Author Guidelines

AIMS AND SCOPE
The Obesity Society’s official journal, *Obesity*, a research journal, aims to publish leading discoveries in obesity biology and integrative physiology, clinical trials of behavioral, pharmacological and surgical approaches to obesity treatment, pediatric obesity research and obesity epidemiology and genetics. The journal publishes original scientific research articles, review articles, brief cutting edge reports, perspectives and commentaries on public health and medical developments. *Obesity* is a forum where knowledge on the cutting edge of discovery can be disseminated, an essential element of transforming medical and societal approaches to the prevention and treatment of obesity.

CONTACT INFORMATION
For all matters regarding manuscripts and peer review, please contact the Editorial Office, at: editorial@obesity.org
Managing Editor: Hedy Ross
Editorial Assistant: Deb Rice
Assistant to the Editor-in-Chief: Lorrie Brescia
*Obesity*, c/o The Obesity Society, 8757 Georgia Avenue, Suite 1320, Silver Spring, MD 20910.
Tel: +1 301 563 6526. Fax: +1 301 563 6595

EDITORIAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
Submission and Peer-review
Submissions are considered on the conditions that they are previously unpublished, and are not offered simultaneously elsewhere; that all authors have read and approved the content; that all authors have declared all competing interests; and that the work complies with the Ethical Policies of the journal, and has been conducted under internationally accepted ethical standards after relevant ethical review. It is imperative that authors read this policy and complete any necessary documentation prior to your submission. When submitting a manuscript it is with the understanding that the manuscript (or its essential substance) has not been published other than as an abstract in any language or format and has not been submitted elsewhere for consideration for print or electronic publication.

This journal employs a plagiarism detection system. By submitting your manuscript to this journal you accept that your manuscript may be screened for plagiarism against previously published works.

The journal operates a stringent peer review process. All manuscripts will be reviewed by the Editors, members of the Editorial Board, or other expert reviewers. At the discretion of the Editors, the manuscript may be returned immediately without full review, if deemed not competitive (not within the top 50% for originality and quality) or outside the realm of interests of the majority of the readership of the Journal. The decision (reject, invite revision, accept) letter will be conveyed through *Obesity* ScholarOne Manuscripts, coming directly from the Editor who has assumed responsibility for the manuscript's review. Editorial decisions are based not just on technical merit of the work, but also on other factors such as the priority for
publication and the relevance to the Journal's general readership. All papers are judged in relation to other submissions currently under consideration. Acceptance of papers is based on the originality of the observation or investigation; the quality of the work described; the clarity of presentation; and the relevance to our readership. Rebuttals to rejected manuscripts are strongly discouraged and requests for resubmission of rejected manuscripts are generally not granted.

**Publication Ethics**

*Obesity* is a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics and subscribes to its recommendations (Committee on Publication Ethics [COPE]: guidelines on good publication practice, [www.publicationethics.org.uk](http://www.publicationethics.org.uk)). Best Practice Guidelines on Publication Ethics are also available from [http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/publicationethics/](http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/publicationethics/) (Graf C, Wager E, Bowman A, et al., *Int J Clin Pract* 2007; 61 [suppl 152]: 126). The Editors reserve the right to reject a paper on ethical grounds. All authors are responsible for adhering to guidelines on good publication practice.

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The corresponding author must provide an e-mail address for communication with the Editors and the Publisher.

**PREPARATION OF MANUSCRIPTS**

**Article Categories**

Articles will be published under one of four categories:
- Obesity Biology and Integrated Physiology
- Clinical Trials: Behavior, Pharmacotherapy, Devices, Surgery
- Pediatric Obesity
- Epidemiology/Genetics

**Article Types**

Manuscripts published by *Obesity* include: (1) Original Articles; (2) Reviews and Invited Reviews; (3) Brief Cutting Edge Reports; (4) Editorials; (5) Perspectives; (6) Commentaries; (7) Letters to the Editor

(1) **Original Articles**

Word Limit: 3500 words maximum excluding abstract, references, tables and figures

Abstract: Structured, 200 words maximum
References: 40 maximum
Figures/Tables: 8 tables or figures, combined, maximum

Original Articles should focus on substantial novel research, findings, and developments from both human and animal studies in all areas relevant to the science of obesity. The following features are essential: hypothesis testing, suitable controls, appropriate statistical methods, clear reporting of results, and conclusions supported by the results.

(2) *Reviews and Invited Reviews*

Word Limit: 5000 words excluding abstract, references, tables and figures
Abstract: Structured, 200 words maximum
References: 80 maximum
Figures/Tables: 8 tables or figures, combined, maximum

Review topics should be presented to the Editor-in-Chief prior to submission to establish that the proposed subject falls within the guidelines and interests of the journal and that a review in that field is not currently under preparation by another author. Please note that all email enquiries to the Editor-in-Chief should be copied to the Editorial Assistant, at: lbrescia@obesity.org

(3) *Brief Cutting Edge Reports*

Word Limit: 1500 words maximum, excluding abstract, references, tables and figures
Abstract: Structured, 200 words maximum
References: 20 maximum
Figures/Tables: 3 maximum

Brief Cutting Edge Reports are short reports on a “hot” research question presenting important novel results.

