

Journal of Reproduction and Development

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Aims and Scope

The *Journal of Reproduction and Development (JRD)* is an international, peer-reviewed Open Access publication, and the official journal of the Society for Reproduction and Development. In six issues per year, *JRD* publishes basic studies of reproductive biology in vertebrates, including gametogenesis, early embryonic development, placenta development, implantation, reproductive endocrine function and reproductive organ development. *JRD* also welcomes applied and clinical studies that contribute to the control of reproduction in wild, domestic and laboratory animals, and to the development of new technology to address issues in the field of reproduction. Human clinical case reports are not published by the journal.

Manuscript Types

The journal publishes four article types, all of which are subject to peer review. Articles must represent original and unpublished materials.

Original Articles

Original Articles are full papers that report original, investigative research. Original Articles are to be arranged in the following order, and the following sections must begin on separate pages: Title page, Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conflict of interest, Acknowledgments, References, Tables and Figures (including figure legends on the same page).

The abstract should be written in a single paragraph of no more than 250 words. Original Articles should contain no more than 5000 words in the main text (Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conflict of interest and Acknowledgments) and no more than 6 display items. If necessary, additional information may be provided as Supplementary Material.

Technology Reports

Technology Reports are short reports that focus on methodologies, such as new techniques or novel approaches, to solve reproductive problems. Technology Reports are succinct reports and prepared in the following order: Title page, Abstract, Text, Methods, Conflict of interest, Acknowledgments, References, Tables and Figures (including figure legends on the same page). The text should have no subheadings.

The abstract should be written in a single paragraph of up to 150 words. Up to 30 references may be cited. Technology Reports should contain no more than 2500 words in the main text (Text, Methods, Conflict of interest and Acknowledgments) and no more than 3 display items. If necessary, additional information may be provided as Supplementary Material.

Reviews

Reviews present novel or unique overviews of recent or important developments in the field. Reviews must be insightful and must address the question(s) of interest using appropriate and fully presented evidence; exhaustive general summaries will not be published. Reviews are usually invited by Editorial Board members. Authors who would like to contribute Reviews should consult with a member of the Editorial Board in advance. Reviews include a Title page, Abstract, Text, Conflict of interest, Acknowledgments, References, Tables and Figures (including figure legends on the same page).

The text should be written with concise subheadings for easy reading. The abstract should be written in a single paragraph of no more than 250 words. Reviews should contain no more than 5000 words in the main text (Text, Conflict of interest and Acknowledgments) and no more than 6 display items.

Opinions and Hypotheses

Opinions and Hypotheses provide a forum for news, short-format reviews, comments on recently published papers, and unique hypotheses that should be of interest to readers of *JRD*. Opinions and Hypotheses articles are given the highest priority for rapid publication. Note that shortened Original Articles are not considered as Opinions and Hypotheses articles. Opinions and Hypotheses include a Title page, Abstract, Text, Conflict of interest, Acknowledgments, References, Tables and Figures (including figure legends on the same page).

The abstract should be written in a single paragraph of no more than 100 words. Opinions and Hypotheses should contain no more than 2500 words in the main text (Text, Conflict of interest and Acknowledgments) and no more than 3 display items.

Manuscript Submission

All manuscripts must be submitted via the journal's online submission system, ScholarOne: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jrd>. The original or revised manuscript text may be uploaded as a PDF or Microsoft Word file, but a Word file is required for the final manuscript text. The total file size able to be uploaded is 10MB. Further, the allowable file formats are listed below:

Text: .doc, docx.

Tables: .doc, .docx, xls, .xlsx.

Figures: .tif, .eps, .jpg, .gif, .psd, .ai, .ppt, .pptx.

Not accepted: .exe, .com, .shs, .vbs, .zip.

A completed 'Affirmation of Originality and Assignment of Copyright Form' should be signed by all authors and either e-mailed to the Editorial Office immediately after manuscript submission via ScholarOne. The form can be downloaded from the *JRD* website (<http://reproduction.jp/NewHP/Journal.html>).

If you encounter any problems with online submission, please contact the Editorial Office at the details provided in the Contact section. Please include the manuscript ID number with your inquiry.

Manuscript Preparation

Style

The manuscripts must be typed on A4 (210 × 297 mm) or Letter (216 × 279 mm) paper with 25 mm margins using 11-point type in Times New Roman font, with 24–26 lines per page. All lines of the text should be numbered serially in the left margin, and the entire manuscript should be paginated.

