JASN Instructions for Authors

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ABOUT JASN

JASN publishes original research reports and editorial matter in areas of basic and clinical science relevant to the broad discipline of nephrology. Subjects appropriate for JASN include renal cell biology, developmental biology of the kidney, genetics of kidney disease, cell and transport physiology, hemodynamics and vascular regulation, mechanisms of blood pressure regulation, renal immunology, renal pathology, pathophysiology of renal disease, nephrolithiasis, clinical nephrology including dialysis and transplantation, clinical hypertension, epidemiology of kidney disease, hypertension and associated cardiovascular disease. Articles addressing health care policy and care delivery issues of relevance to nephrology are welcome.

REVIEW PROCESS

JASN can publish only a small fraction of submitted manuscripts. Selection of manuscripts for publication is based on the importance of the scientific question, the quality and statistical strength of the data reported, the methodological approach, and the significance of the conclusions reached. All submitted manuscripts are reviewed by at least two members of the editorial team. Based on an assessment of priority, approximately two-thirds of submitted manuscripts are not sent out for external review; this decision is provided promptly to the authors. Manuscripts undergoing external review are evaluated by at least two experts and by the Editors. To expedite manuscript review, reviewers are asked to return their comments within 2 weeks, with the goal of providing the initial response to submitting authors within 4 weeks. Out of the manuscripts that are reviewed, only approximately one third are finally accepted for publication.

MANUSCRIPT TYPES

Original Articles are full-length manuscripts reporting original research findings. Original Articles are limited to 3500 words (including significance statement, abstract, and main text, excluding Methods) 100 references, and eight data figures. Methods, references, figure legends, and tables are not included in the word count. Data presentation is a key element of Original Articles. Final manuscripts are subject to a strict limit of eight data figures, and each figure to no more than eight panels. There is no limit on the number of tables. JASN will consider initial submissions that do not comply with the figure limits, but manuscripts must comply with these limits for final consideration. Original Articles may include Supplemental Material with additional relevant supporting figures and tables.
JASN editors strongly encourage inclusion of a simple schematic drawing in the Discussions section illustrating the main concept of the work. This figure does not count to the limits on data display items. It may be included in the discussion section in the printed version. In accepted articles it may also be used in the Visual Abstract. The Visual Abstract, which is published Online only, is described below.

Rapid Communications are short, expedited publications of research findings of exceptional importance. This manuscript type has been established to give authors the opportunity to submit in a concise format a novel research result for expedited assessment. This category is restricted to findings of sufficient scientific or clinical urgency to justify accelerated review and publication. Articles accepted for consideration in this category will be subject to accelerated handling, with a goal of time from initial submission to online publication of less than 90 days. Rapid Communications are limited to 2000 words, including the abstract, significance statement, and main text as well as up to four data display items (figures and tables) and a schematic drawing that does not count to the figure limits. Methods, references, figure legends, and tables are not included in the word count. Word limits are strictly enforced. References are limited to 100.

At the discretion of the author, the Results and Discussion sections can be combined. Supplemental Material may be included. Other formatting requirements of Original Articles apply.

Research Letters are short reports that may focus on brief case series or other informative, systematic observations. Individual case reports are not normally accepted unless they provide new mechanistic information. Submissions must not exceed 800 words. A brief methods description should be included. Up to seven references are allowed. No more than six authors. Only one figure or a table is permissible. Abstracts are not allowed. However, a Visual Abstract may be included.

Editorials are invited opinion pieces of approximately 1000 words (with one figure) that are generally related to published material in the same issue. Up to ten references are allowed. Abstracts are not allowed.

Perspectives articles address topical issues, controversies, recent scientific developments or novel observations relevant to any aspect within the broad compass of nephrology and hypertension, from basic science to public policy. They may challenge dogma or present a distinctive point of view. Articles should be timely and engaging. For particularly controversial topics, the Editors may solicit a counterpoint Perspective. Perspectives may be submitted for consideration for publication without an invitation, or may be solicited by the Editors. Special articles such as summaries of proceedings and policy statements are appropriate for this publication category. Perspectives must not exceed 1250 words, and may have no more than ten references and one figure or table. Abstracts are not allowed. Perspectives should not include an abstract. Manuscripts submitted as Perspectives will be reviewed by the Editors and may be subjected to additional peer review at the discretion of the Editors.

