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JOURNAL

OF THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

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Journal of the National
Cancer Institute : JNCI
BML 1st & 2nd Floors
UC San Diego
Received on: 03-11-98

JOURNAL

OF THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

ISSN 0027-8874
Volume 90, Number 1
Pages 1-82

January 7, 1998

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The *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* (ISSN 0027-8874) is published semimonthly and is owned by Oxford University Press, 2001 Evans Road, Cary, NC 27513.

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Subscriptions are available on a calendar-year basis. The annual rates (Volume 89, 1997, 24 issues) are as follows. Institutions: U.S. and Canada US\$150, Europe £140, rest of world US\$195. Nonprofit institutions and individuals: U.S. and Canada US\$120, Europe £115, rest of world US\$165. Single issues are available for US\$10 in the U.S., Canada, and rest of world, £7 in Europe. Personal rates apply only when payment is made by personal check or credit card. All subscription and single issue orders, changes of address, and claims for missing issues should be sent to: THE AMERICAS: Oxford University Press, Journals Subscription Department, 2001 Evans Road, Cary, NC 27513 USA. Telephone toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, 1-800-852-7323, or 919-677-0977. Fax: 919-677-1714. E-mail: jnlorders@oup-usa.org. ELSEWHERE: Oxford University Press, Journals Subscription Department, Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP, UK. Telephone: +44 1865 267907. Fax: +44 1865 267485. E-mail: jnl.orders@oup.co.uk.

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The *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* is indexed and abstracted by the following: Biological Abstracts, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, CINAHL Information Systems, Current Awareness in Biological Sciences, Excerpta Medica, Index Medicus, Institute for Scientific Information, and Statistical Reference Index.

The *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* (ISSN 0027-8874) is published semimonthly by Oxford University Press, 2001 Evans Road, Cary, NC 27513-2009. Periodicals Postage Paid at Cary, NC, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, Journals Customer Service Department, Oxford University Press, 2001 Evans Road, Cary, NC 27513-2009.

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Items for the "Awards, Appointments, Announcements" column of the *News*, questions about previously published items, and suggestions for *News* stories should be sent to: J. Paul Van Nevel, 10A31 Pepper Building, 31 Center Drive MSC 2580, Bethesda, MD 20892-2580 (telephone 301-496-6631; fax: 301-402-4945).

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Information on cancer-related upcoming events (conferences, symposia, short courses, etc.) for the typeset columns of the "Calendar of Events" section should be submitted to: Calendar Editor, P.O. Box 31110, Bethesda, MD 20824-1110; express mail address: 7550 Wisconsin Ave., Rm. 114, Bethesda, MD 20814 (telephone: 301-496-2621; fax: 301-402-0212). This service is free of charge. Items should be typed double spaced. (See also previous paragraph.)

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INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

Note: The following information is updated periodically. Please refer to the most recently published version.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Journal of the National Cancer Institute publishes manuscripts that describe new findings of particular significance in any area relating to cancer, as well as associated news items, reviews, and opinion pieces. The Journal employs a process of rigorous yet rapid review of submitted manuscripts so that findings of high scientific and medical interest can be published with minimum delay.

Review of manuscripts is conducted by the editorial board, with the assistance of external reviewers. The editorial board initially reviews all submitted manuscripts and, whenever possible, returns to authors within 2 weeks all papers that are judged to be of insufficient priority for further consideration. Scientific papers of high interest will be sent out for external review. Submissions describing new results originating from the National Cancer Institute will be subject to review by individuals outside the institute.

In most cases, authors will be notified of acceptance, rejection, or need for revision within 8 weeks of submission. Papers sent back to authors for revision must be returned to us within the time specified in our cover letter or the manuscript will be retired from further consideration. Acceptance is contingent on author submission of complete and consistent data, accurate reference list, and conclusions consistent with results demonstrated in the study. Inconsistencies and inaccuracies found after acceptance may warrant return of the manuscript for resubmission. The decision to publish a manuscript is solely the responsibility of the editorial board. Opinions expressed by the authors are not necessarily those of the publisher or the editors.

If papers are accepted for publication, manuscript copy and figures will not be returned. If papers are rejected, figures—but not manuscript copy—will be returned.

The Journal endeavors to appeal to a broad, multidisciplinary audience. Accordingly, all manuscripts submitted for publication should be written with clarity and readability in mind. All manuscripts are subject to editing to ensure conformity with Journal style and editorial standards. The Journal follows the precepts of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (also known as the Vancouver Group). (See Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. *JAMA* 1993;269:2282–6.)

FORMAT

Articles

Articles describe new findings of major importance. An Article should contain 4000 words or less, not counting abstract, Methods section, reference list, tables, footnotes, and figure legends. (See "Tables and Figures.")

Reports

Reports describe significant findings not requiring a more extensive format. A Report should contain 2000 words or less, not counting abstract, Methods section, reference list, tables, footnotes, and figure legends. (See "Tables and Figures.")

Brief Communications

Brief Communications are concise descriptions of new findings of general interest. A Brief Communication should contain 750 words or less, not counting reference list, tables, footnotes, and figure legends. A Brief Communication should not be divided by heads and subheads and should not contain an abstract. (See "Tables and Figures.")

Correspondence

Letters to the editor may express an opinion about material previously published in the Journal or express views on topics of current relevance to some aspect of cancer. A letter should contain 500 words or less, not counting reference list (seven references maximum), footnotes, and figure legend or table. A letter relating to work published in the Journal will ordinarily be referred to the author(s) of the original item for a response, which may be published along with the letter. Complete references should be given if the letter cites the work of others; if the letter comments on an item published in the Journal, that item must be included in the numbered reference list. Letters must be submitted both as double-spaced hard copy and on disk. (See "Disks" and "Tables and Figures.")

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Editorials convey opinions on any subject relevant to the Journal's concerns. They may discuss the significance of a paper in the same issue of the Journal, a recent finding published elsewhere, or a particular topic of significance. Editorials are usually solicited by the editors, but unsolicited submissions will be considered. Editorials usually contain about 1000 words, not counting reference list and footnotes, but length may be negotiated at the time of invitation.

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Topical items under this heading convey to the reader, in relatively nontechnical and informal style, a summary of current activities or events that bear on some aspect of cancer. Highlights of scientific meetings, the intersection of science and public policy, or news items of general interest in relation to cancer are examples of suitable subject areas. Pieces are generally solicited by the editors, but unsolicited contributions are welcome. A Commentary usually contains 2000–4000 words, not counting reference list, tables, footnotes, and figure legends. A Commentary should not contain an abstract. (See "Tables and Figures.")

Reviews

A good Review provides a comprehensive overview of an area of cancer biology, epidemiology, prevention, treatment, or behavioral science. While Reviews should be accessible to knowledgeable readers not expert in the subject area, Reviews should be prepared with the same rigor as a research paper reporting specific results. (See *J Natl Cancer Inst* 1997;89:6–7 for detailed guidelines on preparing reviews for this journal. A copy of the guidelines can be obtained by contacting the Journal Office, P.O. Box 31110, Bethesda, MD 20824-1110; telephone: 301-496-6975; fax: 301-402-0212.) While most Reviews are solicited by the editors, unsolicited submissions are also welcome. A Review should contain 6000 words or less, not counting abstract, reference list, tables, footnotes, and figure legends. (See "Tables and Figures.")

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