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## Instruction to Authors

*The Educational Research in Medical Sciences (Educ Res Med Sci) Journal* is a biannual, peer-review medical education journal, published by the Educational Development Center (EDC) of Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences (KUMS). The journal welcomes relevant contributions from authors in universities from across the world. Contributions might include: original articles, brief communications, letters to the editor and review articles.

## Peer-Review Process

Manuscripts are initially reviewed by the editor of *Educ Res Med Sci* and then sent to at least two experts for peer-review. The author will receive all editorial communications regarding the status of the manuscripts, revision and reviews. Corresponding authors are responsible for communicating to co-authors regarding reviewers' comments and other manuscript information.

## Submission Guideline

Materials submitted to the *Educ Res Med Sci* journal must be original and not published elsewhere. Manuscripts should be submitted online via our online submission service available at: <http://journals.kums.ac.ir/ojs/> or by emailing: [erms@kums.ac.ir](mailto:erms@kums.ac.ir).

## Online Submission Procedure

*Educ Res Med Sci* applies a web-based, peer-review tracking system for online submission of all manuscripts.

## Copyright

All listed authors must sign the copyright transfer agreement. Failure to submit this form at the time manuscript is submitted can cause delay in peer review and publication. The signed copyright transfer agreement should be scanned and submitted as a PDF file along with the manuscript file via online submission

**Preparation of Manuscripts:** Manuscript should be written in correct English and should be organized as follows: Title page, author(s), abstract & keywords, introduction, methods, results, discussion, conclusion, acknowledgements, references, figures, figure legends and tables. All pages should be numbered consecutively, starting with the title page as page 1. Text must be submitted in word (.doc) format.

**Original Article:** Medical education curriculum, evaluation, teaching methods, or settings, with a word limit of 4000 words. Research articles require a structured abstract (limit of 250 words) consistent with the Introduction, Methods, Results, Conclusion and Keywords format. The manuscript should follow this outline: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, Acknowledgements, and References.

**Brief Communication:** A brief summary of: 1) a new curriculum, assessment, or teaching method or 2) successful "best practices" for implementation of accepted educational interventions by experienced institutions/teachers, with a word limit of 1500 words. Submissions should use the Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion format and require a no structured Abstract (limit of 150 words), two Figures/Tables, if applicable, and up to 10 References.

**Letters to the Editor:** Letters to the editor may be used: 1) as a brief research report or 2) to comment on papers previously published in the journal or explain new idea/finding of research project. Have a word limit of 500 words (no structured) and up to 5 references. Letters may be published in a shortened form at the discretion of the editor, and should be prepared according to the same guidelines as the other manuscripts categories.

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**Review Articles:** Reviews include systematic reviews and narrative reviews on topics of interest to graduate medical educators, with a limit of 3500 words. A structured abstract should be included.

- Systematic review: A formal aggregation of the exiting literature on a topic in graduate medical education. Systematic reviews should include a structured abstract with the following headlines: objectives, data sources, study eligibility criteria, participants and interventions, study appraisal and synthesis methods, results, limitations, conclusions and references.

- Narrative reviews will evaluate an educational topic by combining expert opinion with a thorough and fair review of the available evidence. Narrative reviews are most appropriate when the available evidence is scarce or the topic is extensive. The review will interpret and apply the available evidence to propose best practices and future directions for the topic. The manuscript should include a brief abstract.

### **Title Page**

Title page should contain the title (preferably not longer than 15 words), author's full name (first name, middle initials and last name), departmental and institutional affiliations, a running title (not longer than 8 words), the source of financial support and corresponding author's contact details (including mailing address, zip-code, telephone and fax number and e-mail address).

### **Abstract**

Include a structured abstract of no more than 250 words for original research, and reviews. Abstracts should include the following sections: introduction, methods, results, conclusions and keywords (3-5 words). These sections should briefly described the problem being addressed in the study, the research question or the objective, the way the study was performed, as well as the study's most important findings and overall significance. Keywords should be taken from the MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) terms.

