

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

Medical Research is a multidisciplinary journal that publishes original papers in all areas of biomedicine, including basic, clinical, and epidemiological studies not previously published. Submitted articles must be original contributions that present scientifically sound studies. *Medical Research* does not accept submissions that have been previously made available as preprints, provided that they have not undergone peer review. A preprint is a draft version of a manuscript made available online before extensive review in a journal. The journal accepts original articles, reviews (both narrative and systematic), meta-analyses, case reports/case series, and short communications. Manuscripts are prepared in accordance with the *Instructions for Authors* and must be accompanied by an abstract in Latin Serbian (**only for corresponding author/s from Serbia**) and English.

**Manuscripts should be written in clear and grammatically correct English.**

### **Submission of the manuscript**

Submission of a manuscript implies that it has not been previously published, is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, and has been approved by all co-authors.

Manuscripts and supplementary material must be submitted through the online manuscript submission system: <https://aseestant.ceon.rs/index.php/medi/login>.

During submission, in addition to the manuscript, authors must upload separate files containing all figures and a cover letter signed by the corresponding author, confirming the originality of the work and adherence to ethical standards in scientific research.

Submitted articles are subjected to the following pass-process:

- Upon completing manuscript submission, the Editorial Office will confirm the receipt of the article electronically and assign it a reference number that will be used for further identification.
- Upon receiving the manuscript, an initial internal quality check (editorial screening) is conducted to assess compliance with the technical and formal requirements defined in the Instructions for Authors and to identify potential issues such as conflicts of interest, adherence to ethical standards in studies involving humans or animals, data availability, and fulfillment of other scientific and editorial criteria.
- All manuscripts are subjected to plagiarism testing using *iThenticate*. Manuscripts with identified plagiarism or auto-plagiarism will be rejected.
- The ethical aspects of the research will be evaluated according to the criteria detailed in the Research and Publication Ethics section (see below Section 'Ethical Guidelines for Authors').
- The validity of statistical analysis will be checked.

- An initial assessment of the manuscript's English language quality will be conducted by a professional language editor.
- **If shortcomings are identified at this stage, the manuscript may be returned to the authors for correction or additional clarification before proceeding to the peer-review process.**
- Double-blind peer review process: Two independent reviewers from the area of research of the submitted manuscript will be assigned. After receiving the reviewers' opinion, the authors will be informed about the outcome of the review, and the Section Editorial Board will give its opinion on the changes or possible shortening of the text and inform the Editorial Board if the conditions for publication have been met. If the paper is accepted for publication, the distribution rights are transferred from the author to the journal.

### **Authorship**

Medical Research follows the guidelines of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). All authors must meet the following authorship criteria:

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; **AND**
- Drafting the work or reviewing it critically for important intellectual content; **AND**
- Final approval of the version to be published; **AND**
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

All authors who meet all four criteria should be credited as authors. In addition to being accountable for the parts of the work done, an author should be able to identify which co-authors are responsible for specific other parts of the work.

Those who did not substantially contribute to the submitted article and did not fulfill the criteria described previously should be listed in the acknowledgements. The corresponding author is responsible for communicating with all co-authors regarding editorial queries and acts on their behalf throughout the submission, peer review, production, and post-publication processes. The corresponding author is also responsible for signing the publishing agreement on behalf of all the listed authors.

### **Ethical Guidelines for Authors**

Medical Research fully supports and follows ethical guidelines, recommendations, and policies of the **Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)** and the **International Committee of**

**Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE).** Therefore, all manuscripts submitted to our journal must fully adhere to the highest ethical standards and be in accordance with the COPE and ICMJE recommendations, as well as relevant national and international laws and regulations. Authors are **fully** responsible for ensuring that studies involving humans or animals are conducted ethically, with appropriate institutional approvals, and in accordance with national legislation.

