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Instructions to Authors

Scope

Twin Research and Human Genetics is the official journal of the International Society for Twin Studies and the Human Genetics Society of Australasia. *Twin Research and Human Genetics* communicates the results of original research in human genetics with a special emphasis on multiple birth research. It also provides timely state-of-the-art reviews on all aspects of human genetics and twin studies. Topics covered include: genetic epidemiology, behavioral genetics, complex diseases, endocrinology, fetal pathology, medical genetics, obstetrics, pediatrics, psychiatric genetics and other areas of human genetics, with an emphasis on twin studies.

Editorial policy

All contributions and general correspondence regarding editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor and sent to the Editorial Office. Manuscripts submitted to the journal must represent reports of original research. Manuscripts will be sent for anonymous review either by members of the editorial board, or by individuals of similar standing in the field. Authors are requested to submit up to three suggested reviewers for the manuscript. Authors will be notified of acceptance, rejection or the need for revision within 6 weeks. When a manuscript is returned to the corresponding author for revision, it should be returned to the Editors within 2 months, otherwise it may be considered withdrawn. Accepted manuscripts will appear in the journal within 3 months, whenever possible.

Preparation of the manuscripts

All manuscripts should be in English presented electronically in Word or Word Perfect. All sections of the manuscript should be double-spaced with one-inch margins on all four sides.* Please subdivide manuscripts into the following sequence of sections: Title page, Abstract, Introduction, Materials and methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgement, References, Tables, Figure legends. Number each page (title page is 1). Please indicate the position of each figure and table in the text using the words 'Figure X about here'.

*Manuscripts will be charged publication charges of:

- ISTS members (first or last author) — AUD100.00 per printed page for each page
- Non-ISTS members (first/last author) — AUD150.00 per printed page for each page

In general, the formatting requirements are those recommended by the American Psychological Association (APA), especially for references:

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Title page/keywords

The title should be as brief as possible with no abbreviations. Include each author's initials and surname and complete addresses in English, including department, institution, city with postal code and country (indicating clearly which author is at which address). A corresponding author should be indicated with telephone, fax numbers and e-mail address provided. Please also provide a running title of not more than 50 characters.

Abstract

The second page of the manuscript should contain only an abstract in a single paragraph of not more than 200–250 words. Abbreviations and reference citations should be avoided.

Introduction

The introduction should assume that the reader is knowledgeable in the field and should therefore be a brief as possible, not exceeding 1500 words. Do not use the heading 'Introduction'.

References

References should follow the general format advocated by the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). However, in the text, 'et al.' should be used for references with three or more authors, as follows:

One author: (Jones, 1981)

Two authors: (Jones & Smith, 1981)

Three or more authors: (Jones et al., 1981).

At the end of the manuscript references should be listed (double-spaced) in alphabetical order. If an article has more than seven authors, list the names of the first six authors followed by ... and then the last author's name in the reference entry. Full periodical titles should be used and first and last page numbers for each reference should be provided. Abstracts and letters must be identified as such.

Abbreviations

These should be defined in parentheses after their first mention in the text, except for the use of accepted abbreviations, such as SI symbols, which need not be defined. Use generic names when referring to drugs; trade names may be given in parentheses at first mention.

Tables

These should be submitted in Word format, numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals, and placed after the references. Tables should be self-explanatory and include a brief descriptive title. Footnotes to tables indicated by lower case letters are acceptable, but they should not include extensive experimental detail. Please indicate in the manuscript the most appropriate position for each table using the words "Table X about here".

Illustrations, figures, photographs and mathematics:

Electronic submission of artwork

1. Photographs, graphs and figures should be prepared to the correct size (max. width 80 mm

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– Figures created in a drawing program such as Adobe Illustrator, CorelDRAW, Freehand, Microsoft Publisher or similar should be saved as an EPS (encapsulated postscript) files or as PDFs.

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3. Prior to sending artwork, the separate files of figures, graphs, illustrations and so on should be printed by the author to test that the fonts have been embedded correctly and there is no distortion in the artwork (e.g., lines and fonts reproduce cleanly with no jagged lines or fuzzy edges), as any such faults cannot be corrected by the publisher.

4. Preferred method of submission: email as attachments to ISTS@qimr.edu.au.

If your artwork does not meet these guidelines, it may be returned to you.

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Scholarly reviews of topics within the scope of *Twin Research and Human Genetics* will be considered for publication after paper review. Please send a one-page letter of inquiry to the editor before preparing your manuscript to make sure that a similar review is not in press.

Proofs

Manuscripts will be scheduled for publication upon receipt of proofs. Extensive changes to the proofs will result in publication delay. Important new information that has become available between acceptance of the manuscript and receipt of the proofs may be inserted as an Addendum in proof with the permission of an Editor. Proofs must be checked immediately for typographical errors and returned to the publisher along with the copyright assignment form. Authors will receive a PDF offprint of their article.

contents

Articles

- Social Competence in Parents Increases Children's Educational Attainment: Replicable Genetically-Mediated Effects of Parenting Revealed by Non-Transmitted DNA **1**
Timothy C. Bates, Brion S. Maher, Lucia Colodro-Conde, Sarah E. Medland, Kerrie McAloney, Margaret J. Wright, Narelle K. Hansell, Aysu Okbay, Kenneth S. Kendler, Nicholas G. Martin and Nathan A. Gillespie
- Variance Components Models for Analysis of Big Family Data of Health Outcomes in the Lifelines Cohort Study **4**
Nino Demetashvili, Nynke Smidt, Harold Snieder, Edwin R. van den Heuvel and Ernst C. Wit
- A Major Limitation of the Direction of Causation Model: Non-Shared Environmental Confounding **14**
Stig Hebbelstrup Rye Rasmussen, Steven Ludeke and Jacob V. B. Hjelmberg
- umx: Twin and Path-Based Structural Equation Modeling in R **27**
Timothy C. Bates, Hermine Maes and Michael C. Neale
- Religious Attendance Moderates the Environmental Effect on Prosocial Behavior in Nigerian Adolescents **42**
Yoon-Mi Hur, Hoe-Uk Jeong, Frances Ajose and Ariel Knafo-Noam
- The Genetic and Environmental Relationship Between Childhood Behavioral Inhibition and Preadolescent Anxiety **48**
Jessica L. Bourdon, Jeanne E. Savage, Brad Verhulst, Dever M. Carney, Melissa A. Brotman, Daniel S. Pine, Ellen Leibenluft, Roxann Roberson-Nay and John M. Hettema
- Twinning Rates in Uruguay Between 1999 and 2015: Association with Socioeconomic and Demographic Factors **56**
Noelia Gómez, Andrés Sosa, Sylvia Corte and Emma Otta
- Does Gestational Diabetes Cause Additional Risk in Twin Pregnancy? **62**
Annabel C. M. Sheehan, Mark P. Umstad, Stephen Cole and Thomas J. Cade

News, Views and Comments

- Performing Together: Monozygotic Twin Comedians/Twin Research: Mirror-Image Cleft Lip and Palate; Dental Caries; Noninvasive Prenatal Testing; Capgras Syndrome With Folie à Deux/In the News: Athletic Twins; Transgendered Twins; Crib-Sharing; Common Careers **70**
Nancy L. Segal

Book Review

- Blueprint **75**
Robert Plomin Allen Lane