Reviews summarize and interpret existing literature on topics of interest to JASN readership. Both invited and unsolicited Reviews are accepted for consideration. Review articles should be limited to approximately 3000 words (excluding title page, figure legends, tables, and references). Authors should strive for a balanced, scholarly analysis in areas with opposing points of view. All submitted reviews are read by the Editors and, if judged potentially suitable for publication, are subjected to external peer review by at least one additional expert.

Manuscripts reporting extensive systematic review of existing literature and/or meta-analysis of previously published results, for example reanalysis of individual patient level data, may be submitted as Original Articles. These articles should adhere to PRISMA guidelines and be formatted as Original Articles. They will be subject to the same review expectations as other Original Articles.

Letters to the Editors. JASN accepts Letters to the Editors about articles appearing in recent issues. Letters may be submitted that address issues in any article type. Submission of Letters within 4 months of the online publication or 2 months of the print publication of the original article is strongly encouraged. In most instances, Letters will be provided to the authors of the original article for comment. Letters are limited to 400 words and four references, one of which should be to the article under discussion. Letters to the Editors should have no more than four authors and should not include figures.
JASN Instructions for Authors

The following table summarizes the requirements for different article types:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article Type</th>
<th>No. of authors</th>
<th>Abstract Type</th>
<th>Abstract Word Count</th>
<th>Significance Statement Word Count</th>
<th>Main Text Word Count</th>
<th>Referenc- es</th>
<th>Figures</th>
<th>Tables</th>
<th>Supplemental Material Allowed</th>
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<td>Structured</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>120 Words</td>
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<td>No limit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rapid Communications</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>Structured</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>120 Words</td>
<td>2000*</td>
<td>100</td>
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</table>

*Including the abstract and significance statement. ** Only one figure or one table is permissible, not both.

MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION

All manuscripts must be submitted online through Manuscript Central (http://jasn.asnjournals.org). Type your existing login/password or click on “Create an Account.” (Be careful not to create multiple accounts.) Click on “Author” and follow the instructions. If at any time during the online submission process you have a question or need help, click on “Help” in the upper right-hand corner. JASN accepts no responsibility for manuscript files that are lost or destroyed through problems with the electronic submission process. Authors may choose to submit a single concatenated PDF (exclusive of supplemental materials) for the initial submission but are required to submit all components individually for revised manuscripts.

GENERAL FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

Manuscripts should be in English and double-spaced, with page numbers but no line numbers. Authors whose native language is not English should seek linguistic support. JASN cannot edit manuscripts that require extensive syntactical and/or spelling revisions. The quality of the writing is reviewed along with the scientific content and can be a basis for rejection.

Manuscript Element Order:

- Original Articles and Rapid Communications should have the following elements in the following order: title page, significance statement, abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion, author contributions, acknowledgments, disclosures, funding, supplemental material table of contents, references, tables, figure legends, figures, and any supplemental material.
- Research letters should have the following elements in order: title page, integrated discussion, brief methods section, acknowledgments, disclosures, funding, references, figure legend and figure(s) or table(s).
- Perspectives and Editorials should have the following elements in order: title page, integrated discussion, acknowledgments, disclosures, funding, references, figure legend or table.

- Reviews should have the following elements in order: title page, abstract, integrated discussion, acknowledgments, disclosures, funding, references, figure legend and figure(s) or table(s).
- Letters to the Editors should have the following elements in order: title page, integrated discussion, acknowledgment, disclosures, funding, and references.

Note: Supplemental Material should be submitted in a separate PDF document or supplemental spreadsheets, except for spreadsheets of “-omic” data, which should be uploaded separately as Supplemental Spreadsheets.

