Author guidelines for the Journal of Postgraduate Institute of Indigenous Medicine (JPGIIM)

Sections

1. Aim and scope
2. Categories of Manuscript
   - Original research articles
   - Case report
   - Review articles
   - Short communication
   - Book reviews
   - Editorials
   - Letter to the Editor
3. Submission of Manuscript
   - Authorship
   - Conflict of interest statement
   - Reproduction of copyright material
   - Declaration of generative AI in scientific writing
   - Ethical considerations & trial registration
   - Peer Review process

4. Structure of the manuscript
   - Manuscript layout
   - Main text file
   - Tables
   - Figures
   - Abbreviations

1. Aim & Scope

The Journal of Postgraduate Institute of Indigenous Medicine is a scholarly publication that undergoes a rigorous peer-review process. It is published twice a year by the Postgraduate Institute of Indigenous Medicine, affiliated with the University of Colombo. The journal provides a platform for disseminating scientific publications pertaining to various disciplines, such as Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Traditional Medicine, Herbal Science, Allied Science, and pharmaceutical science, among others, with a specific focus on Indigenous Medicine. Additionally, it aims to positively impact the health and well-being of the Sri Lankan community. The JPGIIM is dedicated to disseminating scholarly content in the field of Indigenous Medicine, encompassing a wide range of academic contributions, such as original research articles, case reports, review articles, short communications, book reviews, editorials, letters to the editor, and other scientific content.

All submissions are scrutinized by the editorial board and then peer-reviewed by experts in each subject specialty. The journal is an "Open Access" Journal. It maintains high-quality indicators and internationally recognized ethics to provide disciplined results of work done by the authors. The journal is led by outstanding academics and professionals appointed by the Board of Management of PGIIM.

The JPGIIM will adhere to the guidelines set forth by the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN). It will initially be made available on the PGIIM website and, upon submission of a select number of journals, will also be published on the Sri Lanka Journal Online platform.

2. Categories of Manuscript

• Original Research Articles

An original research article is the most commonly observed format of journal publication. This document is the research report prepared by the researchers who originally conducted the study. The research articles present a comprehensive account of the methodologies employed and the outcomes obtained in an independent investigation conducted by the authors. The research paper typically comprises several sections: Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Objectives, Methodology, Results, Discussion, and References. It is also common for tables and data to be presented in the prescribed format within the article. The maximum word count should be 6000-10000 and the word limit should not be exceeded (excluding abstract, tables, figures, and references).

• Case Reports

A case report provides a comprehensive account of the presenting symptoms, clinical indicators, diagnostic procedures, therapy interventions, and subsequent monitoring and management of a single patient. Case reports typically document an atypical or innovative event, thus serving as a fundamental pillar of medical advancement and generating numerous fresh concepts in the field of medicine. Certain reports provide a comprehensive examination of the pertinent scholarly works related to the subject matter. The case report serves as a concise and expedited means of communication among healthcare professionals who are often constrained by limited time and resources, hence precluding them from undertaking extensive research endeavors. The Case Report typically comprises several sections: the Abstract, Introduction, Case, Discussion, Conclusion, and References. The maximum word count should be 1500; the word limit should not be exceeded (excluding abstract, tables, figures, and references).

• Review Articles

Review articles serve as a valuable resource for conducting a comprehensive evaluation and offering a constructive assessment of previously published work within a specific field of study. Review articles are typically organized in a manner that facilitates the provision of a comprehensive overview of pre-existing scholarly works, thorough analysis, and thoughtful

comparisons. Frequently, researchers identify particular deficiencies or issues and propose suggestions for further research. Review articles are considered secondary literature, in contrast to original research publications. This implies that these articles typically do not introduce novel data derived from the author's own experimental investigations but rather offer analysis or interpretation of a collection of primary research studies pertaining to a particular subject matter. The review article typically comprises several sections: the Abstract, Introduction, Body, Conclusion, and References. The maximum word count should not exceed 5000 (excluding abstract, tables, figures, and references).

- **Short Communication**

Short communication is intended for the brief and original presentation of research findings for rapid dissemination. Also known as rapid or brief communication, the difference between brief communications and regular research articles lies in the amount of research reported and the complexity of the results. Short communication papers describe the Background, Scope, Methods, Result, Discussion, and a Short Conclusion. The word count should not exceed 3000 (excluding abstract, tables, figures, and references).

- **Book Review**

A book review is an analytical and critical evaluation of a book, arguing about the author's or authors' entire work. It is a commentary, not just a summary; it creates a platform for discussion between the book's creator and the audience. The reviewer can make a decision based on agreement or disagreement, clearly stating the statements and the conclusion as well. The format should include a concise summary, critical content assessment, and work analysis. The Book review article typically comprises several sections: the Title page, Book details, Keywords, Main text, Conclusion, and References. The word count should not exceed 3500 (excluding abstract, tables, figures, and references).

