15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum

1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

How to Publish in a Scientific Journal?

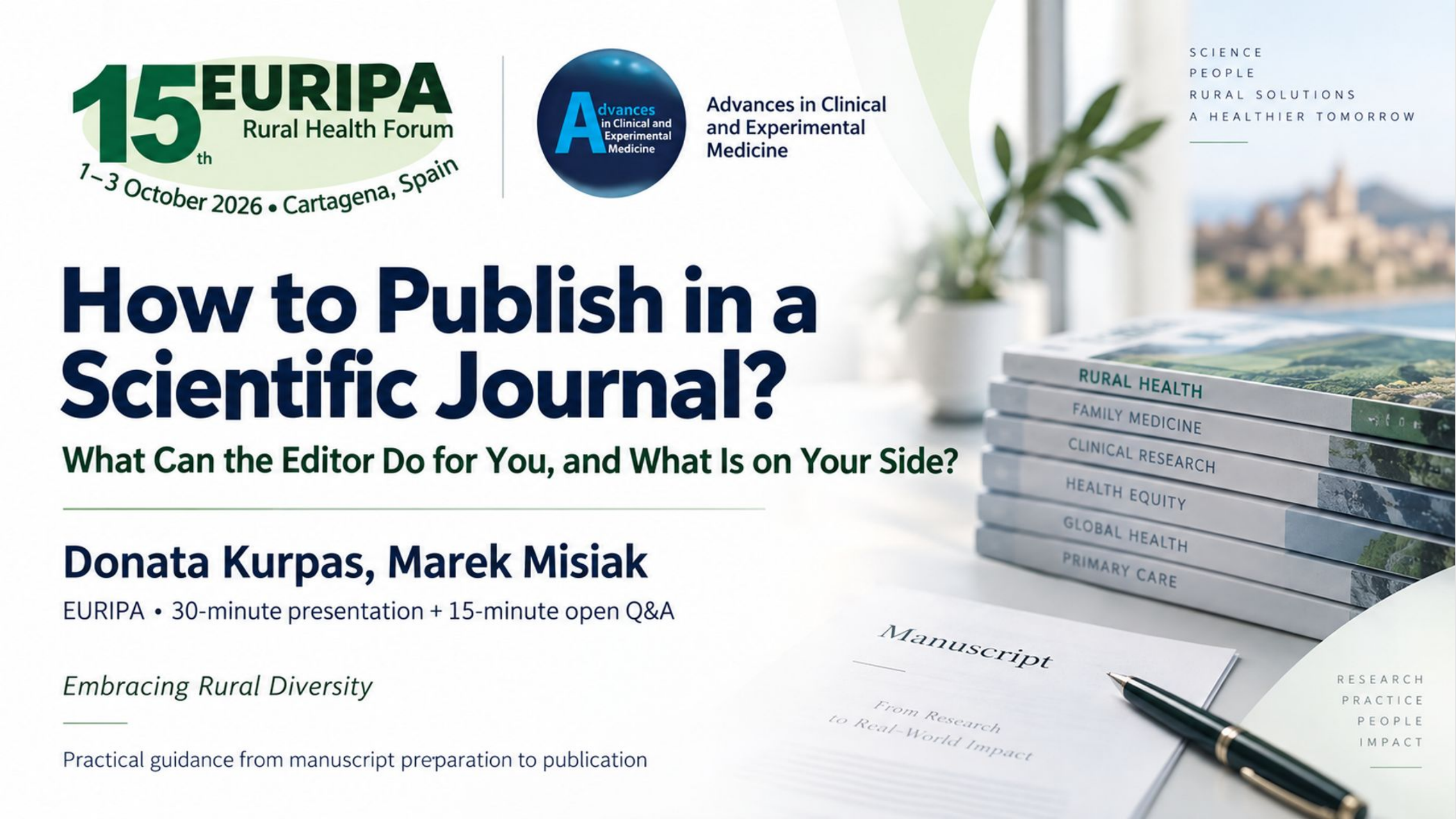
What Can the Editor Do for You, and What Is on Your Side?

Donata Kurpas, Marek Misiak

EURIPA • 30-minute presentation + 15-minute open Q&A

Embracing Rural Diversity

Practical guidance from manuscript preparation to publication



DK

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum
1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

SCIENCE
PEOPLE
RURAL SOLUTIONS
A HEALTHIER TOMORROW

THE KEY IDEA

A good study is necessary. It is not sufficient.

