Future Medicine Author Guidelines

This document outlines how to prepare articles for submission. We recommend you read these guidelines in full before submitting your article or making an article proposal.

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Journal aims & scope
Aims and scope information can be found on the individual journal webpages, along with information regarding Editorial Board members and indexing:

Biomarkers in Medicine
Clinical Lipidology
Epigenomics
Future Cardiology
Future Microbiology
Future Neurology
Future Oncology
Future Virology
Immunotherapy
International Journal of Clinical Rheumatology
Interventional Cardiology
Journal of Comparative Effectiveness Research
Nanomedicine
Personalized Medicine
Pharmacogenomics
Regenerative Medicine
Women's Health

For the following journals, please see the separate Management Series Author Guidelines:

Breast Cancer Management
CNS Oncology
Colorectal Cancer
Diabetes Management
Hepatic Oncology
International Journal of Hematologic Oncology
International Journal of Endocrine Oncology
Lung Cancer Management
Melanoma Management
Neurodegenerative Disease Management
Pain Management
Audience

The audience for Future Medicine titles consists of clinicians, research scientists, decision-makers and a range of professionals in the healthcare community. Authors should bear in mind the multidisciplinary status of the readership when writing the article.

Future Medicine articles have been engineered specifically for the time-constrained professional. The structure is designed to draw the reader’s attention directly to the information they require.
### At-a-glance article formatting checklist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Word count range</th>
<th>Abstract</th>
<th>Keywords</th>
<th>Future Perspective</th>
<th>Executive Summary</th>
<th>Reference limit</th>
<th>Figures &amp; Tables permitted</th>
<th>Supporting cover letter required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>~80</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>~80</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>~50</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>~80</td>
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<td>✓</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Article types
Future Medicine publishes a range of article types, descriptions of which are outlined below. Authors are encouraged to consult the ‘at-a-glance formatting checklist’ for details on word counts and other formatting requirements.

The information below gives an overview of the requirements for each article type published by Future Medicine. However, authors should consult the ICMJE “Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals” (http://www.icmje.org/icmje-recommendations.pdf), in particular the section on “Preparing a Manuscript for Submission to a Medical Journal” prior to submitting to a Future Medicine journal, for more detailed information.

Reviews
Reviews aim to highlight recent significant advances in research, ongoing challenges and unmet needs; authors should be concise and critical in their appraisal of the subject matter, and strive for clarity. The focus should be on key, defining developments rather than providing a comprehensive literature survey. Reviews should provide balanced coverage of the field and not focus predominantly on the author’s own research. Authors are encouraged to include their own perspective on current trends and future directions.

Systematic Reviews:
Systematic reviews should be conducted following the recommendations of PRISMA (http://www.prisma-statement.org/).

Word limit: 4000–6000 words (excluding abstract, executive summary, references and figure/table legends)
Required sections (for a more detailed description of these sections see Article sections):
- Title
- Author(s) names & affiliations
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Body of article
- Future perspective
- Executive summary
- References: target of approximately 80 references
- Reference annotations
- Financial disclosure/Acknowledgements

Perspectives
Perspectives have the same basic structure and length as review articles; however, they should be more speculative and forward-looking, even visionary. They offer the author the opportunity to present criticism, address controversy or provide a personal angle on a significant issue. Authors of perspectives are encouraged to be opinionated, with all positions concisely and clearly argued and referenced. Referees will be briefed to review these articles for quality and relevance of argument only. They will not necessarily be expected to agree with the author’s position.

Word limit: 4000–6000 words (excluding abstract, executive summary, references and figure/table legends)
Required sections (for a more detailed description of these sections see Article sections):
- Title
Special Reports
Special reports are short review-style articles that highlight a particular niche area, be it a specific emerging field, novel hypotheses or method. Articles are categorized as Special Reports at the discretion of the Editorial team.

Word limit: 1500–3000 words (excluding abstract, executive summary, references and figure/table legends)

Required sections (for a more detailed description of these sections see Article sections):
- Title
- Author(s) names & affiliations
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Body of article
- Future perspective
- Executive summary
- References: target of approximately 50 references
- Reference annotations
- Financial disclosure/Acknowledgements

Original Research Articles
Authors of original research must provide a supporting Cover Letter on submission briefly detailing:
- Relevance to the journal’s audience
- Where the novelty in the study lies
- How the study advances understanding of the field
- Direct and potential implications of the findings

NB. All Future Medicine journals will consider studies presenting positive, negative or inconclusive data.

