

Instructions for Authors

Aims and Scope

Immune Network publishes novel findings in basic and clinical immunology and aims to provide a medium through which researchers in various fields of immunology can share and connect. The journal focuses on advances and insights into the regulation of the immune system and the immunological mechanisms of various diseases. Research that provides integrated insights into translational immunology is given preference for publication. All submissions are evaluated based on originality, quality, clarity, and brevity. Areas covered include but are not limited to:

- Allergy and hypersensitivities
- Antigen recognition and immune receptors
- Autoimmunity
- Clinical and human immunology
- Development of immune system
- Immune regulation
- Immunogenetics and systems immunology
- Immunological methods
- Immunotherapy and vaccines
- Infectious disease and host defense
- Innate immunity and inflammation
- Molecular and structural immunology
- Mucosal immunology
- Transplantation immunology
- Tumor immunology

Publication Fees

There is no publication fees. Color figures in the accepted paper will be reproduced in color on the on-line version of publication free of charge. Color charges, however, have to be paid if the authors request the colored figures in reprints.

Open Access

Immune Network is a free open access journal. Full-text and PDF are freely available from the journal homepage, <https://immunenetwork.org>.

Archiving in PMC

In February 2009, The Korean Association of Immunologists (KAI) launched a new service in which it deposited all the selected manuscripts into PubMed Central (PMC) without any charge to the authors.

Clinical Data Sharing

For submission of any research that deals with a clinical trial registered with the primary national clinical trial registry site, all of the deidentified individual patient data collected during the trial, should be deposited to Harvard Dataverse (<https://dataverse.harvard.edu/>).

If elsewhere, data should be submitted to the journal. Therefore, anyone who wishes to access the data for any purpose should be able to find it easily. Data should be available immediately following publication and no end date. Data should be available indefinitely at deposited site(s).

Editorial Policy

1. Copyright Transfer

All manuscripts are considered to be the property of KAI from the time of submission. Should KAI choose not to publish the paper, KAI releases its rights therein at the time the manuscript is returned to the corresponding author. Manuscripts published in *Immune Network* become the sole property of KAI, with all copyrights reserved. The corresponding author, on behalf of all authors, must sign the Copyright Transfer Form, and return it to journal office, before publication. Authors reusing their own material do not need to contact KAI for permission. For all other reuse, the authors should contact KAI. Detailed information regarding reuse may be found in the following link:

[\[Author Permissions \(Attachment 1\)\]](#)

2. Editorial and Peer Review Process

1) Editorial Board of *Immune Network*

The KAI Council, upon recommendation of the Publications Committee, appoints the Editor-in-Chief for a term of two years. Deputy Editors and Associate Editors are nominated by the Editor-in-Chief. The Editor-in-Chief and the Deputy Editors constitute the Editorial Board. The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for the specific editorial conduct of *Immune Network*. The KAI Publications Committee is responsible for the management and evaluation of *Immune Network* and any other official KAI publications, as subject to the general supervision of the KAI Council.

2) Peer Review Information

(1) Peer Review Process

By submitting a manuscript to *Immune Network*, the authors agree to subject it to a confidential peer review process. Editors and reviewers are informed that the manuscript must be considered confidential. After a manuscript is received, it is assigned by Editor-in-Chief to a specific Deputy Editor, whose expertise is considered to be appropriate. The Deputy Editor selects at least two reviewers, which may include some suggested by the authors.

Authors can name specific individuals whom they would like to have included or excluded as reviewers. Generally, requests to exclude specified potential reviewers will be honored, except

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for fields in which there are a limited number of experts. All potential reviewers are contacted individually to determine their availability. Manuscript files are sent to at least two expert reviewers. Reviewers are asked to complete their review of the manuscript within two weeks and to return a short review form. Based on the reviewers' comments, the Deputy Editor recommends a course of action and communicates the reviews and recommendations to the Editor-in-Chief for a final decision. The Editor-in-Chief considers the comments made by the reviewers and the Deputy Editor's recommendations. He or she then selects the comments to be shared with the authors, makes a final decision concerning the manuscript, and prepares the decision letter to be signed by the Editor-in-Chief. If manuscript revisions are suggested, the Deputy Editor also recommends who should review the revised paper when it is resubmitted. Authors are informed of the decision by email; appropriate comments from reviewers and editors are appended.

