Submission Guidelines

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Please read the complete instructions for authors before submitting your manuscript to Endocrinology and Metabolism via http://submit.e-enm.org.

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1. ABOUT THE JOURNAL

Endocrinology and Metabolism (Endocrinol Metab; EnM) is the official journal of the Korean Endocrine Society. The journal is devoted the dissemination of the latest scientific findings in the fields of endocrinology, metabolism, and hormonal function. Only manuscripts written in English are accepted. EnM follows an open access policy, according to which all content is freely available online and digital files can be read, downloaded, and printed freely.

Manuscripts containing content that was previously published in other journals are not eligible for submission to this journal. Conversely, any manuscripts published herein cannot be submitted to other journals. For further clarification on our policies regarding duplicate and secondary publications, please consult Sections 3.6 and 3.8 of this document.

2. EDITORIAL OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Endocrinology and Metabolism Editorial Office
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3. STUDY CONDUCT AND POLICIES

1) The process of reviewing and assessing manuscripts, including for ethical guidelines and plagiarism/duplicate publication and study misconduct, should conform to the ethical guidelines specified in the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals (http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/), which were established by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). For any issues regarding research and publication ethics not addressed in the above source, Second Edition of Good Publication Practice Guidelines for Medical Journals (Korean Association of Medical Journal Editors, KAMJE; https://www.kamje.or.kr/board/view?b_name=bo_publication&bo_id=7&per_page=) and Guidelines on Good Publication Ethics (Committee on Publication Ethics, COPE; http://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines) can be applied. Further guidance on the review and publication process is contained in the Council of Science Editors (CSE) Editorial Policy Statements (https://www.councilscienceeditors.org/resource-library/editorial-policies/).
2) Disclosure of conflicts of interest
Financial sponsorship should be included as a conflict of interest. Any other financial support associated with the study, including stocks or consultation arrangements with pharmaceutical companies, should be stated at the end of the text, as well as any political pressure from special interest groups or academia-related issues, under a subheading entitled “Conflicts of interest.” If no financial support or political or academic pressures affected the study, a statement declaring that there were no conflicts of interest should be included under the aforementioned subheading.

3) Statement of informed consent and institutional review board approval
Human studies must conform to current ethical standards and should be approved by the appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB). A statement concerning IRB approval, reference number, and consent procedures must appear in the Methods section. Any systematic data-gathering effort from patients or volunteers must be approved by an IRB or adhere to appropriate local/national regulations. If a study has been granted an exemption from requiring ethics approval, this should also be detailed in the manuscript (including the name of the ethics committee that granted the exemption). Authors may be questioned about the details of consent forms or the consent process. On occasion, the Editor-in-Chief may request a copy of the approved IRB application from the author. For all research involving human subjects, informed consent to participate in the study should be obtained from participants, and a statement to this effect should appear in the manuscript.

4) Statement of human and animal rights
Clinical research studies involving human subjects must state that the work was done in accordance with the Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki in 1975 (revised in 2013; http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html). Clinical studies that do not satisfy the guidelines of the Declaration of Helsinki will not be considered for publication. Human subjects must not be identifiable. Patients’ name, initials, hospital number, date of birth, or other protected healthcare information must not be disclosed. Animal research studies must state that the work was performed according to the National or Institutional Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and the ethical treatment of all experimental animals must conform to the guidelines provided by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). A statement concerning IRB and IACUC approval and consent procedures must appear in the Methods section.

5) Authorship
According to the guidelines of the ICMJE, authorship credit must be based on 1) substantial contributions to the concept and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; 3) final approval of the version to be published; and 4) 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 should meet the above four conditions. For original articles, the specific contributions of each author must be described, and this information will be published in the Author Contributions section. After the initial submission of a manuscript, any changes whatsoever in authorship (adding author(s), deleting author(s), or re-arranging the order of authors) must be explained by a letter to the editor from the authors concerned. This letter must be signed by all authors of the paper. Copyright assignment must also be completed by every author.

