

JOURNAL OF DEVELOPMENTAL ORIGINS OF HEALTH AND DISEASE

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Mission Statement

Journal of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (J DOHaD) is the official scientific journal of the International Society for Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD).

JDOHaD publishes leading research in the field of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD). The Journal focuses on the environment during early pre-natal and post-natal animal and human development, interactions between environmental and genetic factors, including environmental toxicants, and their influence on health and disease risk throughout the lifespan. *JDOHaD* publishes work on developmental programming, fetal and neonatal biology and physiology, early life nutrition, especially during the first 1,000 days of life, human ecology and evolution and Gene-Environment Interactions. *JDOHaD* also accepts manuscripts that address the social determinants or education of health and disease risk as they relate to the early life period, as well as the economic and health care costs of a poor start to life. Accordingly, *JDOHaD* is multi-disciplinary, with contributions from basic scientists working in the fields of physiology, biochemistry and nutrition, endocrinology and metabolism, developmental biology, molecular biology/ epigenetics, human biology/ anthropology, and evolutionary developmental biology. Moreover clinicians, nutritionists, epidemiologists, social scientists, economists, public health specialists and policy makers are very welcome to submit manuscripts.

The journal includes original research articles, short communications and reviews, and has regular themed issues, with guest editors; it is also a platform for conference/workshop reports, and for opinion, comment and interaction.

Categories of papers

Original research articles - This category is intended for full-scale basic, clinical or epidemiological studies including large controlled trials. Articles may contain up to 5,000 words (not including references, figures and tables) and should include an abstract of up to 250 words and 3–5 key words. (Exceptions to the length limitation will be considered for unusually large or complex studies.)

Brief reports - This category is for smaller, self-contained laboratory or clinical studies or analyses. Papers in this category may contain up to 2,500 words (not including references, figures and tables) and should include a maximum of 25 references, up to 2 illustrations (figures or tables), an abstract of up to 150 words and 3–5 key words.

Rapid communications - This category is for 'fast-breaking' new work, which is of great potential interest and can be succinctly presented.

Authors who wish to submit a rapid communication must first send an abstract to the Editor in Chief, Michael Ross (DOHaDeditor@cambridge.org) for approval of submission in this category. Submissions that do not have prior approval will be reviewed on the regular track.

Papers in this category may contain up to 2,500 words (not including references, figures and tables) and should include a maximum of 25 references, up to 2 illustrations (figures or tables), an abstract of up to 150 words and 3–5 key words. Rapid communications will be reviewed and published on a "fast track" basis.

Reviews – *J DOHaD* will publish scholarly, comprehensive reviews that summarize and critically evaluate research in the field addressed and identify future implications. Reviews will be invited by the Editors but may also be submitted. Authors wishing to submit papers in this category are advised to contact either the Editor-in-Chief or appropriate Associate Editor before doing so. Reviews may contain up to 5,000 words (not including references, figures and tables) and should include an abstract of up to 250 words and 3–5 key words. (Exceptions to the length limitation will be considered if justified by the scope of the Review).

Focus Papers – These papers focus attention on a research paper published in the same issue in the journal. Focus Papers should highlight, discuss and amplify the issues addressed in the research paper adding perspectives derived from the author's own work and the literature and should consider the implications of the findings. Focus papers need not necessarily agree with the paper they address. Focus Papers may contain up to 1500 words (not including references, figures and tables) and 3–5 key words. No abstract is needed. Focus Papers are invited by the Editor-in-Chief.

Letters to the Editor - Letters are invited that discuss or comment on papers published in J DOHaD. They should not, however, be used as a means of publishing new work. Letters should have no more than 10 references and should not contain figures or tables. Acceptance will be at the discretion of the Editorial Board, and editorial changes may be required. Wherever possible, letters from responding authors will be included in the same issue.

Papers in all categories, whether invited or submitted, will be peer reviewed.

Clinical Trials

As a condition of consideration for publication, registration of clinical trials in a public trials registry is required. A clinical trial is defined by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (in accordance with the definition of the World Health Organisation) as any research project that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes. Trials must be registered before the start of patient enrollment. The registry must be accessible to the public at no charge. It must be open to all prospective registrants and managed by a not-for-profit organization. There must be a mechanism to ensure the validity of the registration data, and the registry should be electronically searchable. An acceptable registry must include at minimum a unique trial number, trial registration date, secondary identification information if assigned by sponsors or others, funding source(s), primary and secondary sponsor(s), responsible contact person, research contact person, official scientific title of the study, research ethics review, the medical condition being studied, intervention(s), key inclusion and exclusion criteria, study type, anticipated trial start date, target sample size, recruitment status, primary outcome, and key secondary outcomes. Registration information must be provided at the time of submission. Trial registry name, registration identification number, and the URL for the registry should be included at the end of the abstract.