(2) Decisions

There are four categories for initial decisions: accept, accept with minor revisions, return for revisions, and reject. Some manuscripts are accepted provisionally, pending relatively minor revisions. In this case, the Deputy Editor may conduct the re-review. For many manuscripts, authors are invited to resubmit if the revisions or additional experimentation can address major criticisms. Typically, two reviewers will then be asked to consider the adequacy of the revisions. All revised manuscripts are carefully reexamined, and final acceptability is not guaranteed. *Immune Network* does not guarantee in advance that a particular manuscript will be accepted for publication, nor does it promise expedited reviews of selected manuscripts.

(3) Communication with Authors

To minimize the possibility of misinterpretation or errors in verbal communication, the Editorial Office will provide information, in writing, only to the corresponding author and will not provide extensive details (e.g., exact status of a review or a predicted time for a final decision). Deputy Editors will not accept calls from authors concerning decisions or other related matters. All such inquiries should be addressed in writing to the Editor-in-Chief, who will discuss the concerns with the Deputy Editor. This policy has been established to provide for uniformity and fairness in addressing concerns regarding the review process.

(4) Manuscripts Submitted from the institution of an Editor

Manuscripts submitted from the institution of any Deputy Editors, or the Editor-in-Chief are reviewed by other editors from outside of that institution. The Editorial Office ensures confidentiality and equity in reviewing all manuscripts.

(5) Rebuttals

If the authors believe that a serious scientific error occurred during the review, a letter of rebuttal may be sent to the Editor-in-Chief that includes an explanation of the reasons why the decision should be reconsidered. Letters of rebuttal must be received by the Editor-in-Chief within six weeks of the date that the decision letter was sent. When appropriate, the matter will be undertaken by the initial Deputy Editor or additional reviewers. Rebuttals that challenge rejections that were based on priority alone are rarely successful, since the assignment of priority is necessarily a matter of opinion. If the authors of a rejected manuscript are able to make new advances that exceed those in the original submission, they will often expedite the consideration process by submitting a completely new manuscript.

3. Reviewers

1) Selection

The Deputy Editor is responsible for reviewer selection, although the scientists on staff will make recommendations to the Deputy Editor, as chosen from a database of individuals who have previously reviewed *Immune Network* manuscripts. This database includes self-identified areas of expertise as well as information regarding the perceived usefulness and timeliness of past reviews. Every effort is made to avoid both real and apparent conflicts of interest with respect to research activities or collaborative or personal interactions. Reviewers are asked to withdraw from considering any manuscript in which they identify a conflict that has been overlooked by the Deputy Editor.

2) Scientific Integrity

Information contained in manuscripts is considered confidential and should not be shared or distributed. If necessary, a reviewer can consult with others for an adequate evaluation of the research findings, provided that all individuals involved maintain confidentiality, objectivity, and avoid conflicts of interest. KAI is not responsible for reviewers' behaviors and conduct that are not in accordance with accepted professional standards. Reviewers are asked to be objective in their evaluations and to primarily judge the novelty and soundness of the information presented.

3) Anonymity

Although reviews are anonymous, all comments should be capable of withstanding public scrutiny. Except in very unusual circumstances, the identities of the reviewers and the Deputy Editors involved in any manuscript's review will remain confidential.

