

# World Journal of *Medical Genetics*

*World J Med Genet* 2012 June 27; 2(3): 15-22



## Editorial Board

2011-2015

The *World Journal of Medical Genetics* Editorial Board consists of 103 members, representing a team of worldwide experts in medical genetics. They are from 28 countries, including Australia (2), Belgium (1), Canada (2), Chile (1), China (13), Croatia (1), Czech Republic (1), Ecuador (1), France (3), Germany (2), India (3), Iran (3), Israel (1), Italy (7), Japan (4), Malaysia (1), Netherlands (3), Peru (1), Russia (1), Saudi Arabia (2), Singapore (1), South Korea (3), Spain (4), Switzerland (1), Turkey (5), Ukraine (1), United States (34), and Uruguay (1).

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Hans van Bokhoven, *Nijmegen*

### GUEST EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

Chia-Hsiang Chen, *Zhunan*  
 Ji-Yih Chen, *Taoyuan*  
 Yu-Chen Hu, *Hsinchu*  
 Suh-Hang H Juo, *Kaohsiung*  
 Hsien-Hsiung Lee, *Ilan*  
 Yueh-Lun Lee, *Taipei*

### MEMBERS OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD



**Australia**

Simon Easteal, *Canberra*  
 Jeremy Jowett, *Melbourne*



**Belgium**

Teresinha Leal, *Brussels*



**Canada**

Sean Li, *Ottawa*  
 William Jia, *Vancouver*



**Chile**

Lilian Jara, *Santiago*



**China**

George G Chen, *Hong Kong*

Volodymyr Dvornyk, *Hong Kong*  
 Ning-Han Feng, *Nanjing*  
 Wei Huang, *Shanghai*  
 Chun-Yan Ji, *Jinan*  
 Hong-Chuan Jin, *Hangzhou*  
 Ke-Shen Li, *Zhanjiang*



**Croatia**

Gordan Lauc, *Zagreb*



**Czech Republic**

Marie Lipoldova, *Prague*



**Ecuador**

Cesar Paz-Y-Miño, *Quito*



**France**

Christophe Chevillard, *Marseille*  
 Enzo Lalli, *Valbonne*  
 Bernard S Lopez, *Fontenay aux Roses*



**Germany**

Stefan Böhringer, *Essen*  
 Anibh Martin Das, *Hannover*



**India**

Arvind Kumar Arya, *Meerut*  
 Prakash Sadashiv Gambhir, *Pune*  
 Katta M Girisha, *Manipal*



**Iran**

Yahya Daneshbod, *Shiraz*  
 Fariborz Ghaffarpasand, *Shiraz*  
 DM Kordi Tamandani, *Zahedan*



**Israel**

Aliza Shlomit Amiel, *Kfar-Saba*



**Italy**

Francesco Acquati, *Varese*  
 Gabriele Candiani, *Milan*  
 Antonio Cao, *Cagliari*  
 Teresa Esposito, *Naples*  
 Tommasina Guglielmelli, *Turin*  
 Lidia Larizza, *Milan*  
 Marco Lucarelli, *Rome*



**Japan**

Yutaka Hata, *Tokyo*  
 Tetsufumi Kanazawa, *Osaka*  
 Akinori Kimura, *Tokyo*  
 Alexander Lezhava, *Yokohama*



**Malaysia**

Siew Hua Gan, *Kelantan*



**Netherlands**

Annemieke Aartsma-Rus, *Leiden*  
 Raoul CM Hennekam, *Amsterdam*

**Peru**

Gustavo F Gonzales, *Lima*

**Russia**

Anton V Kiselev, *Saint-Petersburg*

**Saudi Arabia**

Khaled K Abu-Amero, *Riyadh*  
Khawla S Al-Kuraya, *Riyadh*

**Singapore**

N Gopalakrishna Iyer, *Singapore*

**South Korea**

Byung-Hoon Jeong, *Anyang*  
Yonggoo Kim, *Seoul*  
Taeg Kyu Kwon, *Taegu*

**Spain**

Salvador F Aliño, *Valencia*

D Araújo-Vilar, *Santiago De Compostela*  
Karen Heath, *Madrid*  
Adrián Llerena, *Badajoz*

**Switzerland**

Angela Ciuffi, *Lausanne*

**Turkey**

Mehmet Necdet Akkus, *Mersin*  
Julide Altinisik, *Balikesir*  
Emrah Caylak, *Cankiri*  
Merih Cetinkaya, *Bursa*  
Ali Karaman, *Erzurum*

**Ukraine**

Ludmila Livshits, *Kyiv*

**United States**

Nedal Arar, *San Antonio*  
Richard G Boles, *Los Angeles*  
Merlin G Butler, *Kansas*  
J Don Chen, *Piscataway*  
James J Chen, *Jefferson*  
Xiangning Chen, *Richmond*  
Paola Costa-Mallen, *Kenmore*

Qi Dai, *Nashville*  
Shuo Dong, *Houston*  
Yao-Shan Fan, *Miami*  
Bingliang Fang, *Houston*  
Peter J Francis, *Portland*  
Xiaoyi Gao, *Los Angeles*  
Antonio Giordano, *Philadelphia*  
Dennis R Grayson, *Chicago*  
Dongsheng Gu, *Indianapolis*  
Zong Sheng Guo, *Pittsburgh*  
Wayne W Hancock, *Philadelphia*  
David W Hein, *Louisville*  
Huixiao Hong, *Jefferson*  
Jifan Hu, *Palo Alto*  
Shile Huang, *Shreveport*  
Ying Huang, *Syracuse*  
Johnny Huard, *Pittsburgh*  
Jingfang Ju, *Stony Brook*  
KH William Lau, *Loma Linda*  
Mong-Hong Lee, *Houston*  
Dawei Li, *New Haven*  
Shibo Li, *Oklahoma*  
Wei Li, *Cleveland*  
Steven R Lindheim, *Cincinnati*  
Yao-Zhong Liu, *New Orleans*  
Yongjun Liu, *New Orleans*  
Bo Lu, *Philadelphia*

**Uruguay**

Jose Luis Badano, *Montevideo*



# World Journal of Medical Genetics

**Contents**

**Bimonthly Volume 2 Number 3 June 27, 2012**

- ORIGINAL ARTICLES**      15      Prevalence of fragile X syndrome in males and females in Indonesia  
*Mundhofir FEP, Winarni TI, Nillesen W, van Bon BWM, Schepens M, Ruiterkamp-Versteeg M, Hamel BCJ, Yntema HG, Faradz SMH*

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS** I Acknowledgments to reviewers of *World Journal of Medical Genetics*

**APPENDIX** I Meetings  
I-V Instructions to authors

**ABOUT COVER** *World Journal of Medical Genetics* Editorial Board, Akinori Kimura, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Molecular Pathogenesis, Medical Research Institute, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, 1-5-45 Yushima, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8510, Japan

**AIM AND SCOPE** *World Journal of Medical Genetics (World J Med Genet, WJMG, online ISSN 2220-3184, DOI: 10.5496)* is a bimonthly peer-reviewed, online, open-access, journal supported by an editorial board consisting of 103 experts in medical genetics from 28 countries.

The *WJMG* aims to rapidly report the most recent results in medical diagnostics, therapeutic techniques and equipment, clinical medical research, clinical and experimental techniques and methodology. Its purpose is to provide a platform to facilitate the integration of clinical and laboratory disciplines to highlight genotype-phenotype associations at a qualitative high level, which will help to improve diagnostic accuracy and medical care, and in the longer run, therapeutic intervention. The journal publishes original articles and reviews on the following topics: (1) Laboratory research, including but not limited to techniques in DNA/RNA sequencing, whole-genome linkage analyses and association studies, copy number variation profiling, epigenetic modifications in health and disease, elucidation of molecular and cellular pathways affected by gene mutations, determination of transcription factor binding sites, protein-protein interactions, preparation and transformation of induced pluripotent stem cells, animal models of human hereditary disorders and bioinformatics; and (2) Clinical genetics research on etiology, epidemiology, pathogenesis, morphology and function, signs and symptoms.

**FLYLEAF** I-II Editorial Board

**EDITORS FOR THIS ISSUE** Responsible Assistant Editor: *Shuai Ma* Responsible Science Editor: *Xin-Zhen Huang*  
Responsible Electronic Editor: *Li Xiong* Proofing Editorial Office Director: *Jin-Lei Wang*  
Proofing Editor-in-Chief: *Lian-Sheng Ma*

**NAME OF JOURNAL**  
*World Journal of Medical Genetics*

**ISSN**  
ISSN 2220-3184 (online)

**LAUNCH DATE**  
December 27, 2011

**FREQUENCY**  
Bimonthly

**EDITING**  
Editorial Board of *World Journal of Medical Genetics*  
Room 903, Building D, Ocean International Center,  
No. 62 Dongsihuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang District,  
Beijing 100025, China  
Telephone: +86-10-85381891  
Fax: +86-10-85381893  
E-mail: [wjmg@wjgnet.com](mailto:wjmg@wjgnet.com)  
<http://www.wjgnet.com>

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
**Hans van Bokhoven, PhD, Professor,** Department  
of Human Genetics and Cognitive Neurosciences,

Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre, PO  
Box 9101, 6500 HB Nijmegen, The Netherlands

**EDITORIAL OFFICE**  
Jian-Xia Cheng, Director  
Jin-Lei Wang, Vice Director  
*World Journal of Medical Genetics*  
Room 903, Building D, Ocean International Center,  
No. 62 Dongsihuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang District,  
Beijing 100025, China  
Telephone: +86-10-85381891  
Fax: +86-10-85381893  
E-mail: [wjmg@wjgnet.com](mailto:wjmg@wjgnet.com)  
<http://www.wjgnet.com>

**PUBLISHER**  
Baishideng Publishing Group Co., Limited  
Room 1701, 17/F, Henan Building,  
No.90 Jaffe Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong, China  
Fax: +852-31158812  
Telephone: +852-58042046  
E-mail: [bpgoffice@wjgnet.com](mailto:bpgoffice@wjgnet.com)  
<http://www.wjgnet.com>

**PUBLICATION DATE**  
June 27, 2012

**COPYRIGHT**  
© 2012 Baishideng. Articles published by this Open-Access journal are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial License, which permits use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited, the use is non commercial and is otherwise in compliance with the license.

**SPECIAL STATEMENT**  
All articles published in this journal represent the viewpoints of the authors except where indicated otherwise.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS**  
Full instructions are available online at [http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g\\_info\\_20100722180909.htm](http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g_info_20100722180909.htm).