### 1. Studies Involving Human Participants

For all studies involving human subjects (particularly interventional and analytical):

- Authors must explicitly confirm in the manuscript that the study protocol was approved by an independent Ethics Committee or Institutional Review Board (IRB) prior to the initiation of the study.
- Informed consent must be obtained from all participants (or their legal guardians), and this must be explicitly stated in the manuscript.
- Study must meet all requirements of Helsinki Declaration
- The name of the ethics committee, its approval number/code (if applicable) must be provided in the Methods section.
- Authors must be prepared to provide an official copy of such approval, in Serbian or English, at any time upon request of the Editorial Board.
- If the study involves vulnerable individuals and groups, additional safeguards must be described. According to the International Ethical Guidelines (CIOMS, 2016), vulnerable individuals and groups are those who may lack the capacity to protect their own interests: i) limited capacity to give consent (minors, adults with cognitive impairments, individuals who are acutely medically compromised or terminally ill). ii) institutionalized individuals. iii) pregnant and breastfeeding women (pregnancy in itself does not render a person vulnerable, but rather the circumstances that may affect the fetus or baby, or limit the woman's autonomy), as well as other potentially vulnerable research participants.

*Example statement:*

*"This study was conducted in accordance with Declaration of Helsinki and was approved by the Ethics Committee of [Institution], approval number [XXXX/Year]. Written informed consent was obtained from all participants prior to inclusion in the study."*

Additional requirements for Clinical Trials:

- Clinical trials must be registered in a publicly accessible database (e.g. ClinicalTrials.gov, EudraCT, ISRCTN).
- The registration number must be included in the manuscript.
- The trial should adhere to CONSORT reporting guidelines.

For purely descriptive studies (e.g. case reports, registry-based research) or studies using data from existing medical records:

- Authors must confirm that the study was reviewed and approved by an Ethics Committee/IRB or provide an official statement that the committee waived the need for approval, with appropriate justification.

- Informed consent may be waived if permitted by the ethics committee, but authors must ensure that patient confidentiality is strictly protected in accordance with GDPR and national laws.
- Any potentially identifying data must be anonymized.

*Example statement:*

*“This study was reviewed and approved by the Ethics Committee of [Institution], approval number [XXXX/Year]. The requirement for informed consent was waived”.*

## 2. Studies Involving Animals

All studies involving animals must comply with the ARRIVE guidelines, local legislation, and international principles of animal welfare and well-known 3Rs (e.g. Directive 2010/63/EU, NIH guidelines).

- Authors must explicitly state that the experimental protocol was reviewed and approved by an institutional Animal Ethics Committee, including the name of the institution and approval number.
- The type of animals used, housing and husbandry conditions, and efforts to minimize suffering must be described.
- Humane endpoints and euthanasia methods must be reported and justified.

*Example statement:*

*“All animal procedures were approved by the Animal Ethics Committee of [Institution], approval number [XXXX/Year], and conducted in accordance with the Directive 2010/63/EU and institutional guidelines.”*

## 3. Data Privacy and Confidentiality

All personal data must be handled in accordance with applicable data protection regulations.

Authors must ensure that no identifying information (e.g., names, initials, images) is published unless strictly necessary and written informed consent for publication is obtained.

Identifiable patient data or images must not be published without explicit, written informed consent for publication.

Images and case reports must be fully anonymized or consent must be obtained.

Medical Research has a zero-tolerance policy on plagiarism. All submitted manuscripts will be screened using plagiarism detection software. Any overlap of text, figures, data, or ideas from previously published work (including the authors' own) must be clearly cited and justified. Duplicate or redundant publication (i.e., publishing substantially the same work in more than one journal) is strictly prohibited.

Authors are expected to:

- Properly cite all sources and previously published work.
- Indicate clearly any reuse of material (e.g., figures, tables) with appropriate permissions.
- Provide transparency if the work builds upon prior publications, with references to related articles and an explanation of novel contributions.