English standard

Manuscripts should be written in clear, grammatically correct US English. Authors whose native language is not English are strongly encouraged to have their manuscript checked by a native English speaker or by an editing service prior to submission. If a manuscript is not clear due to poor English, it may be rejected without undergoing peer review.

Format

The first page of each manuscript should contain: Title, Authors' full names, Affiliations, Key words, Running Head, Creative Commons license (see the 'Copyright and licensing' section) and the name and full address (including telephone number, facsimile number, and e-mail address) of the corresponding author.

Title

Titles should be concise, specific, informative and clear and should emphasize the main point of the article. Avoid abbreviations or symbols that are not easily understood by general scientific readers. Titles should include key words or phrases that are useful for indexing. Subtitles may be used to amplify the title; however, they should be able to stand alone.

Authors and affiliations

The authors should be listed immediately below the title or subtitle. Include each author's full name and address with postal code of the institution where the study was performed.

An e-mail address with the name of an author to whom all correspondence regarding the manuscript is to be directed must be provided at the bottom of the title page. The e-mail address will appear on the first page of the published article for readers who may want to request additional information.

Keywords

Three to five key words that represent key concepts of the paper should be provided at the end of the Abstract in alphabetical order.

Running head

The running head should not exceed 40 characters, including spaces.

Abstract

The Abstract summarizes the main points of an article: (1) the purpose of the study, (2) basic procedures, (3) main findings and (4) principal conclusions. The abstract should be clearly understandable in isolation. Avoid abbreviations or symbols that are not easily understood by general scientific readers. References should not be cited in the abstract.

Introduction

The Introduction should provide sufficient background information to allow the reader to understand the purpose of the investigation and its relationship with other research in related fields. It should not include an extensive review of the literature.

Materials and Methods

This section should provide readers with sufficient information to replicate the work. Although it is not necessary to give details of published methodology if appropriately cited, any modifications must be described. Information regarding statistical analysis of the data should be included.

Results

The Results section should briefly present the experimental data in text, tables or figures. Details about the preparation of tables and figures are provided below.

Discussion

The Discussion should focus on the interpretation and significance of the findings with concise objective comments that describe their relation to other work in that area. The Discussion should not reiterate the Results.

Conflicts of interest

All authors should declare any competing or conflicts of interest in relation to their submitted manuscript. A conflict of interest exists when there are actual, perceived or potential circumstances that could influence an author's ability to conduct or report research impartially. Potential conflicts include (but are not limited to) competing commercial or financial interests, commercial affiliations, consulting roles, or ownership of stock or equity.

Acknowledgments

This section should be brief and note any financial support, gifts of materials, technical help, editorial assistance, and so forth. Authors should list all funding sources for their work in the Acknowledgements section.

References

References should be cited in the text by Arabic numeral in square brackets, e.g. [1, 2–5, 7]. They should be listed in the order of appearance in the text. Articles included in the reference list must appear in publications that are accessible to most scientists. Reference material that has been accepted for publication must be listed as “in press”; the listing must include journal title and anticipated year of publication, or, for books, the publisher and year of publication.

Journal names should be abbreviated according to Serial Sources for the BIOSIS Database or Index Medicus. Sources of reference that are “in preparation,” “submitted for publication,” “personal communication” or “unpublished data” should not be included in the reference list;

they should appear in the text parenthetically immediately following the names of the authors or the source of information.

Journal article

1. **Lee VH, Fields PA.** Rabbit relaxin: The influence of pregnancy and ovariectomy during pregnancy on the plasma profile. *Biol Reprod* 1991; **45**: 209-214.

Book chapter

2. **Desjardins C, Lopez MJ.** Sensory and nonsensory modulations of testis function. *In*: Steinberger A, Steinberger E (eds.), *Testicular Development, Structure and Function*. New York: Raven Press; 1980: 381-388.

Abstracts in published proceedings

3. **Yanagawa T, Shirasu K, Uemura T, Minaguchi H.** Effects of chronic administration of GnRH analog to the pituitary and the ovary. *In*: Program of the 8th International Congress of Endocrinology; 1988; Kyoto, Japan. Abstract 189.

Supplements

4. **Bravo PW, Stabenfeldt GH, Fowler ME.** Ovarian follicular activity in llamas. *Biol Reprod* 1989; **40** (Suppl 1): 51 (abstract 11).

Publications in non-English languages

When citing an article published in a non-English language, use the English translation of the title, if available. If necessary, translate the title into English with the consent or confirmation of the article's authors. In all cases, a description of the original language should be added in parentheses, e.g., (In Japanese), to the end of the reference.