Experimental details & data: Only where a novel experimental procedure has been employed full details must be provided, such that a skilled scientist would be able to reproduce the results presented. The synthesis of all new compounds must be described in detail. Details of routine or previously reported experimental procedures should be provided via references only. Experimental procedures and/or data running to more than two Word document pages should be placed in a supplementary information file.

Data sharing: If requested by the Editor or reviewers, authors should be able to provide additional relevant original data underpinning their research.

Clinical Trial reporting: For authors presenting the results of clinical trials, the guidelines recommended by CONSORT (http://www.consort-statement.org/) and GPP3

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(http://www.ismpp.org/gpp3) should be followed. In addition, where available the clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract, and on the first mention of the trial in the main body of text. Unregistered clinical trials should be declared as such, and the reason for nonregistration should be provided. Mention of other trials should also include the relevant registration number, where available.

Secondary outcomes, exploratory analyses, and post hoc analyses should be clearly identified as such; these may be included in the primary publication or published separately, in which case they should clearly reference the primary publication and should not be published before it.

**Observational studies:** where observational research has been carried out, authors should follow the recommendations of STROBE (http://www.strobe-statement.org/).

**Data deposition:** where data have been deposited in a public repository, authors should state at the end of the abstract the data set name, repository name and number.

**Word and figure/table limit:** Limits vary depending on journal title. Please contact the relevant Commissioning Editor for further details.

**Required sections** (for a more detailed description of these sections see Article sections):

- Title
- Author(s) names & affiliations
- Structured abstract
- Keywords
- Introduction
  - Should only cite directly pertinent references
  - Should not include data of conclusions from the work being reported
- Patients & methods/Materials & methods
  - Where an organization was paid or otherwise contracted to help conduct the research (e.g., data collection and management), this should be detailed
  - Should include information indicating that the research was approved or exempted from the need for review by the responsible review committee (institutional or national). Where no formal ethics committee is available, a statement indicating that the research was conducted according to the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki should be included
  - Information on the selection and description of participants should define how authors measured race or ethnicity and justify their relevance
- Results
  - Numeric results should be given not only as derivatives (e.g., percentages) but also as the absolute numbers from which the derivatives were calculated
  - Statistical significance of results should be specified, if any
- Discussion
  - Authors should distinguish between clinical and statistical significance, and avoid making statements on economic benefits and costs unless the manuscript includes the appropriate economic data and analyses
  - Authors should avoid claiming priority or alluding to work that has not been completed
- Conclusions
- Summary points
- References
- Reference annotations
Four types of research article are accepted:

**Full research article**
Research articles should present novel work that makes a significant impact within the scope of the journal, and which represents an important advancement in knowledge or understanding. Routine or incremental work is not suitable for full research papers. Research should be reported succinctly; the inclusion of detailed background discussion is to be avoided. Supporting data or further experimental details can be submitted as Supplementary Information.

**Preliminary communication**
Preliminary communication articles are intended for short reports of studies that present promising improvements or developments on existing areas of research. The significance and potential implications of the developments must be explicit.

**Short communication**
Short communication articles are short, peer-reviewed articles that build on a previously published study, document partial research results from an ongoing study, or discuss results from studies limited in scope.

**Methodology**
Methodology articles should provide an overview of a new experimental or computational method, test or procedure. The method described may be either completely novel, or may offer a demonstrable improvement on an existing method. The significance and potential implications of the developments must be explicit.

**Case Studies/Case Series**
Case studies/series present a notable medical case or series of related cases of interest, and aim to further the reader’s understanding of the issues relating to such situations.

**Word limit:** 1500–3000 words

**Required sections** (for a more detailed description of these sections see *Article sections*):
- Title
- Author(s) names & affiliations
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Body of the article. A suggested structure could be:
  - Presentation of case – setting and patient details/history
  - Initial diagnosis/assessment
  - Treatment/management
  - Outcome and implications
- Discussion/conclusion
- Summary points
- References
- Reference annotations
- Financial disclosure/Acknowledgements
- Ethical conduct of research
Editorials
Editorials are short articles that provide an insight into, or snapshot of issues of topical importance to the journal’s target audience or researchers and other professionals. The intention is that the article should offer an expert perspective on a topic of recent interest. More detailed discussions can take the form of Commentary articles.

Word limit: 1500 words maximum (excluding keywords and references).