In cases of suspected plagiarism or unethical publishing practices, the editorial board will follow COPE's flowcharts and procedures for investigation and will act accordingly.

#### 4. Documentation

Authors must be prepared to provide copies of ethics approval letters (in English or Serbian language) and consent forms upon request by the editorial office. Authors are fully responsible for any violation of ethical principles.

Failure to meet ethical requirements may lead to manuscript rejection or retraction post-publication.

### **Technical preparation of the manuscript**

#### 1. General information

Manuscripts must be submitted as Microsoft Word documents in .doc or .docx format. Please use Times New Roman font, with the font size of 12 pt, with double spacing, 2.5 cm margins with alignment on both left and right side. All pages should be numbered consecutively in the lower right-hand corner, starting from the title page. Main section headings should be in bold, while subheadings should be italicized. Figures/images/pictures should be submitted as separate files. The main document and figures should be blind. Please exclude all information that may indicate to an individual or institution from the main document. Acknowledgements, Financial Disclosure, or other information that indicates an individual or institution should be included in the title page.

#### 2. Title page for all types of manuscripts

A **separate** title page must be submitted with all manuscripts. A separate title page is required to ensure the anonymity of the authors during the peer review process. The title page will not be sent to the peer reviewers.

The title page must include the following:

- The title should be informative, specific, and relevant, without abbreviations. It should identify if the study reports human or animal data. The title is preferably written in capital letters, Times New Roman, with the font size of 12pt (bold).
- Running title – an abbreviated version of the title that will appear at the top of every page subsequent to the title page. It should not exceed 60 characters, including spaces.

- Full names of all authors and their affiliations (department, university, city, zip code, and country according to the PubMed/MEDLINE standard format). The initials of any middle names can be added. All affiliations are marked with numbers in the superscript. Corresponding author should provide an e-mail address. A maximum of two joint first authors can be indicated by the addition of a superscript symbol. The symbol must be defined below the affiliations by adding the following statement: "These authors contributed equally to this work".
- **ORCID for all authors is required.** Please include this information on the Title page.
- Corresponding author - state the full name, institution where the corresponding author is employed, with the address, telephone number and e-mail address.
- Acknowledgements

In this section, authors should mention the contribution of institutions, associates, colleagues and other people important for the research who do not fulfill criteria for the authorship. This section of the article typically acknowledges the institutions and grant donors whose support made the research possible. It refers to all forms of financial assistance for the realization of the study. If this is not the case, this section can be marked with Not applicable.

- Funding Information  
In this section, authors should mention all sources of financial support received for the research, including grants, institutional funding, or sponsorships. The full name of the funding agency and the grant number (if applicable) should be clearly stated. If the study did not receive any specific funding, authors should indicate this by stating: "The authors declare that the study received no funding"
- Conflicts of interest  
All authors must disclose all relationships or interests that could inappropriately influence or bias their work. Any influence of funding sponsors on the choice of research project, study design, data collection, analysis, or interpretation, manuscript preparation, or the decision to publish must be disclosed in this section. If there are no conflicts of interest, please add 'The authors have no conflicts of interest to report' in the respective section.
- Author Contributions  
Each author is expected to have made substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data; or the creation of new software used in the work; or have drafted the work or substantively revised it; AND has approved the submitted version (and version substantially edited by journal staff that involves the author's contribution to the study); AND agrees to be personally accountable for the author's own contributions and for ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work, even ones in which the author was not personally involved, are appropriately investigated, resolved, and documented in the literature.

For manuscripts with several authors, a short paragraph specifying their contributions must be provided. The following statements should be used "Conceptualization, X.X. and Y.Y.; Methodology, X.X.; Software, X.X.; Validation, X.X., Y.Y. and Z.Z.; Formal Analysis, X.X.; Investigation, X.X.; Resources, X.X.; Data Curation, X.X.; Writing – Original Draft Preparation, X.X.; Writing – Review & Editing, X.X.; Visualization, X.X.; Supervision, X.X.; Project Administration, X.X.; Funding Acquisition, Y.Y.", etc. "Authorship must include and be limited to those who have contributed substantially to the work. Please read the section concerning the criteria to qualify for authorship carefully".