**ONLINE SUBMISSION**  
<http://www.wjgnet.com/esps/>

## Prevalence of fragile X syndrome in males and females in Indonesia

Farmaditya EP Mundhofir, Tri I Winarni, Willy Nillesen, Bregje WM van Bon, Marga Schepens, Martina Ruitkamp-Versteeg, Ben CJ Hamel, Helger G Yntema, Sultana MH Faradz

Farmaditya EP Mundhofir, Tri I Winarni, Sultana MH Faradz, Division of Human Genetics, Center for Biomedical Research, Faculty of Medicine, Diponegoro University, Semarang 50244, Indonesia

Farmaditya EP Mundhofir, Willy Nillesen, Bregje WM van Bon, Marga Schepens, Martina Ruitkamp-Versteeg, Ben CJ Hamel, Helger G Yntema, Department of Human Genetics, Radboud University Medical Centre, 6500 HB Nijmegen, The Netherlands

**Author contributions:** Faradz SMH, Hamel BCJ and Yntema HG designed the research; Mundhofir FEP, Winarni TI and van Bon BWM performed the patients' clinical investigations; Mundhofir FEP, Schepens M and Ruitkamp-Versteeg M performed the research; Mundhofir FEP, Nillesen W and Yntema HG analyzed the data; Mundhofir FEP, Nillesen W, Yntema HG, Faradz SMH and Hamel BCJ wrote the paper.

**Supported by** Risbin-Iptekdok 2007/2008, Ministry of Health Republic of Indonesia; Excellent Scholarship (Beasiswa Unggulan Program), Foreign Scholarship (Beasiswa Luar Negeri), Directorate of Higher Education (DGHE), Ministry of National Education Republic of Indonesia; and the PhD-fellowship Program of the Radboud University (RU-fellowship)

**Correspondence to:** Sultana MH Faradz, MD, PhD, Professor, Division of Human Genetics, Center for Biomedical Research, Faculty of Medicine, Diponegoro University, GSG 2nd floor Jl. Dr. Sutomo 14, Semarang 50244, Indonesia. [sultana@indosat.net.id](mailto:sultana@indosat.net.id)

Telephone: +62-24-8412311 Fax: +62-24-8454714

Received: May 24, 2012 Revised: June 11, 2012

Accepted: June 17, 2012

Published online: June 27, 2012

### Abstract

**AIM:** To investigate the prevalence of fragile X syndrome (FXS) in intellectually disabled male and female Indonesians.

**METHODS:** This research is an extension of a previously reported study on the identification of chromosomal aberrations in a large cohort of 527 Indonesians with intellectual disability (ID). In this previous study,

87 patients had a chromosomal abnormality, five of whom expressed fragile sites on Xq27.3. Since FXS cannot always be identified by cytogenetic analysis, molecular testing of the fragile X mental retardation 1 CGG repeat was performed in 440 samples. The testing was also conducted in the five previously identified samples to confirm the abnormality. In total, a molecular study was conducted in 445 samples (162 females and 283 males).

**RESULTS:** In the cohort of Indonesian ID population, the prevalence of FXS is 9/527 (1.7%). The prevalence in males and females is 1.5% (5/329) and 2% (4/198), respectively. Segregation analysis in the families and X-inactivation studies were performed. We performed the first comprehensive genetic survey of a representative sample of male and female ID individuals from institutions and special schools in Indonesia. Our findings show that a comprehensive study of FXS can be performed in a developing country like Indonesia where diagnostic facilities are limited.

**CONCLUSION:** The prevalence of FXS is equal in females and males in our study, which suggests that the prevalence of FXS in females could be underestimated.

© 2012 Baishideng. All rights reserved.

**Key words:** Fragile X syndrome; Intellectual disability; Fragile X mental retardation 1; CGG repeat; Indonesia

**Peer reviewer:** Hans van Bokhoven, Professor, Department of Human Genetics, Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre, PO Box 9101, 6500 HB Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Mundhofir FEP, Winarni TI, Nillesen W, van Bon BWM, Schepens M, Ruitkamp-Versteeg M, Hamel BCJ, Yntema HG, Faradz SMH. Prevalence of fragile X syndrome in males and females in Indonesia. *World J Med Genet* 2012; 2(3): 15-22 Available from: URL: <http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/full/v2/i3/15.htm> DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5496/wjmg.v2.i3.15>

## INTRODUCTION

Fragile X syndrome (FXS) is the most common form of inherited intellectual disability (ID), with an estimated prevalence of 1 in 4000-6000 males and 1 in 7000-10 000 females<sup>[1]</sup>. Expansion of a CGG repeat in the 5' untranslated region of fragile X mental retardation 1 (*FMR1*) is the most frequent cause of FXS<sup>[2,3]</sup>. When the expansion exceeds the number of 200 repeats (full mutation), the promoter region becomes hypermethylated and the *FMR1* gene is silenced. This leads to deficiency of the FMR1 protein<sup>[4]</sup>. FXS is inherited as an X-linked dominant disease with variable expressivity and reduced penetrance in females. The level of ID in FXS males ranges from mild to profound, whilst females are usually less affected<sup>[5,6]</sup>.

Several behavioral characteristics associated with FXS include autism spectrum disorders, poor eye contact, short attention span, hyperactivity, several stereotypic behaviors (hand flapping, hand biting, preservative speech, echolalia), tactile defensiveness and anxiety related to social contact<sup>[7-10]</sup>. The classical facial phenotype of FXS includes a prominent forehead, a long, narrow face, a prominent jaw and prominent ears. The palate is often highly arched. Macro-orchidism is reported in more than 80% of post-pubertal and adult males. Connective tissue abnormalities such as soft velvet-like skin, joint hypermobility, pes planus, congenital hip dislocation, scoliosis and clubfoot are also commonly observed<sup>[5,11]</sup>.

Diagnostic analysis of FXS is mainly based on direct amplification of the CGG-repeat using flanking primers and Southern blot analysis<sup>[5,12-16]</sup>. Standard PCR testing allows amplification of alleles up to 120-150 CGGs. Although this method cannot reveal full mutations, it allows precise sizing of premutation alleles. On the contrary, Southern blot analysis allows sizing of full mutations but is unable to discriminate between large normal and small premutation alleles<sup>[16]</sup>. To overcome these problems, several diagnostic laboratories recently changed their procedure to PCR-based tests that can amplify repeat alleles up to full mutations and are able to distinguish between female samples homozygous for a normal allele or heterozygous for a normal and an expanded allele (e.g., tests by Abbott, IL, United States and Asuragen Inc., Austin, United States). While these procedures are routinely performed in the Western world, they are not being used as standard diagnostic tools in Indonesia, mainly due to costs and lack of adequate health insurance coverage.

In a previous study, the prevalence of FXS in the male Indonesian population was determined to be 1.9% (5/262)<sup>[17]</sup>. However, diagnostic testing for FXS is not routinely performed and widely available in Indonesia. Therefore, we aimed to identify unrecognized FXS individuals and to determine the prevalence in both male and female individuals with ID. In view of the fact that genetic testing is still uncommon practice in Indonesia, the detection of new FXS cases gives insight in to the prevalence of FXS in Indonesia and should promote

awareness of this disease among medical doctors and health professionals in Indonesia. For the families involved, establishing a diagnosis will be beneficial since genetic counseling and carrier testing can be provided.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Selection and setting

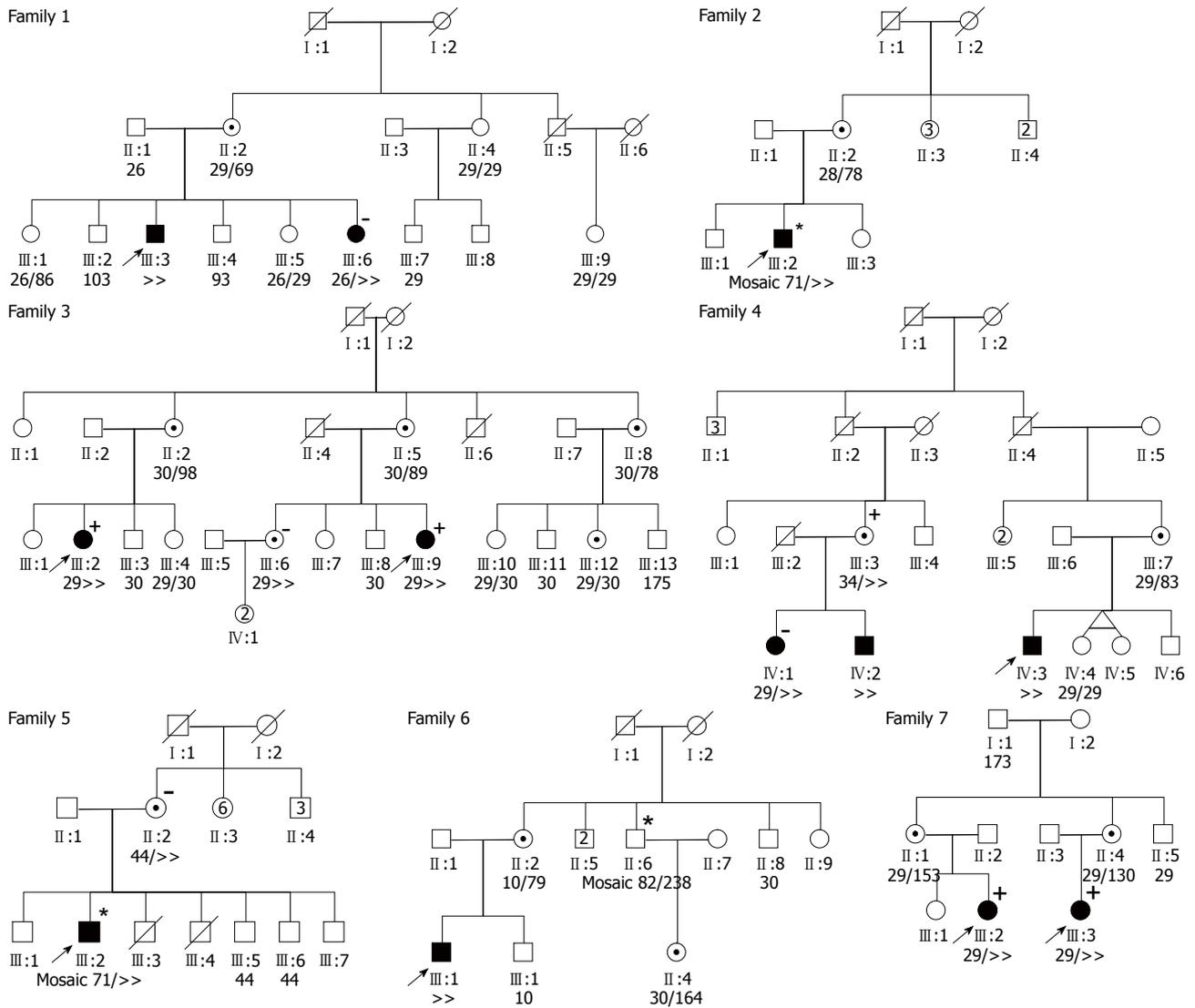
This research is an extension of a previously reported study on the identification of chromosomal aberrations in a large cohort of 527 Indonesian ID patients from several special schools and institutions in Java Island, Indonesia. In this previous study, 87 patients had a chromosomal abnormality, five of whom expressed fragile sites on Xq27.3<sup>[18]</sup>. Since FXS cannot always be identified by cytogenetic analysis, molecular testing of the *FMR1* CGG repeat was performed in 440 samples. The testing was also conducted in five previously identified samples to confirm the abnormality. In total, a molecular study was conducted in 445 samples (162 females and 283 males).

