



Instructions for Authors

About the Journal	1	Post-Acceptance	6
Article Type Specifications	2	Costs	7
Preparation of Articles	3	Editorial Policies	7
How to Submit	5		

ABOUT THE JOURNAL

Aims and Scope

Pediatric Research publishes translational research on the etiologies of children's diseases and disorders of development, extending from molecular biology to epidemiology and quality improvement. Use of model organisms and in vitro techniques relevant to developmental biology and medicine are acceptable, as are translational human studies.

As the official journal of the European Society for Pediatric Research, Society for Pediatric Research and American Society of Pediatrics, *Pediatric Research* seeks to highlight the contribution to this field of members who are Early Career Investigators, and disseminate its published work on its website and through Padiapods. A subscription to *Pediatric Research* is a benefit of membership in one of the societies.

Journal Details

Editor in Chief: Cynthia Bearer, MD, PhD
Associate Editor in Chief: Eleanor Molloy, MB, PhD
Social Media Editor: Damian Roland, MRCPCCH PhD
Managing Editor: Lauren Overbey

Editorial Office

201 Shannon Oaks Circle, Suite 205, Cary, NC 27511 [Email: info@pedres.org](mailto:info@pedres.org)
 For full contact details for the editorial office or publisher, please visit the [journal homepage](#).

Editorial Note

Pediatric Research is an independent journal published by Springer Nature. All contributions and general correspondence regarding editorial matters should be addressed to the Editors in Chief and sent to the Editorial Office. Authors will be notified of a decision by email within approximately 30 days of submission. When a manuscript is returned to the corresponding author for revision, it should be returned to the editor within two months for first revisions or four weeks for all subsequent revisions or it may be withdrawn. Page charges (if applicable) are applied after online publication (See Costs).

Every issue will highlight an Early Career Investigator meeting the following criteria: No more than 7 years on faculty, nominee did the majority of the work in the article, and the nominee is the first or senior author of the article.

We now welcome articles on Trials Methodology and Core Outcomes. We do not have a dedicated section for trial protocols but consider protocol papers on a case by case basis. Please contact the Editorial Office to inquire about suitability. Please also contact the Editorial Office when submitting a CROWN paper for guidelines.

Authors wishing to submit manuscripts to *Pediatric Research* should do so via the [online manuscript submission system in ScholarOne](#). Manuscripts must be written in English and must adhere to the standard layout and length guidelines described in these Instructions to Authors.

ARTICLE TYPE SPECIFICATIONS

Regular articles report translational research and include the following 6 categories of study:

Article Type	Article Type Description	Abstract (up to 200 words)	Word Limit (excludes cover page and references)	Figures
1. Basic Science Article	Laboratory research done at the molecular or cellular level, which clarifies basic physiologic or pathophysiologic mechanisms. Experiments using animals, simple systems (e.g. cell cultures or single cells), or human cells/tissue would belong to this category.	Structured Abstract	5000 words	Up to 6
2. Clinical Research Article	Includes clinical observation studies (risk factor epidemiology) and the traditional randomized clinical trial. Randomized controlled trials must follow the CONSORT guidelines. Please see the “Clinical Trials” section below for requirements unique to clinical research	Structured Abstract	5000 words	Up to 6
3. Population Study Article	Are large scale, pediatric health-related projects in well-defined nonclinical populations. Please be certain of the difference between <i>cohort study</i> and a <i>case-control study</i> . If your paper falls into one of these two types, please be sure to annotate the type in the cover letter meta-data field in database and in the manuscript text itself.	Structured Abstract	5000 words	Up to 6
4. Quality Improvement Article	Quality improvement articles must follow the SQUIRE guidelines.	Structured Abstract	5000 words	Up to 6
5. Systematic Review*	Must follow PRISMA guidelines and include PRISMA checklist with your manuscript. This chart does not count against the figure and table limit.	Structured Abstract	5000 words	Up to 6
0. Review Article	Regular Review	Unstructure	4500 words	Up to 6

d

*Systematic reviews should be formatted according to [PRISMA guidelines](#). A structured abstract is required and we encourage a meta-analysis to be included. Systematic Reviews do not need prior approval before submission. Authors should register their systematic review in a publicly accessible database e.g. PROSPERO. Please note that *Pediatric Research* may, in the future, refuse to consider systematic reviews that have been registered after data extraction has begun.

Reviews are concise manuscripts that describe critical themes or important new developments and findings in developmental biology and/or pediatric disorders, which have not been summarized elsewhere. Because Regular Reviews are intended for investigators in multiple disciplines, they should provide an unbiased overview and be written for a general readership of scientists and clinicians. Every Review should also have a paragraph at the end of the manuscript addressing where the research gaps are.