- Ethical approval statement

Animal and human experiments should follow the Declaration of Helsinki and must be approved by the local ethical committee. The statement should contain appropriate statement. If the study does not include human or animal subjects, please provide the statement "Not applicable" For more details and statement examples, please see section: "Ethical Guidelines for Authors".

- Informed consent statement

Any research article representing a study involving human subjects should contain this statement. Please add "Informed consent was obtained from all subjects involved in the study." OR "Patient consent was waived due to REASON (please provide a detailed justification)." This statement may be omitted if the study did not involve human subjects. Written informed consent for publication must be obtained from all participating patients who can be identified in the study. Please state "Written informed consent has been obtained from the patient(s) to publish this paper" if applicable. For more details see section: "Ethical Guidelines for Authors".

### 3. Cover letter (for all types of manuscripts)

A cover letter must be included with each manuscript submission. The corresponding author/s sign the cover letter and includes the following: 1) a statement that the paper has never been published and concurrently submitted for publication to any other journal; 2) a statement that the manuscript has been read and approved by all authors who have met the criteria of authorship; 3) a statement confirming that the manuscript is the original work of the author(s).

### 4. Instructions regarding different types of articles

#### **1. ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

Original articles contain up to 5000 words, excluding abstracts in Serbian and English and references, with a maximum of eight (8) attachments, including figures/images/pictures and tables.

The original article should be structured as follows:

1. Title page as a separate document (see 'Technical preparation of the manuscript' and 'Title page' for all types of manuscripts)
2. Abstract in Latin Serbian (only for corresponding author/s from Serbia)

The abstract (Sažetak) must not exceed 250 words, followed by the list of keywords (three to five). The abstract of an original article should be structured with the following headings: *Uvod/Cilj rada, Metode, Rezultati, Zaključak*.

3. Abstract in English

Abstract in English must not exceed 250 words, and it is necessarily followed by a list of Keywords (3-5). The abstract of the original article should have the following structure: Introduction/Aim, Materials and Methods, Results, Conclusion.

4. The main text of the article

The main text of the article should contain the following sections (subheadings):

- Introduction - authors should provide a brief informative overview of literature relevant to the topic, an insight into the problem that is the subject of the article, highlighting hypotheses and aims. Authors are expected to clearly present the current state-of-the-art as well as novel contributions beyond it in their study. The rationale for the study should be clearly explained.
- Material and Methods – this section should provide sufficient data to allow others to replicate the research and reproduce the results of the study. In this section, the authors should refer to subjects, methods, and statistical analysis. For animal subjects, the data regarding the animal species, body mass, age, and laboratory conditions should be provided. Studies in humans should provide the population included in the study, the inclusion and exclusion criteria. New methods and protocols should be described in detail, while well-established methods can be briefly described and appropriately cited. Please provide the names and versions of any software used in the study. This section should be divided into sub-sections with subjects of the study, experimental protocols, biochemical analyses, and statistical analysis described in separate sub-sections.
- Statistical methods, presentation, and interpretation of results:
  - When presenting results in tables and text, numerical data with a normal distribution and no extreme values should be presented as the arithmetic mean  $\pm$  standard deviation; numerical data that deviate from normal distribution, contain extreme values, or ordinal data should be presented as the median and range (minimum–maximum value); nominal data and ordinal data with few categories should be presented as n (%).
  - The display of results in tables and graphs should not be repeated.
  - When describing the applied statistical methods, presentation and interpretation of results in the paper, follow the SAMPL Guidelines (Lang TA, Altman DG. Basic



statistical reporting for articles published in biomedical journals: The “Statistical Analyses and Methods in the Published Literature” or the SAMPL Guidelines. *Int J Nurs Stud* 2015; 52(1):5-9.).