Genomic DNA of each patient was isolated using the salting out method as described elsewhere<sup>[19]</sup>, with slight modification. The CGG repeat in the *FMR1* promoter was amplified as described by Fu *et al.*<sup>[2]</sup>. Fragment length analysis was carried out on an ABI Prism 3730 DNA Analyzer (Life Technologies, Foster City, United States) and the Genemapper software (Version 4.0, Apache) was used to determine the exact length of the CGG repeat. Southern blot analysis of the *FMR1* CGG(n) repeat was performed as described previously<sup>[20]</sup>. In families 5, 6 and 7 (Figure 1), a more detailed analysis of the repeat length was performed using a three-primer CGG repeat primed *FMR1* PCR method (Asuragen Inc., Austin, United States), according to the manufacturer's protocol. The difference between the distribution of the full mutation allele in males and females was calculated using a  $\chi^2$  test.

A clinical reinvestigation was done in the positive cases and family members at risk of being a carrier were molecularly tested. X chromosome inactivation (XCI) analyses were performed in all full mutation females in order to explain their phenotypes. Family members from all affected individuals were counseled and extended pedigrees were drawn. Thirty nine family members were available for molecular testing and clinical examination was only performed in family members with obvious signs of ID. The XCI pattern was studied in female samples with a full mutation (either clinically affected or unaffected) as described before<sup>[20]</sup>.

## RESULTS

In a total of 445 (162 females and 283 males) molecularly tested individuals (607 alleles), 593 alleles were within the normal range (15-44 CGG repeats), 3 alleles in the intermediate range (45-55 CGG repeats), 2 alleles in the premutation range (between 55 and 200 CGG repeats) and 9 alleles in the full mutation range (> 200 CGG repeats) (classification according to the American College



**Figure 1** Pedigrees of fragile X syndrome families. Besides the nine index cases (indicated by an arrow), six additional family members with a full mutation (five females, full black circle and one male, indicated by full black square) and 17 individuals [11 males; 5 females (indicated by dotted circle)] with a premutation have been identified. The length of the CGG repeats is depicted below the pedigree number of each tested individual. The X-inactivation (XCI) of full expansion females is shown at the upper right of the pedigree symbol (+ for non-random XCI and - for random XCI). Asterisk at the upper right indicated a mosaic permutation to full mutation.

of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Committee Opinion, No. 469)<sup>[21]</sup>. The 29 allele ( $n = 245$ ) was the most frequent allele in this population, followed by 28 CGG repeats ( $n = 127$ ) and 30 CGG repeats ( $n = 93$ ).

The five samples (4 males and 1 female) in which fragile sites were shown in previous chromosome analyses indeed showed a full mutation with Southern blot analysis, therefore confirming the diagnosis of FXS. Another four samples (1 male and 3 female) were newly identified to have a full mutation. Two of the positive male samples showed a mosaic pattern of premutation to full mutation (Family 2/III:2 and Family 5/ III:2, Table 1). A  $\chi^2$  test revealed no statistically significant differences in the distribution of full mutation alleles between males and females ( $\chi^2 = 0,184$ ;  $df = 1$ ;  $P = 0.67$ ).

Pedigree analysis of the nine FXS cases showed that two individuals were related to two other index cases

in other families (first cousins in two different families) (Family 3/III:2 and III:9, Family 7/III:2 and III:3, Table 1). Therefore, only seven families were identified in this study (Figure 1). Molecular testing of potential carriers in those families resulted in the identification of 17 samples with a premutation (11 females and 6 males). In one of the 11 females (Family 6/III:4), the Southern blot result could not clearly distinguish between a large premutation or full mutation. More detailed analysis using repeat-primed PCR (Asuragen Inc., Austin, United States) revealed a premutation. Furthermore, another six full mutation cases were identified: five females (two mildly affected and three clinically unaffected) and one clinically affected male.

X-inactivation studies were performed in all nine females with a full mutation. Four females (two mildly affected and two unaffected) showed random patterns

**Table 1** Fragile X mental retardation 1 gene analysis of index fragile X syndrome subjects

Patient	Sex	FMR1 gene analysis
Family 1/ III:3	Male	Full mutation
Family 2/ III:2	Male	Mosaic premutation/full mutation
Family 3/ III:2	Female	Full mutation
Family 3/ III:9	Female	Full mutation
Family 4/ IV:3	Male	Full mutation
Family 5/ III:2	Male	Mosaic premutation/ full mutation
Family 6/ III:1	Male	Full mutation
Family 7/ III:2	Female	Full mutation
Family 7/ III:3	Female	Full mutation

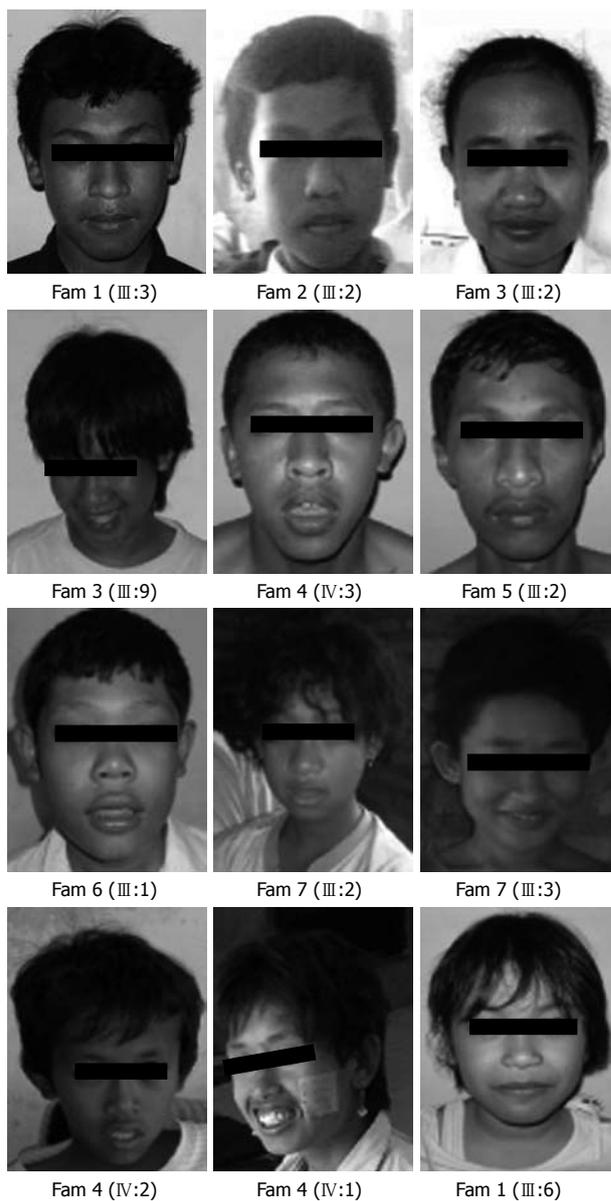
FMR1: Fragile X mental retardation 1.

**Table 2** X chromosome inactivation pattern in all full mutation females

Pedigree	XCI	Clinical features
Family 3/ III:2	87/13 (non random) <sup>1</sup>	Affected
Family 3/ III:9	96/4 (non random) <sup>1</sup>	Affected
Family 7/ III:2	93/7 (non random) <sup>1</sup>	Affected
Family 7/ III:3	82/18 (non random) <sup>1</sup>	Affected
Family 1/ III:6	75/25 (random)	Affected (mild)
Family 4/ IV:1	74/26 (random)	Affected (mild)
Family 3/ III:6	60/40 (random)	Not affected
Family 4/ III:3	84/16 (non random) <sup>2</sup>	Not affected
Family 5/ II:2	67/33 (random)	Not affected

<sup>1</sup>The normal allele is inactive by X chromosome inactivation (XCI) and the expanded allele is active but methylated because of the expansion; <sup>2</sup>the normal allele is active and the expanded allele is not active.

of inactivation (Table 2). Four out of five samples with non random patterns of inactivation (> 80:20, defined by Amos-Landgraf *et al.*<sup>22</sup>) are from clinically affected females, while the 5th one is not affected. Southern blot analysis showed that in the unaffected female the normal allele was active and the expanded allele was inactive, whereas in the affected females the normal allele was inactive. A summary of the most common features of the index patients and affected family members is shown in Table 3, for male and female individuals, respectively. Clinical pictures of index patients and affected family members are depicted in Figure 2. In male individuals, shy behavior (shy and timid behavior with a tendency towards social withdrawal) and social anxiety are the most frequent features (detected in all six males = 100%), followed by large cupped ears, elongated face and joint laxity (detected in 83%). Four of post pubertal individuals had large testicular size (67%). Highly arched palate, scoliosis and flat feet were found in three patients (50%), whereas neurological problems (seizure, spasticity of the extremities and strabismus) were found in one patient. In females, shy behavior and social anxiety are also the most frequent features (100%), whereas joint laxity and flat feet were found in five (83%). Four females showed large cupped ears, elongated face and high arched palate (67%). Scoliosis and strabismus were found in three and two individuals, respectively (50% and 33%).



**Figure 2** Clinical pictures of patients with fragile X syndrome. Fam: Family.

## DISCUSSION

Few studies have been carried out to determine the contribution of FXS as a cause of ID in the Indonesian population<sup>17,23</sup>. In this study, we performed a comprehensive genetic survey of a representative sample of male and female ID individuals from institutions and special schools. The prevalence of FXS found in this study was 1.7% (9/527); 1.5% (5/329) in the male population and 2% (4/198) in the female population. This prevalence of FXS is similar to that in other Asian populations (approximately 1%-3%)<sup>24-26</sup> and is about the same as found in a previous study from Indonesia with a prevalence of 1.9% (5/262) in the male population<sup>17</sup>.

