

# **Sulaimani Dental Journal**

## **Guidelines for Authors**

**V2.7, June 2025**

Authors are invited to submit original research aligned with the scope and aims of the Sulaimani Dental Journal. All submissions undergo an initial editorial screening for quality, originality, and relevance, followed by a peer-review process. Authors must adhere to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors ([ICMJE](#)) recommendations on authorship. Submissions must include full author details: full name, institutional affiliation, contact email, and [ORCID](#).

Authors are responsible for obtaining permission to reproduce any third-party content (e.g., images, tables, datasets) and must ensure that all listed authors agree to be identified as contributors. Where applicable, ethical clearance should be secured for studies involving human or animal participants.

To avoid desk rejection, ensure your manuscript is clearly structured, grammatically sound, and scientifically valid. A concise, informative title and a well-written abstract increase the chance of reviewer engagement. Complete Guideline for Authors and sample templates are available at the [Manuscript Template page](#).

### **Originality Check and AI-Generated Content Declaration:**

At Sulaimani Dental Journal, we are dedicated to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and ethical publishing. To ensure the originality, transparency, and authenticity of all submissions, every manuscript undergoes a rigorous screening process prior to peer review.

We utilize Turnitin's advanced plagiarism detection software to assess each manuscript for text duplication, improper attribution, and potential misuse of AI-generated content. This software compares submissions against an extensive database of academic literature, web content, and proprietary sources. Authors bear full responsibility for the authenticity of their work. All sources must be properly cited, and manuscripts must not have been previously published or concurrently submitted to other journals. Any form of plagiarism, data fabrication, or duplication may lead to immediate rejection or further editorial action.

In addition, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools must be transparently disclosed. While the use of AI for English language proofreading is acceptable, any AI-assisted contributions—such as writing, data analysis, figure generation, or literature summarization—must be clearly stated in the manuscript. Undisclosed use of AI or detected AI-generated content that compromises ethical research standards will result in rejection without further

consideration. All ethical concerns—including plagiarism, AI misuse, and authorship disputes—will be addressed in accordance with the guidelines of the **Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)**.

By submitting to Sulaimani Dental Journal, authors affirm that their work is original, ethically compliant, and free of any undisclosed AI involvement. Our commitment to academic integrity safeguards the credibility, reliability, and scholarly value of the research we publish.

For questions regarding this policy, please contact the Editorial Office.

## Article processing charge

The Sulaimani Dental Journal promotes open-access research while maintaining high publication standards. To cover the costs of editorial processes, peer review, production, and online hosting, the journal applies Article Processing Charges ([APCs](#)) for accepted manuscripts.

## Copyright and Licensing Agreement

By submitting a manuscript to *Sulaimani Dental Journal (Sulaimani Dent J)*, the author(s) acknowledge and agree to the following terms:

### 1. Copyright and Open Access Licensing

- Upon acceptance, the author(s) retain full copyright of their work.
- The author(s) grant *Sulaimani Dent J* a **non-exclusive, perpetual license** to publish, distribute, and archive the manuscript in print and electronic formats.
- All published articles are licensed under the **Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)** license. This permits use, sharing, and adaptation of the work for non-commercial purposes, provided appropriate credit is given and derivatives are licensed under identical terms. [View License](#)

### 2. Author Representations and Warranties

The submitting author(s) confirm that:

- The manuscript is original, has not been published previously, and is not under review elsewhere.
- The content does not infringe any existing copyright, trademark, patent, or proprietary rights.
- All third-party content (e.g., figures, images, tables) included in the manuscript has been appropriately licensed or permission has been obtained for use in an open-access journal.

### 3. Rights Reserved by the Journal

- *Sulaimani Dent J* reserves the right to edit, format, and disseminate the article in accordance with its editorial and publishing standards.
- Once published, the article becomes part of the journal's permanent scholarly record and cannot be withdrawn, except in cases of proven ethical misconduct or legal breach.
- The journal may deposit the article in abstracting, indexing, and archival databases to promote broader dissemination.

### 4. Public Access and Reuse

- All articles are freely accessible under the terms of the **CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 license**, which permits non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction, provided attribution is given and adaptations are shared alike.
- Authors acknowledge that no royalties or monetary compensation will be provided for publication.

### 5. Ethical Compliance and Conflict of Interest

- The author(s) declare that all conflicts of interest have been disclosed.
- The manuscript adheres to ethical standards for research, including appropriate approval for studies involving human or animal subjects.
- The Sulaimani Dental Journal adheres to the principles of the **Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)**. We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity in research and publication. All cases of potential misconduct, including plagiarism, data fabrication, unethical research, or disputes in authorship, will be handled following COPE's core practices and flowcharts.

By submitting to *Sulaimani Dent J*, the author(s) confirm their acceptance of this agreement and compliance with the journal's editorial policies and ethical guidelines.

