Call for “Clinical Case Study” Submissions

Clinical Chemistry Journal is proud to announce a call for “Clinical Case Study” submissions. Beginning in 2008, there will be a change in the format for Case Reports. Two important changes include the following: (a) comments from experts in the field will be solicited and published together with the case report, and (b) the case and several questions about the case will be circulated to teaching institutions 4–6 weeks before publication to stimulate discussion and education.

Clinical case reports form a vital part of education and help develop problem-solving skills. Reports may include unusual biochemical manifestations of a disease, unusual presentation of a disease, situations in which laboratory medicine is vital in making a diagnosis, or information that would be helpful in understanding the pathophysiology of a disease.

Manuscript specifications are given below. Before submission, queries should be sent to clinicalcases@pathology.wustl.edu. Submissions should include the case description in no more than 500 words, a brief description of the disease and what the manuscript will cover (200 words), and 3–5 brief questions regarding the case together with up to 5 points to remember (or relevant learning objectives).

Specifications

Case Reports

Case reports should be arranged in a logical order, i.e., age, sex, and occupation of the patient, presenting symptoms, any relevant family or social history, and relevant clinical findings before a description of laboratory investigations. There should be an explanation of the differential diagnosis, final diagnosis, treatment, and progress. A short discussion of the pathophysiology should follow. For most case reports, the authors will need access to the patient’s medical records to allow the full clinical picture to be presented. The case description should be no more than 500 words, and the entire manuscript should be no more than 1500 words. No abstract is required. The manuscript should have no more than 2 figures or tables total and no more than 10 references. Authors should submit the manuscript and the names of 3 experts in the field who could provide commentary on the disease and the specific case. Authors should also include 3–5 brief questions regarding the case that would stimulate discussion and learning about the disease state. These queries will be circulated to educational centers before publication. Comments from 1 or more experts in the field will appear at the end of the case. The experts will list up to 5 points to remember (or relevant learning objectives).

Educational Centers

If you are associated with an educational center and would like to receive the cases and questions 4–6 weeks in advance of publication, please send an e-mail to clinicalcases@pathology.wustl.edu.

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