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### Thrombophilia ad dies vitae

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## *Appendix*

A call for a uniform reference output format for  
submission of manuscripts



### ***A call for a uniform reference output format for submission of manuscripts***

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Even though uniform requirements of output styles exist<sup>1,2</sup>, each biomedical journal has its own editorial requirements for formatting -such as composition of the reference list-. I do not question the relevance of individual output styles, as journals may consider this an important characteristic its identity. However I would like to advocate a uniform output style for *submission* of manuscripts (such as the Vancouver Style<sup>3</sup>). Converting the manuscript to the various required output styles can become time consuming cumulatively, especially if a manuscript is submitted multiple times due to prior rejections. Moreover, in case a manuscript is not considered for peer review, the conversion according to the journal's stipulations had been redundant. Of course, the authors could be requested to adapt the output style according to the journal's requirements, but not before the journal's editor has decided to accept the manuscript for publication. In fact, saving the effort which is nowadays needed for conversion of the format would allow us, researchers, to spend more time on our actual experiments. In this manner both authors and editors would benefit, as this could enhance the number of relevant scientific results.

<sup>1</sup>Patrias, Karen. Citing medicine: the NLM style guide for authors, editors, and publishers [Internet]. 2nd ed. Wendling, Daniel L., technical editor. Bethesda (MD): National Library of Medicine (US); 2007 [2009/02/17]. Available from: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/citingmedicine>

<sup>2</sup>Monash University Library. Vancouver style (uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals); 2006 [2009/02/17]. Available from: <http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/tutorials/citing/vancouver.html>