The prevalence of FXS among females was estimated to be about half of that of males<sup>11</sup>. The actual distribution of full mutation alleles in the general population, however, is considered to be equal in both males

Table 3 Clinical features of male and female patients with fragile X syndrome

	Male							Female						
	Fam 1/ III:3	Fam 2/ III:2	Fam 4/ IV:3	Fam 5/ III:2	Fam 6/ III:1	Fam 4/ IV:2	%	Fam 3/ III:2	Fam 3/ III:9	Fam 7/ III:2	Fam 7/ III:3	Fam 4/ IV:1	Fam 1/ III:6	%
Intellectual disability level	2	1	2	2	1	2		2	2	3	2	1	1	
Shy behavior and social anxiety	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Large cupped ears	+	+	+	-	+	+	83	-	+	+	+	+	-	67
Elongated face	+	+	+	+	-	+	83	-	+	+	+	+	-	67
High arched palate	+	-	+	-	+	-	50	+	+	+	-	+	-	67
Scoliosis	-	-	+	+	-	+	50	-	+	+	-	+	-	50
Joint laxity	+	+	+	+	-	+	83	-	+	+	+	+	+	83
Neurological problems	-	-	+	-	-	-	17	-	+	+	-	-	-	33
Macroorchidism	+	+	+	+	<sup>1</sup>	<sup>1</sup>	67							
Flat feet	+	+	+	-	-	-	50	+	+	+	+	+	-	83

<sup>1</sup>Prepubertal. 1: Mild; 2: Moderate; 3: Severe. Fam: Family; %: Percentage.

and females<sup>[27]</sup>, but due to the X-inactivation in females, they are usually less severely affected. With regards to the allele distribution of full mutation alone, this study yielded no statistically significant differences in males 1.5% (5/329) and females 2% (4/198). This finding is in line with the results of previous studies<sup>[26,27]</sup>. The equal distribution of clinically affected females and males in the present study, however, was unexpected. In order to explain why most of the females with a full mutation in this study are clinically affected, the X inactivation status was determined. All female index patients ( $n = 4$ ) demonstrated a non random XCI, in which the normal unexpanded allele was preferentially inactivated. Although the XCI pattern in blood does not necessarily represent the pattern in the brain, the results in this family provide evidence for the fact that XCI patterns play a role in the development of cognitive disturbances in females with a full mutation. The results of the XCI assay in the five female family members with a full mutation are also in concordance with their clinical status: the two mildly affected females and two of the unaffected females showed random X-inactivation. The difference in intellectual abilities between these females might possibly be explained by a difference in the X-inactivation pattern in brain. One of the unaffected females showed non-random X-inactivation (Family 4/III:3), but since the normal allele was preferentially active, this explains why she has a normal phenotype. This study clearly demonstrates why females with full mutation alleles can be affected or unaffected, depending on their XCI pattern, a feature that has been recognized before<sup>[28-31]</sup>. The percentage of clinically affected females (due to non random X-inactivation) in the present study is considerably higher than what has been reported among the full mutation female population: 44% (4/9) in this study *vs* 24.1% (7/29) reported by Reiss *et al.*<sup>[31]</sup>. Further studies on larger numbers of full mutation females have to be performed in order to confirm this high percentage of non-random X-inactivation in our female population.

In family 5, the affected index male (III:2) showed a mosaic premutation to full mutation (71/>>>). Segregation analysis using Southern blot in the family demon-

strated that the mother was a carrier of a full mutation. In order to exclude the possible presence of a low amount of premutation alleles in the mother, an additional test using a repeat-primed PCR was performed. The analysis confirmed that the mother was a carrier of a normal allele (44 CGG repeats) and a full mutation allele (294 CGG repeats) without evidence of mosaic premutation allele. This indicates that the full mutation allele of the mother was transmitted to her son in reduced size. Although the molecular mechanisms responsible for the reduction of the CGG repeat in the *FMR1* gene are largely unclear, several other cases where full mutation carrier females had affected sons with a mosaic pattern, have been described<sup>[32,33]</sup>. One of the mechanisms explaining repeat contraction (but also expansion) is slipped strand mispairing<sup>[34,35]</sup>. Another explanation is that the contraction could be a postzygotic event due to somatic instability of the CGG repeat<sup>[36-38]</sup>.

Individuals who have a mosaic premutation to full mutation may have a milder phenotype compared to those with a full mutation<sup>[39]</sup>. Besides patient III:2 from family 5, patient III:2 from family 3 also showed a mosaic pattern on the Southern blot. Notably, one of the male family members with a normal intelligence was also identified to have a mosaicism of a premutation (81 CGG repeats) and a full mutation allele (Family 6/II:6). However, the full mutation allele was not visible on the Southern blot and was only detected after the repeat-primed PCR which was performed in order to better characterize the repeat number in his daughter. This may indicate that the fully expanded allele was present only in a small percentage of cells, explaining the normal phenotype.

The most frequent clinical features found in both sexes in our population were shy behavior and social anxiety, large cupped ears, elongated face and joint laxity. These features were consistent with those described for FXS<sup>[5,8,11]</sup>.

Cytogenetic testing to detect FXS is no longer considered to be sufficiently accurate because of its high false negative and false positive rates<sup>[11]</sup>, the main difficulty being the detection of females with a full muta-

tion<sup>[40,41]</sup>. Indeed, in our study, cytogenetic analysis only picked up five out of nine samples, most of which were males. Although cytogenetic diagnosis is still useful and affordable to establish a FXS diagnosis in developing countries, this study emphasizes the significance of molecular screening. Moreover, despite the fact that the PCR-based test is available at the Center for Biomedical Research (CEBIOR) at Diponegoro University, testing for FXS in the ID population in Indonesia is not routinely performed and CEBIOR is the only laboratory to perform FXS diagnosis in Indonesia. It is recognized that FXS is an inherited disease; however, establishing a diagnosis and providing possibilities for genetic counseling and carrier testing is not seen as useful in Indonesia. Due to its high costs and limited accessibility, prenatal diagnosis is only available to a minority of the population. Even though termination of pregnancy is legal when based on a medical emergency, e.g., genetic diseases (Republic Indonesia Laws No. 36/2009)<sup>[42]</sup>, in practice it still is a very complex procedure. Also, other options such as preimplantation genetic diagnosis are financially and culturally complex. Still, as common infectious diseases and nutritional problems are becoming less prevalent in Indonesia, diagnostic facilities for inherited diseases such as FXS need a higher priority. In addition, medical personnel and stake holders at the Ministry of Health should be continuously informed about the problem of genetic diseases and its management.

FXS testing is a common diagnostic procedure performed in all non-microcephalic males with ID of unknown origin in Western countries<sup>[43]</sup>. However, routine FXS testing in females with ID of unknown origin is said not to be warranted unless there are other indicators (e.g., a positive family history)<sup>[44]</sup>. On the other hand, the American College of Medical Genetics strongly recommends fragile X testing to be considered in both genders with unexplained ID, especially in the presence of any physical or behavioral characteristics of FXS, a positive family history and relatives with undiagnosed ID<sup>[45]</sup>. Our findings support the notion to broaden FXS testing to include females, in view of the fact that the prevalence of FXS in females could be higher than thought up to now.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank all participants and their families for their contribution. Thanks to Dr. Alejandro Arias-Vasquez for statistical analysis. We also thank laboratory staff at the Department of Human Genetics, RUMC, Nijmegen, The Netherlands and CEBIOR, FMDU, Semarang Indonesia; in particular, Erwin Khüny, Jelmer Bokhorst, Wiwik Lestari, Lusi Suwarsi, Rita Indriati, Dwi Kustiani and Alfi Afadiyanti.

## COMMENTS

### Background

Fragile X syndrome (FXS) is the most common form of inherited intellectual disability (ID). Expansion of a CGG repeat in the 5' untranslated region of fragile X mental retardation 1 (*FMR1*) gene is the most frequent cause of FXS.

### Research frontiers

Diagnostic analysis of FXS is mainly based on direct amplification of the CGG-repeat using flanking primers and Southern blot analysis. While these procedures are routinely performed in the Western world, they are not being used as standard diagnostic tools in Indonesia, mainly due to costs and the lack of adequate health insurance coverage.

### Innovations and breakthroughs

In the previous study, the prevalence of FXS in the male Indonesian population was determined; however, diagnostic testing for FXS is not routinely performed and not widely available in Indonesia. Therefore, the authors aimed at identifying unrecognized FXS individuals and determining the prevalence in both male and female individuals with ID. They performed the first comprehensive genetic survey of a representative sample of male and female ID individuals from institutions and special schools in Indonesia.

### Applications

Their findings show that a comprehensive study of FXS can be performed in a developing country like Indonesia where diagnostic facilities are limited. Moreover, their findings support the notion to broaden FXS testing to include females, in view of the fact that the prevalence of FXS in females could be higher than thought up to now.

### Terminology

FXS is the most common inherited cause of ID. The spectrum of ID ranges from mild to severe, while physical features can include an elongated face, large and prominent ears, larger testes/macroorchidism (in males), behavioral characteristics such as stereotypic movements, and social anxiety. FXS is caused by mutations in the *FMR1*-gene. *FMR1* is a gene in humans which encodes a protein called fragile X mental retardation protein. This protein is important for normal cognitive development.

### Peer review

This is a good descriptive study in which the authors investigate the prevalence of FXS in intellectually disabled male and female Indonesians. The results are interesting and suggest that the prevalence of FXS in females could be underestimated.

## REFERENCES

- 1 Crawford DC, Acuña JM, Sherman SL. FMR1 and the fragile X syndrome: human genome epidemiology review. *Genet Med* 2001; **3**: 359-371
- 2 Hill MK, Archibald AD, Cohen J, Metcalfe SA. A systematic review of population screening for fragile X syndrome. *Genet Med* 2010; **12**: 396-410
- 3 Strom CM, Crossley B, Redman JB, Buller A, Quan F, Peng M, McGinnis M, Fenwick RG, Sun W. Molecular testing for Fragile X Syndrome: lessons learned from 119,232 tests performed in a clinical laboratory. *Genet Med* 2007; **9**: 46-51
- 4 Chiurazzi P, Tabolacci E, Neri G. X-linked mental retardation (XLMR): from clinical conditions to cloned genes. *Crit Rev Clin Lab Sci* 2004; **41**: 117-158
- 5 Hagerman RJ, Hagerman PJ. Fragile x syndrome: diagnosis, treatment, and research. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002: 3-110
- 6 Oostra BA, Willemsen R. The X chromosome and fragile X mental retardation. *Cytogenet Genome Res* 2002; **99**: 257-264
- 7 Budimirovic DB, Bukelis I, Cox C, Gray RM, Tierney E, Kaufmann WE. Autism spectrum disorder in Fragile X syndrome: differential contribution of adaptive socialization and social withdrawal. *Am J Med Genet A* 2006; **140A**: 1814-1826
- 8 Hagerman RJ, Jackson C, Amiri K, Silverman AC, O'Connor R, Sobesky W. Girls with fragile X syndrome: physical and neurocognitive status and outcome. *Pediatrics* 1992; **89**: 395-400
- 9 Kaufmann WE, Cortell R, Kau AS, Bukelis I, Tierney E, Gray RM, Cox C, Capone GT, Stanard P. Autism spectrum disorder in fragile X syndrome: communication, social interaction, and specific behaviors. *Am J Med Genet A* 2004; **129A**: 225-234
- 10 Symons FJ, Clark RD, Hatton DD, Skinner M, Bailey DB. Self-injurious behavior in young boys with fragile X syn-

