

# Journal of Refractive Surgery Information for Authors

Manuscripts in the field of refractive surgery should be prepared according to the *AMA Manual for Authors and Editors* and submitted electronically at <www.rapidreview.com>. Articles are accepted with the understanding that they have not previously been published and are not under simultaneous consideration by another publication. Previous publication of the abstract is acceptable. Publication of data or a detailed report in news media constitutes prior publication. The Journal adheres to the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomechanical Journals (2008) of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors.

## Original Articles

Each submission is evaluated by two or more scientific referees who recommend that the paper be: 1) accepted as submitted; 2) accepted with minor revision; 3) returned for major revision; or 4) rejected. Acceptance is determined by originality, significance, validity of the contribution, and suitability of the subject matter to readers. Following unbiased review by the Reviewers, Associate Editors, and Editor, authors will be notified by e-mail of the manuscript decision. Upon publication, the Journal reserves the right to edit manuscripts, delete extraneous or excess material, and change or add titles and headings.

Original articles should, in general, not exceed 3000 words, including references and figure legends. References should not exceed 30, and the combined number of figures and tables should not exceed 10. Manuscripts should be organized in the following format: 1) Title page; 2) Abstract; 3) Precise; 4) Introductory text; 5) Materials and Methods or Case Reports; 6) Results; 7) Discussion; 8) References; 9) Tables and/or Figures; and 10) Legends for photographs or drawings.

**Title page:** The title page should contain the title; first name, middle initial, and last name of all authors, with their highest academic degree; professional affiliation of all authors and city location; acknowledgment of grant support; and name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address of corresponding author. There should be no more than six authors unless justification is provided.

If the article discusses in any way a device, equipment, an instrument, or a drug, the author(s) must state whether they have any commercial or proprietary interest in the product or company. Likewise, they must reveal whether they have any financial interest as a consultant, reviewer, or evaluator. In addition, the author must disclose any financial interest owned by a spouse, minor child, blood relative living in the same household, or known to be held by the author's employer, partner, or business associate. If applicable, authors should describe the role of the study sponsor, if any, in study design; collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; writing the report; and the decision to submit the report for publication. If the supporting source had no such involvement, the authors should state so. If applicable, authors must declare whether they had assistance with study design, data collection, data analysis, or manuscript preparation. If the manuscript reports on a registered clinical trial and has been assigned a trial registration number from a public trials registry, authors should provide this information. If the manuscript reports the results of an experimental investigation of human or animal subjects, state formally that an appropriate institutional review board approved the project and/or that informed consent was obtained from the subjects after the nature of procedure(s) had been explained. Please forward approval documentation to the editorial office.

**Abstract:** Each article must have an abstract that specifically summarizes the content of the paper in **no more than 250 words**. The abstract should include four paragraphs, each one designated

to the following: Purpose, Methods, Results, and Conclusions (**the Conclusions section should be no more than 50 words**). These sections must briefly describe, respectively, the problem being addressed, how the study was performed, the salient results, and the conclusions from the results. The purpose of the abstract is to allow the content of the paper to be understood independently.

**Precis:** A concise statement (35 words or less) summarizing the core essence of the manuscript.

**Text:** A brief introductory statement should indicate the subject of the study and the problem. This should not include an extensive review of the literature, but only that portion which is pertinent to the purpose of the study. Materials and Methods should accurately and clearly describe methods and materials used and/or the patient population studied so that the study may be replicated. Case reports should provide concise chronological observations, but not speculation. Results should be given in written format, but tables and graphs may be used to supplement the data. Visual acuity should be reported at the 20/20 level. Material in the text should not be repeated in the tables and graphs. The discussion should elucidate the results, relate them to the work of others, and describe their significance. Histopathology and electromicrographs should be annotated with letters, arrows, and where appropriate, calibration bars.

**References:** References should be cited consecutively in the text with superscript numbers. The author is responsible for complete and accurate references. References should be formatted according to the *AMA Manual of Style*. A reference to a paper "in press" should be included with the references; citations such as "in preparation," "unpublished data," and "personal communications" should be included in the text in parentheses. The author must provide permission of the originator of a personal communication if he or she is quoted. References at the end of the text should be listed in numerical, not alphabetical order. Abbreviations of journal names should follow *Index Medicus*; titles not listed in *Index Medicus* should be written out.

**Articles:** Iber FL, McGonagle T, Serebro HA. Unidirectional sodium flux in small intestine in experimental canine cholera. *Am J Med Sci*. 1969;258(5):340-350.

**Books:** Clayman HM. *The Surgeon's Guide to Intraocular Lens Implantation*. 2nd ed. Thorofare, NJ: SLACK Inc; 1985:77-78.

**Chapters in books:** Thornton SP. Surgical armamentarium. In: Sanders DR, Hofmann RF, eds. *Refractive Surgery: A Text of Radial Keratotomy*. 2nd ed. Thorofare, NJ: SLACK Inc; 1985:87-95.

