

# NEW

## *Fundamental Toxicological Sciences*

### Instructions for Authors

(Effective from June 1, 2025)



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### **Aims and Scope**

*Fundamental Toxicological Sciences* is a peer reviewed, open access journal dedicated to advancing knowledge and publishing original and innovative articles in toxicology. The journal covers a wide range of areas and topics: toxicity of drugs, food additives, food contaminants, environmental pollutants and natural products and their safety evaluation, experimental techniques, analytical methods and clinical toxicology. The journal provides authors and readers with rapid peer review and timely publication while maintaining its rigorous standards.

*Fundamental Toxicological Sciences* is published by the Japanese Society of Toxicology and supported by the Japanese Society of Clinical Toxicology, and publishes eight types of articles: Original Articles, Research Letters, Data Reports, Toxicomics Reports, Reviews, Minireviews, Invited Reviews and Invited Articles.

The journal is published continuously online and read by a large international audience of researchers, clinicians, policy makers and others interested in toxicology.

### **Manuscript Types**

The journal welcomes eight manuscript types, all of which are subject to peer review.

#### **Original Articles**

Articles that contain new findings resulting from innovative research.

#### **Research Letters**

Short articles containing preliminary or more limited research results supported by less data than a regular paper, but of general or special interest. Manuscripts containing interesting findings without detailed discussion, research results of narrow scope or of a predominantly negative nature may also be suitable for publication as a Research Letter.

#### **Data reports**

Short articles containing data that cannot be sufficiently discussed the significance but are of material value in various toxicological experiments and measurement results of concentrations of chemical substances in the environment, foods, and others.

### **Toxicomics Reports**

Short articles containing new knowledge of genes and proteins related to toxicity and biological responses. This includes data on genes (or proteins), the level of expression of which varies according to exposure to toxic substances or drugs, and the identification of genes (or proteins) that affect toxicity. For DNA array analysis, work dealing with a single substance can be considered as one article; similarly, for the identification of genes related to toxicity, description of one gene can be considered as one article. The Journal may also publish data on new polymorphisms of genes related to toxicity and the results of studies on the relationships between known polymorphisms and medicinal or metabolic effects of drugs (negative data can be acceptable). Because this type of article is intended to make reference information available, detailed discussion and assessment is not required.

### **Reviews and Minireviews**

Articles that review and encompass recent important scientific discoveries. Minireviews mainly describe recent research results from the authors' own laboratories. Reviews are broader based and do not have a page limit.

### **Invited Reviews and Invited Original Articles**

The editorial board may invite researchers who are experts in their field and have achieved interesting research results to write an Invited Review or an Invited Original Article. The review or article is invited and refereed by the editor in charge. The editor in charge can appoint other reviewers if necessary. The author(s) will not be charged APC.

### **Manuscript Submission**

Articles should be submitted via the online submission system at <https://www.e-kenkyu.com/fts-scienced/>. A single Microsoft Word or PDF file, which includes the tables and figures appended to the end of the manuscript, should be submitted. Separate files for the manuscript and for the figures are not permitted. If you are using the system for the first time, you must create an account before you can submit a manuscript.

If you encounter any problems with online submission, please contact the Editorial Office using the details found in the Contact section.

During the submission process, you will be required to select up to five categories that are appropriate to your manuscript. In addition, you must list them in order of relevance on the first page (title page). When submitting a clinical research paper, the authors should select "D15 Clinical Toxicology".

<b>A1</b>	Drugs	<b>A5</b>	Toxins	<b>A9</b>	Carcinogenic substances
<b>A2</b>	Pesticide	<b>A6</b>	Food additives	<b>A10</b>	Endocrine disrupters
<b>A3</b>	Metals	<b>A7</b>	Food contaminants	<b>A11</b>	Nanomaterials
<b>A4</b>	Industrial chemical substances	<b>A8</b>	Environmental pollutants	<b>A12</b>	Radiation

<b>B1</b>	Central nervous system	<b>B5</b>	Sensory system	<b>B9</b>	Genital system
<b>B2</b>	Liver	<b>B6</b>	Digestive system	<b>B10</b>	Embryo
<b>B3</b>	Kidney	<b>B7</b>	Respiratory system		
<b>B4</b>	Skin	<b>B8</b>	Circulatory system		
<b>C1</b>	General toxicity	<b>C5</b>	Behavioral toxicity	<b>C9</b>	Drug dependence
<b>C2</b>	Reproductive toxicity	<b>C6</b>	Immunotoxicity	<b>C10</b>	Cytotoxicity
<b>C3</b>	Genetic toxicity	<b>C7</b>	Developmental toxicity	<b>C11</b>	Oxidative stress
<b>C4</b>	Carcinogenesis	<b>C8</b>	Chemical poisoning	<b>C12</b>	Inflammation
<b>D1</b>	Accumulation/Excretion	<b>D6</b>	Toxicological pathology	<b>D11</b>	Toxicity evaluation methods
<b>D2</b>	Kinetics	<b>D7</b>	Toxicological biochemistry	<b>D12</b>	Analysis
<b>D3</b>	Drug metabolism	<b>D8</b>	Molecular toxicology	<b>D13</b>	Toxicomics
<b>D4</b>	Mechanism of toxicity	<b>D9</b>	Toxicity-related genes	<b>D14</b>	Statistics
<b>D5</b>	Biological (cell) responses	<b>D10</b>	Safety evaluations	<b>D15</b>	Clinical Toxicology