- drome. *Am J Med Genet A* 2003; **118A**: 115-121
- 11 **Hersh JH**, Saul RA. Health supervision for children with fragile X syndrome. *Pediatrics* 2011; **127**: 994-1006
  - 12 **Fu YH**, Kuhl DP, Pizzuti A, Pieretti M, Sutcliffe JS, Richards S, Verkerk AJ, Holden JJ, Fenwick RG, Warren ST. Variation of the CGG repeat at the fragile X site results in genetic instability: resolution of the Sherman paradox. *Cell* 1991; **67**: 1047-1058
  - 13 **Hantash FM**, Goos DG, Tsao D, Quan F, Buller-Burckle A, Peng M, Jarvis M, Sun W, Strom CM. Qualitative assessment of FMR1 (CGG)<sub>n</sub> triplet repeat status in normal, intermediate, premutation, full mutation, and mosaic carriers in both sexes: implications for fragile X syndrome carrier and newborn screening. *Genet Med* 2010; **12**: 162-173
  - 14 **Oostra BA**, Jacky PB, Brown WT, Rousseau F. Guidelines for the diagnosis of fragile X syndrome. National Fragile X Foundation. *J Med Genet* 1993; **30**: 410-413
  - 15 **Smits A**, Smeets D, Hamel B, Dreesen J, de Haan A, van Oost B. Prediction of mental status in carriers of the fragile X mutation using CGG repeat length. *Am J Med Genet* 1994; **51**: 497-500
  - 16 **Zhou Y**, Law HY, Boehm CD, Yoon CS, Cutting GR, Ng IS, Chong SS. Robust fragile X (CGG)<sub>n</sub> genotype classification using a methylation specific triple PCR assay. *J Med Genet* 2004; **41**: e45
  - 17 **Faradz SM**, Buckley M, Lam-Po-Tang D, Holden JJ. Molecular screening for fragile X syndrome among Indonesian children with developmental disability. *Am J Med Genet* 1999; **83**: 350-351
  - 18 **Mundhofir FE**, Winarni TI, van Bon BW, Aminah S, Nillesen WM, Merckx G, Smeets D, Hamel BC, Faradz SM, Yntema HG. A cytogenetic study in a large population of intellectually disabled Indonesians. *Genet Test Mol Biomarkers* 2012; **16**: 412-417
  - 19 **Miller SA**, Dykes DD, Polesky HF. A simple salting out procedure for extracting DNA from human nucleated cells. *Nucleic Acids Res* 1988; **16**: 1215
  - 20 **Spath MA**, Nillesen WN, Smits AP, Feuth TB, Braat DD, van Kessel AG, Yntema HG. X chromosome inactivation does not define the development of premature ovarian failure in fragile X premutation carriers. *Am J Med Genet A* 2010; **152A**: 387-393
  - 21 **American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Committee on Genetics**. ACOG Committee Opinion No. 469: Carrier screening for fragile X syndrome. *Obstet Gynecol* 2010; **116**: 1008-1010
  - 22 **Amos-Landgraf JM**, Cottle A, Plenge RM, Friez M, Schwartz CE, Longshore J, Willard HF. X chromosome-inactivation patterns of 1,005 phenotypically unaffected females. *Am J Hum Genet* 2006; **79**: 493-499
  - 23 **Winarni TI**, Utari A, Mundhofir FE, Tong T, Durbin-Johnson B, Faradz SM, Tassone F. Identification of expanded alleles of the FMR1 gene among high-risk population in Indonesia by using blood spot screening. *Genet Test Mol Biomarkers* 2012; **16**: 162-166
  - 24 **Kwon SH**, Lee KS, Hyun MC, Song KE, Kim JK. Molecular screening for fragile X syndrome in mentally handicapped children in Korea. *J Korean Med Sci* 2001; **16**: 271-275
  - 25 **Pandey UB**, Phadke S, Mittal B. Molecular screening of FRAXA and FRAXE in Indian patients with unexplained mental retardation. *Genet Test* 2002; **6**: 335-339
  - 26 **Pang CP**, Poon PM, Chen QL, Lai KY, Yin CH, Zhao Z, Zhong N, Lau CH, Lam ST, Wong CK, Brown WT. Trinucleotide CGG repeat in the FMR1 gene in Chinese mentally retarded patients. *Am J Med Genet* 1999; **84**: 179-183
  - 27 **Hagerman PJ**. The fragile X prevalence paradox. *J Med Genet* 2008; **45**: 498-499
  - 28 **de Vries BB**, Wieggers AM, Smits AP, Mohkamsing S, Duivenvoorden HJ, Fryns JP, Curfs LM, Halley DJ, Oostra BA, van den Ouweland AM, Niermeijer MF. Mental status of females with an FMR1 gene full mutation. *Am J Hum Genet* 1996; **58**: 1025-1032
  - 29 **Heine-Suñer D**, Torres-Juan L, Morlà M, Busquets X, Barceló F, Picó G, Bonilla L, Govea N, Bernués M, Rosell J. Fragile-X syndrome and skewed X-chromosome inactivation within a family: a female member with complete inactivation of the functional X chromosome. *Am J Med Genet A* 2003; **122A**: 108-114
  - 30 **Migeon BR**. The role of X inactivation and cellular mosaicism in women's health and sex-specific diseases. *JAMA* 2006; **295**: 1428-1433
  - 31 **Reiss AL**, Freund LS, Baumgardner TL, Abrams MT, Denckla MB. Contribution of the FMR1 gene mutation to human intellectual dysfunction. *Nat Genet* 1995; **11**: 331-334
  - 32 **Malzac P**, Biancalana V, Voelckel MA, Moncla A, Pellissier MC, Boccaccio I, Mattei JF. Unexpected inheritance of the (CGG)<sub>n</sub> trinucleotide expansion in a fragile X syndrome family. *Eur J Hum Genet* 1996; **4**: 8-12
  - 33 **Rousseau F**, Heitz D, Biancalana V, Blumenfeld S, Kretz C, Boué J, Tommerup N, Van Der Hagen C, DeLozier-Blanchet C, Croquette MF. Direct diagnosis by DNA analysis of the fragile X syndrome of mental retardation. *N Engl J Med* 1991; **325**: 1673-1681
  - 34 **Chiurazzi P**, Kozak L, Neri G. Unstable triplets and their mutational mechanism: size reduction of the CGG repeat vs. germline mosaicism in the fragile X syndrome. *Am J Med Genet* 1994; **51**: 517-521
  - 35 **Tabolacci E**, Pomponi MG, Pietrobono R, Chiurazzi P, Neri G. A unique case of reversion to normal size of a maternal premutation FMR1 allele in a normal boy. *Eur J Hum Genet* 2008; **16**: 209-214
  - 36 **Dobkin CS**, Nolin SL, Cohen I, Sudhalter V, Bialer MG, Ding XH, Jenkins EC, Zhong N, Brown WT. Tissue differences in fragile X mosaics: mosaicism in blood cells may differ greatly from skin. *Am J Med Genet* 1996; **64**: 296-301
  - 37 **Reyniers E**, Martin JJ, Cras P, Van Marck E, Handig I, Jorens HZ, Oostra BA, Kooy RF, Willems PJ. Postmortem examination of two fragile X brothers with an FMR1 full mutation. *Am J Med Genet* 1999; **84**: 245-249
  - 38 **Taylor AK**, Tassone F, Dyer PN, Hersch SM, Harris JB, Greenough WT, Hagerman RJ. Tissue heterogeneity of the FMR1 mutation in a high-functioning male with fragile X syndrome. *Am J Med Genet* 1999; **84**: 233-239
  - 39 **Cohen IL**, Nolin SL, Sudhalter V, Ding XH, Dobkin CS, Brown WT. Mosaicism for the FMR1 gene influences adaptive skills development in fragile X-affected males. *Am J Med Genet* 1996; **64**: 365-369
  - 40 **Jenkins EC**, Krawczun MS, Stark-Houck SL, Duncan CJ, Kunaporn S, Gu H, Schwartz-Richstein C, Howard-Peebles PN, Gross A, Sherman SL. Improved prenatal detection of fra(X)(q27.3): methods for prevention of false negatives in chorionic villus and amniotic fluid cell cultures. *Am J Med Genet* 1991; **38**: 447-452
  - 41 **Sutherland GR**, Gedeon A, Kornman L, Donnelly A, Byard RW, Mulley JC, Kremer E, Lynch M, Pritchard M, Yu S. Prenatal diagnosis of fragile X syndrome by direct detection of the unstable DNA sequence. *N Engl J Med* 1991; **325**: 1720-1722
  - 42 Departemen Dalam Negeri Republik Indonesia. Republic Indonesia Laws No. 36. 2009. Available from: URL: [http://www.depdagri.go.id/media/documents/2009/10/13/UU\\_No.36-2009.doc](http://www.depdagri.go.id/media/documents/2009/10/13/UU_No.36-2009.doc)
  - 43 **Ropers HH**, Hamel BC. X-linked mental retardation. *Nat Rev Genet* 2005; **6**: 46-57
  - 44 **van Karnebeek CD**, Jansweijer MC, Leenders AG, Offringa M, Hennekam RC. Diagnostic investigations in individuals with mental retardation: a systematic literature review of their usefulness. *Eur J Hum Genet* 2005; **13**: 6-25
  - 45 **Sherman S**, Pletcher BA, Driscoll DA. Fragile X syndrome: diagnostic and carrier testing. *Genet Med* 2005; **7**: 584-587

## Acknowledgments to reviewers of *World Journal of Medical Genetics*

We acknowledge our sincere thanks to our reviewers. Many reviewers have contributed their expertise and time to the peer review, a critical process to ensure the quality of our World Series Journals. Both the editors of the journals and authors of the manuscripts submitted to the journals are grateful to the following reviewers for reviewing the articles (either published or rejected) over the past period of time.

