

# ACADEMIC MEDICINE

Journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges



Tomorrow's Doctors, Tomorrow's Cures®

## Checklist of Publication Criteria for Articles

**Mission Statement:** *Academic Medicine serves as an international forum for the exchange of ideas, information, and strategies that address the major challenges facing the academic medicine community as it strives to carry out its missions in the public interest.*

### Relevance to the Journal's Mission

- The article addresses a serious challenge facing the academic medicine community; for instance, medical education innovations; technological innovations; effective approaches to managing educational programs, AMCs, and hospitals; conflict of interest/ethical issues; faculty issues; financial issues (financing medical education, mergers, and innovative business alliances); globalization of medical education; professional development and conduct; and many more (see the November 2005 Editorial).
- The article significantly adds to or enhances the existing literature on the subject in question.

### General Criteria

- Prior publication by the author(s) of substantial portions of the data or study is appropriately acknowledged.
- There is no apparent conflict of interest.

### Writing and Organization

- The introduction builds a logical case and context for of the article, the purpose of which is clear and well articulated.
- Historical background is given, where appropriate.
- Key concepts and terms are defined.
- The article is logically organized, well written, and easy to follow.
- The conclusions or discussion follow from the premises.
- Participants (institutions, organizations, committees, individuals, etc.) are clearly identified.
- Suggestions for future study or implementation are concrete and practical.
- Contrasting points of view or counterarguments are considered.
- The relation of figures and tables (if applicable) to the text is evident and necessary.
- Figures and tables (if applicable) are clear; data are consistent with the article's content.
- For Articles that contain research components, please reference the Checklist of Review Criteria for Research Reports.

### Reference to the Literature and Documentation

- The literature review—mainly of primary sources—is up-to-date and well integrated.
- The literature is analyzed and critically appraised.
- The number of references is appropriate and their selection is judicious.
- Ideas are acknowledged appropriately (scholarly attribution) and accurately; there are no instances of plagiarism, and reference citations are complete and accurate.

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**Perspectives (formerly called Viewpoints)** describe a considered view about one or more issues in academic medicine, propose and support a new hypothesis, or theorize the implications of as-yet unimplemented programs or innovations. Perspectives must be scholarly and arguments must be well-supported, but these articles can function as opinion pieces. They generally have few tables and figures, if any.

**Commentaries** are solicited opinion essays that comment on or set the context for an article or articles that have been accepted for publication. They can also be stand-alone essays framed as calls to action on major challenges. Commentaries have few references and rely heavily on the author's perspective and experience to support the argument. They should be less than 2,000 words and generally have few tables and figures, if any.

**Point-Counterpoints** are page-long, invited articles (750 words). Like commentaries, they may respond to an accepted article, or may explore two or more sides of an issue. They generally have few tables and figures, if any.