## Manuscript Preparation

### Style

Type the manuscript single-spaced in an 11-point font using A4 size with upper, lower, left and right margins of 2 cm. Print sequential page numbers centrally at the bottom of the page, setting the title page as page one.

### English standards

Manuscripts should be written in clear, grammatically correct English. If a manuscript is not clear due to poor English, it may be rejected without undergoing peer review.

### Cover letter

Authors must submit a cover letter that includes the title of the manuscript and the contact details of the corresponding author. Authors should summarize the aims and outcomes of their work and how and why the manuscript is appropriate for publication. Details of any relevant consent and/or ethics approvals and other such items must be included in the cover letter. In addition, any other relevant information that is required at the time of submission, such as applications for APC waivers, other ethics declarations and so forth, should be included in the cover letter.

### Title page

Give the title, the names of the authors, the name and address (es) of the institution (s), the type of article, the running title (70 characters or less, including spaces), and the relevant subject categories (see above) on the first page (title page). Following these, give the name, institution, street address, phone number, e-mail address (required) of the corresponding author.

### Title

The title should describe the content of the article briefly but clearly. A concise, descriptive title is important for search purposes by third-party services. Do not use the same main title with numbered minor titles, even for a series of papers by the same authors. Do not use abbreviations in the title, except those used generally in related fields.

### **Abstract and keywords**

On the second page, provide an Abstract that is a single paragraph – without line breaks – of 250 words or less and also provide 3-6 keywords. Headings, such as Methods or Results, must not be used.

### **Main text**

The main text should start from page 3 with an Introduction, followed by Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgments, author declaration sections (Funding, Conflict of Interest Statement, Data Availability Statement, Author Contribution Statement, Ethics approval and consent to participate, Patient consent for publication), References, and Figure Legends. The Results and Discussion sections may be combined as Results and Discussion. Tables and Figures should be provided at the end of the manuscript.

### **Introduction**

The Introduction should provide sufficient background information to allow the reader to understand the purpose of the investigation and its relationship with other research in related fields. It should not include an extensive review of the literature.

### **Materials and Methods**

The description of the methods should be brief, but it must include sufficient detail to allow the experiments to be repeated. The manufacturer or supplier of chemicals, animals, microbial strains or equipment should be listed in parentheses when they are first mentioned, along with their location (city, country). If hazardous materials or dangerous procedures are used in the experiments and the precautions related to their handling are not widely recognized, it is recommended that the authors provide the necessary details.

### **Results**

This section includes the results of the experiments. The Results and Discussion sections may be combined if this helps readers to understand and evaluate the study. Tables and figures, including photographs, can be used to present the experimental results (see below). Excessive explanations of the data presented in tables and figures should be avoided.

### **Discussion**

The Discussion should concisely describe the authors' interpretation of the results. Novel models or hypotheses may be proposed in this section only if they are suggested by the results obtained in the experiments. Descriptions of the experimental results should not be repeated in this section.

### **Acknowledgments**

Authors may briefly acknowledge those who have assisted in the work or preparation of the manuscript, but who do not qualify for authorship (as defined in the Authorship section).

### **Funding**

Authors should list all funding sources for their work in the Funding section. Where possible and for each grant, the receiving institution, the funding agency, the grant number, and the location (city and country) of the funding agency should be included.

### **Conflict of Interest Statement**

Authors are required to declare any competing financial or other conflicts of interest in relation to the work described. Please see the ‘Author competing interests and conflicts of interest’ section for detailed information. If there are no declared interests, authors should include the following statement in this section of their manuscript: “The authors declare no competing interests.”

### **Data Availability Statement**

Authors are encouraged to include a Data Availability Statement in manuscripts that report results from research data. Following Hrynaskiewicz et al. (2020, <http://doi.org/10.5334/dsj-2020-017>), statements should include information on where the manuscript’s data can be found and (where applicable) directly link to the data. If research data are not publicly available, this should be stated in this section along with any conditions for accessing the data. In such cases, the recommended statement is as follows: “The data in this study are included in the article/supplementary materials. Contact the corresponding author(s) directly to request the underlying data.”

