Editing regulations / (peer-review protocol) – Instructions for authors

Balneo Research Journal provides a platform for researchers, physicians and other interested authors to publish their articles about medical rehabilitation, physical medicine and balneology in a multidisciplinary, peer-reviewed, open-access journal, with many life aspects for research, medicine, balneo-tourism, medical tourism, natural therapeutic factors, rehabilitation medicine and kinetotherapy.

We consider as general rules those included in the document: Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication - updated February 2006 by International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, which can be found on journal web page: http://bioclima.ro/Journal.htm.

The manuscripts will be submitted **via online submission system** at http://bioclima.ro/ojs or **by email** as attachement in Word format to **secretar@bioclima.ro**.

Manuscripts should be typewritten on A4 format (210x297 mm), can have between 6 and 16 pages with margins of 25 mm, Times New Roman font, 12-point size, single space. Photo processing, scanning, graph processing – if needed-are the responsability of the editing team.

The manuscripts must be accompanied by Published Conflict-of-Interest Statement (<u>see Form</u>), Published Statement of Informed Consent (<u>see Form</u>), and Published Statement of Human and Animal Rights (<u>see Form</u>), signed by the main author, scanned and attached to the email.

The transfer of copyright is a standard practice in journals publishing, designed to facilitate the protection from copyright abuse for authors, editors, and publishers. Each manuscript submitted to the Balneo Research Journal must be accompanied by a statement that the material represents an original work, has not been previously published, and has not been submitted simultaneously for publication elsewhere: (Assignement of copyright and authorship responsabilities).

Language of papers is English. Articles can be published with translation into Romanian (for the Romanian Edition of the journal).

After manuscript receipt, the corresponding author will receive a short e-mail confirming the receipt which will contain the registration number, the date the manuscript was received and the fact that the manuscript was handed out to the Editorial Board. The Journal Editor chooses 2 **peer-reviewers** (from the Peer-review Board) and sends them by e-mail the manuscript.

The reviewers decision (approval with no changes, approval with major/minor changes, rejection), taken on the responsibility of the peer-reviewers, will be immediately communicated by e-mail to the corresponding author by the editor.

If the manuscript **gets approval with changes**, the corresponding author shall send the improved manuscript within 4 weeks. The editor will convey the corresponding author's answer to the peer reviewers. If they are satisfied with the corresponding author's answer, they will send the executive editor the **decision of approval for publication of the improved manuscript.**

If the peer reviewers consider that the corresponding author did not meet/or met poorly the revision requests, they will deny the approval for publication, which will be communicated to the editor. The approval for publication once taken by the reviewers, the decision will be communicated in editorial meeting.

Published Conflict-of-Interest Statement

Public trust in the peer review process and the credibility of published articles depend in part on how well conflict of interest is handled during writing, peer review, and editorial decision making. Conflict of interest exists when an author (or the author's institution), reviewer, or editor has financial or personal relationships that inappropriately influence (bias) his or her actions (such relationships are also known as dual commitments, competing interests, or competing loyalties). These relationships vary from those with negligible potential to those with great potential to influence judgment, and not all relationships represent true conflict of interest. The potential for conflict of interest can exist whether or not an individual believes that the relationship affects his or her scientific judgment. Financial relationships (such as employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony) are the most easily identifiable conflicts of interest and the most likely to undermine the credibility of the journal, the authors, and of science itself. However, conflicts can occur for other reasons, such as personal relationships, academic competition, and intellectual passion.

I have aknowledged all the above aspects and as first author I am responsible for these aspects.

DATE NAME (print) Signature	2

Published Statement of Informed Consent

Patients have a right to privacy that should not be infringed without informed consent. Identifying information, including patients' names, initials, or hospital numbers, should not be published in written descriptions, photographs, and pedigrees unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the patient (or parent or guardian) gives written informed consent for publication. Informed consent for this purpose requires that a patient who is identifiable be shown the manuscript to be published. Authors should identify Individuals who provide writing assistance and disclose the funding source for this assistance.

Identifying details should be omitted if they are not essential. Complete anonymity is difficult to achieve, however, and informed consent should be obtained if there is any doubt. For example, masking the eye region in photographs of patients is inadequate protection of anonymity. If identifying characteristics are altered to protect anonymity, such as in genetic pedigrees, authors should provide assurance that alterations do not distort scientific meaning and editors should so note.

When informed consent has been obtained it should be indicated in the published article.

I have aknowledged all the above aspects and as first author I am responsible for these aspects.

DATE	NAME (print)	Signature
	_: (5:1111)	~5-5

Published Statement of Human and Animal Rights

When reporting experiments on human subjects, authors should indicate whether the procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional and national) and with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 2000 (5). If doubt exists whether the research was conducted in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration, the authors must explain the rationale for their approach, and demonstrate that the institutional review body explicitly approved the doubtful aspects of the study. When reporting experiments on animals, authors should be asked to indicate whether the institutional and national guide for the care and use of laboratory animals was followed.

aspect		knowledged	all the	above	aspects	and	as first	author	I am	responsible	for	these
1	DATE		NAME	(print)					Sign	nature		

Assignement of copyright and authorship responsabilities

Each author must read and sign the following statements; if necessary, photocopy this document and distribute to co-authors for their original signatures.

Completed page of this form should be submitted to the Editorial Office: secretar@bioclima.ro

Each author warrants that his or her submission to the Work is original and that he or she has full power to enter into this agreement. Neither this Work nor a similar work has been published elsewhere in any language nor shall be submitted for publication elsewhere while under consideration by Balneo Research Journal. Each author also accepts that the Balneo Research Journal will not be held legally responsible for any claims of compensation.

Authors wishing to include figures or text passages that have already been published elsewhere are required to obtain permission from the copyright holder(s) and to include evidence that such permission has been granted when submitting their papers. Any material received without such evidence will be assumed to originate from the authors.

Please include at the end of the acknowledgements a declaration that the experiments comply with the current laws of the country in which they were performed. The editors reserve the right to reject manuscripts that do not comply with the abovementioned requirements. The author(s) will be held responsible for false statements or failure to fulfill the above-mentioned requirements.

In consideration of publication of the Work, the authors hereby transfer, assign, and otherwise convey all copyright ownership worldwide, in all languages, and in all forms of media now or hereafter known, including electronic media such as CD-ROM, Internet, and Intranet, to Balneo Research Journal. If Balneo Research Journal should decide for any reason not to publish an author's submission to the Work, Balneo Research Journal shall give prompt notice of its decision to the corresponding author, this agreement shall terminate, and neither the author nor Balneo Research Journal shall be under any further liability or obligation.

Each author certifies that he or she has no commercial associations (e.g., consultancies, stock ownership, equity interest, patent/licensing arrangements, etc.) that might pose a conflict of interest in connection with the submitted article, except as disclosed on a separate attachment. All funding sources supporting the Work and all institutional or corporate affiliations of the authors are acknowledged in a footnote in the Work.

Each author certifies that his or her institution has approved the protocol for any investigation involving humans or animals and that all experimentation was conducted in conformity with ethical and humane principles of research.

DATE NA	AME (print	Signature