6) Originality and duplicate publications
All submitted manuscripts should be original and may not be considered by other scientific journals for publication at the same time. No part of the accepted paper should be duplicated in another scientific journal without permission from the Editorial Board. Submitted manuscripts are screened for possible plagiarism or duplicate publication by CrossCheck upon arrival. If duplicate publications related to the papers published in EnM are detected, authors will be sanctioned by requesting their
institutions to assess the facts, requesting a letter to the Editor-in-Chief acknowledging the error and voluntarily withdrawing the paper, and banning the authors from publishing in EnM for up to 3 years.

7) Process for managing research and publication misconduct
EnM is a member of Cross-Check’s plagiarism detection initiative and takes all cases of publication misconduct seriously. When the journal faces suspected cases of research and publication misconduct such as redundant (duplicate) publication, plagiarism, fraudulent or fabricated data, changes in authorship, an undisclosed conflict of interest, ethical problems with a submitted manuscript, a reviewer who has appropriated an author’s idea or data, complaints against editors, and so on, the resolution process will follow the flowchart provided by the Committee on Publication Ethics (http://publicationethics.org/resources/flowcharts). The Editorial Board discusses and makes decisions regarding any suspected cases.

8) Secondary publication
It is possible to republish manuscripts if the manuscripts satisfy the conditions of secondary publication of the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals (ICMJE, https://www.icmje.org) as follows:
- The authors have received approval from the editors of both journals (the editor concerned with the secondary publication must have access to the primary version).
- The priority for the primary publication is respected by a publication interval negotiated by editors of both journals and the authors.
- The paper for secondary publication is intended for a different group of readers; an abbreviated version could be sufficient.
- The secondary version faithfully reflects the data and interpretations of the primary version.
- The secondary version informs readers, peers, and documenting agencies that the paper has been published in whole or in part elsewhere—for example, with a note that might read, “This article is based on a study first reported in the [journal title, with full reference]”—and the secondary version cites the primary reference.
- The title of the secondary publication should indicate that it is a secondary publication (complete or abridged republication or translation) of a primary publication.

Of note, the United States National Library of Medicine (NLM) does not consider translations to be “republications” and does not cite or index them when the original article was published in a journal that is indexed in MEDLINE.

9) Preprint policy (posted on December 30, 2021)
A preprint is defined as a version of a scholarly paper that is posted on an openly available platform prior to formal peer review and publication in a peer-reviewed scholarly journal. EnM allows authors to submit preprints for publication in the journal. Preprints are not treated as duplicate submissions or duplicate publications. EnM recommends that authors disclose the preprint with a digital object identifier (DOI) in the cover letter to the editor during the submission process. Otherwise, it may be screened by the plagiarism check program (Similarity Check by CrossCheck). Please also provide this information in the manuscript and as a footnote in the manuscript file with a full citation using a DOI. (Example: This manuscript was first published as a preprint: Author AB, Author CD (2021). [Article title]. bioRxiv. https://doi.org/10.1234/123456). Preprint submissions will be processed through the same peer-review process as usual submissions.

If a preprint is accepted for publication, authors are recommended to update the information on the preprint server with a link to the published article in EnM, including its DOI at EnM. It is strongly recommended that authors cite the article in EnM instead of the preprint in their next submission to journals.

10) Clinical data-sharing policy
11) Clinical trials registry
We strongly recommend, as a condition of consideration for publication, registration in a public trials registry. Trials must have been registered in an appropriate registry at or before the onset of patient enrollment. This policy applies to any clinical trial starting enrollment after January 1, 2006. Any trial that began enrollment before this date must have been registered by April 1, 2006 in order to be considered for publication. We define a clinical trial as any research project that prospectively assigns human subjects to intervention or comparison groups to study the cause-and-effect relationship between a medical intervention and a health outcome. Studies designed for other purposes, such as studies on pharmacokinetics or major toxicity (e.g., phase 1 trials), are exempt.