Required sections (for a more detailed description of these sections see Article sections):
- Title
- Author(s) names & affiliations
- Photo (headshot) of authors (including up to one co-author if desired)
- Keywords
- Body of article
- References: Please note: A maximum of 20 references are permitted
- Financial disclosure/Acknowledgements
- Please note: No figures, tables or boxes are permitted in editorials

Commentaries
Commentaries are short articles that are similar to Editorials, yet provide a more detailed discussion of a topic.

Word limit: 1500–3000 words (excluding keywords and references).

Required sections (for a more detailed description of these sections see Article sections):
- Title
- Author(s) names & affiliations
- Photo (headshot) of authors (including co-authors if desired)
- Keywords
- Body of article
- References: Please note: A maximum of 20 references are permitted
- Financial disclosure/Acknowledgements
- Please note: No figures, tables or boxes are permitted in commentaries

Interviews
Interviews are conducted with key opinion leaders in the field, and can include a look back over their career and achievements to date, a discussion on their current research, and their thoughts and observations on the field as a whole.

Word limit: 1500 words

Required sections:
- Title
- Interviewee name & affiliation
- Photo (headshot) of the interviewee
- Summary/biographical paragraph
- Series of questions for discussion (provided by the journal’s Commissioning Editor)
- Response from the author to each point
- Additional reference sources for the interested reader

Priority Paper Evaluations
Priority paper evaluations review significant, recently published original research articles carefully selected and assessed by specialists in the field (not a paper from the author’s own group). The

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original research detailed in the chosen paper is discussed with the aim of keeping readers informed
of the most promising discoveries/breakthroughs relevant to the subject of the journal through
review and comment from experts.

Priority Paper Evaluations are intended to extend and expand on the information presented in the
original publication, putting it in context and explaining why it is of importance.

The ideal article will provide both a critical evaluation and the author’s opinion on the quality and
novelty of the information disclosed.

Word limit: 1500 words maximum (excluding abstract, keywords and references).

Required sections (for a more detailed description of these sections see Article sections):
- Title
- Author(s) names & affiliations
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Summary of methods and results
- Discussion
- Future perspective
- Executive summary
- References: Please note: a maximum of 20 references are permitted in priority paper
evaluations
- Reference annotations
- Financial disclosure/Acknowledgements
- Figures/tables: if necessary, only one of each is permitted

Research Highlights
Research highlights discuss a number of recent original research papers, summarizing and
commenting on each paper to give readers a real sense of the cutting edge of research in the field.

Word limit: 3–4 brief summaries on recent research of 200–500 words each (excluding references).

Required sections:
- Citation of original research paper
- Summary paragraph
- References: Please note: A maximum of 20 references are permitted
- Financial disclosure/Acknowledgements
- Please note: No figures, tables or boxes are permitted in research highlights

Conference Scenes
Conference scenes aim to summarize the most important research presented at a recent relevant
meeting or event. It is not usually feasible to attempt comprehensive coverage of the conference;
authors should therefore focus on those presentations that are most topical, interesting or thought-
provoking.

Word limit: 1500 words maximum (excluding abstract, conference details and references).

Required sections:
- Conference details (title, date, location)
- Abstract/overview of meeting (120 words maximum)
- Body of article
- References: Please note: A maximum of 20 references are permitted

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Company Profiles
Company profiles allow representatives from pharmaceutical, biotechnology, etc. companies to describe the work currently being carried out within their particular organization, relevant to the field of the journal in question.

These reports are intended to provide an insight into the history and strategy of a company and profile its corporate capabilities, advanced technologies and future potential.

**Word limit:** 2000 words

**Required sections** (for a more detailed description of these sections see Article sections):
- Title
- Author(s) names & affiliations
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Introduction – brief factual account of the history and strategy of the company including background information e.g., the year the company was founded, number of employees etc.
- Body of article
- Summary points
- Financial disclosure/Acknowledgements
- **Please note:** A maximum of 20 references are permitted
- Figures/tables: if necessary, only one of each is permitted

Letters to the Editor
Readers may submit Letters to the Editor, commenting on an article published in the journal.

**Word limit:** 1500 words

Inclusion of Letters to the Editor in the journal is at the discretion of the Editor. All Letters to the Editor will be sent to the author of the original article, who will have 28 days to provide a response to be published alongside the Letter.

Drug, Device & Vaccine Evaluations
Separate author guidelines for the submission of these article types are available. Please contact the Drug Evaluations Commissioning Editor to request a copy.

Clinical Trial Protocols & Clinical Trial Evaluations
Separate author guidelines for the submission of these article types are available. Please contact the Drug Evaluations Commissioning Editor to request a copy.
Article sections
The following list provides notes on the key article sections; authors should consult the ‘at-a-glance formatting checklist’ to determine which sections are required for their submission.

