Instructions for Authors (last update: 2024-08-27)

Reviews on Environmental Health



Table of Contents

Scope and general policies of the journal	2
Scope	2
Submissions in the following fields are welcome	2
Submissions in the following fields are welcome Special issues and special issue section Submission of manuscripts ORCID	2
Submission of manuscripts	3
ORCID	3
Submission declaration and verification	3
Scientific misconduct	3
Responsible authorship and research integrity	3
Research data availability Peer review, turnaround times and pre-publication policies Rejection of manuscripts	4
Peer review, turnaround times and pre-publication policies	4
Rejection of manuscripts	4
Peer review information	4
Appeals	5
Turnaround times	5
Pre-publication policy	5
Post-accentance	5
Galley proofs	5
Author PDF	6
Repository policy	6
Copyright	6
Onen access in hybrid journals	6
Article processing charges (APCs)	6
Article processing charges (APCs)	6
Note for authors of NIH-funded research	7
PMC and Research Funder Policies	7
Ethical conduct of research	7
Acknowledgments	7
Authorization for the use of human subjects – Research ethics	7
Authorization for the use of experimental animals – Research ethics	7
Informed consent	8
Author contributions	8
Connect of interest	ŏ
Research funding	9
Clinical trial registration	9
Preparation of manuscript	9
Title page information	9
Template for Ethical and Legal Declarations	10
Studies dealing with diagnostic accuracy	10
Studies dealing with diagnostic accuracy	10
Lapping	10 10
Latiguage	10 10
Abstract	10 10
Keywords	
Headings	11
References	11
Figures and figure captions	11
Tables and table captions	
Abbreviations	12
Equations and symbols	12
Scientific names and non-abbreviated Latin expressions	12
Units	12
Manufacturer details	12
Audio and video	12
Appendices	13
Supplementary material	13
Reference Style	14

Scope and general policies of the journal

Scope

Reviews on Environmental Health (REVEH) is an international journal designed to meet the need for publishing review articles on hot topics in the field of environmental health. The overall goal of the journal is to publish review articles that provide data on environmental causes of human disease, toxic effects on animals and cells, environmental damage resulting from contamination of air, soil, water and food. Contributions may be from the general fields of epidemiology, toxicology, molecular biology, medicine, occupational health, child health, or risk assessment. Review articles dealing with environmental health effects of climate change are also welcome.

REVEH is a hybrid journal, published quarterly in print and online. All contributions submitted for publication in *REVEH* are subject to single-anonymized peer review by at least two experts in the field, selected and invited by the Editor-in-Chief and a dedicated Editorial Team. *REVEH* publishes only English-language articles in the categories listed below.

Article categories

- Review Systematic, narrative, and focused reviews
- Opinion Paper
- Point/Counterpoint Paper
- Letter to the Editor and Reply
- Editorial

Submissions in the following fields are welcome

- Environmental toxicology
- Neurotoxicology
- Immunology
- Oncology
- Dermatology
- Epidemiology
- Molecular biology
- Pharmacogenetics
- Child health
- Medicine, occupational health and risk assessment
- Water, air, and soil quality control
- Climate change
- Methods for biomonitoring and remediation

Special issues and special issue section

REVEH publishes special issues and special issue sections focused on important and emerging topics in the field of study. Ideas for special issues and special issue sections are proposed by the journal's editorial board, but the journal will also consider proposals for special issues submitted by members of the wider research community. All proposals are assessed for quality and relevance by the Editor-in-Chief and the editorial office.

The journal has established a rigorous process to ensure that all manuscripts submitted for special issues follow the same high-quality standards and peer review process as regular manuscripts. Each special issue has a dedicated Guest Editor who is responsible for the coordinating the peer review process of all manuscripts submitted for the special issue (section). The Editor-in-Chief checks the initial manuscript and assigns it to the appropriate Guest Editor. The Guest Editor invites reviewers and makes recommendations on revisions and final decisions. The Editor-in-Chief has an oversight of the entire process within the online submission system and is responsible for the final decision on all manuscripts.

Submission of manuscripts

• Submit manuscripts exclusively online at: https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/reveh

We strongly recommend that authors register with institutional email addresses and do not use private email addresses. Institutional email addresses serve as strong authenticity markers. In addition, institutional email domains identify authors who are entitled to open access discounts per institutional agreements with the publisher. Not using an institutional email address may result in delayed or missed open access publication. A cover letter must be submitted for each manuscript upon first submission. It should contain a brief statement by the authors as to the element of novelty upon which they base their request for publication in *REVEH*. Please address the cover letter to the Editor-in-Chief. Revised manuscripts must be accompanied by a point-by-point reply to the reviewers' comments. Major changes in the revised manuscript must be highlighted, preferably in tracked changes mode. A second, clean version should always be submitted for major changes.