Other Article Types

Article Type	Article Type Description	Abstract (up to 200 words)	Word Limit (excludes cover page and references)	Figures	References
Correspondence/Special Article	Deals with concise scientific issues, including preliminary studies	No abstract required	1200 – 1500 words	Up to 2	Up to 20
Editorial	To write on topics of interest to the readership	No abstract required	1200 – 1500 words	Up to 2	Up to 5
Commentary	Discuss the findings of a paper in the same issue or present a short report on significant new research findings	No abstract required	1200 – 1500 words	Up to 2	Up to 10
Insights	Insights pieces may be poems, in memoria, vignettes, or other written pieces deemed insightful to the life of pediatric researchers. Authors should send a proposal of their piece to the Editorial Office for approval at info@pedres.org .	No abstract required	1200 – 1500 words	Up to 2	Up to 5

PREPARATION OF ARTICLES

General Preparation: The manuscript text file should include only the cover page, abstract, body text, references, and figure legends. Begin each section on a new page with a section heading. Double space every page of your manuscript text file, including the cover page and references. Please do not include line numbering. Margins should be one inch on all sides of the page. Use a serif font, such as Times New Roman, and font size 12 for manuscript body text.

Cover Letter: The cover letter must state the material is original, has not been previously published, and has not been submitted for publication elsewhere while under consideration. The cover letter must also include a Statement of Financial support (see “Cover Page” [instructions, below](#)) and also a Disclosure statement (see [Editorial Policy section](#)), which should be identical to those given on the manuscript cover page.

Cover Page: The first page of your manuscript text file should be the cover page. The manuscript cover page must contain the following information:

- Full title. The title should be descriptive and concise (a maximum of 20 words). If a study was conducted using animal models, that must be apparent from the title.
- List of authors. A complete and ordered list of authors: first name, middle initial(s), and last name. See [“Authorship”](#) below for more information about the

Pediatric Research policy authorship. The corresponding author should be clearly designated with an asterisk.

- Author Contributions (mandatory): After any acknowledgments please confirm that each author has met the *Pediatric Research* authorship requirements listed below. In order to meet the requirements of authorship, each author must have contributed to at least one of the aspects below. Additional contributors to the submitted work should appear in the Acknowledgments. In your manuscript, please list which authors completed each of the following criteria:
 - Substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data;
 - Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and
 - Final approval of the version to be published.
 Additional information can be found under “Authorship.”
- Authors’ institutional affiliations. The department name; institutional affiliation; city, state or province; and country of each author must appear on the manuscript cover page. (If in the United States, country name should not be included) Link author names with affiliations using superscripted numbers.
- Corresponding author. Include the name, full postal address, as well as phone, fax and email address for the corresponding author. Journal policy allows only one corresponding author per manuscript. The name of the corresponding author on the cover page should match the name of the “contact author” in the

database. You may have a different “submitting author” identified in the database if you choose. Pediatric Research does not allow joint corresponding authorship.

- Statement of financial support. A statement of financial support from extramural sources (e.g. from grants, government, industry) must be included. If no financial assistance was received in support of the study, please include a statement to this fact.
- Disclosure statement: Please include a disclosure statement indicating any authors’ financial ties to products in the study or potential/perceived conflicts of interest on the cover page. If there are no disclosures, please state this.
- Category of study. Manuscripts should be identified as basic science, clinical, population study, quality improvement, review, correspondence, comment, editorial, or special article.
- Impact Statement: For Original Research and Systematic Reviews: Please enter three to five bullet points answering the following questions:
 - What is the key message of your article?
 - What does it add to the existing literature?
 - What is the impact?
- Impact Statement: For Review Articles: Please enter 1-3 bullet points answering the following questions:
 - What does this article add to the existing literature?

Abstract: See “[Article Type Specifications](#)” above for details on the Abstract, which should be no more than 200 words in total. Please do not include keywords with your abstract. If structured, the Abstract’s Background should briefly describe the problem being addressed and the hypothesis; the Methods should describe how the study was performed; the Results should present the key findings; and the Conclusion should include an interpretation of the results. Statistical and methodological detail that can be found in the paper should not be included.

Abbreviations: Authors should not include an Abbreviation List in their paper but instead should spell out each abbreviation on first mention in the text of the paper and place the abbreviation in parentheses. Selected standard abbreviations are listed in the [appendix](#) to these instructions and do not need to be defined upon first mention in the paper. Abbreviations used only in tables or figures can be defined in the table footnotes or figure legends. For enzymes, include the enzyme commission number if one has been assigned.

Key words should be included in the relevant metadata field in the submissions database only. They do not need to be included in the manuscript text file.

Introduction: The Introduction should be succinct, orienting the reader to the state of knowledge in the specific area under investigation and clearly delineating the questions and hypothesis of the research.

