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## ABOUT THE JOURNAL

### Aims and Scope

Bone Research is an Open Access, fully peer-reviewed journal publishing the foremost progress and novel understanding of all aspects of bone science. The journal highlights the breakthrough discoveries in basic and clinical aspects of bone biology, pathophysiology and regeneration, as well as other significant findings related to bone.

Covering all aspects of bone science including its subspecialties, Bone Research publishes original, high-quality, peer-reviewed papers including research articles, reviews, correspondence and comments. Submissions are favoured regarding studies on the occurrence and development of bone and cartilage, bone metabolism, bone related diseases, bone regeneration and related biological materials.

Original research articles will be published under, but not limited to, the following headings:

- Morphogenesis of bone and cartilage;
- Musculoskeletal diseases;
- Metabolic bone diseases;

- Bone regeneration and bone tissue engineering;
- Bone related biomaterials;
- Clinical studies.

### Journal Details

#### Editor-in-Chief:

Xue-dong Zhou (China)

#### Executive Editor-in-Chief:

Thomas L. Clemens (USA)

#### Founding Editor

Xu Cao (USA)

#### Editorial office:

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## PREPARATION OF ARTICLES

### Article Types

#### Articles

Articles describe original research, and should be 3000-6000 words (excluding the abstract, tables, figure legends and references) and contain no more than 8 display items (such as figures or tables).

### Review Articles

Review Articles cover a focused area on the current status of bone research fields and provide a balanced view of historical and updated information that can be understood by researchers outside that specialty. They should be succinctly written and should not exceed 6,000 words. *Bone Research* will consider more extensive reviews that exceed 6000 words with prior approval of the editors. Reviews do

not require 'Materials and methods' or 'Results and Discussion' sections but can be structured using short topical headings. Display items (no more than 2-3) can be included.

### Correspondence

Correspondences (formerly Letters to the Editor) concerns timely and important issues raised in articles previously published in *Bone Research*. All Letters are forwarded to the authors of the original article following an initial editorial review in order to provide an opportunity for a response to appear along with the submitted letter. Note that the *Bone Research* only considers Letters to the Editor that are primarily about papers previously published in the Journal. Letters should be no more than 900 words (12-point Times New Roman).

### Comment

Comments are original research studies that answer specific questions about novel therapies or new uses of established therapeutic agents. *Bone Research* will consider manuscripts in this category for all phases of clinical trials.

## Article Requirements

### Cover letter

Each manuscript must be accompanied by a cover letter including statements that:

- Highlight of the current manuscript should be limited to no more than 2 short sentences;
- All authors agree with the submission;
- The work has not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere, either completely or in part, or in another form or language;
- If material has been reproduced from another source, the authors have authorization from the copyright holder (usually the Publisher) to use it, and have included this authorization with their submission;
- Conflict of Interest Statement

### Organization of manuscript

Manuscripts should be presented in the following order (omitting sections inappropriate for specific article types e.g. 'Materials and methods' for Reviews). Footnotes to the text are not allowed and any such material should be incorporated into the text as parenthetical matter.

#### (i) Title page

The title page should include a succinct title (less than 200 characters); a concise running title (which should normally not exceed 50 characters); the full names of all authors including their given names; the affiliations (including city, state and country) of all authors; the email addresses of all authors, and the full contact details of the corresponding author (including telephone and fax numbers).

#### (ii) Abstract

A brief abstract (maximum 250 words) should state the purpose, basic procedures, main findings and principal

conclusions of the study. The abstract should not contain abbreviations or references and should not be structured.

#### (iii) Keywords

Three to eight key words, for the purposes of indexing, should be supplied below the abstract, in order of relevance.

#### (iv) Introduction

The Introduction should summarize the rationale for the study and outline pertinent background material. The Introduction should not contain either results or conclusions.

#### (v) Materials and Methods

Materials and Methods should be described in sufficient detail to allow the experimental work to be reproduced in another laboratory, and to leave the reader in no doubt as to how the results were derived.