- The applied statistical methods should be described in sufficient detail so that the reader may repeat them within their own data.
- Indicate the applied statistical test and the level of significance.
- Report the exact p-value to the third decimal place
- Results - clearly presented research results arranged in a logical sequence and interpreted without bias
  - When presenting results in tables and text, numerical data with a normal distribution and no extreme values should be presented as the arithmetic mean  $\pm$  standard deviation; numerical data that deviate from normal distribution, contain extreme values, or ordinal data should be presented as the median and range (minimum–maximum value); nominal data and ordinal data with few categories should be presented as n (%).
  - 
  - The display of results in tables and graphs should not be repeated.
  - Report the exact p-value to the third decimal place.
- Discussion - interpretation of results in the context of previous studies and the working hypothesis and notification of possible limitations of the study. Repeating results should be avoided as well as an extensive review of previous studies not directly linked to the results of the present manuscript. Please include limitations of the study in the last paragraph of this section.
- Conclusions - a summary of the content of the research.
- The following sections: “Acknowledgements”, “Funding information”, “Conflicts of interest”, “Authors’ contributions”, “Ethical approval statement”, and “Informed consent statement” must be included on a separate Title page as described above (see: Sections ‘Technical preparation of the manuscript’ and ‘Title page’).

## 5. References

References should be cited according to the Vancouver style, as detailed in the section "Reference style." The number of references should not exceed 60. Please see: “Reference style” section.

## 6. Figure legend

The figure legend should contain the titles and explanations of all figures in the manuscript. The title of the figure should be concise and informative. The explanation should enable the reader to understand the presented data without further referral to the text. Statistical methods used for data analysis presented in each figure should be incorporated in the Figure legend. All symbols and abbreviations used in the figure should be explained. The font size in the Figure legend should be 11pt.

## 2. NARRATIVE REVIEW

Narrative review articles may contain up to 5000 words, without abstracts (in Serbian and English) and references, and they can have a maximum of 8 attachments (tables and figures). The first author should list at least five auto-citations. The review paper should be structured as follows:

1. Title page as a separate document (see 'Technical preparation of the manuscript' and 'Title page' for all types of manuscripts)
3. Abstract in Latin Serbian (only for corresponding author/s from Serbia)

The abstract (Sažetak) must not exceed 250 words, and it is necessarily followed by a list of Key words (3-5). The abstract of a narrative review article should be unstructured, without any headings. The primary purpose of the review should be included.

3. Abstract in English

Abstract in English must not exceed 250 words, and it is necessarily followed by a list of Keywords (3-5). The abstract of a narrative review article should be unstructured, without any headings. The primary purpose of the review should be included.

4. The main text of the article

The main text of the article should contain the following sections (subheadings):

- Introduction – this section should provide a brief overview of the topic with precise aim of the review at the end of the section.
- Methods - For a narrative review, this section should include the databases searched, the search period, and the key words used to locate references.
- Corresponding Section Headings – each section should contain a summary of findings in the final sentence.
- Conclusion
- The following sections: 'Acknowledgements', 'Funding information', 'Conflicts of interest', 'Authors' contributions', 'Ethical approval statement', and 'Informed consent statement'

must be included on a separate Title Page as described above (see: Section 'Title Page'). This is required to preserve author anonymity throughout the entire peer review process.

## 5. References

References should be cited according to the Vancouver style as explained in detail in the section *Reference style*. The number of references should not exceed 90. Please see the "Reference style" section.

## 6. Figure legend

The figure legend should contain the titles and explanations of all figures in the manuscript. The title of the figure should be concise and informative. The explanation should enable the reader to understand the presented data without further referral to the text. All symbols and abbreviations used at the figure should be explained. The font size in Figure legend should be 11pt.

