## **Formatting Publications for Submission**

The following sections provide some tips for how to format the title page, the tables, the figures, and the references.

- Format Title Page
- Format Tables
- Format Figures
- Format References

### Overview

- Proper formatting prior to submission saves time and effort
- Manuscripts submitted with improper formatting are sent back to the author without review, potentially weeks after the manuscript was first submitted
- Formatting is an extremely tedious task, which commonly leads to mistakes. Make sure to double-check for errors and watch for small, easily overlooked requirements

### The Formatting Process

### Step 1 : Select target journal

# Step 2 : Go to the target journal's website for formatting and submission requirements .

These usually can be found under author "guidelines" or "instructions"

- Questions to ask when identifying which requirements to follow:
  - 1. What type of article is being formatted? *Original research, review, case report, letter to the editor, editorial, etc.*
  - 2. Is an Abstract required?
  - 3. What type of Abstract is required (structured or unstructured)?
  - 4. What are the word limits for the abstract and text for the type of article? What is included in the word count?

# Step 3 : Read through author instructions and create a list of all required materials and information

- Submissions often require additional documents and information. *These may include:* 
  - 1. Conflict-of-interest forms and/or statement
  - 2. Patient consent

- 3. Disclosures
- 4. Checklists
- 5. Copyright agreements
- 6. Co-author emails
- 7. Corresponding author contact information
- 8. Highest academic degrees
- 9. Publication fees
- 10. Color charges
- 11. Suggested reviewers

#### Step 4 : Format manuscript and all attachments according to requirements

- Always check the guidelines for each journal, but widely accepted standards include:
  - 1. Line spacing: double
  - 2. Font and font size: Times New Roman, size 12
  - 3. Margins: 1"
  - 4. 1/2" indentations at beginning of paragraphs
  - 5. Page numbers
- Manuscript text:
  - 1. Confirm word limits for abstract, text, references, and figures/tables
  - 2. Provide an abbreviation list if required
  - 3. Ensure line spacing, text size, and page margins are correct
  - 4. Use appropriate formatting hierarchy for headings and subheadings
  - 5. Determine whether page numbers, line numbers, or other headers/footers are needed
  - 6. If the journal uses a blinded review process, ensure that no identifiable information is included in the manuscript text or figures/tables
- Statements: Include any required statements in the specified location in the manuscript, with proper labeling and language
  - 1. Author contributions
  - 2. Competing interests/disclosures
  - 3. Funding
  - 4. Data sharing
  - 5. Patient consent
  - 6. Ethical approval
  - 7. Acknowledgements

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