Manuscript Preparation

1. General Guidelines

Immune Network publishes Full-length manuscripts, Brief communications, Review articles, and Technical reports. The manuscript should be prepared according to the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals established by ICMJE, 2013 (<http://www.icmje.org>). In general, manuscripts submitted to *Immune Network* follow these guidelines:

- Use a 12-point serif font, preferably Times New Roman
- Use a double-space format for the entire manuscript
- Prepare the manuscript in the following order: Title page, Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements, Conflicts of Interest, Author Contributions, References, Tables, Figure Legends, Figures. If necessary, Supplemental Data should be prepared in separate files.
- Begin each section component on a separate page

1) Full-length Manuscripts

(1) Title Page

The title page must include:

- The full title
- A running title (not to exceed 60 characters)
- Each author's full name as it should be published (first name, middle initial, last name)
- The affiliations of all authors and their institutions, departments, or organizations
- Superscript Arabic numbers to designate authors' affiliations
- Email address of the corresponding author with a separate number on the title page
- Up to six key words (the MeSH key words are recommended, but not obligatory, <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/MBrowser.html>)
- Abbreviations: Nonstandard abbreviations used three or more times must be defined on the title page
- Word count is limited to 6,000 words (excluding references)

(2) Abstract

The Abstract must be 250 words or less for full-length type manuscripts. Reference citations should not be included in the Abstract. The species of animals or species of origin of cells used in the manuscript must be clearly stated in the Abstract.

(3) Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, and Discussion

The Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, and Discussion sections should begin on separate pages in this order. Use unit names and symbols of measurement according to International System of Units (SI Units based on the meter-kilogram-second [MKS] system).

(4) Acknowledgements

The Acknowledgements section appears immediately after the Discussion section. Grant support must be included in the Acknowledgements. *Immune Network* allows inclusion of contributors who helped conduct the research.

(5) Conflicts of Interest

Conflicts of Interest should be disclosed following the Acknowledgements section. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest follows the guidelines described in Ethical Consideration.

(6) Author Contributions

Enter all author contributions in the submission system during submission. The contributions of all authors must be described using the CRediT Taxonomy of author roles.

[[Author Contributions \(Attachment 2\)](#)]

To qualify for authorship, all contributors must meet at least one of the seven core contributions (conceptualization, methodology, software, validation, formal analysis, investigation, data curation), as well as at least one of the writing contributions (original draft preparation, review and editing).

Contributions will be published with the final article, and they should accurately reflect contributions to the work. The submitting author is responsible for completing this information at submission, and it is expected that all authors will have reviewed, discussed, and agreed to their individual contributions ahead of this time.

An example:

Conceptualization: Hong GD (for Gil Dong Hong); Data curation: Kim Y, Kim GD (for Younghee Kim and Gil-Dong Kim); Formal analysis: Kim CS (for Chul-Soo Kim); ...

(7) References

References must be numbered as they appear in the text. If there are ten or less authors in a reference, then all the names of the authors should be listed. If the number of authors is more than ten, list the initial ten authors and then abbreviate the rest of the authors with 'et al'. If citations are included in tables or in figure legends, they must be numbered according to the citation position of the table or figure in the text. Only published papers and papers in press may be included in the references. In press articles, i.e., papers not yet published, must be submitted as online attachments in a PDF format at the time of article submission. The format for references is as follows:

- Periodicals: Antoni MH, Lehman JM, Kilbourn KM, Boyers AE, Culver JL, Alferi SM, Yount SE, McGregor BA, Arena PL, Harris SD, et al. Cognitive-behavioral stress management intervention decreases the prevalence of depression and enhances benefit finding among women under treatment for early-stage breast cancer. *Health Psychol* 2001;20:20–32.
- Books: McIntyre TM, Strober W. Gut-associated lymphoid tissue: regulation of IgA B-cell development. In: Mucosal

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Immunology, 2nd ed. Ogra PL, Mestecky J, Lamm E, Strober W, Bienenstock J, McGhee JR, eds. San Diego, CA; Academic Press; 1999. p.319-56.