- **Editorials**

An editorial is an opinion piece published in a written document, such as an article, that often reflects the publication's viewpoint. Written by the editors or senior editorial staff, it can take the form of either an article or an editorial caricature, emphasizing their perspective on issues they consider significant for their readers. The word count should not exceed 1500.

- **Letter to the Editor**

A letter to the editor is a communication from a publication's audience addressing concerns and issues regarded as significant. Intended for publication, these letters are sent via email or regular mail. In academic publishing, letters to the editor are published as post-publication reviews, with the author allowed to respond. In a letter to the editor, one can support, oppose, or remark on a publication's editorial or another writer's letter, as well as correct errors or misinterpretations. The word count should not exceed 1500.

3. Submission of Manuscript

All manuscripts should be submitted in MS Word format to the provided email. The manuscript must follow the guidelines, and include the title, affiliations of all authors, and contact information of the corresponding author. The manuscript should be accompanied by a cover letter that describes the significance of the manuscript, a statement of the work's originality, any previous related work, and any additional information relevant to the review process.

All submissions must be in English. Manuscripts should be original and not published anywhere, locally or internationally. The article should include an abstract with a maximum word length of 300. The manuscript's suitability for the journal's scope, its scientific soundness, originality, and timeliness are essential. Moreover, it is crucial to comply with specific research reporting protocols and ensure coherence in the research design and methodology.

- **Authorship**

The author(s) must have contributed significantly to the conception, design, execution, and interpretation of the study. Furthermore, they must have been involved in drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content, and given final approval for the version to be published. Consensus on being accountable for all aspects of the work is required to ensure that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved. In addition, all work done by the author and co-authors is accountable. Upon acceptance of an article for publication, the authors are required to submit an Authors' Declaration, signed by all contributing authors.

- **Conflict of Interest Statement**

During submission, authors will be asked to provide a conflict of interest statement. This includes disclosing any funding or support from commercial or private entities, national or international organizations, institutes, or research support agencies to cover research costs. These disclosures help readers understand the authors' relationships with various commercial entities that may have an interest in the information reported in the published article.

- **Reproduction of Copyright Material**

If excerpts from copyrighted works owned by third parties are included, the manuscript must give credit. The author is also responsible for obtaining written permission for reproduction from the copyright owners.

- **Declaration of generative AI in scientific writing**

Authors are encouraged to be mindful of the use of generative AI in scientific writing. It is important to declare any instances where AI has been employed in the creation or analysis of data, ensuring transparency and accountability in research practices

- **Ethical considerations & trial registration**

Authors are reminded to adhere to ethical guidelines and regulations governing their respective fields when conducting experiments or studies involving human subjects or animals. Additionally, trial registration is strongly recommended for clinical trials to promote accountability, transparency, and accessibility of research findings

- **Peer Review Process**

The peer review system evaluates the quality of a manuscript before publication. It is designed to assess the validity, quality, and often the originality of articles for publication. Peer review's strength lies in improving the quality of published papers by motivating authors to submit high-quality work and assisting them in refining it through the review process.

4. Preparation of Manuscript

- The manuscript should be arranged as follows:
- Title Page: The title, authors' names, affiliations, designations, emails, and contact numbers.
- Abstract: 300 words.
- Keywords: Maximum of 5 keywords.
- Introduction
- Methods/Materials
- Results and Discussion
- Conclusion
- References: The reference style should use the latest APA 7th edition.

- **Main Text File**

- Submit text files only as .doc or .docx.
- Include page numbers on the document, beginning with the title page.
- Use standard Times New Roman, 12-point font size, and 1.5 line spacing.

- **Tables**

Tables should be author generated. It should be numbered with Arabic numerals in the order they appear in the text. Label tables with titles that concisely describe the content, allowing readers to understand the table without referring to the text. Give the measurement units for all numerical data in a column or row. Units of measurement should be placed under a column heading or at

the end of a side heading only if they apply to all numerical data in the column or row. Each table should have a title. All abbreviations must be defined in footnotes, indicated with superscript lowercase letters in alphabetical order.

- **Figures**

Figures, such as graphs, diagrams, line drawings, maps, and photographs, should be used to highlight trends and illustrate comparisons clearly and precisely. They should be simple to understand and provide information beyond what is stated in the text or tables. Legends should be brief yet comprehensive and include the location, date, and source of the information. Figures should be submitted in either JPEG or TIFF format.

- **Abbreviations**

Generally, terms should not be abbreviated unless they are used repeatedly and the abbreviation is helpful to the reader. Introduce the full term followed by the abbreviation in parentheses on first use. Thereafter, only the abbreviation should be used.