Annals of Human Biology

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About the Journal

Aims and Scope

Annals of Human Biology is an international, peer-reviewed journal published six times a year in simultaneous print and electronic editions. Annals of Human Biology is an important vehicle for the dissemination of papers concerning research into human population biology, reporting investigations on the nature, development and causes of human variation, embracing the disciplines of human genetics, auxology, environmental physiology, ecology, epidemiology ageing and global health.


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Authors are required to provide the names of at least three potential reviewers who are not collaborators.

Article Types Considered by Annals of Human Biology

- Research Papers
- Review Articles
- Short Reports
- Human Biological Surveys
- Book Reviews

Manuscript Preparation

File preparation and types

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reviewed and will be returned to the author. References should be given in Harvard style (see References section for example).
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Title Page

A title page should be provided comprising the manuscript title plus the full names, affiliations and email addresses of all authors involved in the preparation of the manuscript. One author should be clearly designated as the corresponding author and full contact information, including phone number, provided for this person. Three to five key terms that are not in the title should also be included on the title page. These keywords will assist indexers in cross indexing your article.

Abstract

Authors submitting papers should note that structured abstracts (up to 200 words) are required. These should outline the questions investigated, the design, essential findings and main conclusions of the study under the following sub-headings: Background, Aim, Subjects and methods, Results, Conclusion.
For review articles, abstracts should be structured as follows: Context, Objective, Methods (including data sources, study selection and data extraction), Results and Conclusion. They should be written in an informative style permitting their use, without revision, by abstracting services, give essential details of research findings without further reference to the text, and avoid generalisations and nonessential information.
Structured abstracts are not required for Short Reports.

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The main text should, in general, but not necessarily, be divided into sections with the headings: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion.

Research Papers
Research papers, which must report original research, will typically be between 5000 and 8000 words, debating and exploring theoretical and methodological issues, methodological approaches, and original studies relevant to human biology. However, there is not necessarily an upper limit on length. Authors of longer papers are encouraged to contact the Editors with a synopsis.

Review Articles
The body of a review article should be a comprehensive, scholarly evidence-based review of the literature, accompanied by critical analysis and leading to reasonable conclusions. Wherever possible details of the literature search methodology should be provided, i.e. the databases searched (normally Medline and at least one or two other databases), the search terms and inclusive dates, and any selectivity criteria imposed.
Review articles or essays are generally commissioned by invitation of the Editors but authors are invited to contact the Editors with proposals.

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Short reports will normally be on topics of more restricted breadth than research papers, including papers which would be regarded as including essentially preliminary findings. Typically, they should have a maximum of approximately 1500 words, have no more than two tables or figures, and a maximum of around fifteen references. Short reports generally follow the same format as full papers, except that a structured abstract is not required.
**Human Biological Surveys**

Human biological surveys describe surveys of the morphological, genetic and biodemographic characteristics of a sample. Such investigations are not usually hypothesis driven but rather seek to record the biological structure (physical status) of the sample at a particular moment in time. Such surveys would include those carried out with the aim of investigating, for example, secular trends in somatic and developmental characteristics, nutritional surveys of specific groups, morphological and genetic surveys, and biodemographic information on migration and marriage structure. Please click here for further information, including preparation guidelines.

**Book Reviews**

Book reviews are by invitation.

**Acknowledgments and Declaration of Interest Statement**

Acknowledgments and Declaration of interest sections are different, and each has a specific purpose.

The Acknowledgments section details special thanks, personal assistance, and dedications. Contributions from individuals who do not qualify for authorship should also be acknowledged here.

Declarations of interest, however, refer to statements of financial support and/or statements of potential conflict of interest. Within this section also belongs disclosure of scientific writing assistance (use of an agency or agency/ freelance writer), grant support and numbers, and statements of employment, if applicable. For a more detailed list of points to include, please see “Declaration of Interest section” below.

**Acknowledgments section**

Any acknowledgments authors wish to make should be included in a separate headed section at the end of the manuscript preceding any appendices, and before the references section. Please do not incorporate acknowledgments into notes or biographical notes.

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**References**

References should be given in the Harvard style. Citation in the text is by author and date (Smith 2001). The list of references appears alphabetically by primary author’s last name. Examples:


Periodical titles should be abbreviated and conform to the style given by Index Medicus.

Tables and figures

Tables and figures should be referred to in text as follows: Figure 1, Figure 2; Table I, Table II. The place at which a table or figure is to be inserted in the printed text should be indicated clearly on a manuscript. Each table and/or figure must have a legend that explains its purpose without reference to the text.

Tables should be used only when they can present information more efficiently than running text. Care should be taken to avoid any arrangement that unduly increases the depth of a table, and the column heads should be made as brief as possible, using abbreviations liberally. Lines of data should not contain only one or two entries, nor should the same entry be repeated numerous times consecutively. Tables should be grouped at the end of the manuscript on separate pages.

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1. Authors should write in clear, concise English. If this is not your native language please ensure the manuscript has been reviewed by a native speaker. Please note: extensive rewriting of the text will not be undertaken by the editorial staff.
2. Acronyms for protein and gene names should in all cases be explained the first time they appear. In articles where acronyms are numerous, authors should include a table that lists all acronyms, each acronym’s meaning or origin, and a short description of the function of each gene or protein.
3. Latin terminology, including microbiological and species nomenclature, should be italicized.
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6. Double quotation marks rather than single are to be used unless the “quotation is ‘within’ another”.
7. Punctuation of common abbreviations should adhere to the following conventions: “e.g.”; “i.e.”; “cf.”. Note that such abbreviations should not generally be followed by a comma or a (double) point/period.
8. Upper case characters in headings and references should be used sparingly, e.g. only the first
word of paper titles, subheadings and any proper nouns begin upper case; similarly for the titles
of papers from journals in the references and elsewhere.

9. Apostrophes should be used sparingly. Thus, decades should be referred to as follows: “The
1980s [not the 1980’s] saw …”. Possessives associated with acronyms (e.g. APU), should be
written as follows: “The APU’s findings that …” but note that the plural is “APUs”.

10. All acronyms for national agencies, examinations, etc., should be spelled out the first time
they are introduced in text or references. Thereafter the acronym can be used if appropriate, e.g.
“The work of the Assessment of Performance Unit (APU) in the early 1980s …” and
subsequently, “The APU studies of achievement …”, in a reference “(Department of Education
and Science [DES] 1989a)”. 

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design of [British] science courses”.

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