- Articles published ahead of print: Ju JM, Kim MB, Ryu SJ, Kim JY, Chang J, Choi EY. Selection of thymocytes expressing transgenic TCR specific for a minor histocompatibility antigen, H60. *Immune Netw* 2015. doi: 10.4110/in.2015.15.5.222.
- Website information: WHO. WHO statistical information system [Internet]. Available at <http://www.who.int/whosis/en/menu.cfm> [accessed on 1 April 2009].

NOTE: Do NOT submit papers that are already published as attachments, e.g., manuscripts published ahead of print. Such papers must be incorporated into the References section and cited with their DOI numbers and year of publication. Citations for “manuscripts in preparation,” “unpublished observations,” and “personal communications” must appear parenthetically in the text. Manuscripts “submitted for publication” (i.e., not yet accepted) are also mentioned parenthetically in the text. Written approval from the individuals cited in personal communications must accompany the manuscript, unless they are also authors of the manuscript submitted to *Immune Network*.

(8) Abbreviations

Abbreviations that may be used without definition are provided in the following link. Nonstandard abbreviations used less than three times should be spelled out. Nonstandard abbreviations used three or more times must be defined in the title page. Abbreviations and their definitions must be consistent throughout the text. PubMed is the primary source for journal name abbreviations used in references.

The abbreviations listed are used without definition in articles published in *Immune Network*. The form may be used for both singular and plural references, or made plural with an “s” at the author’s discretion. The list of standard abbreviations is published in the first issue of each volume.

[[List of standard abbreviations \(Attachment 3\)](#)]

(9) Tables

Tables must be numbered using Arabic numerals in the order of their appearance in the text. All tables must have a title. Table legends are prepared as footnotes to the table and are included with the table. Table footnotes should be indicated with superscript symbols in sequence: *, †, ‡, §, ||, ¶, **, ††, ‡‡. Tables must be in DOC file format. Each table should be submitted as a separate file.

(10) Figure legends

Figure legends must be numbered using Arabic numerals in the order of their appearance in the text and should include a short title after the figure number. Where possible, symbols and patterns used to distinguish data should be defined

in a key placed within the graphic rather than in the figure legend. All figure legends must specify the number of times each experiment was independently performed, as well as the number of animals or replicates in each experimental group.

(11) Figures

High-resolution figures that meet the following specifications must be submitted:

- Color: Color figures must be within the RGB color spectrum.
- File Sizes: Figure files should not exceed 10 MB (average size is approximately 2 MB).
- Image Sizes: Figure images should be prepared with the PDF layout in mind, individual figures should not be longer than one page and with a width of 18 cm.
- Numbering: Figures must be numbered as they appear in the text.
- File Format: Figures should be in TIFF (this is better for halftone art, e.g., blots or photographs); EPS (this is better for line art or monochrome art, i.e., anything that involves sharply delineated lines); or PDF format. PowerPoint format is not suitable, as its resolution is too low for printing.
- For accepted manuscripts, the Editorial Office may provide re-drawing services for the figures free of charge. In this case, the authors must confirm whether the re-drawn figures are correct and exact.

(12) Depositing in Public Databases

- High-resolution structural data: Any paper submitted to *Immune Network* that contains new high-resolution structural data requires an accession number from the Protein Data Bank and assurance that unrestricted release will occur at or before the time of publication. The accession number should be accompanied by the databank’s website address.
- Nucleotide sequences: Sequences of nucleotides or amino acids longer than 50 bases/residues should not be presented in a text or in table form. Instead, they should be submitted as publication-quality figures. Original nucleotide sequences, determined nucleotide sequences, and encoding reported amino acid sequences that are described in the manuscript must be submitted to the GenBank or EMBL DataLibrary at the time of manuscript submission. An accession number and sequence availability are required at the time of publication. The accession number should be accompanied by the databank’s website address.
- Microarray Data: *Immune Network* will not publish descriptive manuscripts that report microarray data, unless such information can be considered to be of unusual immunological significance and/or include functional experiments that provide novel insights into the mechanism. As with other scientific approaches, current experimental, quantitation, verification,