Publication succeeds when three things align:

RESEARCH QUALITY
the study itself

→

REPORTING QUALITY
what readers can verify

→

JOURNAL FIT
where the paper belongs

The editor can help most with the second and third.
The first remains the authors' responsibility.

DK

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum
1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

SCIENCE
PEOPLE
RURAL SOLUTIONS
A HEALTHIER TOMORROW

AUTHOR ⟷ EDITOR

Publication is a handover — not a rescue mission

The author owns

- Research question and design
- Data integrity and documentation
- Appropriate analysis
- Interpretation without overclaiming
- Authorship, ethics, conflicts and approvals
- Accuracy of every statement and reference

Shared: transparent communication

The editor can support

- Journal fit and manuscript type
- Clarity and structural coherence
- Selection and coordination of peer review
- Statistical / technical checks
- Publication integrity and corrections
- Production, proofs and dissemination

RESEARCH
PRACTICE
PEOPLE
IMPACT

DK

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum
1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

SCIENCE
PEOPLE
RURAL SOLUTIONS
A HEALTHIER TOMORROW

JOURNAL STRATEGY

Choose the journal before you finish the manuscript

Running case: multicountry cross-sectional study in rural primary care

SCOPE

Does the journal actually publish your topic and study design? Read recent issues — not only the 'Aims & Scope' page.

AUDIENCE

Who should act on your findings? Clinicians? Methodologists? Policy makers? A subspecialty?

ARTICLE TYPE

Original article, research letter, review, protocol, guideline… Choose the format that matches the work.

PRACTICAL FIT

Word limits, data sharing, open access, fees, review model, timing, required files.

Impact Factor is not a substitute for fit.

MM

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum
1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

SCIENCE
PEOPLE
RURAL SOLUTIONS
A HEALTHIER TOMORROW

SUBMISSION PREPARATION

Instructions for Authors are part of the method

A technically unprepared submission creates friction before anyone evaluates the science.

Article type + word limits
Main text structure, abstract format, keywords

Anonymisation + metadata
Author details, funding, declarations, ethics

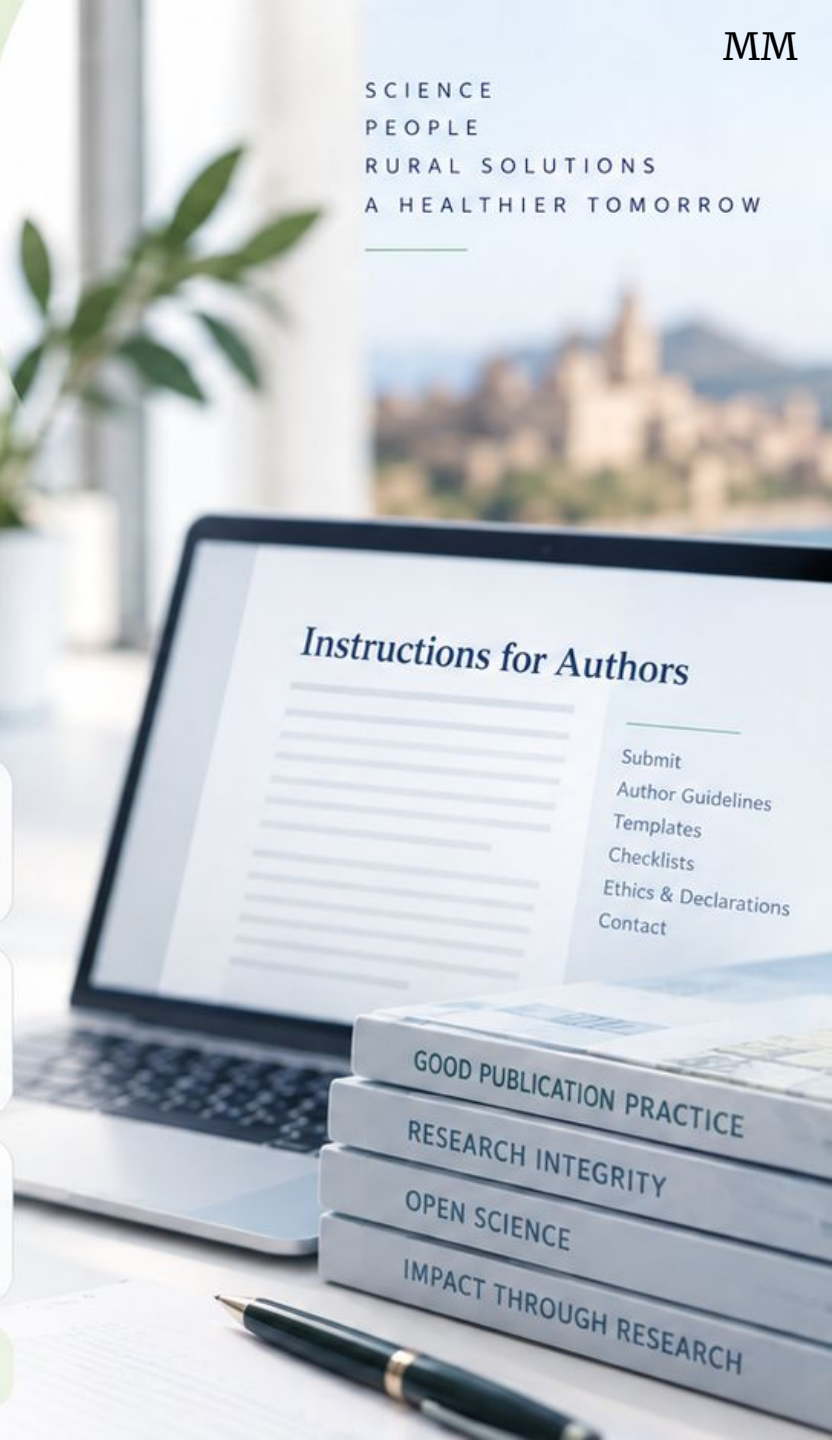
Tables, figures + graphical abstract
File type, resolution, legends, panel rules