#### (vi) Results

The Results should be presented in a logical sequence in the text, tables and figures; repetitive presentation of the same data in different forms should be avoided. The Results should not include material appropriate to the Discussion.

#### (vii) Discussion

The Discussion should not reiterate Results, but rather should consider them in relation to any hypotheses advanced in the Introduction. This may include an evaluation of methodology and the relationship of new information to the existing body of knowledge in that field.

#### (viii) Acknowledgments

Authors should acknowledge the source of financial grants and other funding, and declare any industrial links or affiliations. The contribution of colleagues or institutions should also be acknowledged. Personal thanks and thanks to anonymous reviewers should not be included.

#### (ix) Conflict of interests

A conflict of interest statement must be included for each contributing author. Please see the Conflict of Interest guidelines in the Editorial Policies section for more information and for guidelines on what constitutes a conflict of interest.

#### (x) References

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the references. Only articles that have been published may be included in the references. References follow the Vancouver format (for using End-Note, please follow the Leukemia journal reference style). In the text, references should be cited using superscript Arabic numerals in the order in which they appear. If cited in tables or figure legends, references should be numbered according to the first identification of the table or figure in the text. References are listed sequentially at the end of the paper, according to the numbering and order of citations in the text. If there are no more than six authors, just list all the authors; If there are more than or equal to six authors, the first three authors are to be listed, after which, list only the first three authors and 'et al'. Abbreviations of journal names should conform to the Index Medicus style.

The first and last page numbers for each reference should be provided. The following are examples of the reference style:

*Journal Article*

1 Boyne PJ, James RA. Grafting of the maxillary sinus floor with autogenous marrow and bone. *J Oral Surg* 1980; 38: 613– 616.  
 2 Horch HH, Sader R, Pautke C *et al.* Synthetic, pure-phase beta-tricalcium phosphate ceramic granules (Cerasorb) for bone regeneration in the reconstructive surgery of the jaws. *Int J Oral Maxillofac Surg* 2006; 35: 708–713.

*Article not in English*

3 Casals E, Cuenca E. [Is it possible to plan the workforce of dentists? An analysis of human resource trends and uptake of dental services in Catalonia 1991–2008.] *Revista Clinica Odontologica Española* 2009; 14: 1–13. Spanish.

*Book*

4 Perez CA, Brady LW, Halperin EC *et al.* *Principles and practice of radiation oncology*. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2004.

*Book Chapter*

5 Harding SR, Fryer JI. Recurrent oral ulceration in Greenland natives. In: Casselli G (ed.) *Coeliac diseases*. 3rd ed. London: Stoma Press, 1982: 307–324.

*Electronic Material*

6 Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency. *Guidance to changes to the Medical Devices Directive 93/42/EC with respect to custom-made devices statements*. London: MHRA, 2009. Available at <http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Howweregulate/Devices/RevisionstotheMedicalDevicesandAIMDDirectives/index.htm> (accessed 22 July 2011).

Where a reference is to appear next to a number in the text, for example following an equation, chemical formula or biological acronym, citations should be written as (ref. X). Example: “expressed odontogenic genes such as Pax9, DMP1 and DSPP (ref. 3).”

References to unpublished data and personal communications should not appear in the list but should be cited in the text only (e.g. Smith A, 2010, unpubl. data).

*(xi) Tables and figures*

Tables should be labelled sequentially as Table 1, Table 2, etc. Each table should be numbered, titled and cited in the text. Reference to table footnotes should be made by using Arabic numerals. Tables should not duplicate the content of the text. They should consist of at least two columns, and each column should have a heading. Authors should ensure that the data in the tables are consistent with those cited in the relevant places in the text, totals add up correctly, and percentages have been calculated correctly. Unlike figures or images, tables may be embedded into the main manuscript file if necessary, or supplied as separate electronic files.

Figures and images should be labelled sequentially, numbered and cited in the text. Each figure should be saved in a separate file. Figures including multiple parts (e.g. Fig.1a, 1b, 1c) should be saved in a single file (e.g. Figure1a-c). The figure number should be placed above each figure. Figure legends should be inserted in the article’s text file. The use of three-dimensional histograms is strongly discouraged when the addition of the third dimension gives no extra information.

