Manuscript** should begin on page 3. For Regular Original Articles, Brief Reports, the format should include: Introduction, Method, Results, Discussion and Acknowledgements. These should be followed on a new page by the References.

Tables should be consecutively numbered as they appear in the text (Table 1, etc.). Each Table should be typed on a separate sheet with the Table number and heading above and any note below.

Figures should be consecutively numbered as they appear in the text (Figure 1, 2 etc). Use italic letters for parts a, b, c etc. Use abbreviation (Fig), except where starting a new sentence. Legends should be provided for each Figure. Scale bars should be added to photomicrographs and other similar images. Figures (scale bars, pie charts, etc) should be presented in two dimensions only.

Since 2010, all figures submitted to Journal of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease will be published in colour on Cambridge Journals Online free of charge.

How to Ensure Colour Online

To maximize the probability that figures will be published in colour online, and also print, as good quality black and white or grayscale graphics, authors are encouraged to follow these figure submission guidelines:

- Submit a colour graphic as either TIFF or EPS files
- Submit figures at approximately the size at which they are to reproduce so that reduction or enlargement is not necessary.
- Line artwork should be supplied in black and white mode at a resolution of 1200 dpi; combination artwork (line/tone) at a resolution of 800 dpi; black and white halftone artwork should be saved in 'grayscale' mode at a resolution of 300dpi; colour halftone artwork should be saved in CMYK mode at a resolution of 400 dpi.
- Submit multipart figures in one single electronic file.

Author Requirements

It is not necessary for authors to indicate that a figure should be displayed in colour online. CUP will assume that any author who submits figures in colour wants and agrees to their being produced in colour online. It is the author's responsibility to declare otherwise. Colour figures must be submitted before the paper is accepted for publication, and cannot be received later in the process. Authors cannot submit two versions of the same figure, one for colour and one for black and white; only one version can be submitted.

Authors need to carefully consider the following when submitting figures in colour that will be published in colour online only:

- The colours chosen must reproduce effectively and the colours should be distinguishable when printed in black and white.
- The descriptions of figures in text and captions must be sufficiently clear for both online and print copy.
- All figures and reference to the figures must be equally comprehensible in both colour and grayscale.

Exceptions to Free Colour Online:

- Colour figures submitted to Journal of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease will be published in colour online free of charge with the following exceptions:
- The colour figure file is deemed unusable due to production standards or poor colour quality and must be converted to black and white.
- The author gives explicit instructions to convert the colour figure to black and white.
- The author gives explicit instructions that the figure should be published in colour both in print and online, and agrees to pay the additional charge associated with colour printing. A charge of £350 / \$560 for each full page in colour will be levied for authors requesting colour reproduction in the printed version of the journal. This must be conveyed to journals production at CUP no later than the proof correction stage.

What to Expect

Authors will see these colour figures when viewing their author page proofs on screen. Authors should always print their page proofs in black and white to see how they will appear in print. Authors will NOT be allowed to submit colour figures to replace black and white figures in the page proof stage.

The use of **Abbreviations**, except those that are widely used, is strongly discouraged. They should be used only if they contribute to better comprehension of the manuscript. Acronyms should be spelled out at first mention. Metric system (SI) units should be used.

J DOHaD encourages submissions from all over the world. Authors who are not fluent in written English are encouraged to seek assistance in this regard before submitting their manuscripts.

Acknowledgements

In this section authors should acknowledge support for the work that is reported in the paper from granting agencies and other sources. This is particularly important in the case of research that is supported by industry. Support from industry not only includes direct financial support for the study but also support in kind such as provision of medications, equipment, kits or reagents without charge or at reduced cost and provision of services such as statistical analysis. The contribution of individuals who assisted with the research but are not included as authors of the paper may be acknowledged in this section.

The Acknowledgements should be placed after the main body of the text before the references. If there are no Acknowledgements, the title should be inserted followed by "None". Papers that do not include an Acknowledgement section will not be reviewed.

Statement of Interest

Conflict of interest exists when an author has interests that might inappropriately influence his or her judgement, even if that judgement is not influenced. Because of this, authors must disclose potentially conflicting interests so that others can make judgements about such effects. At the time of submission authors should disclose any financial arrangements or connections they may have that are pertinent to the submitted manuscript and that may be perceived as potentially biasing their paper. Non-financial interests that could be relevant in this context should also be disclosed. If no relevant interests exist, this should be stated. This requirement applies to all the authors of a paper and to all categories of papers including letters to the editor.

The Statement of Interest should be placed after the Acknowledgements before the references. If there are no interests to declare, the title should be inserted followed by "None".

Papers that do not include a Statement of Interest will not be reviewed.

Supplemental on-line material

The online platform gives authors the opportunity to include data that would be impossible or impractical to include in the printed version. These data might substantially enhance the importance of the research and might also be of benefit to readers. Authors may include tables and figures as well as data such as videos, 3-D structures/images, extensive datasets and any other supplementary material not suitable for print duplication. All supplementary material must be submitted with the original manuscript. Supplementary data should be referred to in the text with the prefix "S" (e.g. Supplementary Table S1, Supplementary Figure S1). Supplementary files will not be copy-edited, and will be published as supplied.

References

References should be numbered consecutively (in superscript) as they appear in the text. Type the reference list with double-spacing on a separate sheet. References (using Index Medicus abbreviations) should appear in the style as demonstrated below. Please note that if six authors or more, the first three authors should be listed and then 'et al.'. Examples:

1. Burdge GC, Slater-Jefferies J, Torrens C, et al. Dietary protein restriction of pregnant rats in the F0 generation induces altered methylation of hepatic gene promoters in the adult male offspring in the F1 and F2 generations. *Br J Nutr.* 2007; 97, 435-439.
2. Gilbert JS, Nijland MJ. Sex differences in the developmental origins of hypertension and cardiorenal disease. *Am J Physiol Regul Integr Comp Physiol.* 2008; 295, 1941-1952.
3. Mitchell M, Schulz SL, Armstrong DT, Lane M. Metabolic and Mitochondrial Dysfunction in Early Mouse Embryos Following Maternal Dietary Protein Intervention. *Biol Reprod.* 2009 [Epub ahead of print].
4. Gluckman PD, Hanson MA. The developmental origins of health and disease: an overview. In *Developmental Origins of Health and Disease* (eds. Gluckman P, Hanson M), 2006; pp. 1-5. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

For work that is 'in press' i.e., accepted for publication but not yet published, '(In Press)' should be written in parenthesis and not the year of expected publication.

Ethical considerations

Papers reporting experiments involving human subjects must contain the statement that the research was approved by an Internal Review Board, Helsinki Committee or similar body and that subjects gave informed consent. Papers describing animal experiments must indicate that the research was approved by a Review Committee or clearly state that the experiments were performed in accordance with accepted guidelines such as 'Guiding principles in the care and use of animals (DHEW Publications, NIH, 80-23). Papers that do not contain an Ethics Statement will not be reviewed.

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The corresponding author will receive a pdf file of the article when it is published. Additional offprints must be ordered when page proofs are returned. Price lists and order forms will be sent with page proofs.

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