References
Style, DOI / PMID / URLs, order of citation

Data + AI declarations
Repository, data availability, disclosure rules

Reviewer suggestions
Number, conflicts, institutional contacts

Do not discover these rules at 23:59 on submission day.



DK

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum

1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

SCIENCE
PEOPLE
RURAL SOLUTIONS
A HEALTHIER TOMORROW

REPORTING GUIDELINES

Match the study design to the reporting guideline

Randomised trial **CONSORT**	Observational study **STROBE**	Systematic review **PRISMA**	Study protocol **SPIRIT / PRISMA-P**
Diagnostic accuracy **STARD**	Qualitative study **COREQ / SRQR**	Case report **CARE**	Quality improvement **SQUIRE**

A reporting guideline tells readers what must be reported.
It does not fix a weak study design.

RESEARCH
PRACTICE
PEOPLE
IMPACT

DK

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum

1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

SCIENCE
PEOPLE
RURAL SOLUTIONS
A HEALTHIER TOMORROW

EDITORIAL TRIAGE

What does the editor see in the first minutes?

1 FIT

Does this belong in this journal?

2 QUESTION

Can I state the study aim in one sentence?

3 CREDIBILITY

Do the methods and analysis look coherent?

4 MESSAGE

Is there a clear, clinically relevant contribution?

Red flags that slow or stop the process:

- ✕ wrong journal
- ✕ vague objective
- ✕ methods impossible to follow
- ✕ claims stronger than the data

MM

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum

1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

SCIENCE
PEOPLE
RURAL SOLUTIONS
A HEALTHIER TOMORROW

ORIGINALITY & PUBLICATION ETHICS

Similarity is not the same as plagiarism

expected overlap
Common and legitimate

needs judgement
Context matters

unacceptable reuse / plagiarism
Research misconduct

Similarity software

Detects matching text, context or whether reuse is legitimate.

Editor judgement

Looks at source, location, amount, citation, self-reuse and publication history.

Author responsibility

Quote and cite correctly, Avoid duplicate publication, text recycling and salami slicing.

Journal thresholds, if used, are journal-specific — they are not universal definitions of plagiarism.

MM

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum

1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

ONLINE FIRST

Preprint ≠ ahead-of-print

PREPRINT

Author version posted before formal journal peer review

- May have a DOI
- Clearly labelled as not peer reviewed
- Journal policy must allow it

AHEAD OF PRINT

Journal-published version after peer review and acceptance, available before issue assignment

- Peer reviewed
- Journal publication record
- Citable as the journal article

Same timing, different status.
Know the difference, cite with confidence.