Methods: The Methods should be described and referenced in sufficient detail so other researchers can repeat the work. For clarity, it is often helpful to subdivide Methods into sections such as subjects, measurements, protocol, and data analysis. It is suggested that a statistician review complex data

analyses. Provide manufacturer information for all products named in your manuscript text including chemicals, reagents, special pieces of apparatus, and software or database products. The manufacturer’s name should appear in parentheses after the name of the product. On first mention of a manufacturer, provide their location – city and state for US based manufacturers and city and country for all others. Celsius, although not an SI unit, should be used for body temperature or for laboratory measurement temperatures in the physiologic range. Listings of SI units may be found in Lundberg GS, Iverson C, Radulescu G *JAMA* 1986;255:2329; Young DS *Ann Intern Med* 1987;106:114-129; Page CH, Vigoureux P, eds., *NBS Special Publication 330* (Washington DC: US Government Printing Office); and in the *IUPAC Manual of Symbols and Terminology for Physicochemical Quantities and Units* (Elmsford, NY: Pergamon Press, 1979).

Clinical trial registry should be noted in the Methods. Please refer to Clinical Trials in the Editorial Policy section for information on clinical trial registry. For studies involving humans, provide a statement that informed consent was obtained and the study was approved by your Institutional Review Board. Include the full name of the institution in the statement. For animal studies, include a statement that the study has been approved by your Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee in your Methods. Include the full name of the institution in the statement.

Results: The experimental data should be presented in the most appropriate form; submitting the same data in tabular and graphic form is discouraged. When possible, it is desirable to present data in graphical form.

Discussion: The Discussion should focus on the implications of the results of the study. It should relate the findings to other relevant studies. Please be sure to include any limitations of your study.

Acknowledgments: If applicable, acknowledgment of technical assistance, critical advice, or other assistance should be included in this section and placed after the references.

References: *Pediatric Research* does not limit the number of references submitted in a manuscript. References should be cited numerically and should be numbered in the order they appear in the text. *Pediatric Research* encourages authors to use the “[Think. Check. Submit.](#)” tool to identify trusted journals and publishers for their references. The citations should be parenthetical in-text citations rather than superscripted numbers. Ex: (1,2) (3). For publications in the reference list, all authors should be included unless there are more than five, in which case only the first author should be given, followed by “et al.” Authors should be listed last name first, followed by a comma and initials of given names. Titles of articles should be in Roman text and titles of books or journals in italics. Journal names are italicized and abbreviated (with periods after each abbreviated word) according to common usage; refer to *Index Medicus* (PubMed) for details. Volume numbers appear in bold. For book citations, the publisher and city of publication are required; include the country (and state for US) for lesser-known cities or where any ambiguity is possible (e.g., John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken, NJ, USA; MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, USA).

Examples for different types of references:

Journal articles

Xu, J., Murphy, S. L., Kochanek, K. D., Bastian, B. & Arias, E. Deaths: final data for 2016. *Natl. Vital Stat. Rep.* **67**, 1-76 (2018).

Books

Eisen, H. N. *Immunology: An Introduction to Molecular and Cellular Principles of the Immune Response* 5th edn. (Harper & Row, New York, 1974).

Chapters in books

Weinstein, L. & Schwartz, M. N. Pathogenic properties of invading microorganisms. In *Pathologic Physiology: Mechanisms of Disease* (Sodeman, W. A. Jr. & Sodeman, W. A., eds) 457-473 (W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia, 1974).

Endnote users should select the [Pediatric Research style template](#) for help formatting references.

Tables: Tables should be submitted as a single file in Word, separate from the manuscript text file. Each table should begin on a new page, be numbered (1, 2, 3, etc.), and have a title. Each table must be intelligible without reference to the text. Care should be taken to minimize redundant or repetitious entries in a table. For instance, rather than stating “ $p < 0.05$ ” for each of 20 comparisons within a table, it is sufficient to use a designated p-value symbol defined in a footnote to denote specified probability levels. Table footnotes should be placed on the same page as the table, immediately following it. Except for p-values, the footnotes should be identified with superscript letters: a, b, c, etc. Notes for p-values are identified with *, **, †, ‡, §.

Figures: Each figure should be uploaded in its own file separate from the manuscript text file. All figures intended for print publication should be submitted as .tif, .jpg, or .eps files. Figure resolution for print must be a minimum of 300 dpi for color/gray scale images and 600 dpi for line art. Color images must be submitted in CMYK color mode, not RGB. Only figures submitted in color are eligible for selection as issue cover art. Detailed guidelines for submitting artwork for publication can be found by downloading these [Artwork Guidelines](#). (Supplemental figures files do not need to be high resolution images.) Figures should be numbered according to the order in which they are cited in the text. They should be constructed in a clear and uncluttered fashion, with lettering large enough to permit reduction to the size of a single column (9 cm or 3.5 in). If fonts are used in the artwork, they must be converted to paths or outlines, or they must be embedded in the file. All panels of a composite figure should be placed together on the same page and submitted as one figure. Add a panel letter in the top left corner of each panel of a composite figure. Figure/panel titles should be provided in the legend text and not on the figure. Figure legends should appear on a new page after the references. A figure key can be provided in the figure itself. Figures can be submitted in any of the following formats:

- Line drawings should be prepared to minimize the space required for their reproduction. Line graphs should include appropriate statistical information (error bars), and p-values should

be indicated with approved symbols (*, **, †, ‡, §).

