

The purpose of SD, INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL JOURNAL ON DOWN'S SYNDROME is, on the one hand, to gather current knowledge on the medical aspects of Down's Syndrome and make a continuous review and update, from the most promising advances in basic sciences, such as molecular biology and genetics, to daily clinical practice; and on the other, to look at those psycho-pedagogic aspects which, due to their relationship with the medical field may be of practical interest for general and specialist paediatricians associated with Down's Syndrome. SD will consider for publication clinical or research works associated with Down's Syndrome and all its branches.

## Journal Sections

**Originals.** Research work, preferably prospective, on the epidemiology, aetiology, pathophysiology, anatomical pathology, clinical, and diagnostic or therapeutic methods. The recommended designs are analytical type, in the form of cross-sectional surveys, case and control studies, cohort studies, and controlled trials. Maximum length: 25,000 characters including spaces (including a structured abstract), a maximum of 10 tables and/or figures. It is recommended that there are no more than 6 signatories, and the number of literature references should not exceed 20.

**Reviews.** Review or reports on diverse aspects. Maximum length: 25,000 characters including spaces (including a structured abstract), a maximum of 10 tables and/or figures. It is recommended that there are no more than 6 signatories, and the number of literature references should not exceed 20.

**Clinical cases.** Maximum length: 8,000 characters including spaces (including abstract) and up to 4 tables and/or figures. The number of signatories must not exceed 6 and literature references no more than 8.

**Special articles.** Articles dealing with medical or psychological aspects of Down syndrome with opinions on relevant aspects of the syndrome, written by recognized experts and often presented at national or international conferences or meetings. Maximum length: 25,000 spaces, including structured abstract.

**Clinics and practice.** Contributions from a practical perspective that, together with medical aspects, may improve the care of people with Down's Syndrome: psychopedagogical, bioethics, legal, complementary, etc.

Maximum length 12,000 characters including spaces (including abstract) and up to 4 tables and/or figures. The number of signatories must not exceed 6 and literature references no more than 10.

**Letters to the Editor.** Short communications by readers concerning medical or psycho-pedagogic aspects of Down's Syndrome, or on subjects published in the journal. They will have a maximum of 750 words and may be accompanied by 1 figure or table, and with a maximum of 5 literature references. Whenever requested, or where appropriate, they will always be answered or commented upon by the Editorial Committee.

## Presentation and structure of articles

They will be adapted to the recommendations of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors on the Uniform Requirements for Biomedical Journals (Vancouver style).

They must be submitted in digital form, double-spaced and with sufficient margins, always with the pages number consecutively, via the Journal Manuscript Management System (<http://ees.elsevier.com/sd>).

It will state: the title of the work, full name and surname(s) of all the signatories; full name and address of the work centre; address for correspondence (e-mail).

It will clearly state if part of the work has been presented at any meeting, symposium or congress, if has been awarded a prize or if has received any funding.

**Abstract.** Works published in the original works or review sections, clinical cases and psycho-pedagogic advances sections, must be accompanied by an abstract of not more than 250 words in the presentation language and in English, preceded by the title of the work in the same languages. They should not contain data that are not found in the text. It will have up to 5 key words, in accordance with *Index Medicus*. In the case of Originals, the abstract will be structured.

**Writing.** It is recommended that the writing is in the impersonal. The works should be clearly divided into sections. Originals into: Introduction, Material or Patients and Methods, Results, and Discussion.

Clinical Cases into: Introduction, Clinical Observation, and Discussion. The text of Psychopedagogic Advances, after the Abstract, will be written freely by the author(s).

**Acknowledgements.** Contributions that require an acknowledgement must be mentioned briefly, specifying the type of help - technical or material - where applicable.

**Bibliography.** The references of *Original and Clinical Case* articles will be numbered in the text in order of appearance and in parentheses, and set out in a separate page, following the Vancouver regulations. In the *Psychopedagogic Advances* and in the Special articles, the references will not be numbered and will be set out on a separate page, in alphabetical order. In all cases, any quote mentioned in the text must be clearly referenced in the bibliography.

**Tables.** On separate pages, and numbered with Arabic numerals. They must be mentioned in the text. They will have a title in the upper part. If there are abbreviations, they must be explained at the foot of the table. Repetitions between the tables, figures and text should be avoided.

**Figures.** These are essential for a better understanding of the text. They will be numbered in order of appearance and with Arabic numerals. The footnotes will be set out on a separate page. Graphs, drawings and photographs will be referenced as figures in consecutive order.

If photographs of people are used, these must not be identifiable, or must be accompanied by a permission for their use in writing. The format should preferably be, JPG or TIFF.

**Acronyms, abbreviations, symbols and units.** A minimum number of acronyms is desirable. In all cases, they must be defined when they first appear in the text. In haematology or biochemistry measurements the metric system in accordance with the international units system (SI) will be used.

## Submission of Originals

The article will be sent with a cover letter in which it will state:

**Originality of the material:** a declaration by all the authors that the article is original and has not, wholly or any of its parts, been published or submitted previously, or whether it is subject to consideration by any other publication.

**Conflict of interests:** the authors must clearly declare if there is any funding or any other aspect that could lead to a conflict of interests.

**Authorship:** a declaration by all the authors that they have read and approved the manuscript and the requirements of authorship have been duly met.

**Informed Consent:** a declaration that informed consent has been obtained from the patients.

**Research with Humans:** the authors must indicate if the procedures and methods used are adapted to the ethical standards of the current Ethics Committee responsible in their institution for experiments on humans and in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration of the World Medical Association (1964 and subsequent versions <http://www.wma.net/e/policy/b3.htm>).

**Research with animals:** the authors must clearly indicated that the studies have been performed following the recommendations and policies on animal well-being in accordance with authorised guidelines, such as the ILAR Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (1996 and subsequent versions) by the Institute of Laboratory Animal Research, Commission on Life Sciences, National Research Council (<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/5140.html>).

A proof of receipt of the originals will be given and you will be informed of its acceptance and possible publication date. When the article is in print, the author will receive proof copies to correct, which must be returned within the 48 hours following their receipt.

The Editors could suggest modifications to the text when they believe they are necessary, and also may reject the publication of works which they consider inadequate.

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