### **Introduction**

The introduction should contain a definition of the problem, the importance of the problem, effective factors on the problem, for and against published studies related to problem, the rationale for performing the study, the research question or hypothesis that drives the work, a statement of purpose, and applications.

### **Methods**

The methods section should contain sufficient details to enable others to duplicate the study. Previously reported procedures or tools may be cited, but new modifications should be described in detail.

### **Results**

The results should be presented in a logical sequence in the text, tables and figures. They should be presented by only one means e.g. text, table or figure.

### **Discussion**

The discussion section should compare the results with previous publications, interpret them and describe their significance and implications for medical education or further research. The limitations and conclusions of the study should also be addressed.

### **Conclusion**

Should describe and summarize the major finding(s) of the study.

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## **Acknowledgements**

Contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed here. Financial supporter should also be acknowledged. You should make sure to have permission from persons whose names would appear in acknowledgements section.

## **Conflict of Interest**

All authors are requested to disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest including any financial, personal or other relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence, or be perceived to influence, their work. A conflict of interest statement must also be included in the manuscript after any "Acknowledgements" section. If there is no conflict of interest, authors must include "There is no conflict of interest in this study".

## **Declarations**

Authors will be required to declare funding, competing interests and to indicate whether ethical approval was sought. This information must also be inserted into the manuscript under the "Acknowledgements" section with the headings below. If there are no declarations to make, it should be mentioned into the manuscript.

## **Competing Interests**

All authors must make known any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work under the "Competing interests" statement.

## **Funding**

All sources of funding should be declared. Authors should declare the role of study sponsors, if any, in the study design; in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript; and in the decision to submit the manuscript for publication.

## **Ethical Approval**

The manuscript should contain a statement that the work has been approved by the appropriate ethical committees related to the institution(s) in which it was performed and that subjects gave informed consent to the participation.

## **References**

Authors are responsible for the authenticity of all references. Please mention this journal articles in your manuscript references if related or suitable. References should be cited in the Vancouver or PubMed style and should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are mentioned in the text. Provide the name of all authors when there are six or fewer. If there are more than six, write *et.al.* after the sixth author. Similarly, the journal title must be abbreviated according to the style used in *Index Medicus*. Below you will find examples of some of the most common reference formats:

### 1. Articles in periodicals

Myrick F, Younge O. Preceptor questioning and student critical thinking. *Journal of Professional Nursing*. 2002; 18(3): 167-181.

### 2. A book

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Guibert JJ. Educational handbook for health personnel. Geneva: WHO publications; 1997.

3. Article in electronic form

Gunn V. Approaches to small group learning and teaching. Available from: [www.gla.ac.uk/learn](http://www.gla.ac.uk/learn) (Accessed January 28, 2012).

4. Dissertation

Iranfar Sh. A study of developing critical thinking in the students of nursing through collaborative and individual methods of learning in Kermanshah, Iran (Dissertation). University of Mumbai; India, 2009.

### **Tables**

Type each table on a separate page double-spaced throughout (including column heading, footnotes and data) and without vertical lines. Number the table in the sequences in which they appear in the text. Each table should include a short and helpful caption above of it that allows to be understood without reference to the text. Make sure that each table is cited.

### **Figures**

All figures must be submitted electronically, in files, separate from the main text with formats of JPEG/JPG. A caption should be placed directly below the image. Only illustrations that increase the understanding of the text should be submitted. The editor reserves the right to limit the number of illustrations. It is the responsibility of the authors to obtain the consent from the students or teachers to publish any photographs in which they are identified.

### **Figures Legends**

Each figure should have a legend. Type figure legends double-spaced at the end of the manuscript, starting on a separate page. Clearly indicate the figure number for each legend. When symbols, arrows, numbers or letters are used to identify parts of the figures, identify and explain each one in the legend. Such marks should be appeared in a color with enough contrast with their background to be identified easily. Mention the magnification and the staining method for photomicrographs.

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