- Electronic photographs of radiographs, photomicrographs or electron micrographs, CT scans, etc., and scanned images must have a resolution of at least 300 dpi. Gels or halftones should show only the most pertinent areas to avoid reduction in size. A micron bar of appropriate scale must be provided on the photomicrograph with magnification noted in the legend and not on the figure. Photographs of patients' faces should be included only if scientifically relevant and authors must obtain written consent to use them.

Supplementary Material:

Please submit supplementary figures, small tables and text as a single combined PDF document. Tables longer than one page should be provided as an Excel or similar file type. Please refer to the journal's Data Policies, outlined [here](#), for additional options for such files, and which provides guidance on alternatives to supplementary files for data deposition, linking, preservation, and storage.

For optimal quality video files, please use H.264 encoding, the standard aspect ratio of 16:9 (4:3 is second best) and do not compress the video.

When citing supplemental material in your manuscript, include the word “Supplemental” in front of the file name and the text (online) after the file name. Supplemental figures and tables should have the letter “S” before the number (e.g. Supplemental Table S1 (online)). Supplemental figures do not need to be high resolution images and are not restricted with regards to file type. Supplemental figure legends and table captions should be included within the file itself and not included in the main manuscript file.

Important: Supplementary information is not copyedited, so please ensure that it is clearly and succinctly presented, that the style and terminology conform to the rest of the manuscript, and that any tracked-changes or review mark-ups are removed. We do not allow the resupplying of Supplementary Information files for style reasons after a paper has been exported in production, unless there is a serious error that affects the science and, if by not replacing, it would lead to a formal correction once the paper has been published. In these cases, we would make an exception and replace the file; however, there are very few instances where a Supplementary Information file would be corrected post publication.

Language Editing: Authors who are not native speakers of English sometimes receive negative comments from referees or editors about the language and grammar usage in their manuscripts, which can contribute to a paper being rejected. To reduce the possibility of such problems, we strongly encourage such authors to take at least one of the following steps:

1. Asking a colleague who is a native English speaker to review [your manuscript for clarity](#).
2. Visiting the [English language tutorial](#) which covers the common mistakes when writing in English.
3. [Using a professional language editing service](#). [Click here for more information](#).

Please note that the use of a language editing service is at the author's own expense and does not guarantee that the article will be selected for peer review or accepted.

For select manuscripts of the editors' choosing that receive highly favorable reviews but which would strongly benefit from English-language editing, *Pediatric Research* may choose to cover the costs of language editing itself.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Online Submission

We only accept manuscript submissions via our [online manuscript submission system](#). Before submitting a manuscript, authors are encouraged to review fully these Instructions to Authors. If you have not already done so, you will need to create an account in our online manuscript system. You will be able to monitor the status of your manuscript online throughout the editorial process.

Submission of Revisions

Authors submitting a revised manuscript after review are asked to include the following:

- (1) Author's Response to Reviewers, indicating point-by-point how you have addressed the comments raised by the reviewers. If you disagree with any of the points raised, please provide adequate justification in your letter.

- (2) A marked-up version of the manuscript that highlights changes made in response to the reviewers' comments in order to aid the Editors and reviewers.
- (3) A "clean" (non-highlighted) version of the manuscript.

Correspondence with the Journal

One author only must be designated the corresponding author for matters arising from the manuscript (materials requests, technical comments and so on). It is this author's responsibility to inform all co-authors of matters arising and to ensure such matters are dealt with promptly. After acceptance for publication, proofs are e-mailed to the corresponding author who should circulate the proof to all co-authors and coordinate corrections among them. Our database submission system, ScholarOne, does allow you to designate a different submitting author if you wish. Automated messages generated by the database will be copied to the submitting author.

POST-ACCEPTANCE

License to Publish

Springer Nature does not require authors of original research papers to assign copyright of their published contributions. Authors grant Springer Nature an exclusive license to publish (LTP), in return for which they can reuse their papers in their future printed work. Springer Nature's [author license page](#) provides details of the policy.

Before an accepted manuscript can be published, the corresponding author must have completed and signed the LTP form on behalf of all authors and have uploaded it to the editorial office. Failure to promptly return the form will result in delay of publication. Please submit to the Editorial Office via the instructions at the bottom of the form, or upload it in the manuscript submission system. Originals are not required.

Standard Publication

Manuscripts published under the standard method of publication will be behind a pay wall, requiring readers to pay to view the article either via their institutional or personal subscription or on a pay-per-view basis.

Upon acceptance, it is mandatory that authors fill out and send back the LTP form.

Open Access Publication

Upon acceptance, authors can indicate whether they wish to make their article open access online immediately upon

publication, an option which will incur a fee or "article processing charge" (APC). Editors and reviewers will not be aware of your choice of this option, ensuring an impartial decision on your paper. Open access articles are published under Creative Commons licenses, which allow authors to retain copyright to their work while making it open to readers.