Originality and copyright

To be considered for publication in *J DOHaD*, a manuscript cannot have been published previously, nor can it be under review for publication elsewhere. (Previously published figures may be sparingly used in Reviews, with appropriate permission.) The posting of a brief summary of clinical trial outcomes on a pharmaceutical website (such as the PhRMA-sponsored database www.clinicalstudyresults.org) will not necessarily count as prior publication nor impede full consideration of a manuscript: *J DOHaD* will look at this on a case-by-case basis to determine the extent of overlap between the trial data posted and the manuscript as submitted, and will decide whether the manuscript contains a sufficiently new perspectives or sufficient additional data for it to count as original. Authors should declare when submitting manuscripts that such data have already been posted and *J DOHaD* will review this sympathetically.

Papers with multiple authors are reviewed with the assumption that all authors have contributed materially to the research reported, have approved the submitted manuscript and concur with its submission to *J DOHaD*. A Copyright Transfer Agreement, with certain specified rights reserved by the author, must be signed and returned to the Editor by the senior author of accepted manuscripts (Signing on behalf of all the other authors), prior to publication. This is necessary for the wide distribution of research findings, and the protection of both author and the International Society for Developmental Origins of Health and Disease under copyright law.

Authorship

All individuals included as authors of papers must have contributed substantially to the scientific process leading up to the writing of the paper. Such contribution includes the conception and design of the project, the performance of experiments and the analysis and interpretation of data. In addition the author should have made a substantial contribution to drafting or critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content.

We are aware that authors sometimes receive assistance from technical writers, language editors and/or writing agencies in preparing manuscripts for publication. Such assistance must be noted in the cover letter and in the Acknowledgements section along with a declaration that the author(s) are entirely responsible for the scientific content of the paper.

Failure to acknowledge assistance from technical writers, language editors and/or writing agencies in preparing manuscripts for publication in the Acknowledgements section may lead to disqualification of the paper.

Under no circumstances will J DOHaD accept submissions by writing or editorial agencies on behalf of authors and there will be no correspondence with writing or editorial agencies regarding submitted or revised manuscripts.

Manuscript submission

All manuscripts must be submitted online via the website:

<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/dohad>

Detailed instructions for submitting your manuscript online can be found at the submission website by clicking on the 'Instructions and Forms' link in the top right of the screen; and then clicking on the 'Author Submission Instructions' icon on the following page.

The Editor-in-Chief will acknowledge receipt of the manuscript, provide it with a manuscript reference number and assign it to an Associate Editor and to reviewers. The reference number of the manuscript should be quoted in all correspondence with the *J DOHaD* Office and Publisher.

Initial Submission

The following instructions must be followed carefully:

- The preferred file format for submission is Microsoft Word; however you can also submit Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) files readable with Acrobat Reader. The tables and figures should be included in the same file.
- Word Perfect or other word-processor files or Macintosh-based files are not acceptable.
- Tables should be placed at the end of the document and not within the text.
- Do not use “enter” in order to start a new page. “Hard” page or section breaks must be used.
- A cover letter should be attached as a separate file. In the cover letter, the category under which the manuscript is submitted should be indicated and the corresponding author identified, including phone number, fax number and electronic mail address. The cover letter must include a statement regarding authorship (see Authorship section above).
- File-names should indicate the name of the first author of the paper or an abbreviated version thereof and the content of the file (text, tables, figures).
- Printed copies of the manuscript, tables and figures are not required and should not be sent.

Please note that correspondence regarding submitted and revised manuscripts will be with the Corresponding Author only.

Revised\Final Submission

- The uploaded manuscript must be in the form of a Word for Windows file with figures (prepared as instructed below) in separate files. Word Perfect or other word-processor files or Macintosh-based files are not acceptable.
- Do not use “enter” in order to start a new page. “Hard” page or section breaks must be used.
- Figures should be prepared using appropriate formats and saved as TIFF or JPEG files. It is essential that JPEGs are greater than 320dpi. PowerPoint files or figures “pasted” into Word files are not acceptable for revised or final submissions.
- File names should indicate the manuscript number assigned by the journal and the content of the file (text, figures).

Review process

Manuscripts submitted to *J DOHaD* including those for supplements will be reviewed by at least two external reviewers and evaluated by an Associate Editor. Authors are requested to suggest up to 4 reviewers who are especially qualified to referee the work and would not have a conflict of interest. Please provide the names, email addresses, fax numbers and mailing addresses of the suggested reviewers. If authors would prefer that a particular reviewer(s) not evaluate the paper, they may indicate this request with appropriate justification, which will be treated confidentially. Suggestions and requests regarding reviewers will be considered by the Editor without obligation to accept them.

