Revisions to information for authors

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With the new year, the *Journal* will assume a new look and will have new features. In the Editor's Notes for February, we provide the changes we are making to the information for authors to assist their submission of papers to the *Journal*.

New General Information: The Editors of *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* aspire to support scholarship, innovation, and leadership in our specialty. The mission of the *Journal* is to promote quality in our discipline and have a meaningful impact on the practice of cardiothoracic surgery. To accomplish these goals, the *Journal* accepts a wide range of articles related to surgery for acquired and congenital cardiovascular disease, cardiothoracic transplantation, and general thoracic surgery, as well as papers on evolving technology and basic science, perioperative medicine, and education and training.

Revised Categories of Publications: Original articles, expert reviews, expert opinions, description of surgical techniques, cardiothoracic images, and case reports for on-line only publication.

Revised Authorship Policy: Only those individuals who made direct contributions to the intellectual content of the paper may be listed as authors. The cover letter should describe the contribution of each author.

Revised Policy on Scientific Responsibility: The *Journal* is committed to rigorous peer review, free from commercial influence, in order to promote the highest ethical and scientific standards. The support received from any sources should be disclosed for each author. The editors and reviewers will determine whether any of the relations constitute a conflict of interest that may have biased the material presented in the paper. Many *JTCVS* authors are advisors or consultants for companies that develop innovative technology and pharmaceuticals. Authors with extensive commercial relations provide important contributions to the readers of the *Journal*. However, the information must be presented with an appropriate scientific balance that is unbiased and based on objective data. The reviewers and the editors will attempt to ensure that balance.

New Open Access: The authors have a choice to publish their research as open access once the author proofs are approved.

Revised Policy on Statistical Methods: The conclusions for all papers should be supported by the highest quality evidence and adequate statistical methods. Therefore, authors who employ any complex statistical methods must have their paper reviewed by a qualified biostatistician prior to submission. All manuscripts employing complex statistics will be reviewed by experts in scientific methods and statistics to ensure an adequate and appropriate study design, analysis, interpretation, and reporting have been achieved.

New Opportunity to Suggest Reviewers: Authors are requested to suggest at least two reviewers who they believe to be expert and impartial in the field of the manuscript. These reviewers may be selected at the Editors' discretion.

New Instructions for Preparation of the Papers:

Title: Provide a concise, informative title, with no unnecessary words.

Authors: For each author provide: Academic degrees and affiliations, including their institutions, departments, and divisions. Indicate all sources of funding for the work, and all possible conflicts of interest should be listed on the title page.

Author Perspective: Provide 2 to 6 sentences totaling no more than 100 words to indicate the significance of the findings for the field and how the authors anticipate that their results may impact clinical practice. For basic science studies, this section should indicate the clinical relevance of the findings and how the results may impact clinical practice some day in the future.

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TABLE 1. Length requirements

	Authors	Structured abstract	Text	References	Figures/tables (including central picture)	Author perspective	Central message
Original Article	7	250	3500	35	7	100	50
Expert Review	4	250	2500	25	4	100	50
Expert Opinion	4	250	2500	25	4	100	50
Surgical Technique or Case Report	4	NA	750	5	2	NA	50
Invited Editorial Commentary	4	NA	500	10	2	NA	50
Invited Editorial	4	NA	2500	25	4	100	50

Additional materials (text, figures, tables) can be included as online supplemental material. NA, Not applicable.

Central Picture: The authors should designate 1 of their figures or provide a separate picture that summarizes an important component of their manuscript to provide a snapshot of the paper with a single memorable visual image. The central picture should be accompanied by an abbreviated legend. This figure will appear on the first page of the manuscript and in both the print and electronic tables of contents.

Central Message: Provide 1 to 3 sentences totaling no more than 50 words which contain the essence of the findings—the message of the paper. This section replaces the Ultramini Abstract and will be inserted beneath the title of the paper in the table of contents.

Checklist for Initial Article Submission

- ___ Cover Letter
- ___ Title page
- ___ Title of article
- ___ Full name(s), academic degrees, and affiliation(s) of authors
- ___ Corresponding author
- ___ Telephone and email address for corresponding author
- ___ **Word count** (required)

- ___ Abstract (250 words; double-spaced; for article types listed in [Table 1](#))
- ___ Author Perspective Statement (100 words)
- ___ Central Picture and legend
- ___ Central Message (50 words)
- ___ Conflict of Interest statement
- ___ Text (double-spaced)
- ___ References (double-spaced; separate pages)
- ___ Tables (double-spaced; separate pages)
- ___ Figure legends (double-spaced; separate pages)
- ___ Figures
- ___ Permission to reproduce published material or to cite unpublished data (if applicable)
- ___ Informed consent statement (in Methods)
- ___ Humane animal care statement (in Methods)
- ___ Role of funding agency in data interpretation (in Methods)
- ___ Clinical Trial Registry Number (if applicable)

The new look for the *Journal* will have new requirements to submit papers. We hope that you like the changes.