To facilitate self-archiving, Springer Nature deposits open access articles in PubMed Central (PMC) and Europe PMC on publication. Authors are also permitted to post the final, published PDF of their open access article on a website, institutional repository, or other free public server, immediately on publication.

Visit our [open research site](#) for further information about:

[Creative Commons licensing](#)
[Creative Commons license options and APC prices for *Pediatric Research*](#)
[APC payment FAQs](#)
[Help in identifying funding for APCs and waivers](#)
[Editorial process for OA publication in hybrid journals](#)
[Self-archiving and deposition of papers published OA](#)

If authors opt to publish via the open access route, then the corresponding author must complete and sign the APC payment form and an open access LTP form on behalf of all authors, and return these to the editorial office. These

forms will be provided upon acceptance of the article. Failure to promptly return both these forms will result in delay of publication.

Government employees from the United States, UK, and Canada are required to sign and submit the relevant government open access LTP form. To receive a copy of this, please contact the [Editorial Office](#).

Open Access Waiver

Please note that several institutions have enacted Open Access policies that conflict with our own. If any corresponding or contributing authors are from these institutions, you will need to provide a waiver from the institution of every affected author, which can be obtained from the institution. This waiver should be submitted at the same time as the Open Access LTP form.

Proofs

The corresponding author will receive an e-mail containing a URL linking to the proofing site. Proof corrections must be returned within 48 hours of receipt. Failure to do so may result in delayed publication. Extensive corrections cannot be made at this stage.

Self-archiving and Manuscript Deposition (Green Open Access)

Authors of original research articles are encouraged to submit the author's version of the accepted paper (the unedited manuscript) to a repository (eg, PMC or Europe PMC) for public release six months after publication. Springer Nature also offers a free, opt-in [Manuscript Deposition Service](#) for original research articles in order to help authors fulfill funder and institutional mandates.

Learn more about self-archiving and manuscript deposition [here](#).

COSTS

Publication Charges

Pediatric Research does not charge a manuscript submission fee. Manuscripts accepted for publication will be assessed a page charge of \$76 per page. Print reproduction (which includes the online PDF) of color figures will be assessed a charge of \$711 for the first figure and \$109 for each additional figure. Please note that, effective January 1, 2020, members of APS, SPR, and ESPR will have their color charges waived so long as they indicate, during submission, that they are current members. All publication costs are the responsibility of the authors, and the publisher will invoice authors for these charges. Please note: Page charges will not apply to open access papers where the author is paying an article processing charge.

Open Access Publication

If the authors choose to publish their manuscript open access, effective January 6, 2020, the article processing charge is £2,560/\$3,860/€3,060 (plus VAT or local taxes where applicable). Please see "Open Access Publication" above or visit the [Pediatric Research open access page](#) for more information.

Offprints

Offprints may be ordered on the form accompanying the proofs. Please note that these charges are higher if orders for offprints are received after the issue has gone to press.

EDITORIAL POLICIES

Authorship

According to the International Committee on Medical Journal Ethics (ICMJE), an author is defined as one who has made substantive intellectual contribution to the development of a manuscript. *Pediatric Research* adheres to the ICMJE guidelines, which state that authorship credit should be based on:

- Substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data;
- Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and
- Final approval of the version to be published.

Additional contributors to the submitted work should appear in the Acknowledgments.

A manuscript will be considered for publication on the understanding that:

- All named authors have agreed to its submission, it is not currently being considered for publication by another journal, and
- If the paper is accepted, it will not subsequently be published in the same or similar form in any language without the consent of publishers.

Any changes to the author list after submission, such as a change in the order of the authors, or the deletion or addition of authors, needs to be approved by a signed letter from every author. Moreover, articles found to have been "ghost authored" (e.g., written by unacknowledged freelance writers) will be considered to have violated *Pediatric Research's* authorship policy.

Disclosure

In the interests of transparency and to help readers form their own judgments of potential bias, authors must declare whether or not there are any competing financial interests in relation to the work described. This information must be included in their cover letter and on the title page of their manuscript. In cases where the authors declare a competing financial interest, a statement to that effect is published as part of the article. If no such conflict exists, the statement will simply read that the authors have nothing to disclose.

For the purposes of this statement, competing interests are defined as those of a financial nature that, through their potential influence on behavior or content, or from perception of such potential influences, could undermine the objectivity, integrity or perceived value of a publication. They can include any of the following:

Funding: Research support (including salaries, equipment, supplies, reimbursement for attending symposia, and other expenses) by organizations that may gain or lose financially through this publication. The role of the funding body in the design of the study, collection and analysis of data and decision to publish should be stated.

Employment: Recent (while engaged in the research project), present or anticipated employment by any organization that may gain or lose financially through this publication.

Personal financial interests: Stocks or shares in companies that may gain or lose financially through publication; consultation fees or other forms of remuneration from organizations that may gain or lose financially; patents or patent applications whose value may be affected by publication.