If a table or figure has been published before, the authors must obtain written permission to reproduce the material in both print and electronic formats from the copyright owner and submit it with the manuscript. This also applies to quotes, illustrations and other materials taken from previously published works not in the public domain. The original source should be cited in the figure caption or table footnote.

**Artwork Guidelines**

**Color figures**

Color figures must be supplied in the following format. For Single Images:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Width</b>       | <b>500 pixels</b> (authors should select "constrain proportions", or equivalent instructions, to allow the application to set the correct height automatically.) |
| <b>Resolution</b>  | <b>125 dpi</b> (dots per inch)   |
| <b>Format</b>      | <b>JPEG</b> for photographs<br><b>GIF</b> for line drawings or charts  |
| <b>File naming</b> | Please save image with .jpg or .gif extension to ensure it can be read by all platforms and graphics packages.   |

For Multi-part Images:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Width</b>       | <b>900 pixels</b> (authors should select "constrain proportions", or equivalent instructions, to allow the application to set the correct height automatically.) |
| <b>Resolution</b>  | <b>125 dpi</b> (dots per inch)   |
| <b>Format</b>      | <b>JPEG</b> for photographs<br><b>GIF</b> for line drawings or charts  |
| <b>File naming</b> | Please save image with .jpg or .gif extension to ensure it can be read by all platforms and graphics packages.   |

**Black and white images**

- Image resolution of at least 300 dpi at publication size
- Images should be scanned at a minimum of 300 dpi
- During software manipulation of images, care should be taken that resolution is maintained

- Images may be rotated or scaled, but this must be the same in the x and y dimensions
- Contrast and brightness can be adjusted, but this must be uniform across the entire image, and must not result in the loss of any feature, band or spot. The background should still be visible
- If lanes are removed, and once separate parts of an image are joined together, a black, white or grey line should indicate clearly where the image was cut
- If black borders are drawn around the image, the lines should correspond to all edges where the image was cut
- Protein molecular weights or DNA fragment sizes should be indicated for all figure panels showing gel electrophoresis

### **Graphs, Histograms and Statistics**

- Error bars must be described in the figure legend
- Axes on graphs should extend to zero, except for log axes
- Statistical analyses (including error bars and p values) should only be shown for independently repeated experiments, and must not be shown for replicates of a single experiment
- The number of times an experiment was repeated (N) must be stated in the legend

### **House Style**

As the electronic submission will provide the basic material for typesetting, it is important that papers are prepared in the general editorial style of the journal.

1. Do not make rules thinner than 1 pt (0.36 mm)
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3. Color should be distinct when being used as an identifying tool
4. Use SI units throughout
5. Spaces, not commas should be used to separate thousands
6. Abbreviations should be preceded by the words for which they stand in the first instance of use and should not be used for terms used fewer than 4 times
7. Text should be double spacing with a wide margin
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9. If you submit raw data, this can be done in Excel, or tab/comma delimited format
10. At first mention of a manufacturer the town, (state if USA) and country should be provided.

### **File Formats**

File formats for manuscript files, figures and tables that are acceptable for our electronic manuscript submission process

are given on the online forms. Further advice on file types is also available from the [Tips](#) webpage. Please follow the artwork guidelines above for submitting figures, and use a common word-processing package (such as Microsoft Word) for the text. Either embedding tables converted into images at the end of your Word document, or as the separate files in whichever program you used to generate them. If you submit raw data, this can be done in Excel, or tab/comma delimited format.

### **Supplementary information**

Supplementary information is peer-reviewed material directly relevant to the conclusions of an article that cannot be included in the printed version owing to space or format constraints. It is posted on the journal's website and linked to the article when the article is published and may consist of data files, graphics, movies or extensive tables. The article must be complete and self-explanatory without the supplementary information. Supplementary information enhances a reader's understanding of the manuscript but is not essential to that understanding. Supplementary information must be supplied to the Editorial Office in its final form for peer review. On acceptance the final version of the peer reviewed supplementary information should be submitted with the accepted manuscript.