## 3. SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS

A systematic review or meta-analysis may contain up to 5000 words, without abstracts (in Serbian and English) and references, and they can have a maximum of 8 attachments (tables and figures). The systematic review/meta-analysis should be structured as follows:

1. Title page as a separate document (see 'Technical preparation of the manuscript' and 'Title page' for all types of manuscripts).
2. Abstract in Latin Serbian (only for corresponding author/s from Serbia)

The abstract (Sažetak) must not exceed 250 words and it is necessarily followed by a list of Key words (3-5). The abstract of the systematic review/meta-analysis is structured with the following headings: *Uvod/Cilj, Metode, Rezultati, Zaključak*.

### 3. Abstract in English

Abstract in English must not exceed 250 words and it is necessarily followed by a list of Keywords (3-5). The abstract of the systematic review/meta-analysis is structured with the following headings: Introduction/Aim, Methods, Results, Conclusion.

### 4. The main text of the article

- Introduction - authors should provide a brief informative overview of literature relevant to the topic, an insight into the problem that is the subject of the article, highlighting hypotheses, and aims. The rationale for the study should be clearly explained.
- Material and Methods – the methodology should follow the PRISMA guidelines. Study design, data sources, and exact search date cutoffs should be clearly stated. The prespecified criteria for study inclusion and exclusion, including participant eligibility criteria, interventions and comparators assessed, study designs (e.g., only randomized

controlled trials), settings, and timepoints, should be stated. The method of data appraisal and extraction should be clearly described. Please describe the methods of the bias risk assessment and the methods of sensitivity analysis. The variables for which data were extracted should be defined, along with the methods used to assess variability between studies. The selection of articles should be presented in a flowchart.

- Results – This section should include: a description of the number of studies screened and included in the analysis (accompanied by a study selection flowchart); the characteristics of included studies (with a summary table highlighting key data extraction variables); findings related to the primary outcome, secondary findings, details on heterogeneity and risk of bias, and any post-hoc or sensitivity analyses.
- Discussion - interpretation of results in the context of previous studies and the working hypothesis, and notification of possible limitations of the study. Repeating results should be avoided as well as an extensive review of previous studies not directly linked to the results of the present manuscript.
- Conclusions - a summary of the content of the research.
- The following sections: 'Acknowledgements', 'Funding information', 'Conflicts of interest', 'Authors' contributions', 'Ethical approval statement', and 'Informed consent statement' must be included on a separate Title Page as described above (see: Section Title Page). This is required to preserve author anonymity throughout the entire peer review process.

## 8. References

References should be cited according to the Vancouver style, as detailed in the section "Reference style." The number of references should not exceed 90.

## 9. Figure legend

The figure legend should contain the titles and explanations of all figures in the manuscript. The title of the figure should be concise and informative. The explanation should enable the reader to understand the presented data without further referral to the text. All symbols and abbreviations used in the figure should be explained. The font size in the Figure legend should be 11pt.

## 4. CASE REPORT

Case reports must not exceed 1500 words, without abstracts (in Serbian and English) and references. The text of the manuscript should be structured as follows:

1. Title page as separate document (please, see Sections: 'Technical preparation of the manuscript' and 'Title page' for all types of manuscripts)
2. Abstract in Latin Serbian (only for corresponding author/s from Serbia)

The abstract (Sažetak) must not exceed 250 words, and it is necessarily followed by a list of Key words (3-5). The abstract should be structured with the following headings: *Uvod/Cilj, Prikaz pacijenta, Zaključak*.

### 3. Abstract in English

Abstract in English must not exceed 250 words, and it is necessarily followed by a list of Keywords (3-5). The abstract should be structured with the following headings: Introduction/Objective, Patient Review, Conclusion.