DK

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum

1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

THE ABSTRACT

Your abstract is the editor's triage note

WHY?
Clinical / scientific gap

→

WHAT?
Specific objective

→

HOW?
Design + population + key methods

→

FOUND?
Main result with numbers

→

SO WHAT?
Proportionate conclusion

Shopping-list abstract

"We included 120 patients, used questionnaire X, software Y, and found $p<0.05$."

Decision-useful abstract

"State the question, design, main effect with uncertainty, and what the result does — and does not — support."

Write the abstract after the paper is stable — then test whether it can stand alone.

DK

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum

1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

SCIENCE
PEOPLE
RURAL SOLUTIONS
A HEALTHIER TOMORROW

REPRODUCIBILITY

Methods must allow another researcher to understand what you actually did

DESIGN

Prospective?
Retrospective?
Cross-sectional?
Trial?

SETTING

Where, when, and in what healthcare context?

PARTICIPANTS

Eligibility, sampling, recruitment, exclusions

MEASURES

Exposure/ intervention, outcomes, instruments, timing

ANALYSIS

Primary analysis, covariates, missing data, sensitivity checks

If a detail is needed to reproduce the study, it belongs in Methods.

Running case: STROBE helps you see the missing pieces before the reviewer does.

DK

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum

1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

SCIENCE
PEOPLE
RURAL SOLUTIONS
A HEALTHIER TOMORROW

STATISTICS

Statistical review can test your analysis — it cannot repair the study after the fact

Authors must own

- Why this analysis answers the research question
- Assumptions and model specification
- Handling of missing data and multiplicity
- Effect sizes and confidence intervals
- Clinical meaning, not only *p-values*

Editorial / statistical review can

- Check internal consistency
- Challenge unsupported choices
- Ask for sensitivity analyses
- Request clearer reporting
- Stop publication when analysis is not defensible

Statistical significance ≠ clinical importance.

MM

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum

1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

VISUAL COMMUNICATION

Tables and figures should reduce cognitive load

TABLES

Best for exact values and structured comparisons. Make them self-contained: units, denominators, abbreviations and statistical notation must be clear.

FIGURES

Best for patterns, relationships and trajectories. Remove decoration. Highlight the message the reader needs to see.

GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT

A visual summary of the study logic and main finding — not a poster and not a collage. One glance, one message.

One visual = one job.

MM

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum

1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

REFERENCES

References are data too

A reference list is not decoration. It is an auditable chain of evidence.

1 VERIFY
Does the paper exist?

2 IDENTIFY
DOI / PMID / stable URL

3 MATCH
Does it support this exact claim?

4 PREFER
Primary and current sources when appropriate

AI tools can hallucinate references. Editors increasingly verify them.

MM

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum

1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

AI USE

AI can assist writing — but it cannot take responsibility

Reasonable support — subject to journal policy

- Improve grammar or readability
- Brainstorm structure or alternative wording
- Summarise your own notes for drafting
- Assist with code/data tasks when methodologically appropriate
- Generate visuals only when journal rules permit

Non-negotiable human responsibilities

- Do not list AI as an author
- Verify every fact, number and reference
- Never invent data or citations
- Disclose use when required
- Protect confidential manuscripts and patient information

Humans remain responsible for accuracy, integrity, originality and disclosure.

DK+
MM

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum

1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

OPEN SCIENCE

Open science starts before acceptance

Greater transparency and reproducibility

DATA AVAILABILITY	Where the reader can find — or why they cannot access — the data
REGISTRATION / PROTOCOL	What you planned before seeing the result
SUPPLEMENT	Additional tables, figures, instruments, technical detail
METADATA + CODE	Definitions, coding, analysis scripts where appropriate
RAW DATA	What is needed to reproduce the reported results

Check what must be shared at submission — not after acceptance.

MM

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum

1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

SCIENCE
PEOPLE
RURAL SOLUTIONS
A HEALTHIER TOMORROW

EDITORIAL WORKFLOW

What happens after you click "Submit"?

Different journals organise these stages differently — but the logic is similar.

1. **TECHNICAL CHECK** — Ensure the submission meets journal requirements
2. **EDITORIAL TRIAGE** — Assess fit, novelty and priority
3. **PEER REVIEW** — Independent expert assessment
4. **REVISION** — Authors address reviewer and editor comments
5. **ACCEPTANCE** — Final editorial decision
6. **PRODUCTION** — Copyediting, typesetting, proofs
7. **ONLINE / ISSUE** — Published and indexed

A delay is not always 'the editor doing nothing':
reviewers, authors, statisticians, and production staff each hold part of the timeline.