**Tables:** Double-space all column and row heads, as well as data within the table. Each table should have a number and a concise but fully descriptive title. Each table must be cited consecutively in the text. Tables must not duplicate material in the text, although a one or two number summary may appear in the text (eg, "Thirty-seven (54%) eyes saw 20/20 or better without correction one year after surgery."). Do not make a table for data that can be given in the text in one or two sentences (eg, "Table 2. Age of patients"). Label all columns and rows with complete words, if possible; use abbreviations only if commonly accepted and defined in a footnote. Units of measure should be cited in column and row headings, not within the table. Use parentheses (eg, mean [SD] or no. of eyes [%]) to consolidate information in a row or column. Include a line for totals, means, etc, at the bottom of columns.

**Illustrations:** Each illustration should be numbered and cited consecutively in the text. If applicable, arrows or asterisks must

be present on the photograph for identification of specified areas that are discussed in the legend.

Please remove all extraneous material from photos, including manufacturer logos, patient identifying information, computer prompts, irrelevant numerical data from readouts, examination and photograph number, etc. In general, only the color-coded calibration scale and the videokeratograph with appropriate axis are necessary. Calibration bars must be placed on electron micrographs. If specific descriptive numerical data are needed, they can be placed in the figure legend if cropping the figure will remove them. Identifiable photographs of patients must be accompanied by proof of informed consent. Each illustration must have a descriptive legend and figure number. If an image has been digitally altered, disclose in the figure legend. Label parts with A, B, etc.

**Reporting Outcomes:** Outcomes for any clinical series of refractive surgery cases must include a graphic presentation of outcomes as set out in the *Journal of Refractive Surgery* article "Standardized Graphs and Terms for Refractive Surgery Results," which can be downloaded from <http://www.journalofrefractiveurgery.com/PDFs/graphs.pdf>. Authors must include linear regression analysis with the regression equation, trend line, and coefficient of determination ( $r^2$ ), which should be shown on the attempted vs achieved spherical equivalent refraction scatter plot.

The Standard Graphs can be plotted using standard spreadsheet software, such as Microsoft Excel ([www.londonvisionclinic.com/refractiveurgeryoutcomes](http://www.londonvisionclinic.com/refractiveurgeryoutcomes)), or dedicated software packages available for analyzing refractive surgery outcomes, such as Datagraph-med ([www.datagraph-med.de](http://www.datagraph-med.de)), Outcomes Analysis Software ([www.refractiveoutcomes.com](http://www.refractiveoutcomes.com)), and SurgiVision® DataLink ([www.svc.surgivision.net/home/SVChome.html](http://www.svc.surgivision.net/home/SVChome.html)). (The Journal of Refractive Surgery provides no specific endorsement of the above listed software packages.)

**Digital Image Requirements:** The required digital format is .tif or .eps at 300 dpi resolution for color images and for black-and-white line art, 600 to 1200 dpi. PowerPoint images and images embedded in text files are unacceptable. If images are to print in color, CMYK format must be used. For black and white images, grayscale must be employed. Each image must be a separate, stand-alone file, named to match the figure number listed in the text (eg, Jonesfig1.eps). Figure legends, headings, or captions should not be included in the graphic file. If graphics are created in programs such as Illustrator, PhotoShop, FreeHand, or CorelDraw, a resolution of 300 dpi is required for quality reproduction.

**Video Requirements:** Videos may be uploaded as supplemental materials for articles discussing operative techniques. Required format is .mpg. Video clips should be no more than 5 minutes, with narration synced to the video. Only 1 video clip is allowed per article. Any text on the video must be spelled and positioned perfectly and voice-overs should be included on the video clip.

**Permissions:** Authors must inform SLACK Incorporated if tables, photos, or illustrations have been previously published. Material reprinted from other publications (including electronic media) must be accompanied by a letter of permission from the publisher, which extends non-exclusive worldwide rights to reprint the material for all forms of media now or hereafter developed to SLACK Incorporated.

#### Contributor Awards

The *Journal of Refractive Surgery* bestows two annual contributor awards: the Troutman Award and Waring Medal.

#### Author's Checklist

- Format of manuscript is consistent with style of the *Journal* and with the *AMA Manual for Authors and Editors*.
- Manuscript is double-spaced, with 1-inch margins, and includes sequential page and line numbers.
- On title page, corresponding author is designated, including address, telephone, fax, and e-mail address.
- Any financial interest of the authors, their families, or direct business associates have been stated on the title page (see guidelines below.)
- A structured abstract of 250 words or less accompanies the manuscript.
- References include ALL authors and are cited consecutively in the text.
- Figure legends are provided for all figures and are cited consecutively in the text.
- Digital figures are in .eps or .tif format  
**Color images:** CMYK color with resolution at least 300 dpi  
**Black-and-white images:** Grayscale with resolution at least 600 dpi  
Line art (black-and-white): Resolution at least 600 dpi
- A copyright transmittal form and author contribution checklist, signed and dated, have been mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to *Journal of Refractive Surgery*, SLACK Inc, 6900 Grove Road, Thorofare, NJ 08086. Fax: 856.848.6091; E-mail: [jrs@slackinc.com](mailto:jrs@slackinc.com)

#### Final Step

- Log onto [www.rapidreview.com](http://www.rapidreview.com) and complete author submission form, upload text, table, and image files.