It is difficult to specify a threshold at which a financial interest becomes significant, but note that many US universities require faculty members to disclose interests exceeding \$10,000 or 5% equity in a company. Any such figure is arbitrary, so we offer as one possible practical alternative guideline: Declare all interests that could embarrass you were they to become publicly known after your work was published. We do not consider diversified mutual funds or investment trusts to constitute a competing financial interest.

The statement must contain an explicit and unambiguous statement describing any potential conflict of interest, or lack thereof, for any of the authors as it relates to the subject of the report. Examples include "Dr. Patel receives compensation as a consultant for XYZ Company," "Dr. Patel and Dr. Smith have financial holdings in ABC Company," or "Dr. Patel owns a patent on the diagnostic device described in this report." These statements must be included in the manuscript under the heading "Disclosure."

The disclosure should also appear in the cover letter, in the manuscript submission process, and before the References section in the manuscript.

Potential conflicts of interest should be provided for all authors, including compensation for professional services. Neither the precise amount received from each entity nor the aggregate income from these sources needs to be provided. Professional services include any activities for which the individual is, has been, or will be compensated with cash, royalties, fees, stock or stock options in exchange for work performed, advice or counsel provided, or for other services related to the author's professional knowledge and skills. This would include, but not necessarily be limited to, the identification of organizations from which the author received contracts or in which he or she holds an equity stake if professional services were provided in conjunction with the transaction.

- Examples of declarations are:
- **Disclosure.**
The authors declare no conflict of interest.
- **Disclosure.**
Dr. Li has received compensation as a member of the scientific advisory board of Pine Pharmaceuticals and owns stock in the company. She also has consulted for Sunshine Pharma and received compensation. Dr. Smith and Dr. Jones declare no potential conflict of interest.

Explicit statements of financial support for the study should be listed in the article's Statement of Financial Support section, and include support from any extramural sources (e.g., from grants, government, industry). If no financial assistance was received in support of the study, please include a statement to this fact here.

Peer Review

All details about submitted manuscripts are kept confidential and no comments are issued to outside parties or organizations about manuscripts under consideration or which have been rejected. *Pediatric Research* outlines in detail its review process [here](#).

Communication with the Media

Material submitted must not be discussed with the media. We reserve the right to halt the consideration or publication of a paper if this condition is broken. If a paper is particularly newsworthy, the press release will be sent to our list of journalists in advance of publication with an embargo that forbids any coverage of the manuscript, or the findings of the manuscript, until the time and date clearly stated. Authors whose papers are scheduled for publication may also arrange their own publicity (for instance, through their institution's press offices), but they must strictly adhere to our press embargo and are advised to coordinate their own publicity with our [press office](#).

Communication between Scientists

We do not wish to hinder communication between scientists. We ask you to communicate with other researchers as much as you wish, whether on a recognized

community preprint server, by discussion at scientific meetings or by online collaborative sites such as wikis, but we do not encourage premature publication by discussion with the press (beyond a formal presentation, if at a conference).

Preprint policies

Preprints are defined as an author's version of a research manuscript, **prior to formal peer review by the journal**. Springer Nature and the journal encourage authors to take advantage of their chosen preprint servers (i.e. BioRxiv) and/or authors' and institutional websites, as it encourages open communication with/among those in the field. An author may post their original manuscript at any time during the peer review process. Preprints are not considered as prior publications and will not jeopardize their consideration at the journal. [Click here](#) for more information.

Should an author choose to upload a preprint of their manuscript, they must state the preprint DOI and licensing terms upon submission to the journal or at any other point during consideration. Additionally, it is the author's responsibility to ensure that the preprint record is updated with the appropriate official publication record (DOI and/or link) of the article should it be published by the journal.

Authors may select any license of their choice for the preprint, including Creative Commons licenses. [Click here](#) for more information. Please note that, as with a published article, the type of license selected will affect how the preprint may be shared and reused. Additionally, should an author choose to cite a preprint, they should use the following format:

Babichev, S. A., Ries, J. & Lvovsky, A. I. Quantum scissor: teleportation of single-mode optical states by means of a nonlocal single photon. Preprint at <http://arxiv.org/abs/quant-ph/0208066> (2002).

Springer Nature's [policy](#) on communication with the media applies to preprints as well. Researchers may respond to queries from the media regarding preprints and/or conference presentations by providing explanations, clarifications, and/or context. In these circumstances, media coverage will not jeopardize the submission. Please note, however, that such coverage may reduce or pre-empt coverage by other media at the time of publication. For authors approached by reporters about preprints, we encourage an explicit statement that the preprint has not undergone peer review and the findings are may change.”

Permissions

If a table or figure has been published before, the authors must obtain written permission to reproduce the material in both print and electronic formats from the copyright owner and be prepared to produce it upon request. This follows for quotes, illustrations, and other materials taken from previously published works not in the public domain. The original source should be cited in the figure caption or

table footnote. Color figures can be reproduced if necessary; please note the *Pediatric Research* [charges](#).