Title
Concisely and clearly conveys the scope/novelty of the article; not more than 120 characters.

Author(s) names & affiliations
Including full name, address and e-mail.

Guidance on author sequence:
Author sequence is at the authors’ discretion; however, Future Medicine journals suggest following the recommendations in GPP3 Appendix Table 2 (http://www.ismpp.org/gpp3), whereby authors are listed either in order of the level of their contribution, or alphabetically. The corresponding author should always be indicated.

Guidance on a change of affiliation during writing:
Where an author has changed their affiliation prior to the publication of an article, the affiliation should reflect where the major part of the work was completed. Current affiliation and contact information should be listed in an acknowledgement.

Abstract
Not more than 120 words; no references should be cited in the abstract. The abstract should highlight the importance of the field under discussion within the journal’s scope, and clearly define the parameters of the article.

Structured abstract (for Research articles)
Not more than 120 words, broken down into Aims, Patients & Methods/Materials & Methods, Results and Conclusions. For authors presenting the results of clinical trials, the guidelines recommended by CONSORT should be followed when writing the abstract (http://www.consort-statement.org/), and the clinical trial registration number included at the end of the abstract, where available.

Data deposition: where data have been deposited in a public repository, authors should state at the end of the abstract the data set name, repository name and number.

Keywords
Up to 10 keywords (including therapeutic area, mechanism[s] of action etc.) plus names of drugs and compounds mentioned in the text.

Body of the article
The article content should be arranged under relevant headings and subheadings to assist the reader.

Future perspective
The author is challenged to include speculative viewpoint on how the field will have evolved 5–10 years from the point at which the article was written.

Executive summary
A series of bulleted summary points that illustrate the main topics or conclusions made under each of the main headings of the article.

Example:
Executive summary

HIV-1 Gag mediates the site of assembly via specific vesicular trafficking pathways

- The HIV-1 Gag protein directs the assembly process and forms the core of the viral particle. Gag moves to the site of assembly, classifying the process as a membrane-mediated event through a series of interactions with components of vesicular trafficking pathways.

**Gag**

- Direct interactions between Gag and components of the endosomal sorting complex required for transport (ESCRT) have been identified that link endosomal protein sorting machinery to vesicle budding. ESCRT is made up of a complex network of interacting proteins, and disruption of any of these components can inhibit viral budding.

- Expression of HIV-1 Gag in host cells is essential for virus replication and budding. In the absence of Gag, viral particles cannot be formed, and the virus is unable to infect new cells.

**HIV-1 budding**

- Gag is required for HIV-1 budding, the process by which the viral particle leaves the infected cell. Gag is translocated to the plasma membrane, where it forms a structure known as the pre-budding particle. This structure is then transported to the cell membrane, where the viral envelope is assembled.

**Role of the nucleocapsid body**

- The nucleocapsid body is a key component of the viral particle, containing the viral genome and associated proteins. The nucleocapsid body is responsible for the formation of the viral core, which is then enveloped by the viral membrane to form the mature virion.

**Phosphatidylinositol-4-phosphate binding**

- The phosphatidylinositol-4-phosphate binding (PIP4) domain of HIV-1 Gag is important for the assembly of the viral particle. The PIP4 domain binds to the phosphatidylinositol-4-phosphate (PI4P) moiety, which is present on the inner leaflet of the cell membrane. This binding facilitates the recruitment of HIV-1 Gag to the membrane and is essential for the formation of the viral particle.

**Protein trafficking**

- The HIV-1 Gag protein is trafficked to the plasma membrane, where it assembles into the viral particle. This process is mediated by the interaction of Gag with the ESCRT machinery, which is involved in the sorting of membrane proteins.

**Ethical conduct of research**

- For studies involving data relating to human or animal experimental investigations, authors should obtain appropriate institutional review board approval and state this within the article (for those investigators who do not have formal ethics review committees, the principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki should be followed). In addition, for investigations involving human subjects, authors should obtain informed consent from the participants involved and include an explanation of how this was obtained in the manuscript.

### Summary points (Research articles & Company profiles only)

8–10 bullet point sentences highlighting the key points of the article.

### Financial disclosure/Acknowledgements

Disclosing any financial and/or material support that was received for the research or the creation of the work. Also disclosing any relationships any authors have (personal, academic or financial relationships that could influence their actions) or financial involvement with an organization or entity with a financial interest in or financial conflict with the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript. If writing assistance has been used in the creation of the manuscript, this should also be stated and any sources of funding for such assistance clearly identified.