5. **Ushijima H, Tsunoda Y, Eto T, Imai H.** *In vitro* development of bovine reconstituted eggs after fusion with a blastomere from 8-cell to blastocyst stage embryos. *Jpn J Anim Reprod* 1991; **37**: 15–19 (In Japanese).

Figures and Tables

Screenshots of figures and tables are not accepted for submission. Figures and tables should be prepared in editable formats before PDF conversion.

Figures should be cited in the text in numerical order. Titles and legends of figures should be written below the respective figures.

For peer review purposes, figures should have sufficient resolution to be legible. For final production, figures should be supplied at a width of 8.4 cm (single column) or 17.5 cm (double column) and a height of less than 22 cm.

The font used for figures should be Arial or Helvetica. Numbers, letters and symbols should be no smaller than 6 points (2 mm) and no larger than 12 points (7 mm).

Different sections in each figure should be labeled by A, B, C, etc., and placed in the upper left corner.

Tables should be cited in the text in numerical order. Avoid using vertical separators within tables. Times New Roman must be used for all text in the Tables. Text, numbers, letters and

MS Excel Spreadsheets	.xls or .xlsx
MS PowerPoint presentations	.ppt or .pptx
JPEG images	.jpg
Graphical images	.gif
Portable Document Format documents	.pdf
Video	.avi, .mov, .mp4 or .wmv
Plain ASCII files	.txt

Journal & Ethics Policies

JRD upholds the highest standards in scholarly publishing.

Before submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors must ensure that they have read and complied with the journal's policies. The journal reserves the right to reject without review, or retract, any manuscript that the Editor believes may not comply with these policies.

The responsibilities of the journal's authors, editors, reviewers and publisher regarding research and publication ethics are described in full below.

Submission to the journal implies that the manuscript has not been previously published (in part or in whole, in any language), is not in press, and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Authors must inform the editors if any related manuscripts are under consideration, in press or published elsewhere. Although the availability of a manuscript on a publicly accessible preprint server does not constitute prior publication (see 'Preprints'), authors must inform the editors if a manuscript has been posted to a preprint server.

If authors choose to submit their manuscript elsewhere before a final decision has been made on its suitability for publication in the journal, they should first withdraw it from *JRD* and inform the Editorial Office before submitting to another journal.

Submission

JRD welcomes manuscript submissions from authors based anywhere in the world.

Submission of a manuscript to the journal implies that all authors: have approved it, warrant it is factual, have agreed to its submission, and have the right to publish it.

Originality

Submission to the journal implies that the manuscript is original work. The journal may use software to screen manuscripts for unoriginal content. By submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors agree to this screening. Any manuscript with an unacceptable level of unoriginal material may be rejected or retracted at the editors' discretion.

Preprints

To support the wide dissemination of research, the journal allows authors to post their research manuscripts on community-recognized preprint servers such as [bioRxiv](https://www.biorxiv.org/), either before or alongside submission to the journal. This policy applies only to the original version of a manuscript that describes primary research. Any version of a manuscript that has been revised

in response to reviewers' comments, accepted for publication or published in the journal should not be posted on a preprint server. Instead, forward links to the published manuscript may be posted on the preprint server.

Authors should retain copyright in their work when posting to a preprint server.

Scooping

When assessing the novelty of a manuscript submitted to the journal, the editors will not be influenced by manuscripts published elsewhere after the date of submission to *JRD*.

Authorship

Submission to the journal implies that all authors have seen and approved the author list. Changes to the author list after manuscript submission – such as the insertion or removal of author names, or a rearrangement of author order – must be approved by all authors and the editor.

Authors are encouraged to consider the Council of Science Editors (CSE) [principles governing authorship](#). According to the CSE guidelines (and references therein), each author is expected have made substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis or interpretation of data; or have drafted the work or substantively revised it. Authors have also agreed to be held accountable for their own contributions to the work; can identify which co-authors are responsible for other parts of the work; have confidence in the integrity of the work; and have reviewed and approved the final manuscript and any resubmissions. Contributors who do not qualify for authorship may be included in the Acknowledgements section instead.

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All images in a manuscript must accurately reflect the original data on which they are based. Authors must not move, remove, add or enhance individual parts of an image. The editors reserve the right to request original, unprocessed images from the authors. Failure to provide requested images may result in a manuscript being rejected or retracted.

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Availability of data and materials

Authors must disclose the source of publicly available data and materials, such as public repositories or commercial manufacturers, by including accession numbers or company details in their manuscript, as appropriate.