MANUSCRIPT COMPONENTS

Listed in element order for Original Articles Order for Original Articles

- Cover letter (optional)
- Title Page
- Significant Statement
- Structured Abstract
- Introduction
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Author Contributions
- Acknowledgments
- Disclosures
- Funding
- Data Sharing Statement
- References
- Supplemental Table of Contents (if applicable)
- Tables
- Figures and Figure Legends
- Supplemental Material PDF (optional)
- Visual Abstract (required at revision)
**Family of Journals** for more information.

JASN Instructions for Authors

**Title Page:** Title (150 character limit including spaces), authors (first name, middle initial and last names) and affiliations (including division and/or department), running title (no more than 35 characters including spaces), separate word count for abstract and text, the corresponding author's name, address, and e-mail information, and keywords. All manuscripts, including Editorials, Perspectives, Reviews and Letters to the Editors, should include a title page.

Both the full title and the running title should be constructed carefully to be maximally informative to a general nephrology audience. Both full titles and running titles are required for all submissions except Letters to the Editor. Abbreviations except those well understood by most readers should be avoided in both the full and running titles.

**Significance Statement:** A 120-word summary of the submitted work, the Significance Statement, is required for Original Article and Rapid Communication submissions but not for other manuscript types. It should be informative to the general reader of *JASN*, not just those working in the same research area.

It should address three questions:

1. What was previously known about the specific topic of the manuscript? This statement should not reiterate facts well known to the renal research community.
2. What were the most important findings? If studies are animals, this should be specified.
3. How does the new information advance a new understanding of the kidney and its diseases?

Example: Fibrillary GN (FGN) is a primary glomerular disease with a poor prognosis. Currently, FGN poses substantial diagnostic challenges, in part because specific histological biomarkers of this disease have not been identified. This paper describes the discovery, using proteomics, of a new potential biomarker, DnaJ heat shock protein family (Hsp40) member B9 (DNAJB9). It demonstrates overabundance of DNAJB9 in FGN glomeruli, but not in glomeruli from patients with other glomerular diseases or from healthy subjects. The high specificity of DNAJB9 for FGN makes DNAJB9 a potentially useful diagnostic marker. Study of its function may provide important clues to the underlying pathogenesis of FGN.

**Abstract:** Abstracts are limited to 250 words. Abstracts for Original Articles* and Rapid Communications should include the following elements, designated explicitly: Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions. Abstracts should be written for maximum clarity, with limited use of abbreviations defined within the abstract. The species used should be identified. All numbers cited in the abstract should be included in the Results section. Reviews require an abstract; the structure is at the discretion of the author. Editorials and Perspectives do not have an abstract.

*Original Research Articles will include Clinical Trials information in the Abstract when applicable. See the “Joint Policies for the ASN Family of Journals” for more information.

**Visual Abstract:** Visual Abstracts are brief summaries of Original Articles and Rapid Communications published Online only. They serve to summarize the work for online readers and may be used in social media postings. Authors invited to submit a revision must provide a Visual Abstract. Instructions and a template are provided online in Author Resources.

**Methods:** *JASN* Editors consider the Methods section a critical element in the manuscript. The information provided in the Methods section should be readable and complete enough to give the reader a fundamental understanding of what studies were performed and the core principles of the methodology. Additional technical information about methods may be included in the Supplemental Material, but reference to Supplemental Material should not be needed to understand the core experimental steps and principles.

The Methods section is not included in the word limits. It follows the Introduction section. It should include, as appropriate, oversight of animal or human studies, the population studied, animals used, cell lines and/or the data resources used, the experimental design(s), outcome measures, and measurement methods.

**Statistics.** The final section of the Methods should describe the statistical analytic methods used. *JASN* editors encourage inclusion of a table explaining the statistical methods used for each experimental series, the unit of analysis (for example per animal or per sample) and/or data type.

**Animals Studies.** For all animal studies, *JASN* requires that authors state their adherence to the NIH Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals or the equivalent.

For studies that report several experimental series, inclusion of a supplemental table summarizing key features of all experimental series is strongly encouraged. The table should list the series, animals used, the intervention, the sample size, outcome measures, whether there was experimenter or observer blinding and figure and table numbers for results.