### Ethical conduct of research

For studies involving data relating to human or animal experimental investigations, authors should obtain appropriate institutional review board approval and state this within the article (for those investigators who do not have formal ethics review committees, the principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki should be followed). In addition, for investigations involving human subjects, authors should obtain informed consent from the participants involved and include an explanation of how this was obtained in the manuscript.
References

Key points

- Authors should focus on recent papers and papers older than 5 years should not be included except for an over-riding purpose.
- Primary literature references, and any patents or websites, should be numerically listed in the reference section in the order that they occur in the text (including any references that only appear in figures/tables/boxes).
- Information from manuscripts submitted but not accepted should be cited in the text as “unpublished observations” with written permission from the source.
- Avoid citing a “personal communication” unless it provides essential information not available from a public source, in which case the name of the person and date of communication should be cited in the text, with written permission from the source.
- References should be denoted numerically and in sequence in the text, using Arabic numerals placed in square brackets, i.e., [12].
- Quote first six authors’ names. If there are more than six, then quote first three et al.
- Reference annotations: 6–8 references should be highlighted that are of particular significance to the subject under review as “* of interest” or “** of considerable interest”, along with a brief (1–2 line) synopsis.
- The Future Medicine Reference Manager and EndNote styles can be downloaded from our website at: www.futuremedicine.com/page/authors.jsp

Format

- Author’s names should appear without full stops in their initials
- Quote first six authors’ names. If there are more than six, then quote first three et al.
- A full stop follows authors’ names
- Journal name should be in italics and abbreviated to standard format
- Volume number followed by comma, not bold
- Page number range separated by a hyphen with no spaces, followed by the year in brackets, and then a full stop

Examples

Journal example:

Book example:

Meeting abstract example:

Patent example:

**Website example (organization homepage):**
US Food and Drug Association.
www.fda.gov

**Website example (specific webpage/document):**
www.cancer.org/research/cancerfactsstatistics/cancerfactsfigures2015/index

www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb30.pdf

**Reference annotations**
Papers or of particular interest should be identified using one or two asterisk symbols:

- * = of interest
- ** = of considerable interest

Each of the chosen references should be annotated with a brief sentence explaining why the reference is considered to be of interest/particular interest.
Figures, tables & boxes

Summary figures, tables and boxes are very useful, and we encourage their use in certain article types (see above section on Article types for details on which articles can include figures/tables/boxes). The author should include illustrations to condense and illustrate the information they wish to convey. Commentary that augments an article and could be viewed as ‘stand-alone’ should be included in a separate box. An example would be a summary of a particular trial or trial series, a case study summary or a series of terms explained.

Figures, tables and boxes should be numbered consecutively according to the order in which they have been first cited in the text. All abbreviations used within them should be defined in the legend.

All figures, tables and boxes should be submitted in an editable format. Ideally these should be sent as Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel or Adobe Illustrator files. If you are uncertain whether the format of your files is appropriate, please check with the Commissioning Editor. It is unnecessary to incorporate copies into the body of the manuscript; however, they should be included at the end of the document where possible.

Please ensure that scale bars are included in figures where appropriate (i.e., photomicrographs). Symbols, arrows or letters used in photomicrographs should contrast with the background. Please explain internal scale and identify the method of staining in photomicrographs.

If any of the figures, tables or boxes used in the manuscript requires permission from the original publisher, it is the author’s responsibility to obtain this. More details on obtaining permissions can be found in the copyright section below.

Supplementary information

Figure, tables and boxes larger than one A4 page will be included as online-only supplementary information. At the Editor’s discretion data or experimental details can also be included.

Color figure charge

Future Medicine has a charge for the printing of color figures (i.e., each color page) in the print issue of the journal. We have no page charges, unlike some other publishers, and aim to keep our color charge to a minimum.

This charge does not apply to the online (including PDF) version of articles, where all figures appear in color at no charge.

Chemical structures

If possible, please submit structures drawn in ISISDraw or Chemdraw format. However, chemical structures can be redrawn in-house. Please use the following conventions:

- Always indicate stereochemistry where necessary – use the wedge and hash bond convention for chiral centers and mark cis/trans bonds as such.
- Draw small peptides (up to five amino acids) in full; use amino acid abbreviations (Gly, Val, Leu, etc.) for larger peptides.
- Refer to each structure with a number in the text; submit a separate file (i.e., not pasted throughout the text) containing these numbered structures in the original chemical drawing package that you used.

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