Authors may make their own data and materials available in Supplementary Material, or by linking from their manuscript to relevant community-recognized public databases or digital repositories. All data sets must be made available in full to the editors and reviewers during the peer review process, and must be made publicly available by the date of publication.

Animal/human experimentation

Investigators should follow the highest standards for the humane care and use of animals in research. This includes, but is not limited to:

- using the minimum number of animals necessary to meet rigorous scientific and statistical standards
- keeping research animals properly housed and fed, and their surroundings in a sanitary condition
- ensuring that animals receive appropriate anesthetics, analgesics, tranquilizers or care to minimize pain and discomfort during pre-operative, operative and post-operative procedures.

All experiments involving animals should be carried out under the approval of an institutional animal experiment ethics committee, and this approval must be stated and documented in the manuscript.

Authors of manuscripts describing experiments involving humans or materials derived from humans must demonstrate that the work was carried out in accordance with the principles embodied in the Declaration of Helsinki, its revisions, and any guidelines approved by the authors' institutions. Where relevant, the authors must include a statement in their manuscript that describes the procedures for obtaining informed consent from participants regarding participation in the research and publication of the research. Experiments must be approved by an institutional human research committee, and this approval must be stated and documented in the manuscript.

Specimen collection

Manuscripts describing the collection of archaeological, geological, paleontological or wildlife specimens or samples should include detailed information on their provenance and collection methods. Authors must include a statement in their manuscript describing the relevant ethics guidelines, local laws and collection permits under which the research was conducted.

Confidentiality

The journal maintains the confidentiality of all unpublished manuscripts. By submitting their manuscript to the journal, the authors warrant that they will keep all correspondence about their manuscript (from the Editorial Office, editors and reviewers) strictly confidential.

Self-archiving (Green Open Access) policy

Self-archiving, also known as Green Open Access, enables authors to deposit a copy of their manuscript in an online repository. *JRD* allows authors of original research manuscripts to upload their article to an institutional or public repository immediately after publication in the journal.

Long-term digital archiving

J-STAGE preserves its full digital library, including *JRD*, with Portico in a dark archive (see <https://www.portico.org/publishers/jstage/>). In the event that the material becomes unavailable at J-STAGE, it will be released and made available by Portico.

Peer Review Process

Editorial and peer review process

The journal uses single-blind peer review. When a manuscript is submitted to the journal, it is assigned to the Editor-in-Chief or a co-Editor-in-Chief, who perform the initial screening. Manuscripts that do not fit the journal's scope or are not deemed suitable for publication are rejected without review. The remaining manuscripts are assigned to an Editor who assigns two or more reviewers to assess each manuscript. Reviewers are selected based on their expertise, reputation and previous experience as peer reviewers.

Upon receipt of the two or more reviewers' reports, the Editor makes a recommendation on the manuscript to the Editor-in-Chief or the responsible co-Editor-in-Chief. If the decision is to request revision of the manuscript, authors have 3 months to resubmit their revised manuscript. Revised manuscripts submitted after this deadline may be treated as new submissions. The Editor may send revised manuscripts to peer reviewers for their feedback or may use his or her own judgement to assess how closely the authors have followed the Editor's and the reviewers' comments on the original manuscript.

The Editor then makes a recommendation to the Editor-in-Chief or the responsible co-Editor-in-Chief on the manuscript's suitability for publication. The Editor-in-Chief or the responsible co-Editor-in-Chief makes the final decision on each manuscript.

The members of the Editorial Board act in advisory roles, providing feedback as reviewers and making suggestions to improve the journal. The Editor-in-Chief acts as an arbitrator when necessary.

Reviewer selection, timing and suggestions

Reviewers are selected without regard to geography and need not belong to the journal's Editorial Board. Reviewers are selected based on their expertise in the field, reputation, recommendation by others, and/or previous experience as peer reviewers for the journal.

Reviewers are invited within 7 days of an article being assigned to the Editor. Reviewers' are requested to return their reports within 2 weeks. Reviewers who anticipate any delays are asked to inform the Editorial Office as soon as possible.

When submitting a manuscript to the journal, authors may suggest reviewers that they would like included in or excluded from the peer review process. The Editor may consider these suggestions but is under no obligation to follow them. The selection, invitation and assignment of peer reviewers is at the Editor's sole discretion.

Reviewer reports

It is the journal's policy to transmit reviewers' comments to the authors in their original form. However, the journal reserves the right to edit reviewers' comments, without consulting the reviewers, if they contain offensive language, confidential information or recommendations for publication.

Acceptance criteria

If a manuscript satisfies the journal's requirements and represents a significant contribution to the published literature, the Editor may recommend acceptance for publication in the journal.