**Cell lines.** Authors must describe the source of all cell lines utilized. Authors are also encouraged to include information regarding authentication of cell lines and testing for mycoplasma contamination.

**Antibodies.** A description of all antibodies used should be included in the methods, providing the source and catalog/clone number for commercial antibodies or a description/reference to a description of the generation of custom antibodies. Steps to verify specificity should be described.

**Clinical Research Studies.** When applicable, authors must indicate via a statement in the methods section that they have abided by guidelines laid out by the Declaration of Helsinki and the Declaration of Istanbul. Institutional Review Board or Ethics Committee approval must be indicated. When relevant Clinical Trials Registration Number(s) must be included. For more information see the publication policies document.

4 | **JASN Instructions for Authors**
Author Contributions: A statement of the contribution of each author to the manuscript is required for all Original Articles and Rapid Communications and encouraged for other submissions. The statement should describe the contribution of each author, following the criteria recommended by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). Please see the ASN Journal Policies for more information.

Acknowledgements, Disclosures and Funding: Please see the ASN Journal Policies for requirements. Note: authors should be listed with their First Initial and Last Name followed by full disclosures.

Data Sharing Statement: ASN subscribes to the FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable) data principles and requires that authors deposit data in a community approved public repository. Information on the FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship can be found on the FAIR website.

The JASN editors will not send manuscripts out for external review until data sharing requirements have been met.

Requirements are as follows: Datasets from systems-level analyses need to be deposited in an appropriate publicly accessible archiving sites. The original submission must include a reviewer password (token) to allow reviewer and editor access to archives data sets.

Examples of appropriate repositories include:

1. For DNA-based assays, such as GWAS (SNP array), whole exome sequencing (WES), or whole-genome sequencing (WGS) data, including primary genotype data and genome wide statistics:
   i. European Genome-Phenome Archive (EGA) (https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ega/)
   ii. The Database of Genotypes and Phenotypes (dbGaP) (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gap);
2. For RNA-based assays, such as genome-wide gene expression data (array-based, RNA-seq-based, other), including primary data and summary statistics:
   3. For proteomic data: PRoteomics IDEntifications database (PRIDE) (https://www.ebi.ac.uk/pride/archive/).

Publications involving machine learning are required to provide novel computer script, trained machine learning models, as well as source data used for performance evaluation at a publicly accessible website such as Github or Sourceforge.

Publications about clinical trials need to provide registration information from ct.gov or another suitable repository and a data sharing plan.

Additional information about data sharing expectations is available at https://asnjournals.org/DataSharing.

References: JASN Editors value good scholarship in the selection of references and evaluate reference accuracy as part of manuscript review. When citing a recent research finding, authors should, in general, cite the primary paper rather than a review. Statements about clinical practice should cite systematic reviews or guidelines, when available, rather than secondary sources. When online data resources have been used to generate reference data or other critical components, references should not cite secondary sources. Citations of data resources should conform to the citation format recommended by the site: e.g., USRDS. 2017 Annual Data Report.

References should be listed in order of their appearance in the text. List all authors when the number of authors is six or fewer. When the number of authors is greater than six, use et al. for all authors over six. Journal names should be abbreviated according to the MEDLINE list of serials. Superscripted numbers in the text should be used to indicate references; these superscripted numbers must be placed immediately after a comma or period if cited at the end of a phrase or sentence. Only peer-reviewed publications should be cited. Abstracts and papers published in preprint form should not be cited.

Examples of reference formatting:

Tables: Tables must be cited in the text and should be numbered using Arabic numerals in the order first cited. Each table should appear on a separate page of the manuscript file, beginning immediately after the references. The table number and title should be included above the table, with the title providing sufficient context to interpret the data presented. Additional information, including all abbreviations used, conversion factors for international units, and any clarifications required to understand reported statistics, should be included in notes below each table. In general, a format for tables that permits portrait rather than landscape presentation is preferred, since this facilitates on-line viewing of the pdf version of the paper.
Figures and Figure Legends: Up to eight figures are permitted. Each figure should have no more than eight panels. Figures must be cited in the text and numbered using Arabic numerals in the order first cited. Panels should be assigned letters (e.g., Figure 1A, 1B). Figures should not be embedded in the body of the manuscript but should be uploaded as individual files. Figures should be formatted consistently and use the same symbols throughout when possible. Figures and figure legends should be inserted after the last table. Each figure legend should begin with a brief title describing the figure, followed by other information needed to interpret the data, including all abbreviations used in the figure, conversion factors for international units, and any clarifications required to understand reported statistics. Figure numbers and titles should appear in the figure files themselves.