### 4. The main text of the article

The main text of the article should contain the following sections (subheadings):

- Introduction – a brief overview of the literature related to the topic of a case report.
- Case report –the presentation of a patient
- Discussion - interpretation of results in the context of previous studies
- Conclusion
- The following sections: 'Acknowledgements', 'Funding information', 'Conflicts of interest', 'Authors' contributions', 'Ethical approval statement', and 'Informed consent statement' must be included on a separate Title Page as described above (see: Section 'Title Page'). This is required to preserve author anonymity throughout the entire peer review process.

### 5. References

References should be cited according to the Vancouver style as explained in detail more details in the section *Reference style*. The number of references should not exceed 40.

### 6. Figure legend

The figure legend should contain the titles and explanations of all figures in the manuscript. The title of the figure should be concise and informative. The explanation should enable the reader to understand the presented data without further referral to the text. Statistical methods used for data analysis presented in each figure should be incorporated in the Figure legend. All symbols and abbreviations used in the figure should be explained. The font size in the Figure legend should be 11pt.

## 5. LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A letter to the Editor includes a post-publication commentary on published research with the aim of improving scientific discourse. Formal post-publication commentary on published papers can involve either challenges, clarifications, or, in some cases, replication of the published work. It

may, after peer review, be published online as a letter to the Editor, usually alongside a reply from the original authors. Letters to the Editor should consider only articles published in *Medical Research*.

Letters to the Editor should be based on knowledge available at the time of the original publication, rather than on subsequent scientific developments.

Letters to the Editor should contain up to 800 words, excluding references. They should be written in a neutral tone, and all comments/discussions must relate to the original published article. All such articles considered for publication will be subject to peer review, and the decision to accept or reject an article is at the Editor's discretion.

Before formal submission, the author(s) should contact the journal with a pre-submission enquiry. If approved for submission as a Letter to the Editor, the article should then be submitted through the submission system.

## **6. SHORT COMMUNICATION**

Short communications represent short articles with the aim of reporting on a specific aspect of a larger research project, presenting novel methods and techniques, highlighting significant negative results, and disseminating preliminary results that warrant immediate attention. Short communication articles contain up to 2500 words, excluding abstracts in Serbian and English and references, with a maximum of four (4) attachments, including figures/images/pictures and tables.

The text of the manuscript should be structured as follows:

1. Title page as a separate document (please, see Sections: 'Technical preparation of the manuscript' and 'Title page')
2. Abstract in Latin Serbian (only for corresponding author/s from Serbia)

The abstract (Sažetak) must not exceed 250 words, followed by the list of Key words (three to five). The abstract of an original article should be structured with the following headings: *Uvod/Cilj rada, Metode, Rezultati, Zaključak*.

3. Abstract in English

Abstract in English must not exceed 250 words, and it is necessarily followed by a list of Keywords (3-5). The abstract of the original article should have the following structure: Introduction/Aim, Materials and Methods, Results, Conclusion.

4. The main text of the article

The main text of the article should contain the following sections (subheadings):

- Introduction - authors should provide a brief informative overview of literature relevant to the topic, an insight into the problem that is the subject of the article, highlighting

hypotheses and aims. Authors are expected to clearly present the current state-of-the-art as well as novel contributions beyond it in their study. The rationale for the study should be clearly explained.

- **Material and Methods** – this section should provide sufficient data to allow others to replicate the research and reproduce the results of the study. In this section, the authors should refer to subjects, methods, and statistical analysis. For animal subjects, the data regarding the animal species, body mass, age, and laboratory conditions should be provided. Studies in humans should provide the population included in the study, the inclusion and exclusion criteria. New methods and protocols should be described in detail, while well-established methods can be briefly described and appropriately cited. Please provide the names and versions of any software used in the study. This section should be divided into sub-sections with subjects of the study, experimental protocols, biochemical analyses, and statistical analysis described in separate sub-sections. The ethical statement with the approval of the study by the local Ethical Committee, with the permission No. and the date of the approval must be inserted in this section.
- **Results** - clearly presented research results arranged in a logical sequence and interpreted without bias
- **Discussion** - interpretation of results in the context of previous studies and the working hypothesis, and notification of possible limitations of the study. Repeating results should be avoided, as well as an extensive review of prior studies not directly linked to the results of the present manuscript.
- **Conclusions** - a summary of the content of the research.
- The following sections: 'Acknowledgements', 'Funding information', 'Conflicts of interest', 'Authors' contributions', 'Ethical approval statement', and 'Informed consent statement' must be included on a separate Title Page as described above (see: Section 'Title Page'). This is required to preserve author anonymity throughout the entire peer review process.

