

## Instruction for Authors

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*Xjenza* is the journal of the Malta Chamber of Scientists and is published by the Chamber in hard copy and in electronic format on the website <http://www.xjenza.com>. This website is hosted by the Faculty of Science of the University of Malta.

*Xjenza* will consider for publication manuscripts in the following categories:

- (01) Communications
- (02) Reviews
- (03) Research Articles
- (04) Notes
- (05) Brief Research Reports
- (06) Research Reports
- (07) Comments and Responses
- (08) Errata
- (09) News
- (10) Commentaries

**Communications** are short peer-reviewed research articles (limited two three journal pages) describing new important results meriting urgent publication. These are normally followed by a full Research Article.

**Research Articles** form the main category of scientific papers submitted to *Xjenza*. The same standards of scientific content and quality that apply to Communications apply to regular Research Articles.

**Reviews:** *Xjenza* also publishes peer-reviewed 'Review Articles' describing work which is of interest to the wide readership characteristic of *Xjenza*. Review Articles should be written in a way that the length is kept to the minimum consistent with comprehensibility (normally exceed 15 journal pages). Authors are strongly advised to contact one of the Editors before writing a Review.

**Notes** are fully referenced peer-reviewed short articles limited to four journal pages describing new theories, concepts and developments made by the authors in any branch of science and technology. Notes need not contain results from experimental or simulation work.

**Brief Research Reports** are intended as a medium for reporting work carried out in Malta or by Maltese researchers that has been presented at scientific meetings or conferences or has been published in leading international journals. Brief Research Reports are limited to three journal pages and must include a footnote to the Title stating where the work was originally reported. It is the authors' responsibility to ensure that no copyright agreements are being breached.

**Research Reports** are extended reports describing research work that is being carried out in Malta or by Maltese researchers written in such a way that it will be of interest to a wide scientific audience characteristic of *Xjenza*. Please contact one of the editors to discuss the suitability of topics for Research Reports.

**Comments and Responses:** *Xjenza* publishes Comments. The purpose of a Comment is to correct significant errors in articles published in *Xjenza*, to take issue with the conclusions reached, or to provide additional insight or corroboration. Comments must be concise, substantive, and free of polemics. They must address scientific issues only. Comments on questions of priority or calling attention to a minor oversight in a reference list do not benefit our readers enough to be published and can be settled by the author of the original manuscript by writing an Addendum. If the author of the Comment is wrong, or if he/she has simply misunderstood the original, it will be best to settle the matter privately. The Comment is limited to no more than three printed pages. The title should read: Comment on "Original title" by \*\*\*, *Xjenza*, vol. \*\*\* (year). The author is given an opportunity to reply. The Response should take up no more than one printed page. The title should read: Response to "Comment on 'Original title'" by \*\*\*, *Xjenza*, vol. \*\*\* (year). The Comment and Response will then be reviewed. If the Comment is rejected, neither will be published. If the Response alone is rejected, the Comment will be published without the Response. No further exchange beyond this point can be considered for publication. At their discretion, the editors may also publish the Comment and Response without peer review, in which case a footnote will be added stating that "The 'Comment' and its 'Response' are published 'as received' from the respective authors and have not been peer-reviewed."

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**Commentaries** provide a space for manuscripts up to three pages in length for material falling outside the usual categories. Please contact one of the editors to discuss the suitability of topics for Commentaries.

In addition to this, *Xjenza* regularly publishes Invited Articles, that is articles written on invitation by the Editors.

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Manuscripts prepared using the pre-formatted *Xjenza* template should be sent in electronic format (ideally through e-mail) to one of the Editors of *Xjenza*:

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### Referees

All manuscripts submitted to *Xjenza* are peer reviewed. Authors are requested to submit together with the manuscript, the names and addresses of two referees, preferably from overseas but the editors reserve the right to choose their own reviewers.

### Conflict of Interest

Authors are expected to disclose any commercial or other associations that might pose a conflict of interest in connection with the submitted article. All funding sources supporting the work, and institutional or corporate affiliations of the authors, should be acknowledged on the title page or at the end of the article.