Appropriate registries include: 1) the registry sponsored by the United States National Library of Medicine (www.clinicaltrials.gov); 2) the ISRCTN Registry (http://www.isrctn.com/); 3) the Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry (http://www.anzctr.org.au/); 4) the Chinese Clinical Trials Registry (http://www.chictr.org.cn/); 5) the Clinical Trials Registry-India (http://ctri.nic.in/); 6) the University hospital Medical Information Network (UMIN) (http://www.umin.ac.jp/ctr); and 7) the Clinical Research Information Service-Republic of Korea (CRiS) (https://cris.nih.go.kr/cris/). Reporting of randomized controlled trials should follow the guidelines of the CONSORT Statement (http://www.consort-statement.org).

12) Open Access Policy
EnM is an open access journal and full text PDF files are also available at the official website (https://enm-kes.org). Articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/), which permits unrestricted, non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided that the original work is properly cited. To use any tables or figures published in EnM in other periodicals, books, or media for scholarly and educational purposes, permission by the publisher of EnM is not necessary.

13) Deposit Policy
According to the deposit policy (self-archiving policy) of Sherpa/Romeo (http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/), authors cannot archive pre-prints (i.e., pre-refereeing) but archive post-prints (i.e., final draft post-refereeing) and publisher’s version/PDF.

14) Archiving Policy
EnM provides the electronic backup and preservation of access to the journal content in the event the journal is no longer published by archiving in National Library of Korea.

4. SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPTS

1) EnM only accepts online submissions via an online manuscript submission system (http://submit.e-enm.org), and submissions are also reviewed and edited via this system. Any questions and answers regarding the review process and other related matters can be checked on the above online system. Any changes are made during the review process of a manuscript, the relevant information is forwarded to the corresponding author and the first author.

2) For original articles, the manuscripts should be compared against the EnM Submission Checklist. With the boxes ticked to show compliance, the checklist should be submitted to the Society together with the manuscript and copyright transfer agreement.

3) The authors should download the copyright transfer agreement and disclosure of conflict of interest and complete the forms. After completing these documents, scanned copies should be uploaded on the submission site, or they can be forwarded to the EnM Editorial Office via fax (+82-2-714-5103).

4) Manuscripts must be accompanied by a cover letter, which should include the following information:
It is possible to republish manuscripts if the manuscripts satisfy the conditions of secondary publication of the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals (ICMJE, https://www.icmje.org) as follows:
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- A statement of financial or other relationships that
might lead to a conflict of interest.
- A statement that the manuscript has been read and approved by all the authors, that the requirements for authorship as stated earlier in this document have been met, and that each author believes that the manuscript represents honest work.
- The name, address, and telephone number of the corresponding author, who is responsible for communicating with the other authors about revisions and final approval of the proofs.

5. MANUSCRIPT CATEGORIES AND FORMAT

5.1. Original articles

General principles
1) Reporting guidelines have been developed for different study designs; examples include CONSORT (www.consort-statement.org) for randomized trials, STROBE for observational studies (https://strobe-statement.org/), PRISMA for systematic reviews and meta-analyses (https://www.prisma-statement.org/), and STARD for studies of diagnostic accuracy (www.stard-statement.org/). EnM requests that authors follow these guidelines according to their respective study design.
2) Manuscripts should be prepared using Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx). All portions of the manuscript should be double-spaced using 12-point Times New Roman font with a 3-cm blank margin on all sides (right, left, top, font, and bottom) of A4-sized paper (21×30 cm) or North American letter-sized paper (8½×11 in). The numbers on each page of the manuscript should be placed at the center of the bottom in a sequential manner starting from the title page.
3) Abbreviations should only be used when absolutely necessary for clarity. In cases in which the use of an abbreviation is desirable to avoid repetitiveness, the abbreviation should be presented in parentheses when the corresponding terminology first appears in the manuscript.
4) Laboratory measurements should be presented in International System of Units (SI) units in most cases, except when non-SI units (conventional units) are preferable for clarity. However, the usage of units should be consistent.
5) The manuscript should be arranged in the following order: title page, abstract and keywords, main text (introduction, methods, results, discussion), conflicts of interest, acknowledgments, references, tables and figures.
6) All authors are encouraged to provide an Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID). Additional information about ORCID is available at http://orcid.org/.