## 5. References

References should be cited according to the Vancouver style, as detailed in the section "Reference style." The number of references should not exceed 40.

## 6. Figure legend

The figure legend should contain the titles and explanations of all figures in the manuscript. The title of the figure should be concise and informative. The explanation should enable the reader to understand the presented data without further referral to the text. Statistical methods used for data analysis given in each figure should be incorporated in the Figure legend. All symbols and abbreviations used in the figure should be explained. The font size in the Figure legend should be 11pt.

## **Instructions for Tables and Figures/Images/Pictures**

- **Tables**

Tables should be submitted on separate pages and numbered consecutively using Arabic numerals (Table 1, Table 2, etc.), with a clear indication of their intended placement within the text. The table title should appear next to the table label, in Times New Roman, 11 pt font, positioned above the table. Any explanatory notes should be placed below the table in 10 pt font. In tables (as well as in the text) in English, you should write decimal numbers with a dot (e.g., 2.5 ± 4.1). Column headings should be brief and clear, with appropriate units in brackets. Symbols and abbreviations should be defined in the table legend, which should be positioned below the table in Times New Roman font, font size 9 pt.

- **Figures – images, pictures, graphs, diagrams, etc**

Figures should be submitted also as separate files in .tif, .eps, or .jpg (.jpeg) format. The minimum resolution of the figure should be 300 dpi. If the images are reproduced or adapted from other sources, it is necessary to state the copyright.

If photographs of people are included, it is essential that people cannot be identified from the attached material, and a statement that 'the written consent of the subject to publish photography is obtained' is required within the Figure legend. In the text, it is necessary to state the desired position of all attachments.

When preparing the text for printing, the Editorial office will try to keep the articles in the indicated places; however, minor changes in the position or size of the articles are possible due to technical reasons. The paper follows the International System of Units (SI) for results, biochemical, clinical, and hematological measurements. Abbreviations are used only if they make it easier for the reader to review the text by avoiding repeating long terms, provided that the full name with the abbreviation in brackets has been stated at the beginning of the text.

## **Reference style**

References are cited according to the Vancouver reference style. They should be indicated by Arabic numerals in parentheses (1), (2-5), etc., in the order in which they appear in the text.

References are numbered in the order in which they were first listed in the text. Use brackets (1) after citations to quote references. The maximal number of references depends on the article type. When citing several references together, a dash is used to mark consecutive numbers (12-15), while a comma is used when the numbers are not consecutive (12-15, 18), (12,15,18). All references should be listed at the end of the article. Each reference should be accompanied by a DOI number if available. If there are more than 6 authors, the first 6 authors are listed followed



by *et al.* Correct citation is the responsibility of the author of the article. Examples of correct citations include:

- **For articles**

Robeva R, Mladenović D, Vesković M, Hrnčić D, Bjekić-Macut J, Stanojlović O, *et al.* The interplay between metabolic dysregulations and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in women after menopause. *Maturitas* 2021; 151: 22-30. doi: 10.1016/j.maturitas.2021.06.012.

- **For book chapter**

Mitchell RN. Blood Vessels. In: Kumar V, Abbas AK, Aster JC. *Robbins and Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease*, 9th Edition. Elsevier Saunders, Philadelphia 2015; pp. 483-523.

- **For books**

Kumar V, Abbas AK, Aster JC. *Robbins and Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease*, 9th Edition. Elsevier Saunders, Philadelphia 2015.