and statistical analyses are expected. Microarray experiments should be Minimum Information About a Microarray Experiment (MIAME) compliant. Whereas limited online space may be available for supplemental tables associated with the manuscript, complete microarray data must be deposited in the appropriate public database (e.g., GEO, ArrayExpress, or CIBEX), and must be accessible without restriction from the date of publication. An entry name or accession number must be included in the paper prior to publication. The accession number should be accompanied by the databank's website address.

(13) Nomenclature

- **Allergen Nomenclature:** Nomenclature for allergens should be assigned in cooperation with the IUIS Allergen Subcommittee. Authors of accepted manuscripts that describe novel allergens will be requested to complete a brief standard form available at IUIS Allergen Nomenclature.
- **CD Nomenclature:** For consistency, *Immune Network* will follow CD nomenclature. For murine molecules, *Immune Network* will follow the nomenclature previously published (J. Immunol. 160: 3861-3868, 1998). For human molecules, standard CD nomenclature will be followed as updated (J. Immunol. 168: 2083-2086, 2002). See also HCDM.
- **Chemical Names:** *Immune Network* uses The Merck Index and the IUPAC-IUB Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature-Chemical Abstracts as the primary references for the proper spelling and style of chemical names.
- **Chemokine/Chemokine Receptor Nomenclature:** The systematic name for chemokines and chemokine receptors should be used. The original name may be noted in parenthesis, if desired. See Cytokine 21:48-9, 2003.
- **Enzyme Nomenclature** is *Immune Network* source for style and spelling of enzyme names.
- **Gene Nomenclature:** The HUGO guidelines for gene nomenclature may be used for naming human genes. Mouse Genome Informatics is a reference source for naming mouse genes.
- **Genetic Nomenclature for Mice:** *Immune Network* uses the revisions for standardized genetic nomenclature for mice published periodically in Mouse Genome Informatics, in which a current listing of inbred strains of mice and rats is also available. Authors are encouraged to deposit their mapping data in the Mouse Genome Database (MGD) before publication and to include the assigned MGD accession numbers in their manuscripts. Data may be submitted electronically via email. Information regarding electronic submission of datasets can be obtained from the Data and Nomenclature Submissions page. Gene symbols should be reserved with MGD in advance of publication. An

electronic nomenclature submission form is available from the MGD website.

- **HLA nomenclature:** HLA nomenclature is updated periodically by the WHO Nomenclature Committee for Factors of the HLA System. A recent reference is Hum. Immunol. 64: 919-20, 2003. Annual comprehensive revisions are published in Human Immunology; this is usually published in the spring. See also: EMBL-EBI.

(14) Supplemental Materials

- **Supplemental Data:** Supporting data that is not essential to understanding the material presented in the manuscript may be submitted with the original paper for peer review; however, the print version of the paper must stand on its own without the Supplemental Data. Supplemental material is primarily intended for short videos or large tables, large sequence alignments, or large datasets. Additional supplemental figures and tables that support the interpretation and conclusions drawn in the manuscript may, however, also be submitted for review with the manuscript. Supplemental Data must be submitted as separate files from the rest of the manuscript during the online submission; select "Supplemental Data" as the "File Type" when uploading the files. Legends or short explanations must accompany all supplemental figures; no other supplementary text is permitted.
- **Videos:** Videos must be 320×480 pixels or smaller for best viewing within a browser. Videos must be no longer than 30seconds and under 10 MB, with no sound or voice-over. Submit videos in MPG or QuickTime format. Change QuickTime file extensions to ".mov" so that web browsers will recognize the file type and play the movie. Compress videos as much as possible to help control file size. Name videos by order of citation appearance (e.g., video1.mov). Select "Video" as the "File Type" when uploading the files during online submission. Authors will be notified if problems exist with submitted videos and will be responsible for modifications. The Editorial Office will not edit videos.