JASN editors discourage use of bar graphs with standard error (dynamite plunger plots), and require reformatting column bars as a dot plot in all instances when sample size is modest and individual variability is an important aspect of the data. Figures that do not meet this standard must be redrawn.

Display of original data in original form is encouraged either in the main text or in the Supplemental Material. At the discretion of the editors and reviewers, JASN regularly asks authors to provide original data for review before acceptance. Examples include full-length gel images, patch clamp recordings, Q-PCR fluorescence curves, and genome browser maps of RNA-Seq reads. JASN is now using Image Forensics to identify irregularities in all figures accepted for publication.

Please read our Digital Art Guidelines in “Author Resources” on the JASN website (https://jasn.asnjournals.org/content/authors/ifora). If PowerPoint files are submitted, please avoid proprietary fonts that may not be accurately represented in the final figures. Authors of accepted manuscripts must provide figures in one of the following formats: EPS, AI, TIFF, PDF, or Microsoft Powerpoint. Raster (pixel-based) images should be produced at appropriate resolution: 1200 dpi for black and white images in bitmap mode such as graphs and log scales, 600 dpi for gray scale or color combination images such as gels or blots combined with text or line-art, and 300 dpi for regular grayscale or color images without text or line-art combined. Color images should be saved in RGB mode with ICC profiles embedded if possible. Please be sure to use high resolution and maximum quality compression settings if creating PDFs.

Authors are responsible for additional cost for pages that include color photomicrographs or multi-tone illustrations. A supplemental charge is added to page charges for each page that includes color photomicrographs or multi-toned illustrations ($500/page). Authors should choose colors that maintain a high contrast against the background.

Supplemental Material: Supplemental Material critical to the scientific story, such as technical method descriptions, additional figures, tables, video files or spreadsheet datasets, may be included. Supplemental Material will be examined by reviewers for appropriateness. If the manuscript is accepted, the Supplemental Material will be posted online along with the main paper.

The Supplemental Material must begin with a Table of Contents listing all elements included. The Table of Contents for the Supplemental Material should also be listed in the manuscript before the references. In general, elements included in the Supplemental Material should be cited in the text of the main manuscript.

Upload all Supplemental Material (except for spreadsheet documents and video files) as a single indexed PDF file. Supplemental information may not be recomposed, enhanced, or manipulated after final submission. Supplemental information is posted as submitted and is not copy-edited.

REVISIONS

Authors who have received a decision letter that indicated that JASN would be interested in a revised version of their paper should return to the online submission page, click on “Author,” then click on “Manuscripts with Decisions” and click on “Create a Revision” of the specific manuscript. Upload a clean version of the revised paper and also a version that indicates the changes from the original version, e.g., using the “Track Changes” feature of Microsoft Word. Visual abstracts are required at the revision stage.

ACCEPTED PAPERS

After a manuscript has been accepted for publication, the authors may need to upload a final set of files as a revised manuscript. The text and tables will need to be sent as a Word document (one file) and each figure in one of the following formats: EPS, AI, TIFF, or PDF. Supplemental information should be submitted in one PDF file and should include a Supplemental Table of Contents.

Manuscripts will be copyedited, and an electronic proof will be made available for author correction and approval. Authors will be notified by email when their proofs are ready. Authors must view and correct the proof using the online proof editor and return the corrected proofs within 48 hours. Be sure that all editor or printer queries are answered. Only minor corrections are permitted. Changes to figures at proof stage will not be allowed except in rare cases. Authors will need to check coauthors’ names and affiliations carefully at proof stage. Changes will not be made after the paper is posted online.

All information regarding publication fees and reprints can be found in the publication policies document.