## Privacy Policy

The Sulaimani Dental Journal values the privacy of its users. Any names, email addresses, or personal information provided on this journal's website will be used solely for the purposes of managing and publishing journal content. This information will not be shared, sold, or used for any other purposes beyond the journal's scope, nor will it be disclosed to third parties without explicit consent.

## Submission Checklist

All submissions must meet the following requirements.

- This submission meets the requirements outlined in the [Author Guidelines](#).
- All author/s' details provided, including: full name, email contact, affiliation, and author [ORCID](#).
- This submission has not been previously published, nor is it before another journal for consideration.
- All references have been checked for accuracy and completeness.
- All tables and figures have been numbered and labeled.
- Permission has been obtained to publish all photos, datasets, and other material provided with this submission.
- This submission complies with the ethical standards of the journal and COPE guidelines.
- By submitting, authors agree their article will be published under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 ([CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 license](#)).

Authors are strongly encouraged to follow relevant reporting guidelines when preparing and submitting manuscripts, and to upload the checklists during submission of guarantee that their methodology and findings are fully transparent, verifiable, and reproducible. Examples are: [CONSORT](#) for randomized controlled trials; [TREND](#) for non-randomized trials; [PRISMA](#) for systematic reviews and meta-analyses; [STROBE](#) for observational studies; [SRQR](#) for qualitative studies; [STREGA](#) for genetic association studies; [STARD](#) for diagnostic accuracy studies, and [ARRIVE](#) for animal experiments.

## Required Submission Files

Please submit the following as separate documents (sample templates can be found [here](#)):

- 1. Cover Letter** – Includes manuscript title, originality confirmation, reuse permission (if applicable), and author contribution statement.
- 2. Title Page** – Lists the title (in title case), short title, authors' names and affiliations, and complete details of the corresponding author (email, phone number, ORCID).
- 3. Main Manuscript (Blinded)** – Contains:
  - Title
  - Structured Abstract (Objectives, Methods, Results, Conclusions; max 300 words)
  - Keywords (4 minimum)
  - Main text (numbered pages, 12 pt font, 30 mm margins)
  - Acknowledgements – Contributions not qualifying for authorship.

- Clinical Relevance – Max 100 words highlighting rationale, findings, and clinical implications.
  - Conflict of Interest and Funding Sources – Institutional, private, or material support.
  - References in Vancouver superscript style
  - Tables and figures (can also be uploaded separately if necessary)
4. **Ethical and/or Registration Approval** – For applicable clinical or experimental studies.
  5. **Other files:** Any accessory files can be uploaded during the submission process

## Citation and Referencing Style

The journal uses the **Vancouver referencing style (superscript numbering)**, updated as of **January 2025**. A CSL style file is available for download in the *Templates* section.

### ➤ In-text citation

Citations should appear in the text as superscript numbers, placed before punctuation:

Example: The present study revealed a relatively low prevalence of dental trauma <sup>1</sup>; however, this still represents a large number of children <sup>1,2</sup>.

### ➤ Reference List Format

References should be listed in numerical order, corresponding to their first appearance in the text.

Examples for common reference types are provided below.

## 1. Journal Articles

### a) Print Journal Article (1–6 authors):

Author AA, Author BB, Author CC. Title of the article. *Abbreviated Journal Title*. Year;Volume(Issue):Page range.

#### Example:

Gaare D, Rolla G, Aryadi FJ, Ouderaa F. Improvement of gingival health by tooth brushing in individuals with large amounts of calculus. *J Clin Periodontol*. 1990;17(1):38–41.

### b) Print Journal Article (More than 6 authors):

List the first six authors followed by *et al*.

#### Example:

Chandra J, Mukherjee PK, Leidich SD, Faddoul FF, Hoyer LL, Douglas LJ, et al. Antifungal resistance of candidal biofilms formed on denture acrylic in vitro. *J Dent Res*. 2001;80(3):903–8.

### c) Electronic Journal Article:

Author AA, Author BB. Title of the article. *Abbreviated Journal Title* [Internet]. Year;Volume(Issue):Page range.  
Available from: URL

**Example:**

Stockhausen L, Turale S. An explorative study of Australian nursing scholars and contemporary scholarship. *J Nurs Scholarsh* [Internet]. 2011;43(1):89–96. Available from: <http://search.proquest.com>

**d) Electronic Article with DOI:**

Author AA, Author BB, Author CC, et al. Title of the article. *Abbreviated Journal Title* [Internet]. Year;Volume(Issue):Page range. Available from: URL. DOI:xxxxx

**Example:**

Kanneganti P, Harris JD, Brophy RH, et al. The effect of smoking on ligament and cartilage surgery in the knee: a systematic review. *Am J Sports Med* [Internet]. 2012;40(12):2872–8. Available from: <http://ajs.sagepub.com/content/40/12/2872>. DOI:10.1177/0363546512458223

**2. Books****a) Print Book:**

Author AA. *Title of Book*. # ed. Place of Publication: Publisher; Year. Pagination.

**Example:**

Carlson BM. *Human embryology and developmental biology*. 4th ed. St. Louis: Mosby; 2009. 541 p.

