

Gut

*Journal of the British Society of Gastroenterology
which is a registered charity*

Editor: Michael J G Farthing

Associate Editors: David Adams, John Calam, Ian Forgacs (reviews, editorials), Michael A Kamm, Thomas T MacDonald, Nicholas A Wright

Managing Editor: Andrea Horgan *Editorial Assistants:* Anita Starbuck
Josie Stephenson

EDITORIAL BOARD

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| D Alderson (UK) | R H Holloway (Australia) | R H Riddell (Canada) |
| M J P Arthur (UK) | P Jansen (The Netherlands) | P Rutgeerts (Belgium) |
| C Arvanitakis (Greece) | G Krejs (Austria) | G Sandle (UK) |
| J Atherton (UK) | N F LaRusso (USA) | C Scarpignato (Italy) |
| G Bianchi Porro (Italy) | N Lemoine (UK) | S Schalm (The Netherlands) |
| M Blaser (USA) | O Lundgren (Sweden) | S Schreiber (Germany) |
| I Booth (UK) | P Malfertheiner (Germany) | E Schruppf (Norway) |
| M Buchler (Switzerland) | D Martin (UK) | I Tomlinson (UK) |
| E Butruk (Poland) | E Mayer (USA) | G Tytgat (The Netherlands) |
| R W Chapman (UK) | J Neoptolemos (UK) | B J R Whittle (UK) |
| T Chiba (Japan) | D Rachmilewitz (Israel) | T Wright (USA) |
| S Collins (Canada) | D S Rampton (UK) | Shu-Dong Xiao (China) |
| J-P Galmiche (France) | | |

S J W Evans
Statistical adviser

Editor
British Medical Journal

Local editions

China
Excerpta Medica Asia Ltd
19/F Eight Commercial Tower
8 Sun Yip Street
Chai Wan
Hong Kong
Tel: +852 2965 1300
Fax: +852 2976 0778

Netherlands/Belgium
Medicom Excel
PO Box 151
1400 AD Bussum
Netherlands
Tel: +31 35 69 52480
Fax: +31 35 69 48565

Gut

Journal of the British Society of Gastroenterology
which is a registered charity

- *Gut* publishes original papers, short rapid communications, leading articles, and reviews concerned with all aspects of the scientific basis of diseases of the alimentary tract, liver, and pancreas. Case reports will only be accepted if of exceptional merit.
- Submissions are accepted only on the understanding that they have not been submitted elsewhere and have not been and will not be published elsewhere (either in part or in whole). All submissions are subject to editorial revision.
- Authors must declare and submit copies of any manuscripts in preparation or submitted elsewhere that are closely related to the manuscript to be considered.
- Authors must conform to the uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals (*BMJ* 1991;302:338-41). **Randomised controlled trials** should be presented in a manner and format consistent with the CONSORT statement (*JAMA* 1996; 276:637-9).

Send to:

Professor M J G Farthing
Editor: *Gut*
BMJ Publishing Group
BMA House
Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9JR
Tel: +44 (0)171 383 6157/6394
Fax: +44 (0) 171 383 6787
E-mail: guteditorial@bmjgroup.com

Instructions to contributors

Manuscripts that do not conform to the following instructions may be returned for modification before being reviewed.

- All submissions must be typewritten on one side of the paper only, using double spacing and ample margins. All articles and letters should be submitted together with **four complete copies**, including all tables and figures (clean photocopies acceptable). **Abbreviations with their definitions should be listed on the title page and should also be defined where they first appear in the text.**
- **Covering letter** Each author must sign the covering letter as evidence of originality and consent to publication. All authors will be required to transfer copyright of their articles to the journal before publication.
- **Title page** Stating the title of the paper, the authors, their affiliations (one department and institution each), and the name and postal address (+tel, fax and e-mail numbers) of the corresponding author.
- Authors should provide the names and addresses (+tel, fax and e-mail numbers if known) of four experts whom the authors consider suitable to peer review their work.

Original articles

These represent a substantial body of laboratory or clinical work and should normally be no more than 3500 words in length. The study should be presented in sections—namely:

- **Abstract** No more than 250 words, summarising the problem being considered, how the study was performed, the salient results, and

the principal conclusions under subheadings *Background, Aims, Patients* (or *Subjects*), *Methods, Results*, and *Conclusions*. 95% Confidence intervals should be quoted instead of p values whenever possible.