Title page and abstract
1) The title page should be structured as follows: the title of the manuscript, a short running title 50 or fewer characters, the names of all authors, and their current affiliations. If the authors have multiple affiliations, their affiliations during the period of the study being reported should be matched to the authors’ names using Arabic numeral superscripts.
2) The title of the manuscript should be no longer than 20 English words. The first letter of each major word of the title must be capitalized. Abbreviations should not be used in the title except in special circumstances.
3) At the bottom of the title page, the corresponding author’s name, address, and e-mail address should be indicated.
4) The word count should be provided for the text only, excluding the abstract, acknowledgments, figure legends, and references.
5) The number of figures and tables should be provided on the title page.
6) The abstract should contain no more than 250 words, and should consist of four sections: Background, Methods, Results, and Conclusion.
7) Three to 10 keywords relevant to the content of the manuscript should be presented underneath the abstract. If possible, the keywords should be found in the MeSH terms of the Index Medicus (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/MBrowser.html).

Main text
1) The main text should be structured as Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion. Headings and subheadings should be used in the Methods section and Results section to organize the presentation of the material. Every reference, figure, and table must be cited numeri-
Introduction: The purpose of the research should be presented briefly and clearly, together with only the background information that is relevant to the purpose.

Methods: The materials, methods, and study design should be presented in detail. In experimental research, the methods should be described in such a manner that the experiments can be reproduced by the readers. A statement concerning IRB approval and consent procedures must appear in the Methods section. The description of the reagents, kits, and machines used in the experiment should be precise, with full descriptions for the product number, company name, city, and the country of its origin. Ensure correct use of the terms sex (when reporting biological factors) and gender (identity, psychosocial or cultural factors), and, unless inappropriate, report the sex or gender of study participants, the sex of animals or cells, and describe the methods used to determine sex or gender. If the study was done involving an exclusive population, for example in only one sex, authors should justify why, except in obvious cases (e.g., prostate cancer). Authors should define how they determined race or ethnicity and justify their relevance.

Results: A detailed description of the study results should be clearly arranged in a logical manner. When tables are used, the content presented therein should not be redundantly described in the main text; instead, important trends and data points should be emphasized. Insertion of references with previously published data is not allowed in the Results section. Descriptions of previously reported data and personal opinions should be included in the Discussion section. In tables, figures, and virgule constructions and within parentheses, the units of minutes and hours should be abbreviated as ‘min’ and ‘hr’, respectively, and no ‘s’ should be added to them.

Discussion: New and important observations should be emphasized. A redundant description of the results is not acceptable. The significance and limitations of the observed findings should be described. There should be a link between the conclusions and the goals of the study. Conclusions not adequately supported by the data must be avoided.

Conflicts of interest
Any potential conflict of interest relevant to the manuscript is to be described. If there are no conflicts of interest, authors should state that none exist.

Acknowledgments
The acknowledgments should be presented after the main text and before the reference list. Acknowledgments should contain brief statements of assistance, financial support, and prior publication of the study in abstract form, where applicable. Any other matters associated with research funds, facilities, and drugs that were used in the current manuscript should also be presented in the Acknowledgments.

References
References should be listed in the sequence cited in the paper, and sequential numbers should be attached in the middle or at the end of the corresponding sentences in the body of the text. The reference list should be given at the end of the document, after the main text and acknowledgments (if applicable) and before the tables. Original articles are limited to 50 references.

1) Reference numbers in the text should appear in the order that they are mentioned in normal type and in square brackets, e.g., “In the study by Norton et al. [23]...”.

2) The names of all authors must be listed by the last name and the initials of the first and middle names in each reference. All authors should be listed when there are six or fewer authors. If there are seven or more authors, the first six should be listed, followed by “et al.” Inclusive page numbers must be provided. Academic journal names should be presented using abbreviations approved by the Index Medicus (available from: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/archive/20130415/tsd/serials/lji.html).

3) All references should be described in the following format:

Journals: authors’ names (list the first six authors and add “et al.”), title, journal name, year, volume, and page numbers.