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- A suitable title (which should normally not exceed 150 characters)
- The author(s) name(s), and the full address of the institution in which the work was carried out (please identify the author for proofs - giving e-mail address, telephone and fax numbers - for correspondence and reprint requests)
- An abstract of no more than 200 words, and up to 8 keywords. [This does not apply to Brief Research Reports, Comments and Responses, Errata and News].

Research reports should have an appropriate introduction, a single methods section (with the methodology of all experiments reports), results, and discussion. Either British or American spelling are acceptable, but authors are requested to be consistent. Authors should normally express measurements in SI units, although they may include older conventional units in parentheses if they wish. Except for units of measurement, abbreviations should be spelled out on first use, and should be standard. Drug names should be generic, although authors may add brand names in parentheses if they wish. **Illustrations** should be embedded within the manuscript in 'single-column' format (preferably). If any figures are to appear as 'double-column' format, this should be inserted at the end of the document. Alternatively, images may be submitted separately in electronic format in a common format (Bitmap, JPG or TIFF). Authors are requested to ensure that illustrations are of publishing quality. **Tables** should bear Roman numerals and embedded in 'single-column' format (preferably). If any table is to appear as 'double-column' format within the manuscript, this should be inserted at the end of the document. Each table requires a title, but no legend. Alternatively, tables may be prepared in a separate document were each table is typed on a separate sheet. **Footnotes** should be identified by superscripts 1, 2, 3, etc. **Supplementary information in electronic format** (e.g. X-Ray data, animations, movies, etc.) may also be submitted for publication on the *Xjenza* website at the discretion of the Editors.

**References:** References should follow the Harvard system. In the text give the author(s) name and, in parentheses, the date of the paper/book being cited. Differentiate between work by the same author in the same year by a, b, c etc., immediately after the date. Where there are three or more authors use *et al.* in the text and a, b, c to resolve ambiguities. All citations must be listed at the end of the manuscript, ordered alphabetically by first author's name. For each first author, list single author works, next joint authored works in alphabetical order, last multi-authored works in chronological order. Each reference should give the names and initials of each author (unless the number of co-authors exceeds fifteen), the year of publication, the title of the article, the name of the journal or book in full (in italics), the volume or edition (in bold), the first and last page, and, for books, the publisher and town of publication. For example:

Scerri CA, Abela W, Galdies R, Pizzuto M, Greeh JL and Felice AE (1993) The b+ [ Int No. 6(T->C) Thalassaemia in heterozygotes with an associated Hh Valletta or Hb S Het erozygosity and homozygotes from Malta. *British Journal of Haematology*, **83**, 669-671.

Felice AE (1992) Molecular Epidemiology of Haemoglobin, and the Molecular biology of Normal and Abnormal Globin gene expres sion. In: Collected Papers (Eds R Ellul-Micallef and S Fiorini), pp. 357-391. Malta University Press, Malta.

David Rawn J (1989) *Biochemistry*. Neil Patterson Publishers, North Carolina.

Muscat R, Papp M and Wil P (1992a) Antidepressant-like effects of dopamine agonists in an animal model of depression. *Biological Psychiatry*, **31**, 937-946.

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Studies using human subjects should include a statement within the manuscript that subjects provided informed consent for their participation and that the study was approved by a local ethics committee.

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The editors will welcome the submission of work in any area of science. However, studies that subject animals to pain or stress require special consideration and three principles will be used to judge the ethics of such work. First, experiments of this kind will be required to reach a higher threshold of scientific quality in order to be publishable. Second, the utility of the study will be assessed, in terms of the balance between the distress inflicted and the likelihood of benefit. Third, it must be demonstrated that the objectives of the experiment could not have been achieved by the use of less stressful procedures; the fact that a particular procedure has been used in previously published work will not in itself suffice. The editors believe that scientists apply strict ethical criteria to their work, and will have no difficulty in meeting these requirements.

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