

# AFRICAN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE and medical sciences

VOLUME 32 NUMBER 4

DECEMBER 2003



EDITOR  
B. O. OSOTIMEHIN

ASSISTANT EDITOR  
A. O. UWAIFO

ISSN 1116-4077

## Notes for Contributors

All manuscripts should be addressed to the Editorial Office of the African Journal of Medicine and Medical Sciences, Institute for Advanced Medical Research and Training (IMRAT), College of Medicine, University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria.

Manuscripts are accepted subject to the understanding that no substantial part has been or will be published elsewhere. This does not refer to abstracts or oral communications that are printed in proceedings of societies or symposia.

Authors should send three complete copies of the manuscripts (maximum of 18 quarto-sized typed pages including bibliography, illustrations and tables) and retain one copy for reference. Apart from the three typescript copies on white bond paper, submission of a 3.5" diskette is required at acceptance stage. Authors should ensure that the diskette is clearly labelled with the paper title and name(s) of author(s). The diskette must be IBM compatible on Word Processing format up to version 6.1.

Manuscripts being submitted must be accompanied by a covering letter affirming that the paper is submitted only to this Journal. In the case of a paper with more than one author, all must sign the covering letter confirming that they participated sufficiently in the work.

A non-refundable processing fee of N1000.00 (£50.00, \$80.00) per article will be charged authors who do not subscribe to the Journal while subscribers will pay N500.00 only. In addition, authors of papers submitted from Nigeria should send 4 large and 2 official size envelopes with N300.00 worth of postage stamp for subsequent correspondence. The Editor does not accept responsibility for damage or loss of papers submitted.

Manuscripts, in English Language, should be submitted typed double-spaced and with at least 2.5 cm margins around.

On a single separate sheet, there must be the following: (a) title, (b) author's name and initials, (c) department's in which the work was done, (d) the name and address of the author to whom correspondence should be addressed, (e) author's present address if different from the department's in which the work was done, (f) if paper was presented at a meeting, please indicate name of organization, city, month and year.

Titles should be short, specific and clear. Omit phrase such as "The use of," "observations on." Authors should provide a shorter running title and up to six keywords. Manuscripts must be accompanied by a summary not exceeding 200 words. The summary will be translated into French by the journal office at a cost to the author. Currently, the fee for translation is ₦500.00 (\$20.00) non-refundable, which shall be forwarded by a bank draft to accompany the manuscript when found acceptable for publication. Figures and photographs must be submitted as glossy prints, untrimmed and unmounted. Each should be numbered with pencil lightly on the back with the top indicated. The numbers of photographs and illustrations should be kept to a minimum. The legends for figures and tables that should be numbered with Arabic numerals should appear on a separate page.

The author must pay for publication of colour transparencies submitted at the time of acceptance.

All details on charts and graphs must be clearly legible when reduced to the size used in this journal.

The onus of preparing a paper in a suitable form for publication rests with the author. The need for editorial revision for badly prepared typescripts or diagrams may lead either to rejection of the article or delay in publication.

Authors should indicate by a statement in the body of their paper that they complied with the standard requirements of the Ethics Committee of the institution in which the work was done. A letter of Ethics Committee approval must also accompany the manuscripts at the time of submission. Where an Ethics Committee is not readily available, the Helsinki Declaration principles as revised should be followed strictly.

Workshop and conference reports should not exceed 3 to 10 double-spaced quarto-sized pages. Viewpoints which could be papers expressing personal or group opinion on political, socio-economic and other matters as they relate to the practice of medicine should be limited to 10 quarto-sized typed pages. Letters to the Editor may be comments on papers published in the Journal or clinical observations, replies to comments, or other matters of importance and relevance to medicine and related professions. It should not exceed 500 words with a few references and one or two tables and figures.

This Journal has agreed to accept manuscripts prepared in accordance with the Vancouver style and the Editor will consider only papers conforming to this style.

References should be numbered in the order in which they are cited in the text. At the end of the article, the references should be listed as numbered in the text. Each reference should give the names and initials of all authors (unless there are more than six, when only the first three should be given, followed by *et al*). The authors' names should be followed by the title of the article, the journal title (abbreviated according to the style of *Index Medicus*), the year of publication, the volume number and the first and last page numbers. Titles of books should be followed by the publisher, place of publication, and year. Examples of format for references are as follows:

- Edington JM, Osunkoya BO, Smith JA.  
Immunopathology of Burkitt's lymphoma. West Afr Med J 1986; 85: 76-87.
- Brown A. Primary Health Care and the Medical Curriculum. Edinburgh: Universities Press, 1977.
- Lewis A. Primary liver cell carcinoma. In: Ajose A, Odeku EL, eds. Priorities in Health Planning. Ibadan: University Press, 1983: 110-117.

Reference to tables should be in Arabic numerals, e.g. Table 3, and tables should include titles, which make their meaning clear without reference to text. Tables should be typed separately from the text.

Proof corrections are expensive and correction of proofs other than printers' errors should be kept to a minimum. Authors must return proof corrections within 3 days of receipt. Failure to do this will result in the paper being published with the Editor's corrections only. Papers accepted for publication remain the copyright of the Journal.

Offprint may be ordered directly from the Editorial office of the Journal. This must be paid for at the time of final acceptance of paper.

Four journal pages will be printed at no cost to the author. Extra pages will attract page-printing charges at the rate of ₦500.00 (£5.57) per page (approximately 5 quarto-size pages of manuscript).