1. Hong SW, Lee J, Kwon H, Park SE, Rhee EJ, Park CY, et al. Deficiency of sphingosine-1-phosphate reduces the expression of prohibitin and causes β-cell impair-
ment via mitochondrial dysregulation. Endocrinol Metab (Seoul) 2018;33:403-12.


**Book:** authors’ name(s), title, edition number, place of publication, publisher, year of publication, and page numbers.


**Chapter in a book:** authors’ name(s), title, edition number, place of publication, publisher, year of publication, chapter number and title, and page numbers.


**Conference proceedings:** author(s), paper title, In: editor(s), conference title, the year, place, place of publication, publisher, year of publication, and page numbers.


**Dissertation:** author, title [book type], place of publication, publisher, year of publication.


**Web sites:** author(s), title [type of medium], place of publication, publisher, year of publication [date of update, date of citation], URL.


**Tables**

1) Tables should be double-spaced and inserted on a separate page at the end of the text document, with the table number, table title, and legend given above the table.

2) Titles of tables should be concise, using a phrase or a clause. The first letter of each word of the title should be capitalized.

3) The numbers should be allocated according to the order in which the table was quoted in the main text.

4) Abbreviations should be spelled out below the corresponding table. Symbols should be marked with small alphabet letters in the order of their usage, such as, a, b, c, d, e with their respective descriptions in the footnote.

5) Tables should be easy to understand if read independently or excerpted.

6) Unnecessary vertical lines should not be drawn. Authors should refrain from using horizontal lines as much as possible.

**Figures and figure legends**

1) Figures should be submitted separately from the main text. The resolution of the pictures and photographs is expected to exceed 300 dpi. Figures should be included with online submissions, as JPEG, GIF, TIFF, BMP, or PICT files.

2) If two or more images are presented within the same figure, Arabic numerals should be followed by letters (e.g., Fig. 1A, Fig. 1B).

3) An author may request pictures to be printed in color, but the cost of this will be charged to the author.

4) Sequential numbers (Arabic numerals) should be assigned to figures in the order that they are referenced in the paper.

5) Figures legends should be presented at the end of the
manuscript, and should be described with complete sentences rather than incomplete phrases or a clause. The expansions of any abbreviations used within the figure should be placed in the legend.

6) For microphotographs, describe the staining method and magnification ratio.

7) Footnotes below the figure should be placed in the order the abbreviations, followed by symbols. Symbols should be marked with superscripted lowercase letters in the order of their usage, such as, $^{a,b,c,d,e}$.

Supplemental data

Nonessential tables and figures may accompany articles as online-only supplemental files. All online-only supplementary files should be combined into a single document file (whenever possible) and uploaded separately during the submission process. This file must be clearly labeled as “Online-Only Supplemental Material.” In addition, supplemental online-only files must be referenced in the main text of the manuscript at least once (e.g., “Supplemental Table S1”).

All online-only supplemental files are subject to review, but such files will not be copyedited or proofread by EnM production staff. As such, authors are encouraged to review their supplemental files carefully before submitting them.

Lists that include names of principal investigators or writing groups may also be submitted as online-only supplements if they exceed 150 words. Otherwise, the names of principal investigators or writing groups should be listed in an appendix at the end of the main document, before the references.

5.2. Review articles

A review article is a review focusing on a specific topic that is commissioned by the Publication Committee. Manuscripts submitted as review articles undergo the same review process as original research articles. Instructions for original articles should be followed for review articles. The abstract of a review article should not exceed 200 words, and the number of references should not exceed 150.

5.3. Editorials

Editorials are invited by the Editorial Board. Editorials are commissioned for the purpose of commenting on a specific paper published by the journal or other, not to reflect the views of the Society or to comment on recent developments and events in the field of endocrinology and metabolism. There are no specific requirements for the format. However, an editorial should be limited to no more than 20 references. The word count of the main text should not exceed 1,000.

5.4. Brief report

Short communications of original research are published as brief reports. The purpose of the category is to permit the publication of very important, high-quality mechanistic studies that can be concisely presented. These manuscripts should include a short unstructured abstract (150 words maximum).