ORCID

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Submission declaration and verification

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Each manuscript submission declares that the manuscript (or one with substantially the same content, by any of the authors) has not been previously published in any language anywhere and that it is not under simultaneous consideration by any other journal. Exceptions are listed in section "Pre-publication policy". Furthermore, all co-authors must have agreed to its publication and have given the corresponding author the authority to act on their behalf in all matters pertaining to publication. The corresponding author is responsible for informing the co-authors of the manuscript status throughout the submission, review, and production process.

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Scientific misconduct

Only articles that have not been or will not be published elsewhere will be published in the journal, excluding articles that fall under the publisher's pre-publication policy (see section "Pre-publication policy" below). Multiple submissions/publications or redundant publications (i.e., republication of data already published by the same authors) will be rejected. If identified after publication, the journal reserves the right to publish a retraction note. In any case, editors will follow the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE's) Code of Conduct and implement its advice. For detailed information, please see our publishing ethics page.

Responsible authorship and research integrity

The authors are responsible for all aspects of the study and will ensure that any questions regarding the accuracy and integrity of any part of the work are adequately investigated and resolved.

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Research data availability

REVEH requires authors to follow our <u>Data Sharing Policy</u>, which must comply with the European GDPR (*General Data Protection Regulation*) rules.

Research data should be made widely available to the research community to demonstrate the robustness and validity of the research presented in the journal, to enable and encourage replication of the results, and to allow the community with opportunities to learn.

We recommend the use of community-endorsed data types. If you assign a persistent identifier to your research data by archiving it in a data repository, other researchers will be able to cite your data as well as your published research article.

Where possible, data should be submitted to discipline-specific, community-recognized repositories. In cases where there is no appropriate discipline-specific resource, data may be submitted to a general data repository. Please see https://fairsharing.org/, or https://repositoryfinder.datacite.org/ for help finding research data repositories. We strongly recommend using CoreTrustSeal certified repositories.

To determine whether a research data availability statement is required and what format it must follow, please refer to the specific file for each policy level available on the <u>Data Sharing Policy</u> website. Detailed information can be found in the "Submit" tab on the journal website.

Please fill in your statement on data availability in the <u>Template for Ethical and Legal Declarations</u>, which is required for submission.

We further recommend citing the data that has been shared in the reference list. Data citations should include a persistent identifier, should be included in the reference list using the minimum information recommended by DataCite (Dataset Creator, Dataset Title, Publisher [repository], Publication Year, Identifier [e.g. DOI, Handle or ARK]) and follow journal style.

Peer review, turnaround times and pre-publication policies

Rejection of manuscripts

Submitted manuscripts will be reviewed in a two-step procedure. Firstly, the Editor-in-Chief decides whether the manuscript fulfills the substantive and formal criteria for the further peer review process. The decision is based on the following criteria:

- relevance: the content conforms to the scope and goals of *REVEH*.
- originality/topicality: the content is sufficiently important and topical to be worthy to be published in REVEH,
- formal correctness: the formal criteria have been met (also in view of the manuscript being written in understandable English),
- ethical guidelines: national and international ethical standards for studies with human and/or animal subjects are fulfilled (where applicable).

In cases where the criteria have not been met, the manuscript will be rejected without peer review.

Manuscripts dealing with subject unrelated to environmental health are likely to be rejected without peer review. Original research articles will be also rejected without peer review because *REVEH* does not publish original research but only review articles.

Decisions on manuscripts are based on priority as well as subject matter. Therefore, we consider factors such as relevance to our international audience, not just one country, relevance to health and novelty and urgency of the issue.

Manuscripts are also returned to authors if they do not comply with the Instructions for Authors (e.g., if the number of words allowed for a certain article type will be exceeded).

Peer review information

REVEH is a single-anonymized journal. Manuscripts which fulfill the substantive and formal criteria are reviewed anonymously by at least two independent reviewers selected by the Editors. The authors must provide the names,

department, institution, country, and email addresses of at least four potential reviewers. Reviewers indicated by the authors must be of institutions and countries different from the those of any of the authors. Authors may also provide names of reviewers they wish to exclude from reviewing their manuscripts.