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Authors should ensure that supplementary information is supplied in its FINAL format because it is not subedited and will appear online exactly as originally submitted. It can neither be altered, nor added to, after the paper has been accepted for publication.

Please supply the supplementary information via eJP, the electronic manuscript submission and tracking system, in an acceptable file format (see below).

Authors should:

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- Identify the types of files (file formats) submitted.
- Include the text "Supplementary information accompanies the manuscript on the *Bone Research* website <http://www.nature.com/boneres>" at the end of the article and before the references.

### **Accepted file formats**

- Quick Time files (.mov)
- HTML files (.html)
- MPEG movie files (.mpg)
- JPEG image files (.jpg)
- Sound files (.wav)
- Plain ASCII text (.txt)

- Acrobat files (.pdf)
- MS Word documents (.doc)
- Postscript files (.ps)
- MS Excel spreadsheet documents (.xls)

We cannot accept TeX or LaTeX (.tex) files  
File sizes must be as small as possible, so that they can be downloaded quickly. Images should not exceed 640 x 480 pixels (approximately 23 x 17 cm at 72dpi), and we would recommend 480 x 360 pixels as the maximum frame size for movies. We also recommend a frame rate of 15 frames per

second. If applicable to the presentation of the supplementary information, use a 256-color palette. Please consider the use of lower specification for all of these points if the supplementary information can still be represented clearly. Our recommended maximum data rate is 150 KB/s. The number of files should be limited to eight, and the total file size should not exceed 8 MB. Individual files should not exceed 1 MB. Please seek advice from the Editorial Office before sending files larger than our maximum size to avoid delays in publication.

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### Submission of Revisions

Authors submitting a revised manuscript after review are asked to include the following:

- (1) A rebuttal letter, indicating point-by-point how you have addressed the comments raised by the reviewers. If you disagree with any of the points raised, please provide adequate justification in your letter.
- (2) A marked-up version of the manuscript that highlights changes made in response to the reviewers' comments in order to aid the Editors and reviewers.
- (3) A 'clean' (non-highlighted) version of the manuscript.

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## EDITORIAL POLICIES

Submission to the *Bone Research* implies that all authors have seen and approved the full manuscript. Corresponding authors of accepted papers will be required to sign a License to Publish form on behalf of all authors (see below).

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To avoid unnecessary delays in the review process, please consider the following policies carefully before you submit your manuscript.

### Authorship

Requirements for all categories of articles largely conform to the standard practices of life sciences journals. A manuscript will be considered for publication with the understanding that:

1. all named authors have agreed to its submission
2. it is not currently being considered for publication by another journal
3. if the paper is accepted, it will not subsequently be published in the same or similar form in any language without the consent of publisher

Each author must have contributed sufficiently to the intellectual content of the submission. The corresponding author should list all authors and their contributions to the work. Any changes to the author list after submission, such as a change in the order of the authors, or the deletion or addition of authors, must be approved by a signed letter from every author. The corresponding author must confirm that he or she has had full access to the data in the study and final responsibility for the decision to submit for publication. To qualify as a contributing author, one must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Conceived and/or designed the work that led to the submission, acquired data, and/or played an important role in interpreting the results
2. Drafted or revised the manuscript

### 3. Approved the final version

Other individuals who made direct contributions to the work but do not meet all of the above criteria may be recognized in the Acknowledgments section of the manuscript.

Professional writers and industry employees can be contributors. Their roles, affiliations, and potential conflicts of interest should be included in the author list or noted in the Acknowledgments and/or Contributors section concurrent with their contribution to the work submitted. Signed statements from any medical writers or editors declaring that they have given permission to be named as an author, as a contributor, or in the Acknowledgments section is also required. Failure to acknowledge these contributors can be considered inappropriate, which conflicts with the editorial policy of the *Bone Research*.

### Plagiarism and fabrication

Plagiarism is when an author attempts to pass off someone else's work as his or her own. Duplicate publication, sometimes called self-plagiarism, occurs when an author reuses substantial parts of his or her own published work without providing the appropriate references. Plagiarism without dishonest intent is relatively frequent, for example, when an author reuses parts of an introduction from an earlier paper.