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Authors are required to include an Author Contribution Statement that follows [CRediT](#) (Contributor Roles Taxonomy). Each author’s contribution should be described using one or more of the 14 CRediT categories. For example (where ‘Author’ is replaced by the actual author names):

Conceptualization: Author 1.

Funding acquisition: Author 1.

Investigation: Author 1, Author 2.

Supervision: Author 1.

Visualization: Author 3.

Writing – original draft: Author 1, Author 2, Author 3.

Writing – review & editing: Author 1, Author 2.

### **Ethics approval and consent to participate**

Authors are required to declare that they have obtained and complied with relevant ethics approvals for any studies involving human or animal subjects. If such approval is not relevant or applicable to a submitted manuscript describing research that involves human or animal subjects, authors should include the statement “Not applicable” under this section heading.

### **Patient consent for publication**

Authors are required to declare that they have obtained informed consents from participants for any relevant studies involving human subjects. If such consent is not relevant or applicable to a manuscript describing research that involves human subjects, authors should include the statement “Not applicable” under this section heading.

### **References**

When citing references in the text, give the name of the authors and the year of publication in parentheses: e.g. (Smith, 1999) or (Jones and Cohen, 2003). If there are three or more authors give only the first author followed by *et al.*, e.g. (Smith *et al.*, 2004). If the same author(s) published more than one paper in the same year, use a, b etc to distinguish them: e.g. (Smith *et al.*, 2004a, 2004b). Cited references should be listed as “References” at the end of the text in alphabetical order. Give the name of the author, the year of publication in parentheses, the article name, the journal abbreviation (please use the abbreviation specified by the journal (if any), or refer to Chemical Abstracts), the volume number, and inclusive pagination, in that order. For chapters in books, give the name of the author, the year of publication in parentheses, the title of the chapter, the name of the book, the name of the editor, the page (inclusive), and the name and city of the publisher, in that order. For books, give the name of the author, the year of publication in parentheses, the name of the book, and the name and city of the publisher, in that order.

### *Examples*

Kennedy, M.L., Smith, J.K. and Jones, W.T. (2005): The pharmacokinetics of methylmercury in new-born rats. *J. Toxicol. Sci.*, **30**, 126-135.

Steel, J.M. and Whitney, M.C. (2003): The effect of diethylstilbestrol on the reproductive system in rat offspring. In: *Toxicology of Diethylstilbestrol* (Walton, W.H., ed.), pp. 551-564, Thomson Press, New York.

### **Tables**

Tables should be numbered consecutively using Arabic numerals (Table 1, Table 2, etc.). Each table should have a title. Explanatory material and footnotes should be typed below the table and should be designated with superscript letters. Ensure that all numerical values in tables are associated with a unit of measurement (for example, at the top of the relevant column). Avoid detailed explanations of the experimental conditions used to obtain the data shown in tables; they should be included in other sections as relevant. Tables must not be images or vector files; rather, use the table-making software in MS Word.

### **Figures**

Figures should be of sufficiently high resolution for direct reproduction for publication. Note that figures may include line drawings, photographs, diagrams and charts. Magnifications of photographs should be indicated in the legends and/or by scales included in the photographs. Illustrations must be self-explanatory and should be numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals (i.e., Fig. 1, Fig. 2, etc.). Each figure should have a short title. Figure legends should be grouped together and presented after the main text. Figure legends should include sufficient experimental details to make the figures intelligible; however, duplicating the descriptions provided in other sections should be avoided.

### **Supplementary material**

Supplementary material is data and other materials that help the reader to understand the research results and methods described in the paper. Supplying such materials is optional that do not form a part of the article. Supplementary material is made up of data in PDF format and/or text, and is published online together with the accepted manuscript.

Supplementary materials are peer-reviewed, so authors must submit the final version of the Supplementary materials together with the submitted paper. Supplementary materials should

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Authors cannot change Supplementary materials after the paper has been accepted. Authors are encouraged to make detailed experimental protocols, analysis methods, raw data, and other materials related to the paper publicly available using “J-STAGE Data” (see the section on “J-STAGE Data” below). Authors must submit the manuscript’s underlying data if requested by the Editor.

### **Abbreviations**

Abbreviations: At first use, spell out the word followed by the abbreviation in parentheses. Use only that defined abbreviation thereafter.

### **Units**

Units should be used as follows:

μm, mm, cm, m, μg, mg, g, kg, μL, mL, L, mmol, mol, μM, mM, M, ppm, mol/L, mg/mL, %, sec, min, hr, S.D., S.E., s.c., i.c., i.m., i.v., i.p., p.o., Bq, Sv, Gy, dpm, °C.

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Manuscripts that are accepted for publication are copyedited and typeset by the journal’s production team before publication. All communication regarding accepted manuscripts is with the corresponding author.