Human and Other Animal Experiments

For primary research manuscripts reporting experiments on live vertebrates and/or higher invertebrates, the corresponding author must confirm that all experiments were performed in accordance with relevant guidelines and regulations. The manuscript must include in the Methods section a statement identifying the institutional and/or licensing committee approving the experiments, including any relevant details regarding animal welfare, patient anonymity, drug side effects and informed consent. Please include the full name of the institution approving your study in your statement.

For experiments involving human subjects, authors must identify the committee approving the experiments and indicate whether the procedures were in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional or regional) or with the Helsinki Declaration, and include with their submission a statement confirming that informed consent was obtained from all subjects.

Any article that contains personal medical information about an identifiable living individual requires the patient's explicit consent before *Pediatric Research* can publish it. If there is any chance that a patient may be identified from a photograph or other static or moving image, or from its legend or accompanying text, *Pediatric Research* requires a statement in the published paper affirming that they have obtained informed consent for publication of the images as well. All reasonable measures must be taken to protect patient anonymity. Black bars over the eyes are not acceptable means of anonymization.

For manuscript reporting studies involving vulnerable groups (for example unconscious patients) where there is the potential for coercion (for example prisoners) or where consent may not have been fully informed, manuscripts will be considered at the editor's discretion. In the case of articles describing human transplantation studies, authors must include a statement declaring that no organs/tissues were obtained from prisoners and must also name the institution(s)/clinic(s)/department(s) via which organs/tissues were obtained.

Clinical Trials

As defined by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), a clinical trial is any research project that prospectively assigns human subjects to intervention and comparison groups to study the cause-and-effect relationship between a medical intervention and a health outcome. A medical intervention is any intervention used to modify a health outcome and includes but is not limited to drugs, surgical procedures, devices, behavioral treatments, and process-of-care changes. A trial must have at least one prospectively assigned concurrent control or comparison group in order to trigger the requirement for registration. Nonrandomized trials are not exempt from the registration requirement if they meet the above criteria.

All clinical trials must be registered in a public registry prior to submission. *Pediatric Research* follows the trials registration policy of the ICMJE (www.icmje.org) and considers only trials that have been appropriately registered before submission, regardless of when the trial closed to enrolment. Acceptable registries must meet the following ICMJE requirements:

- Be publicly available, searchable, and open to all prospective registrants
- Have a validation mechanism for registration data
- Be managed by a not-for-profit organization
- Examples of registries that meet these criteria include:

The registry sponsored by the United States National Library of Medicine (www.clinicaltrials.gov); The International Standard Randomized Controlled Trial Number Registry (www.controlled-trials.com); and The European Clinical Trials Database (<https://eudract.ema.europa.eu/>)

All clinical trials submitted to *Pediatric Research* should be accompanied by a completed [CONSORT checklist](#). A CONSORT flowchart should also be provided as a Figure or as Supplemental Material. Please find the flowchart at <https://www.consort-statement.org/>. Springer Nature endorses the toolkits and guidelines produced by the following bodies:

[Committee on Publication Ethics](#)
[Medical Publishing Insights and Practices Initiative](#)

Availability of Data and Materials

We strongly encourage that all datasets on which the conclusions of the paper rely should be available to readers. We encourage authors to ensure that their datasets are either deposited in publicly available repositories (where available and appropriate) or presented in the main manuscript or additional supporting files whenever possible.

Where one does not exist, the information must be made available to referees at submission and to readers promptly upon request. Any restrictions on material availability or other relevant information must be disclosed in the manuscript's Methods section and should include details of how materials and information may be obtained. Please see the journal's guidelines on Research Data policy [here](#).

Registration of Novel Biological Reagents and Data

Pediatric Research requires that information regarding protein and nucleic acid sequences and genomic, proteomic and crystallographic data be deposited in publicly available databases prior to acceptance for publication. Data and accession number should be available, and noted in the text, prior to acceptance for publication, and access to the information in the respective database must be available at the time of publication.

Protein and nucleic acid sequences. Newly reported nucleotide or protein sequences must be deposited with

GenBank (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/>), EMBL (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk>) or the DNA Data Bank of Japan (<http://www.ddbj.nig.ac.jp/>).

Genomic and proteomic studies. Authors of papers that include genomic, proteomic, or other high-throughput data are required to submit their data to the NCBI gene expression and hybridization array data repository (GEO, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/>).

Crystallographic Studies. Authors of papers describing new structure determinations must submit to the Protein Data Bank at Research Collaboratory for Structural Bioinformatics (<http://www.rcsb.org/pdb>).

