

# ***Addiction***

## **Definitions of Journal Communications**

- 1) Book reviews
- 2) Case reports/Case series
- 3) Commentaries
- 4) Editorials
- 5) For debate
- 6) Individual series
- 7) Letters
- 8) Monographs
- 9) Addiction History
- 10) Research Reports; *a) Methods and Techniques*
- 11) Reviews

### **1 Book Reviews (invited\*)**

Book reviews should be more than simply a summary of the book's content and should place the book in the context of other literature in the field. Reviewers should aim to make them a 'good read'. On occasion it may be appropriate for a reviewer to offer a negative appraisal of a book but vituperation is to be avoided. The books reviewed are selected to be of interest to the journal's international readership and the reviews should identify what is good and worthwhile in the book for *Addiction's* varied readers. Book reviews should be no more than 500 words.

### **2 Case Reports/Case Series**

Case reports should include a brief statement explaining why the case is worth documenting followed by a thorough account of the case including sufficient data. There should then be a discussion section including evidence that the case is unique or unexpected and any alternative explanations for case features should be outlined. A conclusion detailing implications should end the case report. It is very important that case reports show written evidence of patient's consent. Case reports should be no longer than 3000 words and should include a structured abstract under the following headings: Background, Case Descriptions, Conclusions.

A case series analysis is a paper based on a series of case studies. Each case should be structured in a similar way to case reports and generalisations should be drawn from each of the cases. Again, it is very important that case series show written evidence of patient's consent. Case series should be no longer than 3000 words and should include a structured abstract under the following headings: Background, Case Descriptions, Conclusions. When submitting please select 'Case Report' as the manuscript type.

### **3 Commentaries (invited\*)**

A commentary should add a further perspective or point of view to a particularly important research report or learned review. It must be a short piece which is original and thought provoking and should stimulate debate and discussion. Rather than being a review of the article, authors should use the findings as a stepping stone to make one or two points of wider relevance to the field. Commentaries are commissioned by *Addiction* and are published alongside the paper they are commenting upon. A commentary should be approximately 800 words with references in Vancouver style (maximum of 19). 6 key words should be included as part of a commentary. When commenting upon a research report or review, a reference should be made to this text at the beginning of the commentary and included in the reference list.

## **4 Editorials (invited\*)**

Published at the start of every issue of *Addiction*, an editorial should be a significant piece of academic writing. An editorial is distinct from a review – it is shorter and a place in which one has the distinct aim of stimulating debate, identifying ideas, and pushing ideas further forward. It should make one or two key points that are more in the way of 'opinion' rather than 'fact'. The point(s) will normally challenge existing thinking, raise an issue that has been neglected, take an issue forward that is currently being considered, or reinforce one side of a debate that is currently under way. It can concern matters of policy, treatment, assessment/diagnosis, theory or methodology and should be written in a lively and engaging style and the point(s) should be very clearly stated. An editorial should also be written from an international perspective. Editorials should be under 1000 words and should contain no more than 19 references in Vancouver style and up to 6 key words.

## **5 For Debate (invited\*)**

'For debate' articles are opinion pieces up to 3000 words in length. They aim to stimulate debate and present new ideas. They should be written in an international context, make one or two key points that are more in the way of 'opinion' rather than 'fact'. The point(s) will normally challenge existing thinking, raise an issue that has been neglected, take an issue forward that is currently being considered, or reinforce one side of a debate that is currently under way. It can concern matters of policy, treatment, assessment/diagnosis, theory or methodology and should be written in a lively and engaging style.

"For debate" articles are usually commissioned but are sometimes unsolicited papers which have been accepted for publication for *Addiction* chosen by the Commissioning Editor. Occasionally particularly topical, or more lengthy editorials will be turned into "for debate" articles. Approximately 3-4 commentaries will normally be commissioned to accompany them. Commentators will be chosen carefully to provide alternative opinions on the debatable issue. *Addiction* strives to commission international commentators. Once the commentaries have been accepted for publication, the author of the "for debate" article will be given the opportunity to respond to the commentaries which is then published alongside the "for debate" and commentaries. "For debate" articles should include an abstract (this can be unstructured in this case).