**Christophe Chevillard, PhD**, INSERM U906, School of Medicine Timone, 27 Bd Jean Moulin, 13385 Marseille cedex 05, France

**Shile Huang, PhD, Associate Professor**, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, Shreveport, LA 71130-3932, United States

**Dawei Li, PhD**, Yale University School of Medicine, 300 George Street, Suite 503, New Haven, CT 06511, United States

**Wei Li, MD, PhD, Project Staff, Assistant Professor**, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University, The Cleveland Clinic, 9500 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44195, United States

**Xiaoyi Gao, PhD, Assistant Professor**, Department of Ophthalmology and Preventive Medicine, University of Southern California, 1450 San Pablo Street, Suite 4802, Los Angeles, CA 90033, United States

**Enzo Lalli, MD, INSERM Research Director**, Institut de Pharmacologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire CNRS, 660 route de Lucioles-Sophia Antipolis, 06560 Valbonne, France

**Stefan Böhringer, MD, Professor**, Institut für Humangenetik, Universitätsklinikum, 45122 Essen, Germany

**Akinori Kimura, MD, PhD, Professor**, Department of Molecular Pathogenesis, Medical Research Institute, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, 1-5-45 Yushima, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8510, Japan

**Katta MK Girisha, MD, DM, Associate Professor**, Genetics Clinic, Kasturba Medical College and Hospital, Manipal 576104, Karnataka, India

**Volodymyr Dvornyk, PhD, Associate Professor**, School of Biological Sciences, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong, China

**Chun-Yan Ji, MD, PhD, Professor, Associate Director**, Institute of Hematology, Shandong University Qilu Hospital, PO Box 303, 107 West Wenhua Road, Jinan 250012, Shandong Province, China

## Events Calendar 2012

January 19, 2012

2nd joint scientific meeting: Progress In Quality Assurance And Technical Developments In Genetic Testing Nijmegen, The Netherlands

January 20, 2012

Exploiting bacteriophages for bioscience, biotechnology and medicine Welwyn Garden City, United Kingdom

January 26, 2012

An Introduction to miRNA and siRNA The Nowgen Centre, Manchester, United Kingdom

February 2-4, 2012

6èmes Assises de Génétique Humaine et Médicale Marseille, France

February 2-5, 2012

International Congress on Personalized Medicine: Up Close and Personalized (UPCP 2012) Florence, Italy

February 16, 2012

The 2012 London Regenerative Medicine Event London, United Kingdom

March 9, 2012

Cell culture technology: recent advances, future prospects Welwyn Garden City, United Kingdom

March 23, 2012

Mycobacterium tuberculosis.....can we beat it? London, United Kingdom

March 27-31, 2012

2012 American College of Medical Genetics Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting Charlotte, North Carolina, CA, United States

March 29, 2012

Regulatory Cells in Autoimmunity event: Analysing and moderating function London, United Kingdom

March 30, 2012

Histopathology: Advances in research and techniques London, United Kingdom

April 15-24, 2012

Exome Sequencing Hinxtton, Cambridge, United Kingdom

April 19, 2012

Strategies for commercial success of biosimilars London, United Kingdom

May 11-12, 2012

4th International Course on Fluorescence in situ Hybridization Jena, Germany

May 17, 2012

Biomarker discovery: Driving technologies London, United Kingdom

May 23, 2012

Taking the heat out of chaperokine function London, United Kingdom

May 30 - June 1, 2012

Capita Selecta in Complex Disease

Analysis - CSCDA2012

Liège, Belgium

June 11-13, 2012

ICHG 2012: International Conference on Human Genetics Copenhagen, Denmark

June 13-22, 2012

Functional Genomics and Systems Biology Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxtton, Cambridge, United Kingdom

June 21-23, 2012

Satellite Meeting: The Biological Future of Man. Continuities and Break in the History of Human Genetics before and after 1945 Nürnberg, Germany

June 23-26, 2012

European Human Genetics Conference 2012 Nürnberg, Germany

July 1-4, 2012

28th Annual Meeting - ESHRE 2012 Istanbul, Turkey

July 22-25, 2012

Human Genetics Society of Australasia 36th Annual Scientific Meeting Canberra, Australia

November 6-10, 2012

Annual Meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics San Francisco, CA, United States

December 5-8, 2012

10th Asia-Pacific Conference on Human Genetics 2012 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

## GENERAL INFORMATION

*World Journal of Medical Genetics* (*World J Med Genet*, *WJMG*, online ISSN 2220-3184, DOI: 10.5496) is a bimonthly peer-reviewed, online, open-access (OA), journal supported by an editorial board consisting of 103 experts in medical genetics from 28 countries.

The biggest advantage of the OA model is that it provides free, full-text articles in PDF and other formats for experts and the public without registration, which eliminates the obstacle that traditional journals possess and usually delays the speed of the propagation and communication of scientific research results. The open access model has been proven to be a true approach that may achieve the ultimate goal of the journals, i.e. the maximization of the value to the readers, authors and society.

### Maximization of personal benefits

The role of academic journals is to exhibit the scientific levels of a country, a university, a center, a department, and even a scientist, and build an important bridge for communication between scientists and the public. As we all know, the significance of the publication of scientific articles lies not only in disseminating and communicating innovative scientific achievements and academic views, as well as promoting the application of scientific achievements, but also in formally recognizing the "priority" and "copyright" of innovative achievements published, as well as evaluating research performance and academic levels. So, to realize these desired attributes of *WJMG* and create a well-recognized journal, the following four types of personal benefits should be maximized. The maximization of personal benefits refers to the pursuit of the maximum personal benefits in a well-considered optimal manner without violation of the laws, ethical rules and the benefits of others. (1) Maximization of the benefits of editorial board members: The primary task of editorial board members is to give a peer review of an unpublished scientific article via online office system to evaluate its innovativeness, scientific and practical values and determine whether it should be published or not. During peer review, editorial board members can also obtain cutting-edge information in that field at first hand. As leaders in their field, they have priority to be invited to write articles and publish commentary articles. We will put peer reviewers' names and affiliations along with the article they reviewed in the journal to acknowledge their contribution; (2) Maximization of the benefits of authors: Since *WJMG* is an OA journal, readers around the world can immediately download and read, free of charge, high-quality, peer-reviewed articles from *WJMG* official website, thereby realizing the goals and significance of the communication between authors and peers as well as public reading; (3) Maximization of the benefits of readers: Readers can read or use, free of charge, high-quality peer-reviewed articles without any limits, and cite the arguments, viewpoints, concepts, theories, methods, results, conclusion or facts and data of pertinent literature so as to validate the innovativeness, scientific and practical values of their own research achievements, thus ensuring that their articles have novel arguments or viewpoints, solid evidence and correct conclusion; and (4) Maximization of the benefits of employees: It is an iron law that a first-class journal is unable to exist without first-class editors, and only first-class editors can create a first-class academic journal. We insist on strengthening our team cultivation and construction so that every employee, in an open, fair and transparent environment, could contribute their wisdom to edit and publish high-quality articles,

thereby realizing the maximization of the personal benefits of editorial board members, authors and readers, and yielding the greatest social and economic benefits.

### Aims and scope

*WJMG* aims to rapidly report the most recent results in medical diagnostics, therapeutic techniques and equipment, clinical medical research, clinical and experimental techniques and methodology. Its purpose is to provide a platform to facilitate the integration of clinical and laboratory disciplines to highlight genotype-phenotype associations at a qualitative high level, which will help to improve diagnostic accuracy and medical care, and in the longer run, therapeutic intervention. The journal publishes original articles and reviews on the following topics: (1) Laboratory research, including but not limited to techniques in DNA/RNA sequencing, whole-genome linkage analyses and association studies, copy number variation profiling, epigenetic modifications in health and disease, elucidation of molecular and cellular pathways affected by gene mutations, determination of transcription factor binding sites, protein-protein interactions, preparation and transformation of induced pluripotent stem cells, animal models of human hereditary disorders and bioinformatics; and (2) Clinical genetics research on etiology, epidemiology, pathogenesis, morphology and function, signs and symptoms.

### Columns

The columns in the issues of *WJMG* will include: (1) Editorial: To introduce and comment on the substantial advance and its importance in the fast-developing areas; (2) Frontier: To review the most representative achievements and comment on the current research status in the important fields, and propose directions for the future research; (3) Topic Highlight: This column consists of three formats, including (A) 10 invited review articles on a hot topic, (B) a commentary on common issues of this hot topic, and (C) a commentary on the 10 individual articles; (4) Observation: To update the development of old and new questions, highlight unsolved problems, and provide strategies on how to solve the questions; (5) Guidelines for Clinical Practice: To provide guidelines for clinical diagnosis and treatment; (6) Review: To systemically review the most representative progress and unsolved problems in the major scientific disciplines, comment on the current research status, and make suggestions on the future work; (7) Original Articles: To originally report the innovative and valuable findings in medical genetics; (8) Brief Articles: To briefly report the novel and innovative findings in medical genetics; (9) Case Report: To report a rare or typical case; (10) Letters to the Editor: To discuss and make reply to the contributions published in *WJMG*, or to introduce and comment on a controversial issue of general interest; (11) Book Reviews: To introduce and comment on quality monographs of medical genetics; and (12) Guidelines: To introduce consensus and guidelines reached by international and national academic authorities worldwide on the research in medical genetics.

### Name of journal

*World Journal of Medical Genetics*

### ISSN

ISSN 2220-3184 (online)

### Editor-in-Chief

Hans van Bokhoven, Professor, PhD, Department of Human

## Instructions to authors

Genetics and Department of Cognitive Neurosciences, Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre, PO Box 9101, 6500 HB Nijmegen, The Netherlands

### Editorial Office

*World Journal of Medical Genetics*

Editorial Department: Room 903, Building D,  
Ocean International Center,  
No. 62 Dongsihuan Zhonglu,  
Chaoyang District, Beijing 100025, China  
E-mail: [wjmg@wjgnet.com](mailto:wjmg@wjgnet.com)  
<http://www.wjgnet.com>  
Telephone: +86-10-85381891  
Fax: +86-10-85381893

### Indexed and Abstracted in

Digital Object Identifier.

### Published by

Baishideng Publishing Group Co., Limited

---

## SPECIAL STATEMENT

All articles published in this journal represent the viewpoints of the authors except where indicated otherwise.

### Biostatistical editing

Statistical review is performed after peer review. We invite an expert in Biomedical Statistics from to evaluate the statistical method used in the paper, including *t*-test (group or paired comparisons), chi-squared test, Ridit, probit, logit, regression (linear, curvilinear, or stepwise), correlation, analysis of variance, analysis of covariance, *etc.* The reviewing points include: (1) Statistical methods should be described when they are used to verify the results; (2) Whether the statistical techniques are suitable or correct; (3) Only homogeneous data can be averaged. Standard deviations are preferred to standard errors. Give the number of observations and subjects (*n*). Losses in observations, such as drop-outs from the study should be reported; (4) Values such as ED50, LD50, IC50 should have their 95% confidence limits calculated and compared by weighted probit analysis (Bliss and Finney); and (5) The word 'significantly' should be replaced by its synonyms (if it indicates extent) or the *P* value (if it indicates statistical significance).

### Conflict-of-interest statement

In the interests of transparency and to help reviewers assess any potential bias, *WJMG* requires authors of all papers to declare any competing commercial, personal, political, intellectual, or religious interests in relation to the submitted work. Referees are also asked to indicate any potential conflict they might have reviewing a particular paper. Before submitting, authors are suggested to read "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Ethical Considerations in the Conduct and Reporting of Research: Conflicts of Interest" from International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), which is available at: [http://www.icmje.org/ethical\\_4conflicts.html](http://www.icmje.org/ethical_4conflicts.html).

Sample wording: [Name of individual] has received fees for serving as a speaker, a consultant and an advisory board member for [names of organizations], and has received research funding from [names of organization]. [Name of individual] is an employee of [name of organization]. [Name of individual] owns stocks and shares in [name of organization]. [Name of individual] owns patent [patent identification and brief description].

### Statement of informed consent

Manuscripts should contain a statement to the effect that all human studies have been reviewed by the appropriate ethics committee or it should be stated clearly in the text that all persons gave their informed consent prior to their inclusion in the study. Details that might disclose the identity of the subjects under study should be omitted. Authors

should also draw attention to the Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki, 1964, as revised in 2004).