Because of some confusion as to the appropriate use of other authors' writing, we offer the following guideline in addition to the normal principles regarding plagiarism: if more than 5 consecutive words are taken verbatim from the text of another publication (including the authors' own work), this fact should be indicated by the use of inverted commas, as well as citation of the original source. It is not appropriate to make trivial changes to the wording instead. This rule can be relaxed slightly for descriptions of methodology from the authors' own papers, or for common phrases. If plagiarism is found, the journal will contact the author and, in some cases, the author's institute and funding agencies. The paper containing the plagiarism will be marked on each page of the PDF, and depending on the extent of the plagiarism, the paper may be formally retracted.

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### Duplicate publication

Material submitted to the journal must be original and not published or submitted for publication elsewhere in any language. This policy applies to material submitted elsewhere while the contribution to *Bone Research* is under consideration.

Authors submitting a manuscript should notify the editor(s) if part of their contribution has appeared or will appear elsewhere, or if any related material is under consideration or in press elsewhere.

If a submission contains a figure that is published elsewhere or that is copyrighted, the author must provide documentation that the previous publisher or copyright holder has given permission for the figure to be re-published. The editors consider all material in good faith, and assume that the journal has full permission to publish every part of the submitted material, including illustrations.

### Conflicts of interest

In the interests of transparency and to help readers assess any potential bias authors must declare any competing financial interests in relation to the work described. Referees are also asked to indicate any potential conflicts they might have in reviewing a particular paper.

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Digital image enhancement is acceptable practice, although it can result in the presentation of unrepresentative data as well as in the loss of meaningful signals. During manipulation of images a positive relationship between the original data and the resulting electronic image must be maintained. If a figure has been subjected to significant electronic manipulation, the specific nature of the enhancements must be noted in the figure legend or in the 'Materials and methods' section. The editors reserve the right to request original versions of figures from the authors of a paper under consideration.

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Any manuscripts under review or accepted for publication elsewhere should accompany the submission if they are relevant to its scientific assessment.

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All contributions that are selected for peer review are sent to two or more independent reviewers. The identity of reviewers is confidential and manuscripts are considered private information. Papers may be rejected without external review at the Editor's discretion. Authors are encouraged to suggest or recommend for exclusion reviewers at the time of submissions.

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Reviewers' identities are not released to authors, except when reviewers specifically ask to be identified. If reviewers wish to reveal their identities while the manuscript is under consideration, this should be done through the Editor. Should a reviewer contact an author directly, we ask authors to inform the Editor as soon as possible. We prohibit any attempt by authors to confront reviewers or determine their identities. Our own policy is to neither confirm nor deny any speculation about reviewers' identities, and we encourage reviewers to adopt a similar policy.

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Reviewer selection is critical to the publication process, and we base our choices on many factors, including expertise, reputation, and specific recommendations.

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We recognize our responsibility to correct errors. Content published online is final and cannot be amended. The online version is part of the published record; therefore the original version must be preserved and changes to the paper should be made as a formal correction. If an error is noticed after online publication an HTML (or full-text) version of the correction will be created and linked to the original article. Please note the following policy for making corrections to online peer-reviewed content:

- **Erratum.** Notification of an important error made by the journal that affects the publication record or the scientific integrity of the paper or the reputation of the authors, or of the journal.
- **Corrigendum** Notification of an important error made by the author that affects the publication record or the scientific integrity of the paper or the reputation of the authors or of the journal.
- **Retraction.** Notification of invalid results. All co-authors must sign a retraction specifying the error and stating briefly how the conclusions are affected.

Decisions about corrections are made by the Editor (sometimes with advice of peer reviewers) and this sometimes involves author consultation. Requests to make corrections that do not affect the paper in a significant way or impair the reader's understanding of the contribution (a spelling mistake or grammatical error, for example) are not considered. In cases where co-authors disagree about a correction, the Editor will take advice from independent peer reviewers and impose the appropriate correction, noting the dissenting author(s) in the text of the published version.