Articles, and the work described in *JRD* articles, must be:

- within the subject area of the journal's scope
- novel and original
- significant in the field
- ethically and technically rigorous
- of high interest to the journal's audience, and more broadly as appropriate.

Editorial independence

The Society for Reproduction and Development (SRD) has granted the journal's Editorial Board complete and sole responsibility for all editorial decisions. The SRD will not become involved in editorial decisions, except in cases of a fundamental breakdown of process.

Editorial decisions are based only on a manuscript's scientific merit and are kept completely separate from the journal's other interests. The authors' ability to pay any publication charges has no bearing on whether a manuscript is accepted for publication in the journal.

Appeals

Authors who believe that an editorial decision has been made in error may lodge an appeal with the Editorial Office. Appeals are only considered if the authors provide detailed evidence of a misunderstanding or mistake by a reviewer or editor. Appeals are considered carefully by the handling Co-Editor-in-Chief, whose decision is final.

Confidentiality in peer review

The journal maintains the confidentiality of all unpublished manuscripts. Editors will not:

- disclose a reviewer's identity unless the reviewer makes a reasonable request for such disclosure
- discuss the manuscript or its contents with anyone not directly involved with the manuscript or its peer review
- use any data or information from the manuscript in their own work or publications
- use information obtained from the peer review process to provide an advantage to themselves or anyone else, or to disadvantage any individual or organization.

Conflicts of interest in peer review

A conflict of interest exists when there are actual, perceived or potential circumstances that could influence an editor's ability to act impartially when assessing a manuscript. Such circumstances might include having a personal or professional relationship with an author, working on the same topic or in direct competition with an author, or having a financial stake in the work or its publication.

Members of the journal's Editorial Board undertake to declare any conflicts of interest when handling manuscripts. An editor who declares a conflict of interest is unassigned from the manuscript in question and is replaced by a new editor.

Errata and retractions

The journal recognizes the importance of maintaining the integrity of published literature.

A published article that contains an error may be corrected through the publication of an Erratum. Errata describe errors that significantly affect the scientific integrity of a publication, the reputation of the authors, or the journal itself. Authors who wish to correct a published article should contact the Editorial Office with full details of the error(s) and their requested changes.

A published article that contains invalid or unreliable results or conclusions, has been published elsewhere, or has infringed codes of conduct (covering research or publication ethics) may be retracted after investigation.

The decision to publish Errata or Retractions is made at the sole discretion of the Editor-in-Chief.

Editors as authors in the journal

Any member of the journal's Editorial Board, including the Editor-in-Chief who is an author on a submitted manuscript is excluded from the peer review process; an independent member of the Editorial Board is responsible for making the final decision on the manuscript's suitability for publication in the journal. Within the journal's online manuscript submission and tracking system, they will be able to see their manuscript as an author but not as an editor, thereby maintaining the confidentiality of peer review.

Responding to potential ethical breaches

The journal will respond to allegations of ethical breaches by following its own policies and, where possible, the guidelines of [COPE](#).

Reviewer confidentiality

As part of their responsibilities, reviewers agree to maintain the confidentiality of unpublished manuscripts at all times. By accepting the invitation to review a manuscript, reviewers agree not to:

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- reveal their identity to any of the authors of the manuscript
- discuss the manuscript or its contents with anyone not directly involved in the review process
- involve anyone else in the review (for example, a post-doc or PhD student) without first requesting permission from the Editor
- use any data or information from the manuscript in their own work or publications
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Reviewer conflicts of interest

A conflict of interest exists when there are actual, perceived or potential circumstances that could influence a reviewer's ability to assess a manuscript impartially. Such circumstances might include having a personal or professional relationship with an author, working on the same topic or in direct competition with an author, having a financial stake in the work or its publication, or having seen previous versions of the manuscript.

Editors try to avoid conflicts of interest when inviting reviewers, but it is not always possible to identify potential bias. Reviewers are asked to declare any conflicts of interest to the Editor, who will determine the best course of action.

Accepted Manuscripts

All communication regarding accepted manuscripts is with the corresponding author.

Upon acceptance, the Editorial Office will request the final text data (including tables) and original figures for publication.

Manuscripts that are accepted for publication are copyedited and typeset by the journal's production team before publication. The journal is published 6 times per year, and each article is posted online when available as an Advance Online Publication.

Proofs

Page proofs are sent to the corresponding author, who should check and return them within 10 days. Only essential corrections to typesetting errors or omissions are accepted; excessive changes are not permitted at the proofing stage.

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Contact

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