### Statement of human and animal rights

When reporting the results from experiments, authors should follow the highest standards and the trial should conform to Good Clinical Practice (for example, US Food and Drug Administration Good Clinical Practice in FDA-Regulated Clinical Trials; UK Medicines Research Council Guidelines for Good Clinical Practice in Clinical Trials) and/or the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki. Generally, we suggest authors follow the lead investigator's national standard. If doubt exists whether the research was conducted in accordance with the above standards, the authors must explain the rationale for their approach and demonstrate that the institutional review body explicitly approved the doubtful aspects of the study.

Before submitting, authors should make their study approved by the relevant research ethics committee or institutional review board. If human participants were involved, manuscripts must be accompanied by a statement that the experiments were undertaken with the understanding and appropriate informed consent of each. Any personal item or information will not be published without explicit consents from the involved patients. If experimental animals were used, the materials and methods (experimental procedures) section must clearly indicate that appropriate measures were taken to minimize pain or discomfort, and details of animal care should be provided.

---

## SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscripts should be typed in 1.5 line spacing and 12 pt. Book Antiqua with ample margins. Number all pages consecutively, and start each of the following sections on a new page: Title Page, Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements, References, Tables, Figures, and Figure Legends. Neither the editors nor the publisher are responsible for the opinions expressed by contributors. Manuscripts formally accepted for publication become the permanent property of Baishideng Publishing Group Co., Limited, and may not be reproduced by any means, in whole or in part, without the written permission of both the authors and the publisher. We reserve the right to copy-edit and put onto our website accepted manuscripts. Authors should follow the relevant guidelines for the care and use of laboratory animals of their institution or national animal welfare committee. For the sake of transparency in regard to the performance and reporting of clinical trials, we endorse the policy of the ICMJE to refuse to publish papers on clinical trial results if the trial was not recorded in a publicly-accessible registry at its outset. The only register now available, to our knowledge, is <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov> sponsored by the United States National Library of Medicine and we encourage all potential contributors to register with it. However, in the case that other registers become available you will be duly notified. A letter of recommendation from each author's organization should be provided with the contributed article to ensure the privacy and secrecy of research is protected.

Authors should retain one copy of the text, tables, photographs and illustrations because rejected manuscripts will not be returned to the author(s) and the editors will not be responsible for loss or damage to photographs and illustrations sustained during mailing.

### Online submissions

Manuscripts should be submitted through the Online Submission System at: <http://www.wjgnet.com/esps/>. Authors are highly recommended to consult the ONLINE INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS ([http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g\\_info\\_20100722180909.htm](http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g_info_20100722180909.htm)) before attempting to submit online. For assistance, authors encountering problems with the Online Submission System may send an email describing the problem to [wjmg@wjgnet.com](mailto:wjmg@wjgnet.com), or by telephone: +86-10-85381892. If you submit your manuscript online, do not make a postal contribution. Repeated online submission for the same manuscript is strictly prohibited.

## MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

All contributions should be written in English. All articles must be submitted using word-processing software. All submissions must be typed in 1.5 line spacing and 12 pt. Book Antiqua with ample margins. Style should conform to our house format. Required information for each of the manuscript sections is as follows:

### Title page

**Title:** Title should be less than 12 words.

**Running title:** A short running title of less than 6 words should be provided.

**Authorship:** Authorship credit should be in accordance with the standard proposed by ICMJE, based on (1) substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; (2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and (3) final approval of the version to be published. Authors should meet conditions 1, 2, and 3.

**Institution:** Author names should be given first, then the complete name of institution, city, province and postcode. For example, Xu-Chen Zhang, Li-Xin Mei, Department of Pathology, Chengde Medical College, Chengde 067000, Hebei Province, China. One author may be represented from two institutions, for example, George Sgourakis, Department of General, Visceral, and Transplantation Surgery, Essen 45122, Germany; George Sgourakis, 2nd Surgical Department, Korgialenio-Benakio Red Cross Hospital, Athens 15451, Greece

**Author contributions:** The format of this section should be: Author contributions: Wang CL and Liang L contributed equally to this work; Wang CL, Liang L, Fu JF, Zou CC, Hong F and Wu XM designed the research; Wang CL, Zou CC, Hong F and Wu XM performed the research; Xue JZ and Lu JR contributed new reagents/analytic tools; Wang CL, Liang L and Fu JF analyzed the data; and Wang CL, Liang L and Fu JF wrote the paper.

**Supportive foundations:** The complete name and number of supportive foundations should be provided, e.g. Supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China, No. 30224801

**Correspondence to:** Only one corresponding address should be provided. Author names should be given first, then author title, affiliation, the complete name of institution, city, postcode, province, country, and email. All the letters in the email should be in lower case. A space interval should be inserted between country name and email address. For example, Montgomery Bissell, MD, Professor of Medicine, Chief, Liver Center, Gastroenterology Division, University of California, Box 0538, San Francisco, CA 94143, United States. montgomery.bissell@ucsf.edu

**Telephone and fax:** Telephone and fax should consist of +, country number, district number and telephone or fax number, e.g. Telephone: +86-10-85381892 Fax: +86-10-85381893

**Peer reviewers:** All articles received are subject to peer review. Normally, three experts are invited for each article. Decision for acceptance is made only when at least two experts recommend an article for publication. Reviewers for accepted manuscripts are acknowledged in each manuscript, and reviewers of articles which were not accepted will be acknowledged at the end of each issue. To ensure the quality of the articles published in *WJMG*, reviewers of accepted manuscripts will be announced by publishing the name, title/position and institution of the reviewer in the footnote accompanying the printed article. For example, reviewers: Professor Jing-Yuan Fang, Shanghai Institute of Digestive Disease, Shanghai, Affiliated Renji Hospital, Medical Faculty, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Shanghai, China; Professor Xin-Wei Han, Department of Radiology, The First Affiliated Hospital, Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou, Henan Province, China; and Professor Anren Kuang,

Department of Nuclear Medicine, Huaxi Hospital, Sichuan University, Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China.

### Abstract

There are unstructured abstracts (no more than 256 words) and structured abstracts (no more than 480). The specific requirements for structured abstracts are as follows:

An informative, structured abstracts of no more than 480 words should accompany each manuscript. Abstracts for original contributions should be structured into the following sections. AIM (no more than 20 words): Only the purpose should be included. Please write the aim as the form of "To investigate/study/...; MATERIALS AND METHODS (no more than 140 words); RESULTS (no more than 294 words): You should present *P* values where appropriate and must provide relevant data to illustrate how they were obtained, e.g.  $6.92 \pm 3.86$  vs  $3.61 \pm 1.67$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; CONCLUSION (no more than 26 words).

### Key words

Please list 5-10 key words, selected mainly from *Index Medicus*, which reflect the content of the study.

### Text

For articles of these sections, original articles and brief articles, the main text should be structured into the following sections: INTRODUCTION, MATERIALS AND METHODS, RESULTS and DISCUSSION, and should include appropriate Figures and Tables. Data should be presented in the main text or in Figures and Tables, but not in both. The main text format of these sections, editorial, topic highlight, case report, letters to the editors, can be found at: [http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g\\_info\\_20100725072755.htm](http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g_info_20100725072755.htm).

### Illustrations

Figures should be numbered as 1, 2, 3, *etc.*, and mentioned clearly in the main text. Provide a brief title for each figure on a separate page. Detailed legends should not be provided under the figures. This part should be added into the text where the figures are applicable. Figures should be either Photoshop or Illustrator files (in tiff, eps, jpeg formats) at high-resolution. Examples can be found at: <http://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/13/4520.pdf>; <http://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/13/4554.pdf>; <http://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/13/4891.pdf>; <http://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/13/4986.pdf>; <http://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/13/4498.pdf>. Keeping all elements compiled is necessary in line-art image. Scale bars should be used rather than magnification factors, with the length of the bar defined in the legend rather than on the bar itself. File names should identify the figure and panel. Avoid layering type directly over shaded or textured areas. Please use uniform legends for the same subjects. For example: Figure 1 Pathological changes in atrophic gastritis after treatment. A: ...; B: ...; C: ...; D: ...; E: ...; F: ...; G: ...*etc.* It is our principle to publish high resolution-figures for the printed and E-versions.

### Tables

Three-line tables should be numbered 1, 2, 3, *etc.*, and mentioned clearly in the main text. Provide a brief title for each table. Detailed legends should not be included under tables, but rather added into the text where applicable. The information should complement, but not duplicate the text. Use one horizontal line under the title, a second under column heads, and a third below the Table, above any footnotes. Vertical and italic lines should be omitted.

### Notes in tables and illustrations

Data that are not statistically significant should not be noted. <sup>a</sup> $P < 0.05$ , <sup>b</sup> $P < 0.01$  should be noted ( $P > 0.05$  should not be noted). If there are other series of *P* values, <sup>c</sup> $P < 0.05$  and <sup>d</sup> $P < 0.01$  are used. A third series of *P* values can be expressed as <sup>e</sup> $P < 0.05$  and <sup>f</sup> $P < 0.01$ . Other notes in tables or under illustrations should be expressed as <sup>1</sup>F, <sup>2</sup>F, <sup>3</sup>F; or sometimes as other symbols with a superscript (Arabic numerals) in the upper left corner. In a multi-curve illustration, each curve should be labeled with ●, ○, ■, □, ▲, △, *etc.*, in a certain sequence.

## Instructions to authors

### Acknowledgments

Brief acknowledgments of persons who have made genuine contributions to the manuscript and who endorse the data and conclusions should be included. Authors are responsible for obtaining written permission to use any copyrighted text and/or illustrations.

## REFERENCES

### Coding system

The author should number the references in Arabic numerals according to the citation order in the text. Put reference numbers in square brackets in superscript at the end of citation content or after the cited author's name. For citation content which is part of the narration, the coding number and square brackets should be typeset normally. For example, "Crohn's disease (CD) is associated with increased intestinal permeability<sup>[1,2]</sup>". If references are cited directly in the text, they should be put together within the text, for example, "From references<sup>[19,22-24]</sup>, we know that..."

When the authors write the references, please ensure that the order in text is the same as in the references section, and also ensure the spelling accuracy of the first author's name. Do not list the same citation twice.

### PMID and DOI

Please provide PubMed citation numbers to the reference list, e.g. PMID and DOI, which can be found at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?db=pubmed> and <http://www.crossref.org/SimpleTextQuery/>, respectively. The numbers will be used in E-version of this journal.

### Style for journal references

Authors: the name of the first author should be typed in bold-faced letters. The family name of all authors should be typed with the initial letter capitalized, followed by their abbreviated first and middle initials. (For example, Lian-Sheng Ma is abbreviated as Ma LS, Bo-Rong Pan as Pan BR). The title of the cited article and italicized journal title (journal title should be in its abbreviated form as shown in PubMed), publication date, volume number (in black), start page, and end page [PMID: 11819634 DOI: 10.3748/wjg.13.5396].