**b) Electronic Book:**

Author AA. *Title of Book* [Internet]. Place of Publication: Publisher; Year. Pagination. Available from: URL. DOI (if available).

**Example:**

Shreeve DF. *Reactive attachment disorder: a case-based approach* [Internet]. New York: Springer; 2012. 85 p. Available from: <https://link.springer.com>

**3. Book Chapters****a) Chapter in a Printed Edited Book:**

Author AA, Author BB. Title of chapter. In: Editor AA, Editor BB, editors. *Title of Book*. # ed. Place of Publication: Publisher; Year. p. xx–xx.

**Example:**

Blaxter PS, Farnsworth TP. Social health and class inequalities. In: Carter C, Peel JR, editors. *Equalities and inequalities in health*. 2nd ed. London: Academic Press; 1976. p. 165–78.

**b) Chapter in an Edited Electronic Book:**

Author AA, Author BB. Title of chapter. In: Editor AA, Editor BB, editors. *Title of Book* [Internet]. Place of Publication: Publisher; Year. Chapter #. Available from: URL. DOI (if available).

**Example:**

Halpen-Felsher BL, Morrell HE. Preventing and reducing tobacco use. In: Berlan ED, Bravender T, editors. *Adolescent medicine today: a guide to caring for the adolescent patient* [Internet]. Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co.; 2012. Chapter 18. Available from: [http://www.worldscientific.com/doi/pdf/10.1142/9789814324496\\_0018](http://www.worldscientific.com/doi/pdf/10.1142/9789814324496_0018)

## **Article Types Accepted**

### **A. Original Research Articles**

- Word count: Up to 4000
- Figures/Tables: Up to 7 (supplementary files allowed)
- References: Up to 40
- Abstract: Structured (max 300 words)
- Keywords: 4 required
- Sections: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Statistical Analysis, Results, Discussion, Conclusions

### **B. Systematic Reviews**

- Word count: Up to 5000
- Figures/Tables: Up to 7
- References: Up to 60
- Abstract: Unstructured (max 300 words)
- Sections: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion

### **C. Case Reports / Case Series**

- Word count: Up to 3500
- Figures/Tables: Up to 5
- Abstract: Unstructured (max 300 words)
- Keywords: 4
- Sections: Introduction, Case Presentation, Discussion and Conclusion

## D. Letters to the Editor

- Word count: Up to 2500
- Figures/Tables: Up to 6
- Sections: Introduction, Body (with optional headings), Summary, Acknowledgements (conflict of interest disclosure required)

## Revision of Reviewed Manuscript and Responses to Reviewers' and Editor's Inquiries:

To effectively revise your manuscript and respond to reviewer comments, follow these structured steps:

### I- Preparing Your Response to Reviewers

#### 1. Structure Your Response Document:

- **Address the editor and reviewers:** Thank them for their time and constructive feedback.
- **Provide an Overview:** Summarize the major changes made to the manuscript.
- **Point-by-Point Responses:** Address each comment individually.

#### 2. Responding to Comments:

- **Quote Each Comment:** Clearly restate each reviewer comment before your response.
- **Provide Detailed Responses:** Explain how you addressed the comment, specifying changes made.
- **Indicate Manuscript Changes:** Mention the exact location (page and line number) where changes were made.
- **Disagreeing Respectfully:** If you disagree with a comment, provide a polite and well-reasoned explanation.

*Example:*

**Reviewer Comment:** "The introduction lacks recent references."

**Response:** "We appreciate this observation. We have added recent studies to the introduction on page 2, lines 15–20, to provide updated context."

#### 3. Maintain a Professional Tone:

- **Be Respectful:** Acknowledge the reviewers' efforts and avoid defensive language.
- **Be Clear and Concise:** Ensure your responses are straightforward and free of jargon.

### II- Preparing Your Revised Manuscript

1. **Create Two Versions:**

- **Tracked Changes Version:** Highlight all modifications made in response to reviewer comments.
- **Clean Version:** Incorporate all changes without any markup for final submission.

2. **File Naming Convention:**

- Name your revised manuscript file with the suffix "-Revised" (e.g., "Manuscript-Revised.docx").

3. **Combine Revisions:**

- Ensure that all revisions requested by reviewers and editors are addressed in a **single document**.

### **III- Submitting Your Revision**

1. **Access Submission Dashboard:**

- Log in to your submission dashboard using your username.

2. **Upload Documents:**

- Navigate to the "Revisions" section.
- Upload both the tracked changes and clean versions of your manuscript.
- Upload your point-by-point response document.

3. **Resubmit:**

- After uploading all necessary documents, resubmit your revision for further review.

### **Additional Resources**

- **Response to Reviewers Template:** Downloadable from the [Manuscript Templates](#) section on the journal website.

By thoroughly addressing each reviewer comment and clearly documenting your revisions, you enhance the quality of your manuscript and facilitate a smoother review process. Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact the editorial office through the 'Discussion' section on your submission dashboard.