- **Keywords** Authors should provide up to six keywords or phrases for the index.
- **Introduction** Brief description of the background that led to the study (current results and conclusions should not be included).
- **Methods** Details relevant to the conduct of the study. Wherever possible give numbers of subjects studied (not percentages alone). Statistical methods should be clearly explained at the end of this section.
- **Results** Work should be reported in SI units apart from blood pressure measurements, which should be given in mm Hg, and drugs in metric units. Undue repetition in text and tables should be avoided. Comment on validity and significance of results is appropriate but broader discussion of their implication is restricted to the next section. Subheadings that aid clarity of presentation within this and the previous section are encouraged.
- **Discussion** The nature and findings of the study are placed in context of other relevant published data. Caveats to the study should be discussed. Avoid undue extrapolation from the study topic.
- **Acknowledgments and affiliations** Individuals with direct involvement in the study but not included in authorship may be acknowledged. Financial support and industrial affiliations (and their nature) of all those involved must be stated.
- **References** In accordance with the Vancouver agreement these are cited by the numerical system and listed in the order cited in the text, not in alphabetical order by authors' names. (In the text, each reference number should be in square brackets on the line.) The first **three** authors followed by *et al* should be listed for **all** references. Journal titles are abbreviated in accordance with the style of *Index Medicus*. Information from manuscripts not yet in press, papers reported at meetings, or personal communications should be cited in the text, not as formal references.

1 Moss SF, Atia L, Scholes JV, *et al*. Increased small intestinal apoptosis in coeliac disease. *Gut* 1996;39:811-17.

Responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the references lies with the author.

- **Tables** Each table should be on a separate sheet, have a title, and contain no vertical rules. Tables submitted on disk should be in a separate file from the text.
- **Figures** Unmounted photographs on glossy paper are preferred by clean laser copies are acceptable. Illustrations should not be inserted in the text but marked on the back with the figure numbers, title of the paper, and name of the author. All photographs, graphs and diagrams should be referred to as figures and should be numbered consecutively in the text in Arabic numerals. The legends for figures should be typed on a separate sheet. Please note that part

of the cost of reproducing colour figures is charged to the authors. Please contact the editorial office for costs.

If any tables or illustrations submitted have been published elsewhere, written consent to publication should be obtained by the author from the copyright holder (usually the publisher) and the authors. A copy of the letter giving consent must be included.

Leading articles/Reviews

Although leading articles and reviews are usually published by editorial invitation, authors are invited to discuss directly with the Editor possible topics for review.

Case reports

Single case reports of outstanding interest or clinical relevance are welcomed, and should include a significant scientific advance in our understanding of disease aetiology or pathogenetic mechanisms. The format is identical to that of an original article. Length must not exceed 1500 words, 15 references, one table and two figures.

Occasional viewpoint

Contributions which present an interesting theory, discussed in relation to the published data, are welcomed. It is suggested that the authors first discuss the subject and scope of their planned article directly with the Editor.

Letters

Comments arising from recent articles published in *Gut* are welcomed. Original observations relating to short clinical or laboratory studies or case reports may also be appropriately presented as a Letter to the Editor. Letters are not divided into sections and are limited to no more than 600 words and 10 references; one table and one figure may be included. Instructions for references, tables, and figures are the same as for full length articles.

Gut files

These are brief accounts of important learning experiences in clinical practice and are subdivided as for structured abstracts. Alternatively, if the structured abstract headings are not appropriate, the following may be used: *Patient, History, Diagnostic procedures, Intervention/Treatment, Outcome, Discussion/Conclusion*. Length must not exceed 500 words, five references, one figure or one table.

Revised manuscripts should be submitted as **hard copy and on disk**. Detailed instructions will be sent to authors on invitation to revise.

Proofs

Contributors will receive one proof to be read carefully for printer's errors. Alterations to the original text should be kept to a minimum and may be charged to the author.

Reprints

These may be ordered from the publishing manager when the proofs are returned. Commercial reprints: contact Sheila Rowe. Tel: 0171 383 6450; fax: 0171 383 6556.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS Applications for advertisement space and for rates should be addressed to the Advertisement Manager, *Gut*, BMJ Publishing Group, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS *Gut* is published monthly. The annual subscription rates are £260.00; USA\$395.00. Reduced subscriptions of £100 are available to trainees for one year (direct only). Orders should be sent to the Subscription Manager, *Gut*, BMJ Publishing Group, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR. Subscribers may pay for their subscriptions by Access, Visa, or American Express, by quoting on their order the credit or charge card preferred, together with the appropriate per-

sonal account number and expiry date of the card. Orders can also be placed with any leading subscription agent or bookseller. (For the convenience of readers in the USA subscription orders, with or without payment, may also be sent to the BMJ Publishing Group, PO Box 590A, Kennebunkport, ME 04046, USA. Tel: 001 800 236 6265. All enquiries, however, must be addressed to the publisher in London.) All enquiries regarding air mail rates and single copies already published should be addressed to the publisher in London.

COPYRIGHT © 1999 *Gut*. This publication is copyright under the Berne Convention and the International Copyright Convention. All rights reserved. Apart from any relaxations permitted

under national copyright laws, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior permission of the copyright owners. Permission is not, however, required to copy abstracts of papers or of articles on condition that a full reference to the source is shown. Multiple copying of the contents of the publication without permission is always illegal. Periodicals postage paid, Rahway NJ. Postmaster: send address changes to: *Gut*, c/o Mercury Airfreight International Ltd., 365 Blair Road, Avenel, NJ 07001, USA. ISSN 0017-5749

***Gut* is now available full text online:
www.gutjnl.com**