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Page proofs are sent to the corresponding author, who should check and return them within 1 week. Only essential corrections to typesetting errors or omissions are accepted; excessive changes are not permitted at the proofing stage.

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When assessing the novelty of a manuscript submitted to the journal, the editors will not be influenced by other manuscripts that are posted on community-recognized preprint servers after the date of submission to the journal (or after the date on which the submitted manuscript was posted on a preprint server, if the manuscript is submitted to the journal within 4 months).

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Authors may make their own data and materials available as Supplementary Material or by linking to data hosted at J-STAGE Data (see next section). All data sets must be made available in full to the editors and reviewers during the peer review process, and consideration made for them to be made publicly available by the date of publication. Authors commit to preserving their data sets for at least three years from the date of publication in the journal.

The journal encourages authors to grant reasonable requests from colleagues to share any data, materials and experimental protocols described in their manuscript.

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The journal recommends that data and materials that form the basis of research papers be made public on [J-STAGE Data](https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/fts), a data repository operated by the Japan Science and Technology Agency.

Unlike Supplementary materials, J-STAGE Data is assigned a separate DOI and is hosted independently of the linked paper. Therefore, it is possible to share and reuse the data under the conditions specified by the author, not just as supplementary data for the paper.

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Manuscripts describing the collection of archaeological, geological, paleontological or wildlife specimens or samples should include detailed information on their provenance and collection methods. Authors must include a statement in their manuscript describing the relevant ethics guidelines, local laws and collection permits under which the research was conducted.

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The journal adheres to the ICMJE policy on [Clinical Trials Registration](#), which recommends that all clinical trials are registered in a public trials registry at or before the time of first patient enrolment as a condition of consideration for publication. Manuscripts describing clinical trials must include the registration number of the trial and the name of the trial registry.

### **Reporting guidelines**

The journal requires authors to follow the EQUATOR Network's [Reporting Guidelines](#) for health research. Study types include, but are not limited to, randomized trials, observational studies, systematic reviews, case reports, qualitative research, diagnostic and prognostic studies, economic evaluations, animal pre-clinical studies and study protocols.

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As per the COPE position statement on [Authorship and AI tools](#), authors must disclose and fully describe any use of generative or non-generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (also known as large language models, or LLMs) in the Materials and Methods section. This includes, but is not limited to, using AI tools to collect or analyze data, produce or amend images or graphics used in the manuscript, or write all or part of the manuscript. Authors

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### **Advertising policy**

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## **Peer Review Process**

### **Editorial and peer review process**

The journal uses double anonymized peer review. When a manuscript is submitted to the journal, it is assigned to the Editor-in-Chief, who performs initial screening. Manuscripts that do not fit the journal's scope or are not deemed suitable for publication are rejected without review. The Editor-in-Chief allocates each of the remaining manuscripts to an Associate Editor, who handles peer review. The Associate Editor selects two or more appropriate reviewers to provide their assessment of the manuscript. The deadline for submission of the reviewers' reports is one week.

Once the reviewers' reports have been received, the Associate Editor determines whether the manuscript requires revision. Authors who are asked to revise their manuscript must do so within two weeks, otherwise it may be treated as a new submission. The Associate Editor may send revised manuscripts to peer reviewers for their feedback or may use his or her own judgment to assess how closely the authors have followed the comments on the original manuscript. The Associate Editor then makes a final decision on the manuscript's suitability for publication in the journal.

The Editor-in-Chief acts as an arbitrator when necessary.

### **Reviewer selection, timing and suggestions**

Reviewers are selected based on their expertise in the field, reputation, recommendation by others, and/or previous experience as peer reviewers for the journal.

Reviewers are asked to submit their first review within one week of accepting the invitation to review. Reviewers who anticipate any delays should inform the Editorial Office as soon as possible.

When submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors may suggest reviewers that they would like included in or excluded from the peer review process. The Editor may consider these suggestions but is under no obligation to follow them. The selection, invitation and assignment of peer reviewers is at the Editor's sole discretion.

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It is the journal's policy to transmit reviewers' comments to the authors in their original form. However, the journal reserves the right to edit reviewers' comments, without consulting the reviewers, if they contain offensive language, confidential information or recommendations for publication.

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- novel and original
- descriptions of technically rigorous research
- of high interest to the journal's audience
- important additions to the field.

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The Japanese Society of Toxicology (the "Society") has granted the journal's Editorial Board complete and sole responsibility for all editorial decisions. The Society will not become involved in editorial decisions, except in cases of a fundamental breakdown of process.

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A conflict of interest exists when there are actual, perceived or potential circumstances that could influence an editor or reviewer's ability to act impartially when assessing a manuscript. Such circumstances include (but are not limited to) having a personal or professional relationship with an author, working on the same topic or in direct competition with an author, having a financial stake in the work or its publication, or having seen previous versions of the manuscript.

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