## **6 Individual series (invited\*)**

*Addiction* publishes individual commissioned series based on specific topics. These papers would normally be approximately 3500 words (individual guidelines apply to each series – for example, Journal interviews, *Addiction* and its Sciences, Horizons and Research Centres series).

## **7 Letters**

*Addiction* publishes solicited and unsolicited letters. They may express opinions about articles published in the journal, report on a development, or comment on some issue of potential interest to the readership of the journal. They will normally be refereed. *Addiction* does not generally use letters to report findings that are not sufficiently important to go in papers. Letters should be no longer than 500 words with fewer than 19 references in Vancouver style. They should not normally contain tables, diagrams or figures. If a letter is commenting upon a paper already published in the journal, this should be cited at the beginning of the letter. Letters may also be invited by the Commissioning Editor.

## **8 Monographs**

*Addiction* will publish occasional monographs of up to 10,000 words including references. Not more than one monograph will be published per issue at the discretion of the editor. Monographs will be

distinct from research reports and be major pieces of writing which cannot be expressed in the usual length. The kinds of papers that would qualify might be extensive systematic reviews of a major topic or a series of linked studies addressing a common research question. These articles will go through the usual peer review process. However, the editor will have to decide that the piece is of substantial importance otherwise it will not be accepted. There will be no appeals for monographs. Rejection will not preclude authors from submitting papers based on the material as a standard research report.

Authors wishing to submit monographs for consideration should submit in the usual way, but should add a note in their cover letter explaining that they would like the submission to be treated as a monograph. Monographs should carry structured abstracts (no more than 300 words) and include headings similar to that of research reports (see below).

## **9 Addiction History**

Articles may look at any addictive behaviour from a distant or contemporary historical perspective. The article must be based on original historical research and not simply provide a review of material that has already been published. It must also have relevance to future theory or practice. The material on which the paper is based must be fully referenced. This category provides an opportunity for historians to publish where they will have impact on the addictions field. A length of 3500 words is preferred but up to a maximum of 4000 words is allowable. The abstract must be structured and follow headings along the lines of: Aims, Methods, Findings, Conclusions.

## **10 Research Reports**

Research reports are papers reporting original findings from primary data. The study may be qualitative or quantitative and may involve experimental or non-experimental designs. Addiction does not publish research involving non-human animals. These can be sent to Addiction Biology. Research reports should be a maximum of 3500 words excluding abstract, tables and references (for full details see "Instructions for Authors" on our website: [www.addictionjournal.org](http://www.addictionjournal.org)). We carry commentaries on approximately 25% of published articles. The abstract must be structured (250 word limit) and include the following headings: Aims, Design, Settings, Participants, Measurements, Findings, Conclusions.

### **10a Methods and Techniques**

Articles for this section are selected by the Editor-in-Chief from among accepted Research Reports as being ones that deal with methodological issues. This includes the development of new measures, the evaluation of new or existing measures, procedures for recruiting samples, methods for analysing data, and methods for synthesising evidence.

## **11 Reviews**

Reviews draw together a body of literature to reach one or more major conclusions. It is expected that reviews will be 'systematic', which means they will set out very clearly the search strategy including key words where appropriate, the selection criteria for articles to include and the basis for integrating findings. We also may commission commentaries on reviews if appropriate. A review should be review should be up to 4000 words. The abstract must be structured and include the following headings: Aims, Methods, Results and Conclusions.

***\*If you are interested in contributing to invited article categories then please contact the appropriate Editor – Book Reviews Editor: John Witton <[john.witton@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:john.witton@kcl.ac.uk)> all other - Commissioning Editor: Peter Miller <[molly@addictionjournal.org](mailto:molly@addictionjournal.org)>.***