The total manuscript length should not exceed 1,200 words, excluding the references and abstract. Brief reports can include a maximum of 20 references and two figures or tables.

5.5. Images

Images that may help make clinical decisions while being interesting and educational in terms of the treatment of endocrine and metabolic conditions should be prepared with an accompanying manuscript. Image should be no more than 1,000 words in length with the number of references limited to five.

5.6. Letters to the editor

A letter should contain constructive criticisms or comments on a specific paper published by the journal within the previous six months. Letters should be no more than 1,000 words in length, have no more than 10 references, and normally include no more than one table or one figure.

5.7. Graphical abstract

Graphical abstract are required for original articles, review, and brief report after acceptance of manuscript. The graphical abstract will be displayed in the online contents list and the online article, but will not appear in the article PDF file or print. A graphical abstract should clearly represent the topic of the article in a pictorial form designed to capture the attention of a wide readership. Authors should provide an original image that clearly represents the work described in the manuscript. Graphical abstracts should be submitted as...
6. PEER REVIEW AND PUBLICATION

1) Submitted manuscripts are first reviewed by the journal editors. If a manuscript fails to comply with the submission guidelines or the EnM Submission Checklist, it will be rejected for review and returned to the author to be re-written and re-submitted according to the submission guidelines.

2) All submitted manuscripts are single-blind peer-reviewed by three anonymous reviewers who are specialists in the relevant field, and the review period will not exceed 3 months. The decision of whether to publish the article will be determined based on the results of the review process, and revisions or additions will be recommended to the authors as appropriate. The Editorial Board determines whether manuscripts are acceptable. If changes are needed, the authors are recommended to revise and amend the manuscripts within 1 month. Authors of a revised manuscript must describe on a line-by-line basis how the manuscript was revised according to the instructions of the reviewers. If the revised manuscript is not returned within this period, it will be deemed that the authors have decided not to pursue publication.

3) All manuscripts from editors, employees, or members of the editorial board are processed in the same way as other unsolicited manuscripts. During the review process, submitters will not engage in the selection of reviewers and decision process. Editors will not handle their own manuscripts although they are commissioned ones.

4) If necessary, the Editorial Board may consult statisticians during the review process.

5) After acceptance, the final manuscript will be reviewed by the manuscript editor for formatting consistency and completeness of the references. The manuscript may be revised according to the style guide of the journal.

6) Before publication, a galley proof will be sent via e-mail to the corresponding author for approval. Galley changes must be returned within 48 hours. Changes should be limited to those that affect the accuracy of the information presented.


8) All manuscripts from editors, employees, or members of the editorial board are processed same to other unsolicited manuscripts. During the review process, submitters will not engage in the selection of reviewers and decision process. Editors will not handle their own manuscripts although they are commissioned ones.

7. COPYRIGHT TRANSFER

Copyright to all the published material is owned by the Korean Endocrine Society. The authors should agree to the copyright transfer during the submission process. The corresponding author is responsible for submitting the copyright transfer agreement to the Publisher.

8. DISCLOSURE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)-ASSISTED TECHNOLOGY

If authors utilized artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technologies (e.g., chatbots, large language models, or image creators) while they were preparing the manuscript, the authors should clearly describe how they used AI in the submitted manuscript and in their cover letter. Authors are fully responsible for the scientific integrity of AI-generated content. Authors are not permitted to cite AI as an author or to list AI-assisted technologies as an author or co-author. If a submission or publication does not appropriately disclose AI assistance, it will be rejected or retracted.

9. OTHERS

If it is necessary to revise a manuscript, the Publication Committee may do so insofar as it does not impact the original text, and according to its editorial policies on wording and format.

10. FEEDBACK AFTER PUBLICATION

If the authors or readers find any errors or content that
should be revised, they can make a request to the Editorial Board. The Editorial Board may consider publishing an erratum, corrigendum, or retraction. If there are any revisions to the article, a CrossMark description will be used to indicate the final version. If a reader submits an opinion on a published article in the form of a letter to the editor, it will be forwarded to the authors. The authors can reply to the reader’s letter. The letter to the editor and the author’s reply may be jointly published.