Links to the Supplemental Material will appear in two places in the online journal: in the Table of Contents and in the information box associated with the first page of the full-text article. There will not be any links in the body of the article. In the printed paper, supplemental material will appear as a footnote in the first mention: "The online version of this article contains supplemental material."

2) Brief Communications

Manuscripts submitted to the brief communication section should conform to the general guidelines for full-length manuscripts, as well as these additional guidelines:

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- Brief communication, including figures and references, must fit within eight journal pages. One printed page in *Immune Network* contains approximately 3,500 characters, including spaces.
- The Abstract is limited to 200 words.
- The Materials and Methods section may be sharply limited, but should be sufficient to allow results and conclusions to be evaluated.
- Authors may combine the Results and Discussion sections.
- For brief communication manuscripts, no more than two supplemental figures and/or tables may be submitted.

3) Review Articles

Immune Network publishes full-length reviews on topics of interest to its broad readership. The Abstract must contain less than 250 words. Reviews are approximately 6,000 words in length (excluding references), with less than 100 references. They may include two to three figures and tables.

4) Technical Reports

A technical report presents primary research data on new techniques that are likely to be influential. This format is not a review of technology, but its primary report in the literature. It may involve a biological discovery which proves the usefulness of the technique, though this is not a requirement. Technical reports have formats broadly similar to that of full-length manuscripts, though many technical reports are shorter than a typical article. There is no strict limit on the number of display items.

References are normally limited to thirty, but this can be flexible as per the editor's discretion. Technical reports include received/accepted dates. They may be accompanied by supplementary information. Technical reports are peer reviewed, and authors must provide a competing financial interests statement prior to publication.

2. Preparation of the Revised Manuscript

Authors should carefully and thoroughly follow *Immune Network* Editorial Office instructions contained in the previous decision letter. A revised manuscript not returned within nine months of the decision letter date will be considered a new manuscript and subject to a new review.

Individual manuscript files, files for each figure and table (even if they are unchanged from the previous submission), and a point-by-point reply to all referee comments must be uploaded to the system. All changes in the revised manuscript text must be highlighted in yellow (Microsoft Word files preferred). Do not show deletions, because if the manuscript is accepted, this version will be immediately sent for publication. High-resolution figure files must be submitted. Figures must be in TIFF or EPS

format and prepared as described under Figures. Authors should retain copies of all files in their original formats.

After the manuscript has been reviewed by the journal staff, the corresponding author will receive an email acknowledging receipt of the revised manuscript. Please contact journal@immunenetw.org if you do not receive an acknowledgement email.

Online Submissions

Each submission should be accompanied by a cover letter that addresses three questions: (1) what is the scientific question being asked by this study; (2) what are the principal new findings that answer this question; and (3) what is the significance of the results for the field? The authors' answers to these questions will not only help the editors in selecting appropriate reviewers, but they will be forwarded to the referees along with the manuscript to aid in the review process. The cover letter is confidential to the editor and will not be seen by reviewers.

Submit online at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/immunenetw>. For the initial submission, cover letter, individual manuscripts, figures, and table files may be uploaded to the system. The system then creates a single PDF for review purposes. Authors should retain copies of all the files in their original formats. *Immune Network* online submission system requires that cookies and JavaScript be enabled on the browser. After the manuscript has been reviewed by the journal staff, the corresponding author will receive an email acknowledging receipt of the manuscript. Please contact journal@immunenetw.org if you do not receive an acknowledgement email.

Reprints

Reprints must be ordered in advance of publication. A reprint form listing the cost of reprints, together with an order slip, is sent with the electronic page proofs. The invoice for reprints will also include color figure charges. Color figures in the accepted paper will be reproduced in color on the on-line version of publication free of charge. Color charges, however, have to be paid if the authors request colored figures in reprints.

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