Authors should note that manuscripts may be returned after initial review by the Editors if the paper is deemed unlikely to be reviewed favorably. This rapid rejection process enables the author to submit promptly for publication elsewhere.

Every effort will be made to provide the author with a review within 6 weeks of receipt of the manuscript. If the Editor requests that revisions be made to a manuscript before publication, a maximum of 3 months shall be allowed for preparation of the revision, except in unusual circumstances.

Manuscript preparation and style

The manuscript should be typed double-spaced throughout on 'Letter' or A4 paper. Pages should be numbered sequentially beginning with the Title Page. Margins should not be less than 2.5cm on all sides and the font should be clearly legible and uniform throughout.

A **Short Title** of up to forty-five characters should be provided on the title page and should be repeated at the top right of every following page. The names of the authors (e.g. Smith et al. or Smith and Jones) should be given at the top left of every page besides the title page.

The **Abstract** should be unstructured (i.e., no sub-headings) but must provide the reader with a self-contained summary of the paper. It should include a brief introduction to the paper, the method, the key findings, and the conclusions. A list of 3–5 key words or terms for indexing should follow the abstract.

The **Body of the Manuscript** should begin on page 3. For Regular Original Articles, Brief Reports, the formal should include: Introduction, Method, Results, Discussion and Acknowledgements. These should be followed on a new page by the References.

Tables should be consecutively numbered as they appear in the text (Table 1, etc.). Each Table should be typed on a separate sheet with the Table number and heading above and any note below.

Figures should be consecutively numbered as they appear in the text (Figure 1, 2 etc). Use italic letters for parts a, b, c etc. Use abbreviation (Fig), except where starting a new sentence. Legends should be provided for each Figure. Scale bars should be added to photomicrographs and other similar images. Figures (scale bars, pie charts, etc) should be presented in two dimensions only.

All figures submitted to Journal of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease will be published in colour on Cambridge Journals Online free of charge.

How to Ensure Colour Online

To maximize the probability that figures will be published in colour, authors are encouraged to follow these figure submission guidelines:

- Submit a colour graphic as either TIFF or EPS files
- Submit figures at approximately the size at which they are to reproduce so that reduction or enlargement is not necessary.
- Line artwork should be supplied in black and white mode at a resolution of 1200 dpi; combination artwork (line/tone) at a resolution of 800 dpi; black and white halftone artwork should be saved in 'grayscale' mode at a resolution of 300dpi; colour halftone artwork should be saved in CMYK mode at a resolution of 400 dpi.
- Submit multipart figures in one single electronic file.

Author Requirements

It is not necessary for authors to indicate that a figure should be displayed in colour. CUP will

assume that any author who submits figures in colour wants and agrees to their being produced in colour online. It is the author's responsibility to declare otherwise. Colour figures must be submitted before the paper is accepted for publication, and cannot be received later in the process.

Exceptions to Free Colour:

- Colour figures submitted to Journal of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease will be published in colour free of charge with the following exceptions:
- The colour figure file is deemed unusable due to production standards or poor colour quality and must be converted to black and white.
- The author gives explicit instructions to convert the colour figure to black and white.

What to Expect

Authors will see these colour figures when viewing their author page proofs on screen. Authors will NOT be allowed to submit colour figures to replace black and white figures in the page proof stage.

The use of **Abbreviations**, except those that are widely used, is strongly discouraged. They should be used only if they contribute to better comprehension of the manuscript. Acronyms should be spelled out at first mention. Metric system (SI) units should be used.

J DOHaD encourages submissions from all over the world. Authors who are not fluent in written English are encouraged to seek assistance in this regard before submitting their manuscripts.

Acknowledgements

Here you may acknowledge individuals or organisations that provided advice and/or support (non-financial). Formal financial support and funding should be listed in the following section. *The Acknowledgements should be placed after the main body of the text before Financial Support. If there are no Acknowledgements, the title should be inserted followed by "None". Papers that do not include an Acknowledgements section will not be reviewed.*

Financial Support

Please provide details of the sources of financial support for all authors, including grant numbers. This is particularly important in the case of research that is supported by industry. Support from industry not only includes direct financial support for the study but also support in kind such as provision of medications, equipment, kits or reagents without charge or at reduced cost and provision of services such as statistical analysis. For example, "This work was supported by the Medical research Council (grant number XXXXXXXX)". Multiple grant numbers should be separated by a comma and space, and where research was funded by more than one agency the different agencies should be separated by a semi-colon, with "and" before the final funder. Grants held by different authors should be identified as belonging to individual authors by the authors' initials. For example, "This work was supported by the Wellcome Trust (A.B., grant numbers XXXX, YYYY), (C.D., grant number ZZZZ); the Natural Environment Research Council (E.F., grant number FFFF); and the National Institutes of Health (A.B., grant number GGGG), (E.F., grant number HHHH)". Where no specific funding has been provided for research, please provide the following statement: "This research received no specific grant from any funding agency, commercial or not-for-profit sectors."