Gene Nomenclature

Authors should use approved nomenclature for gene symbols, and use symbols rather than italicized full names (Ttn, not *titin*). Please consult the appropriate nomenclature databases for correct gene names and symbols. Approved human gene symbols are provided by HUGO Gene Nomenclature Committee (HGNC), www.genenames.org. Approved mouse symbols are provided by The Jackson Laboratory, www.informatics.jax.org/mgihome/nomen. For proposed gene names that are not already approved, please submit the gene symbols to the appropriate nomenclature committees as soon as possible, as these must be deposited and approved before publication of an article. Avoid listing multiple names of genes (or proteins) separated by a slash, as in 'Oct4/Pou5f1', as this is ambiguous (it could mean a ratio, a complex, alternative names or different subunits). Use one name throughout and include the other at first mention: 'Oct4 (also known as Pou5f1)'

Biosecurity Policy

The editor may seek advice about submitted papers not only from technical reviewers but also on any aspect of a paper that raises concerns. These may include, for example, ethical issues or issues of data or materials access. Occasionally, concerns may also relate to the implications to society of publishing a paper, including threats to security. In such circumstances, advice will usually be sought simultaneously with the technical peer-review process. As in all publishing decisions, the ultimate decision whether to publish is the responsibility of the editor of the journal concerned.

Correction and Retraction Process

Content published as Advance Online Publication (AOP) is final and cannot be amended. The online and print versions are both part of the published record; hence, the original version must be preserved and changes to the paper should be made as a formal correction. If an error is noticed in an AOP article, a correction should accompany the article when it publishes in print. An HTML (or full-text) version of the correction will also be created and linked to the original article. If the error is found in an article after print publication, the correction will be published online and in the next available print issue.

Decisions about corrections are made by the editors (sometimes with peer-reviewers' advice), and this

sometimes involves author consultation. Requests to make corrections that do not affect the paper in a significant way or impair the reader's understanding of the contribution (a spelling mistake or grammatical error, for example) are not considered.

In cases where co-authors disagree about a correction, the editors will take advice from independent peer-reviewers and impose the appropriate correction, noting the dissenting author(s) in the text of the published version.

Scientific misconduct

Pediatric Research takes seriously all possible misconduct, and handle these concerns at *Pediatric Research* on a case by case basis while following guidance produced by bodies that include [the Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#), of which *Pediatric Research* is a member, [the World Association of Medical Editors \(WAME\)](#) and [the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors \(ICMJE\)](#). WAME gives a useful overview of misconduct, using a slightly amended version of the US Office of Research Integrity definition of scientific misconduct and including these behaviors:

Falsification of data ranges from fabrication to deceptive reporting of findings and omission of conflicting data, or willful suppression and/or distortion of data.

Plagiarism is when an author attempts to pass off someone else's work as his or her own. Duplicate publication, sometimes called self-plagiarism, occurs when an author reuses substantial parts of his or her own published work without providing the appropriate references. Please see "Plagiarism Detection" for more information.

Improprieties of authorship: This is the improper assignment of credit, such as excluding others, misrepresentation of the same material as original in more than one publication, inclusion of individuals as authors who have not made a definite contribution to the work published, or submission of multi-authored publications without the concurrence of all authors.

Misappropriation of the ideas of others: An important aspect of scholarly activity is the exchange of ideas among colleagues. Scholars can acquire novel ideas from others during the process of reviewing grant applications and manuscripts. However, improper use of such information can constitute fraud. Wholesale appropriation of such material constitutes misconduct.

Violation of generally accepted research practices: Serious deviation from accepted practices in proposing or carrying out research, improper manipulation of experiments to obtain biased results, deceptive statistical or analytical manipulations, or improper

reporting of results are not tolerated by the journal.

Material failure to comply with legislative and regulatory requirements affecting research: This includes but is not limited to serious or substantial, repeated, willful violations of applicable local regulations and law involving the use of funds, care of animals, human subjects, investigational drugs, recombinant products, new devices, or radioactive, biological or chemical materials.

Inappropriate behavior in relation to misconduct includes unfounded or knowingly false accusations of misconduct, failure to report known or suspected misconduct, withholding of information relevant to a claim or misconduct and retaliation against persons involved in the allegation or investigation.

Many journals, including *Pediatric Research*, also include redundant publication and duplicate publication, lack of declaration of competing interests and of funding/sponsorship, and other failures of transparency to be forms of misconduct.

Readers that suspect misconduct in a published article are encouraged to report this to the relevant journal editor and/or the journal publisher.

Plagiarism Detection

Papers must be original and not published or submitted for publication elsewhere. This rule also applies to non-English language publications.

CrossCheck is a multi-publisher initiative to screen published and submitted content for originality. *Pediatric Research* uses CrossCheck to detect instances of overlapping and similar text in submitted manuscripts. To find out more about CrossCheck, visit <http://www.crossref.org/crosscheck.html>

If a case of plagiarism comes to light after a paper is published, the journal will conduct a preliminary investigation, utilizing the guidelines of [the Committee on Publication Ethics](#). If plagiarism is proven, the journal will contact the author's institute and funding agencies as appropriate. The paper containing the plagiarism may also be formally retracted or subject to correction.