### Style for book references

Authors: the name of the first author should be typed in bold-faced letters. The surname of all authors should be typed with the initial letter capitalized, followed by their abbreviated middle and first initials. (For example, Lian-Sheng Ma is abbreviated as Ma LS, Bo-Rong Pan as Pan BR) Book title. Publication number. Publication place: Publication press, Year: start page and end page.

### Format

#### Journals

English journal article (list all authors and include the PMID where applicable)

- 1 **Jung EM**, Clevert DA, Schreyer AG, Schmitt S, Rennert J, Kubale R, Feuerbach S, Jung F. Evaluation of quantitative contrast harmonic imaging to assess malignancy of liver tumors: A prospective controlled two-center study. *World J Gastroenterol* 2007; **13**: 6356-6364 [PMID: 18081224 DOI: 10.3748/wjg.13.6356]

Chinese journal article (list all authors and include the PMID where applicable)

- 2 **Lin GZ**, Wang XZ, Wang P, Lin J, Yang FD. Immunologic effect of Jianpi Yishen decoction in treatment of Pixu-diarhoea. *Shijie Huaren Xiaohua Zazhi* 1999; **7**: 285-287

In press

- 3 **Tian D**, Araki H, Stahl E, Bergelson J, Kreitman M. Signature of balancing selection in Arabidopsis. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2006; In press

Organization as author

- 4 **Diabetes Prevention Program Research Group**. Hypertension, insulin, and proinsulin in participants with impaired glucose tolerance. *Hypertension* 2002; **40**: 679-686 [PMID: 12411462 PMID:2516377 DOI:10.1161/01.HYP.0000035706.28494.09]

Both personal authors and an organization as author

- 5 **Vallancien G**, Emberton M, Harving N, van Moorselaar RJ; Alf-One Study Group. Sexual dysfunction in 1, 274 European men suffering from lower urinary tract symptoms. *J Urol* 2003; **169**: 2257-2261 [PMID: 12771764 DOI:10.1097/01.ju.0000067940.76090.73]

No author given

- 6 21st century heart solution may have a sting in the tail. *BMJ* 2002; **325**: 184 [PMID: 12142303 DOI:10.1136/bmj.325.7357.184]

Volume with supplement

- 7 **Geraud G**, Spierings EL, Keywood C. Tolerability and safety of frovatriptan with short- and long-term use for treatment of migraine and in comparison with sumatriptan. *Headache* 2002; **42** Suppl 2: S93-99 [PMID: 12028325 DOI:10.1046/j.1526-4610.42.s2.7.x]

Issue with no volume

- 8 **Banit DM**, Kaufer H, Hartford JM. Intraoperative frozen section analysis in revision total joint arthroplasty. *Clin Orthop Relat Res* 2002; **(401)**: 230-238 [PMID: 12151900 DOI:10.1097/00003086-200208000-00026]

No volume or issue

- 9 Outreach: Bringing HIV-positive individuals into care. *HRSA Careaction* 2002; 1-6 [PMID: 12154804]

### Books

Personal author(s)

- 10 **Sherlock S**, Dooley J. Diseases of the liver and biliary system. 9th ed. Oxford: Blackwell Sci Pub, 1993: 258-296

Chapter in a book (list all authors)

- 11 **Lam SK**. Academic investigator's perspectives of medical treatment for peptic ulcer. In: Swabb EA, Azabo S. Ulcer disease: investigation and basis for therapy. New York: Marcel Dekker, 1991: 431-450

Author(s) and editor(s)

- 12 **Breedlove GK**, Schorfheide AM. Adolescent pregnancy. 2nd ed. Wiczorek RR, editor. White Plains (NY): March of Dimes Education Services, 2001: 20-34

Conference proceedings

- 13 **Harnden P**, Joffe JK, Jones WG, editors. Germ cell tumours V. Proceedings of the 5th Germ cell tumours Conference; 2001 Sep 13-15; Leeds, UK. New York: Springer, 2002: 30-56

Conference paper

- 14 **Christensen S**, Oppacher F. An analysis of Koza's computational effort statistic for genetic programming. In: Foster JA, Lutton J, Miller J, Ryan C, Tettamanzi AG, editors. Genetic programming, EuroGP 2002: Proceedings of the 5th European Conference on Genetic Programming; 2002 Apr 3-5; Kinsdale, Ireland. Berlin: Springer, 2002: 182-191

Electronic journal (list all authors)

- 15 Morse SS. Factors in the emergence of infectious diseases. *Emerg Infect Dis* serial online, 1995-01-03, cited 1996-06-05; 1(1): 24 screens. Available from: URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/eid/index.htm>

Patent (list all authors)

- 16 **Pagedas AC**, inventor; Ancel Surgical R&D Inc., assignee. Flexible endoscopic grasping and cutting device and positioning tool assembly. United States patent US 20020103498. 2002 Aug 1

### Statistical data

Write as mean  $\pm$  SD or mean  $\pm$  SE.

### Statistical expression

Express *t* test as *t* (in italics), *F* test as *F* (in italics), chi square test as  $\chi^2$  (in Greek), related coefficient as *r* (in italics), degree of freedom as *v* (in Greek), sample number as *n* (in italics), and probability as *P* (in italics).

### Units

Use SI units. For example: body mass, m (B) = 78 kg; blood pres-

sure,  $p$  (B) = 16.2/12.3 kPa; incubation time,  $t$  (incubation) = 96 h, blood glucose concentration,  $c$  (glucose)  $6.4 \pm 2.1$  mmol/L; blood CEA mass concentration,  $p$  (CEA) = 8.6 24.5  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ;  $\text{CO}_2$  volume fraction, 50 mL/L  $\text{CO}_2$ , not 5%  $\text{CO}_2$ ; likewise for 40 g/L formaldehyde, not 10% formalin; and mass fraction, 8 ng/g, *etc.* Arabic numerals such as 23, 243, 641 should be read 23 243 641.

The format for how to accurately write common units and quantums can be found at: [http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g\\_info\\_20100725073806.htm](http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g_info_20100725073806.htm).

### Abbreviations

Standard abbreviations should be defined in the abstract and on first mention in the text. In general, terms should not be abbreviated unless they are used repeatedly and the abbreviation is helpful to the reader. Permissible abbreviations are listed in Units, Symbols and Abbreviations: A Guide for Biological and Medical Editors and Authors (Ed. Baron DN, 1988) published by The Royal Society of Medicine, London. Certain commonly used abbreviations, such as DNA, RNA, HIV, LD50, PCR, HBV, ECG, WBC, RBC, CT, ESR, CSF, IgG, ELISA, PBS, ATP, EDTA, mAb, can be used directly without further explanation.

### Italics

Quantities:  $t$  time or temperature,  $c$  concentration,  $A$  area,  $l$  length,  $m$  mass,  $V$  volume.

Genotypes: *gyrA*, *arg 1*, *c myc*, *c fos*, *etc.*

Restriction enzymes: *EcoRI*, *HindI*, *BamHI*, *Kbo I*, *Kpn I*, *etc.*

Biology: *H. pylori*, *E. coli*, *etc.*

### Examples for paper writing

**Editorial:** [http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g\\_info\\_20100725071851.htm](http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g_info_20100725071851.htm)

**Frontier:** [http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g\\_info\\_20100725071932.htm](http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g_info_20100725071932.htm)

**Topic highlight:** [http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g\\_info\\_20100725072121.htm](http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g_info_20100725072121.htm)

**Observation:** [http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g\\_info\\_20100725072232.htm](http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g_info_20100725072232.htm)

**Guidelines for basic research:** [http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g\\_info\\_20100725072344.htm](http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g_info_20100725072344.htm)

**Guidelines for clinical practice:** [http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g\\_info\\_20100725072543.htm](http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g_info_20100725072543.htm)

**Review:** [http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g\\_info\\_20100725072656.htm](http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g_info_20100725072656.htm)

**Original articles:** [http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g\\_info\\_20100725072755.htm](http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g_info_20100725072755.htm)

**Brief articles:** [http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g\\_info\\_20100725072920.htm](http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g_info_20100725072920.htm)

**Case report:** [http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g\\_info\\_20100725073015.htm](http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g_info_20100725073015.htm)

**Letters to the editor:** [http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g\\_info\\_20100725073136.htm](http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g_info_20100725073136.htm)

**Book reviews:** [http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g\\_info\\_20100725073214.htm](http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g_info_20100725073214.htm)

**Guidelines:** [http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g\\_info\\_20100725073300.htm](http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g_info_20100725073300.htm)

## SUBMISSION OF THE REVISED MANUSCRIPTS AFTER ACCEPTED

Authors must revise their manuscript carefully according to the revision policies of Baishideng Publishing Group Co., Limited. The revised version, along with the signed copyright transfer agreement, responses to the reviewers, and English language Grade B certificate (for non-native speakers of English), should be submitted to the online system *via* the link contained in the e-mail sent by the editor. If you have any questions about the revision, please send e-mail to [esps@wjgnet.com](mailto:esps@wjgnet.com).

### Language evaluation

The language of a manuscript will be graded before it is sent for revision. (1) Grade A: priority publishing; (2) Grade B: minor language polishing; (3) Grade C: a great deal of language polishing needed; and (4) Grade D: rejected. Revised articles should reach Grade A or B.

### Copyright assignment form

Please download a Copyright assignment form from [http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g\\_info\\_20100725073726.htm](http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g_info_20100725073726.htm).

### Responses to reviewers

Please revise your article according to the comments/suggestions provided by the reviewers. The format for responses to the reviewers' comments can be found at: [http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g\\_info\\_20100725073445.htm](http://www.wjgnet.com/2220-3184/g_info_20100725073445.htm).

### Proof of financial support

For paper supported by a foundation, authors should provide a copy of the document and serial number of the foundation.

### Links to documents related to the manuscript

WJMG will be initiating a platform to promote dynamic interactions between the editors, peer reviewers, readers and authors. After a manuscript is published online, links to the PDF version of the submitted manuscript, the peer-reviewers' report and the revised manuscript will be put on-line. Readers can make comments on the peer reviewer's report, authors' responses to peer reviewers, and the revised manuscript. We hope that authors will benefit from this feedback and be able to revise the manuscript accordingly in a timely manner.

### Science news releases

Authors of accepted manuscripts are suggested to write a science news item to promote their articles. The news will be released rapidly at EurekAlert/AAAS (<http://www.eurekalert.org>). The title for news items should be less than 90 characters; the summary should be less than 75 words; and main body less than 500 words. Science news items should be lawful, ethical, and strictly based on your original content with an attractive title and interesting pictures.

### Publication fee

WJMG is an international, peer-reviewed, OA, online journal. Articles published by this journal are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial License, which permits use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited, the use is non commercial and is otherwise in compliance with the license. Authors of accepted articles must pay a publication fee. Publication fee: 600 USD per article. Editorial, topic highlights, book reviews and letters to the editor are published free of charge.