The Financial Support statement should be placed after the Acknowledgements and before the Conflicts of Interest section. Papers that do not include a Financial Support statement will not be reviewed.

Conflicts of Interest

Conflict of interest exists when an author has interests that might inappropriately influence his or her judgement, even if that judgement is not influenced. Because of this, authors must disclose potentially conflicting interests so that others can make judgements about such effects. At the time of submission authors should disclose any financial arrangements or connections they may have that are pertinent to the submitted manuscript and that may be perceived as potentially biasing their paper. Non-financial interests that could be relevant in this context should also be disclosed. If no relevant interests exist, this should be stated. This requirement applies to all the authors of a paper and to all categories of papers including letters to the editor.

The Conflicts of Interest section should be placed after Financial Support. If there are no interests to declare, the title should be inserted followed by "None".

Papers that do not include a Conflicts of Interest section will not be reviewed.

Ethical Standards

Where research involves human and/or animal experimentation, the following statements should be included (as applicable): "The authors assert that all procedures contributing to this work comply with the ethical standards of the relevant national guidelines on human experimentation (please name) and with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 2008, and has been approved by the institutional committees (please name) ." and "The authors assert that all procedures contributing to this work comply with the ethical standards of the relevant national guides on the care and use of laboratory animals (please name) and has been approved by the institutional committee (please name)."

The Ethical Standards statement should be placed after the Conflicts of Interest section before the References. If the research does not involve human and/or animal experimentation, this statement should be omitted. Papers reporting the results of human and/or animal experimentation that do not contain an Ethical Standards statement will not be reviewed. For more information on the ethical standards and procedures of Cambridge Journals, please visit [Cambridge Journals Online](#).

The requirements of DOH are in accordance with the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals produced by the ICMJE, and authors are encouraged to consult the latest guidelines, which contain useful, general information about preparing scientific papers.

For more specialised instances of the type of trials used in your paper, please see more specific guidelines below.

Animal studies

For studies involving laboratory animals, authors should consult the Animal Research: Reporting of *In Vivo* Experiments (ARRIVE) guidelines (<http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/arrive-guidelines>).

Systematic Review/Meta-Analyses

For systematic reviews and meta-analyses, authors should consult the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) Statement (www.prisma-statement.org/). This policy includes all systematic reviews, including those for observational studies.

Randomised trials

For reporting results of randomised trials, authors should consult the CONSORT Statement (<http://www.consort-statement.org/>), which is an evidence-based, minimum set of recommendations for reporting randomized trials.

Supplemental on-line material

The online platform gives authors the opportunity to include data that would be impossible or impractical to include in the printed version. These data might substantially enhance the importance of the research and might also be of benefit to readers. Authors may include tables and figures as well as data such as videos, 3-D structures/images, extensive datasets and any other supplementary material not suitable for print duplication. All supplementary material must be submitted with the original manuscript. Supplementary data should be referred to in the text with the prefix "S" (e.g. Supplementary Table S1, Supplementary Figure S1). Supplementary files will not be copy-edited, and will be published as supplied.

References

References should be numbered consecutively (in superscript) as they appear in the text. Type the reference list with double-spacing on a separate sheet. References (using Index Medicus abbreviations) should appear in the style as demonstrated below. Please note that if six authors or more, the first three authors should be listed and then 'et al.'. Examples:

1. Burdge GC, Slater-Jefferies J, Torrens C, et al. Dietary protein restriction of pregnant rats in the F0 generation induces altered methylation of hepatic gene promoters in the adult male offspring in the F1 and F2 generations. *Br J Nutr.* 2007; 97, 435-439.
2. Gilbert JS, Nijland MJ. Sex differences in the developmental origins of hypertension and cardiorenal disease. *Am J Physiol Regul Integr Comp Physiol.* 2008; 295, 1941-1952.
3. Mitchell M, Schulz SL, Armstrong DT, Lane M. Metabolic and Mitochondrial Dysfunction in Early Mouse Embryos Following Maternal Dietary Protein Intervention. *Biol Reprod.* 2009 [Epub ahead of print].
4. Gluckman PD, Hanson MA. The developmental origins of health and disease: an overview. In *Developmental Origins of Health and Disease* (eds. Gluckman P, Hanson M), 2006; pp. 1-5. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

For work that is 'in press' i.e., accepted for publication but not yet published, '(In Press)' should be written in parenthesis and not the year of expected publication.

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The publisher reserves the right to copy-edit manuscripts. The corresponding author will receive page proofs for final proofreading. These should be checked and returned within 2 days of receipt. The publisher reserves the right to charge authors for excessive correction of non-typographical errors.

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