Authors interested in having their paper considered for either award should state this in their cover letter. Please note the eligibility criteria for the Troutman Award, which must apply to the lead author, are age 45 years or younger and active membership in ISRS, and this should be indicated upon manuscript submission. The Waring Medal is open to all authors.

#### Sections

**Biomechanics:** Discussions of subjects relevant to the topic of biomechanics.

**Editorials:** Editorial statements that comment on an article included in that particular issue of the *Journal* or that discuss a specific topic.

**Instruments and Surgical Techniques:** Concise descriptions of both new and refined instruments, surgical techniques, and their uses.

**Letters to the Editor:** Comments about an article that appeared in the *Journal*. Letters to the Editor are limited to 500 words, one figure, and five references. Tables are discouraged. The *Journal* makes every effort to give authors an opportunity to reply to letters concerning published articles. Letter authors must disclose any competing or conflicting interests, if applicable.

**Reports:** Case reports, surgical techniques, etc. Reports are limited to 1000 words with an abstract  $\leq 150$  words, two figures and/or tables (ie, two figures, two tables, or one of each), and  $\leq 10$  references.

**Review Articles:** Major reviews that thoroughly cover a subject.

**Special Articles:** Discussions of subjects relevant to refractive surgery that do not meet the criteria for original articles or reviews.

Prior to publication in the *Journal of Refractive Surgery*, each author must read and sign 1) the statement regarding copyright transfer or the statement on federal employment and 2) the statement on authorship criteria and contributions. Each author must also declare any financial or proprietary interests. Once all authors have completed the appropriate forms, they must be faxed or e-mailed to the editorial office upon manuscript submission by the corresponding author.

**Proprietary Interest Statement**

Concerning the research or instruments described in this article, the authors (specify individuals):

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Have no proprietary interest.   | 5. Own stock in (name/location of company).   |
| 2. Hold patent rights  | 6. Receive direct funding, indirect donation, or provision of equipment by (name/location of company or agency).    |
| 3. Have a financial interest.  | 7. Know of a financial interest by a spouse, minor child, blood relative, employer, partner, or business associate. |
| 4. Are consultants, evaluators, or reviewers for (name/location of company or agency). |   |

**Copyright Transfer Form**

In consideration of SLACK Incorporated taking action in reviewing and editing my (our) submitted manuscript, the author undersigned hereby transfers, assigns, or otherwise conveys copyright ownership to SLACK Incorporated in the event that said work is published by SLACK Incorporated. The copyright so conveyed includes worldwide rights to any and all subsidiary forms of publication now known or hereafter developed, including print, electronic, CD-Rom, and Internet. These rights include using the material in whole or in part, to prepare derivative works, and to publish the material individually or as part of a collective work. The author(s) declares that the manuscript is original, has not been submitted to or is not under consideration by another publication, has not been previously published in any format, including electronic, and contains no matter that is, to the best of the author's knowledge, libelous or unlawful, or that infringes upon any US copyright.

Manuscript number \_\_\_\_\_

Title of manuscript \_\_\_\_\_

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Federal Employment**

I was an employee of the United States Federal Government when this work was investigated and prepared for publication; therefore, it is not protected by the Copyright Act and there is no copyright of which the ownership can be transferred.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature (Date)

**AUTHORSHIP CRITERIA AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

By submitting this manuscript, each author certifies that he or she has made a direct and substantial contribution to the work reported in the manuscript in **at least the first 2** of the following 3 areas: 1) conception and design of the study, data acquisition, and analysis and interpretation of the data; 2) drafting of the manuscript or providing critical revision of the manuscript for intellectual content; and 3) statistical expertise, obtaining funding, administrative, technical or material support, or supervision. **(Author Contribution Checklist at right must be completed. Authors must check at least one box in BOTH Category 1 and Category 2.)** Each author also certifies having given final approval of the submitted manuscript and agrees to allow the corresponding author to serve as primary correspondent with the editorial office.

**Author Contribution Checklist**

**CATEGORY 1 (MANDATORY)**

- Conception and design
- Data collection
- Analysis and interpretation

**CATEGORY 2 (MANDATORY)**

- Writing the article
- Critical revision of the article

**CATEGORY 3 (OPTIONAL)**

- Statistical expertise
- Obtaining funding
- Administrative, technical, or material support
- Supervision

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Author Signature Date