(4) *Editorial* [only by invitation of Editors]

Word Limit: 800-1,600 words excluding references, tables and figures
Abstract: no abstract for this article type
References: 5 maximum
Figures/Tables: 1 maximum

(5) *Perspectives* [only by invitation of Editors]

Word Limit: 1000 words excluding references, tables and figures
Abstract: 150 words
References: 10 maximum
Figures/Tables: 2 maximum

Perspectives can provide new ideas on an old problem, or commentary/opinion on hot topics.

(6) *Commentaries* [only by invitation of Editors]

Word Limit: 500 words excluding references, tables and figures
Abstract: no abstract required, however, please include an introduction not to exceed 75 words

References: 5 maximum

Figures/Tables: 1 maximum

Commentaries should highlight the findings of a paper published in Obesity in a wider scientific and clinical context.

(7) Letters to the Editor

Word Limit: 500 words excluding references, tables and figures

Abstract: no abstract for this manuscript type

References: 5 maximum

Figures/Tables: 1 maximum

Letters to the Editor typically should address issues concerning recently published information in Obesity. A Letter to the Editor must reference the original source, and a Response to a Letter must reference the Letter to the Editor in the first few paragraphs. Letters to the Editor can use an arbitrary title, but a Response must cite the title of the Letter: e.g. Response to [title of Letter]. The publication of submitted Letters to the Editor is at the discretion of the Editors.

Manuscript Format

Authors must provide their entire manuscript (in English) in electronic format.

General advice about the presentation of manuscripts:

- Provide a clear, concise and interesting title, and structured abstract to help readers quickly see the value of your work. Do not phrase the title as a question.
- The full contact details of the corresponding author must be included on the title page and the covering letter.
- All pages should be numbered.
- Avoid, as much as possible, the use of abbreviations.
- All scientific units should be expressed in SI units.
- Read these Author Guidelines carefully and follow them as closely as you can.
- Use the submission checklist to guide you before and during submission.

Title Page

The title page should contain: (1) the title of the article [no more than 125 characters, including spaces], (2) the name of each author (first name and surname preferred), (3) the name of the department(s) and institution(s) to which the authors belong, (4) three to six keywords, (5) a running title [no more than 40 characters], (6) full address including e-mail of the corresponding author.

Main Text
Original research papers should be divided into (1) ‘What is already known about this subject’ and ‘What this study adds’ (up to three short bullet points for each), (2) structured abstract using the headings: Objective; Design and Methods; Results; Conclusions (200 words), (3) introduction, (4) methods and procedures, (5) results, (6) discussion, (7) conflicts of interest statement, (8) acknowledgements (including author contributions), (9) references.

For guidance on the content and style of the introduction, materials and methods, results and discussion, please follow the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICJME) Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: http://www.icmje.org/manuscript_prepare.html

Reviews should be divided into: (1) Structured abstract (200 words), (2) introduction, (3) text subdivided into paragraphs, (4) conclusion or discussion, (5) conflicts of interest statement, (6) author contributions, (7) acknowledgements, (8) references. Review authors are particularly encouraged to use tables, diagrams and figures. Personal conclusions and practical applications are welcome.

Abbreviations
Abbreviations should be defined at the first mention in the text and in each table and figure. Write out the full term for each abbreviation at its first use unless it is a standard unit of measure. For a list of standard abbreviations, please consult the Council of Biology Editors Style Guide (available from the Council of Science Editors, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814) or other standard sources.

Drug Names
Generic names should, in general, be used. If an author so desires, brand names may be inserted in parentheses.

Acknowledgements
This section should outline the contribution of each author to the manuscript e.g.: study design, data collection, data analysis, data interpretation, literature search, generation of figures, writing of the manuscript. An example that authors might like to follow is:
XY and NM conceived and carried out experiments, AB and GH conceived experiments and analysed data. OP carried out experiments. All authors were involved in writing the paper and had final approval of the submitted and published versions.

Any contributors who did not meet the authorship criteria should also be listed, such as colleagues who provided only technical support, writing assistance or general support. Financial and material support must always be acknowledged, with a clear statement defining all funding sources. This should include grants, equipment, drugs and other reagents, or gifts of materials.

References
References should be cited numerically in the order they appear in the text. Identify references in text, tables and legends by Arabic numerals in parentheses or as superscripts; authors of
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Examples of journal references:


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**Tables**

Type each table on a separate page following on from the main text; number tables consecutively and supply a brief title and legend for each. Cite each table in the text in consecutive order, using Arabic numbers.

**Figures**

Artwork must be supplied in electronic form, as separate files per figure. Please save vector graphics (e.g. line artwork) in Encapsulated Postscript Format (EPS), and bitmap files (e.g. halftones) in Tagged Image File Format (TIFF). Detailed information on our digital illustration standards is available at: [http://authorservices.wiley.com/prep_illust.asp](http://authorservices.wiley.com/prep_illust.asp). Letters, numbers and symbols should be clear and even throughout, and of sufficient size so that when reduced for publication the item will still be legible; titles and detailed explanations should be included in the legends, not in the illustrations themselves. Cite each figure in the text in consecutive order.

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Please use our submission checklist to guide you, and in particular give all of your files unique and informative filenames, such as ‘Ravussin Figure 1.tif’, and ensure that you upload your files in the correct order: Main document, Figure 1, Figure 2 etc.

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