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Manuscripts that have been rejected for publication will be reconsidered only at the discretion of the Editor(s). Authors wishing to request reconsideration of a previously rejected manuscript must do so in written form and submit a rebuttal by email to the journal's editorial office. Authors should provide detailed reasons why they believe the manuscript should be reconsidered. If the rebuttal is accepted, the author will be asked to re-submit the manuscript, or the decision will be reversed.

Turnaround times

REVEH aspires to inform authors of the peer review decision within 4-6 weeks from the submission date. Revised manuscripts should be returned within 3-6 weeks. Accepted manuscripts will be published online within 3 weeks of acceptance.

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The publisher does not consider the following purposes of a paper as pre-publication: publication in the form of a congress abstract, publication as an academic thesis, publication as an electronic preprint on recognized servers such as arXiv, RePEc, bioRxiv, ResearchSquare, etc.

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We advise the following approach: Aim for gender neutrality by using plural nouns (clinicians, clients, participants) as standard and avoiding "he" or "she", wherever possible. Instead, please use "they". We recommend avoiding the use of descriptors that refer to personal characteristics such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, disability or health status unless they are relevant and valid.

Post-acceptance

Galley proofs

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Manuscripts must follow certain ethical guidelines to be considered for publication, which can be found in the <u>Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement</u>. Accordingly, **before submitting your manuscript, please make sure that you and your co-authors agree to the applicable requirements**. For example, this may involve declaring and ruling out conflicts of interest or proving compliance with legal requirements related to human and animal testing.

Furthermore, our <u>Code of Conduct for Publication Procedures and Ethics</u> defines the responsibility of the publisher and the Editors we work with, to ensure the legitimacy and quality of our published research. Our principles are based on the guidelines of the <u>Committee on Publication Ethics</u> (COPE).

Acknowledgments

Authors may wish to acknowledge individuals, working groups, institutions, etc. who provided help and support (other than financial) during research and the preparation of the manuscript (e.g., language checking, writing assistance or proof reading of the article, etc.). Individuals acknowledged are not included on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise.

Acknowledgements should be given in the Template for Ethical and Legal Declarations, if required for submission.

Authorization for the use of human subjects - Research ethics

Manuscripts that contain information on the use of humans should clearly state that the research complies with all relevant national regulations and institutional policies and has been approved by the authors' Institutional Review Board or any equivalent committee. Copies of the guidelines and policy statements must be available for review by the Editor, if necessary. The Editors reserve the right to seek additional information or guidance from reviewers on any cases in which concerns arise. All investigations with human subjects must be conducted by following the tenets of the <u>Declaration of Helsinki</u>. Authors must identify the Committee or Institutional Review Board approving the experiments and provide a statement indicating approval of the research. If applicable, information on research ethics and/or approval by the Institutional Review Board should be given in the Methods section. The work described in your article must have been also performed in accordance with the <u>Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals</u>.

In addition, information on research ethics should also be given in the <u>Template for Ethical and Legal Declarations</u>, if required for submission. Please make sure that the information in the manuscript matches the information in the template.

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Manuscripts that contain information on the use of animals should clearly state that the research has complied with all relevant national regulations and institutional policies and has been approved by the authors' Institutional

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If a study did not require human or animal ethical approval, a corresponding statement should be given in the Methods section. In addition, this statement should also be given in the Template for Ethical and Legal Declarations, if required for submission. Please make sure that the information in the manuscript matches the information in the template.

Informed consent

The <u>Protection of Privacy</u> is a legal right that must not be infringed without individual informed consent. In cases where the identification of personal information is necessary for scientific reasons, authors should obtain full documentation of informed consent, including written permission from the patient or their legal guardians prior to inclusion in the study. The following (or similar) statement should be given in the Methods section: *Informed consent was obtained from all individuals included in this study*.

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- 2. has drafted the work or reviewed/revised it critically for important intellectual content AND
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Individuals who helped or participated in certain substantive aspects of the project or work (e.g., technical services staff), but whose contributions were not of sufficient extent to be listed as co-authors, should be appropriately acknowledged, usually in an Acknowledgements section.

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Please provide the following information on the first page of your manuscript during the submission process:

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Please refer to the 2015 Standards for Reporting of Diagnostic Accuracy checklist (STARD).

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All manuscripts must be written in clear and concise English. Please use British or American English consistently. If you have reasons to doubt your proficiency with respect to spelling, grammar, etc. (e.g., because you are not fluent in English, then you may wish to employ – at your expense – the services of a professional language editor.