MM

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum

1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

THE BOUNDARY

What can the editor do for you — and what remains on your side?

EDITOR CAN

- Clarify requirements and workflow
- Find appropriate reviewers
- Ask for missing information or better reporting
- Coordinate statistical / technical checks
- Improve clarity within journal policy
- Handle corrections and publication-integrity procedures

EDITOR CANNOT

- Redesign a completed study
- Create missing data or ethics approval
- Turn a weak analysis into a valid one by editing
- Verify claims you have not documented
- Invent or repair references
- Guarantee acceptance

Editors can improve the communication of good science.
They cannot manufacture good science.

MM

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum

1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

ACEM EXAMPLE — NOT A UNIVERSAL TEMPLATE

How one biomedical journal operationalises these principles

2 days
technical / formal check

7 days
initial section-editor assessment

14 days
acceptance → ahead-of-print

separate
statistical review when statistics are used

SELECTED CURRENT POLICIES

- Reporting checklist required
- Graphical abstract required
- Raw-data sharing for original papers
- AI-use declaration
- Preprints allowed under journal policy

JIF 2025: 2.5 • CiteScore 2025: 4.2

DK

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum

1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

SCIENCE
PEOPLE
RURAL SOLUTIONS
A HEALTHIER TOMORROW

BEFORE YOU CLICK SUBMIT

The 60-second pre-submission check

1. Does the journal publish this kind of paper?
2. Is the objective explicit in the title and abstract?
3. Did we use the correct reporting guideline?
4. Could another team understand and reproduce the Methods?
5. Are the analysis and conclusions proportionate to the data?
6. Does every reference exist and support the claim?
7. Are ethics, data, conflicts and AI use declared correctly?
8. Have we uploaded every required file?

Two or more "no" answers?
Do not submit tonight.

DK

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum

1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

USEFUL RESOURCES

Where to check the rules — before the reviewer does

EQUATOR Network	Reporting guidelines and extensions.
ICMJE Recommendations	Authorship, disclosures, manuscript standards.
COPE	Publication ethics and editorial integrity guidance.
CONSORT / PRISMA / STROBE / CARE / COREQ	Design-specific reporting tools.
Journal Instructions for Authors	Always the final operational checklist.

Start with the journal instructions — then verify against international guidance.

MM

15 EURIPA Rural Health Forum

1-3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

When it makes sense to contact the editorial office before submission

Examples of appropriate queries

- Does the topic fit the journal's scope?
- Which article type is most suitable (e.g. original research, review, case report)?
- Are particular study designs or data types accepted?
- How to interpret a specific technical requirement or journal policy (e.g. data sharing, preprint, AI use)?

What to keep in mind

- The editorial office can provide information and guidance on journal policies and requirements.
- We do not assess the quality of the manuscript before submission.
- We do not estimate the chances of acceptance.
- A pre-submission enquiry does not replace the formal peer review process.

A pre-submission enquiry is not a manuscript pre-assessment.

Use this contact to clarify questions and ensure that your manuscript is the best possible fit for the journal.

DK

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum

1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

REVISION

Treat peer review as a scientific conversation

Reviewer comment → Your response → Exact change in the manuscript

Answer every point

No silent omissions.

Quote or number comments

Make the response easy to follow.

Disagree with evidence

You are allowed to say no — explain why.

Point to the change

Give page/line location or tracked change, depending on journal.

The goal is not to 'win' against the reviewer.
The goal is a stronger, clearer paper.

DK

15th EURIPA Rural Health Forum

1–3 October 2026 • Cartagena, Spain

Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine

SCIENCE
PEOPLE
RURAL SOLUTIONS
A HEALTHIER TOMORROW

TAKE-HOME + OPEN Q&A

Seven sentences to remember

1. Fit comes before metrics.
2. Use the reporting guideline while writing.
3. The abstract must show the logic of the study.
4. Methods and statistics must be reproducible.
5. Every reference must exist and support the claim.
6. AI use must be transparent and human-verified.
7. Editors can improve good science — not manufacture it.

Ask us anything

15 minutes

Donata + Marek

scope • desk rejection • reviewers • statistics • ethics • AI • data • production

Better rural health starts with better research.

Thank you for your attention — and for your questions.

RESEARCH
PRACTICE
PEOPLE
IMPACT