

International Journal of Legal Medicine

Instructions for authors

1 General

The author(s) transfer(s) the copyright to his/her article to Springer-Verlag effective if and when the article is accepted for publication. The copyright covers the exclusive and unlimited rights to reproduce and distribute the article in any form of reproduction (printing, electronic media or any other form); it also covers translation rights for all languages and countries. For U.S. authors the copyright is transferred to the extent transferable.

Manuscripts must be accompanied by the "Copyright Transfer Statement". The form can be obtained from springeronline.com/journal/00414

Only papers that have not been published previously will be considered for publication in the journal; once accepted, they may not be published elsewhere. Contributions should be concise and in English. Authors are responsible for the linguistic accuracy of their papers. If not a native English speaker, the author is advised to ask a specialist with sound knowledge of English to check and correct the paper. The author must also take special care that either American or British usage is used consistently throughout the manuscript and for the inscriptions in the illustrations. To facilitate communication between the authors, editors and publisher, the author should furnish a telex or fax number on the title page of the manuscript. After acceptance, all manuscripts will be sent to a language editor, but the linguistic accuracy of a paper is still the responsibility of the author. There will be no commemorative issues. All manuscripts will be reviewed by at least two referees for publication as *Review articles, Original articles, Case reports, Letters to the Editor and Technical notes*.

The last section should serve as a means of opening a discussion and stimulating a critical exchange of ideas regarding new research results. Letters to the Editor should be no longer than three printed pages (or six manuscript pages). The editor reserves the right to decide whether or not a particular letter will be published and, if so, in what form. In addition, if the editor feels it would be valuable, the author of the article in question may be asked to respond to the criticism. Letters to the Editor should be submitted in duplicate to the Coordinating Editor:

B. Brinkmann
Institut für Rechtsmedizin
Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität
Röntgenstrasse 23
48129 Münster, Germany
Fax: +49 (251) 835-5158
e-mail: brinkma@uni-muenster.de

Manuscripts submitted for publication must contain a statement to the effect that all human studies have been reviewed by the appropriate ethics committee and have therefore been performed in accordance with the ethical standards laid down in an appropriate version of the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki. It should also be stated clearly in the text that all persons gave their informed consent prior to their inclusion in the study. Details that might disclose the identity of the subjects under study should be omitted.

Reports of animal experiments must state that the "Principles of laboratory animal care" (NIH publication No. 85-23, revised 1985) were followed, as well as specific national laws where applicable.

The Coordinating Editor reserves the right to reject manuscripts that do not comply with the above-mentioned requirements. The author will be held responsible for false statements or for failure to fulfil the above-mentioned requirements.

2 Preparation of the manuscript

Manuscripts (including tables and figure legends) should be typewritten (double-spaced, 3-cm margins) and submitted to the *Coordinating Editor*. One original manuscript typed on one side of the paper only plus two copies photocopied on both sides should be supplied, to keep postage charges to a minimum. The Coordinating Editor reserves the right to make minor changes in the style and form without the author's consent. Manuscripts that are not prepared as required may be rejected even though their content is suitable for publication in the journal. In order to reduce mailing costs, when papers are rejected only the original illustrations will be returned.

Each paper should include an abstract and up to five *key words*. The methods used to obtain the results must be described clearly. Only absolutely essential data should be included. *Abbreviations* must be explained the first time they are used. Important words may be underlined for italics. *Secondary matter*, such as Materials and methods or protocols, should be marked for small print.

Manuscripts in electronic form. Submission of electronic data is encouraged. Please do not transmit any such data to the publisher until your manuscript has been reviewed and accepted for publication. Please follow the instructions for the preparation of electronic manuscripts and digital images.

3 Tables (with titles and footnotes)

Tables should be submitted with the manuscript and numbered with arabic numbers in the order cited in the text.

4 Illustrations

The number and size of the *illustrations* must not exceed the minimum required for clarification of the text. Previously published figures cannot be accepted. Numerical data given in graphs or tables should not be repeated in the text.

For *color illustrations* the authors will be expected to make a contribution of € 485 per article towards the extra costs.

All figures, whether layouts of micrographs, graphs, or diagrams, must be *numbered consecutively and submitted on separate sheets*.

Halftone illustrations should be submitted as sharp, glossy originals, maximally trimmed at right angles to eliminate unnecessary areas without significant information, and be of the desired final size.

Lowercase letters (a, b etc.) should be used to identify figure parts. If illustrations are supplied with uppercase labeling, lowercase letters will still be used in the figure legends and citations.

Inscriptions must be about 3 mm high. Letraset (or equivalent instant lettering) is recommended for lettering micrographs, including figure numbers.

Calibration bars should be added to the microscopic figures. A bar gives accurate information on magnification even when illustrations are reduced or enlarged.

The layouts or single figures may match the width of the whole type area (176 mm) or of the column (86 mm); a third possibility is a width of 115 mm, in which case the legend would be printed at the side. The maximum height of any layout is 240 mm, including the legend.

For technical reasons (new reproduction methods) all illustrations must be mounted on flexible

white drawing paper. *Thick cardboard is not acceptable*.

Line drawings should be submitted as *high-quality glossy prints*. The letters should be at least 2 mm high in the printed version, even after reduction. The inscriptions should be clearly legible.

Legends must be concise and should provide a brief, self-sufficient explanation of the illustrations. Remarks such as "for explanation see text" should be avoided. Legends should be regarded as part of the text and submitted on a separate page from the figures.

5 References

The list of references at the end of a paper must only include works cited in the text. Journal titles should be abbreviated as in *Index Medicus* or by analogy. The correct punctuation is illustrated in the following examples for papers from journals, monographs, and multiauthor books and symposium proceedings:

Examples

Janssen W (1984) *Forensic histopathology*. Springer, Berlin Heidelberg New York

Ohshima T, Maeda H, Tanaka N, Nagano T (1988)

Immunohistochemical study of blood group activities in the alimentary canal in normal and pathologic conditions with reference to the nature of epithelial mucopolysaccharides. *Z Rechtsmed* 101:137-149

Otto HF, Berndt R, Schwebelmeier E, Möller P (1987) Mesenchymal tumor markers: special proteins and enzymes. In: Seifert G (ed) *Morphological tumor markers (Current topics in pathology)*. Springer, Berlin Heidelberg New York, pp 179-205

If the name/date system is used for text citations, the reference list should be in alphabetical order and not numbered. Multiple papers by the same author(s) in the same year must be distinguished by the addition of "a, b, c," etc. to the year of publication in the list. If reference numbers are used for the text citations the list of references at the end of the text must be numbered, either in alphabetical order or in order of citation. In the text only, these numbers appear in square brackets on the line.

6 Electronic supplementary material

Electronic supplementary material (ESM) for an article in the journal will be published in Springer-Link provided the material is:

- submitted to the Editor in electronic form together with the paper and is subject to peer review
- accepted by the journals Editor

ESM may consist of

- information that cannot be printed: animations, video clips, sound recordings
- information that is more convenient in electronic form: sequences, spectral data, etc.
- large original data that relate to the paper, e.g. additional tables, illustrations (color and black & white), etc.

After acceptance by the journals Editor ESM will be published as received from the author in the online version only. Reference will be given in the printed version.

7 Free copy, offprints

2 complimentary copies are supplied. Orders for *offprints* can be placed by returning the order form with the corrected proofs. When you order offprints, you are entitled to receive in addition a pdf file of your article for your own personal use.