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Please see the **Submission Checklist** for detailed information on length and structure of specific article types.

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Give a concise summary of your article in an abstract of max. 250 words in a single paragraph. As abstracts are published separately by abstracting and indexing services, please spell out abbreviations at first use and do not include footnotes, tables, figures or equations. Avoid using references. If it is essential to use a reference in the abstract, please expand it as per journal reference style.

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Headings should be un-numbered and in sentence case. Use lowercase letters after colon. Please clearly indicate the section headings hierarchy by using e.g., different font size, colors.

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Please adhere strictly to the reference style of *REVEH* as outlined in the <u>Reference Style Sheet</u> at the end of this document. The style sheet provides examples for different types of citations in the text as well as for different bibliographic items in the reference list. Please note: All references mentioned in the reference list must be mentioned in the text, and vice versa.

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Tables should be clearly structured. Number tables consecutively using Arabic numerals. Tables should be provided in an editable source format (Word, LaTex). Please avoid providing tables as image or Excel files.

Provide a short descriptive title, column heads, and (if necessary) footnotes to make each table self-explanatory. In column heads, separate units with a comma and use parentheses or square brackets for additional measures (e.g., %, range, etc.). Use footnotes in alphabetical order (superscript a, b, c, etc.) to give emphasis or further information. Explain the abbreviations used in tables in the footnotes.

In case bold font type is used to highlight information, please explain its meaning. Italic font type should be used only for species, genes and alleles.

Avoid color, shading, vertical lines, and other cell borders. Note that most horizontal lines within the table body will be removed during the production process.

Indicate where to place the table approximately (e.g., [Place Table 1 near here]). Do not end the text immediately preceding the suggested positioning of a table with a colon and avoid expressions such as "in Table 1 below/

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Abbreviations

The use of abbreviations and acronyms is permitted provided that they are written out in full with the abbreviation in parentheses when used the first time (applies to abstract and main text). Please use them consistently thereafter. Avoid using non-standard abbreviations unless they appear more than three times in the text. We recommend providing a list with an overview of all abbreviations.

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Equations should be well-aligned and not crowded. Use only Latin and Greek alphabets. Avoid complicated superscripts and subscripts by introducing new symbols. Avoid repetition of a complicated expression by representing it with a symbol. For MS Word submissions create equations using the Microsoft equation editor or a corresponding add-on. Do not submit math equations as images, but as editable text. Number displayed equations consecutively with Arabic numerals (if referred to in the text). Refer to equations in the text as Eq. 1 or Eqs. 1 and 2.

Scientific names and non-abbreviated Latin expressions

Gene acronyms, alleles, genus, species, and non-abbreviated Latin expressions should be written in italic font type.

Capitalize the first letter of the genus, but not the species. Format all binomial names in italics. After the first use, genus names should be abbreviated to a first initial. For genus names starting with the same letter differentiate by including the second letter.

'sp.', 'spp.', 'ssp.', 'var.', 'L.', 'subsp.', etc. should be Roman.

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Units of measurement: All SI units should be in Roman, italics are not allowed. All units should be consistent in usage. Multiple units should be either spaced out or have a middle dot. A narrow non-breaking space (unicode hex value: U+202F) should be presented between numbers and units, except for °. °C and % should be spaced with a narrow non-breaking space.

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For all examples connected to an audio/video recording, supply audio/video clips. Deliver these clips as separate files and do not integrate them directly into the manuscript.

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Supplementary material

Supplementary material, which may offer further information on your work but does not belong to the core part of the article, will not be part of the typeset article PDF. The material will be made available as a separate download in the online version of the article. Supplementary material may contain questionnaires for discussed surveys, protocols, code samples, datasets, extensive tables, additional figures, multimedia files (audio, video, animations), etc. If the manuscript is accepted, supplementary material will be referenced in the print version, but will be published online only.

Please provide supplementary material data as separate file(s) of no more than 10 MB per file during submission. Do not integrate supplementary material into the main text. Please make sure to choose the file designation "Supplementary Material" only for the files which are to be published as supplementary material. Note that the material should be publication-ready (clean files, not in tracked changes mode), as it will not be typeset, but published exactly as supplied. Within the text, the supplementary material must be cited consecutively and be referred to as supplementary material data (e.g., see Supplementary Material, Fig. 1, or Figure S1, Table S1, etc.).



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