1. What is the best way for me to submit my figure ideas to you?

You can send your illustration ideas in whichever format you find easiest (email, fax, mail, phone). I can work with a very rough sketch, a verbal description, PowerPoint slide[s], an illustration from another source that you would like me to modify, or any combination of these. It is also very helpful to have the figure legend(s) and, if possible, at least a rough draft or outline of your manuscript.

You can submit the materials for your figures to:

Sarah L. Williamson
Medical Illustrator
AGA Institute
4930 Del Ray Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20814
Phone 301-654-2055, ext. 664
Fax 301-654-1140
swilliamson@gastro.org

2. What is the best way for me to send you my edits/revisions?

Just as with your original figure ideas, you are welcome to send your figure revisions however you find easiest. Some authors find it convenient to write directly on a printout of my proof, and then scan it and send via email, or fax the sketch to me. Others prefer to call and explain their changes, or type them into an email. Whatever works best for you is fine with me!

3. Why is it necessary for my illustrations and figures to be redrawn?

The AGA strives to maintain a consistent style and look for both CGH and Gastroenterology
4. We would like to have you redraw our figures from other sources; will we need to get permission to use the original figures?

Yes, you must obtain permission, even if you are submitting figures to be redrawn and/or modified. We will include a line in the figure legend stating that the figures have been modified, and citing the original source.

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5. I have my own medical illustrator that I would like to use to complete my illustrations. Is this acceptable?

Our journal adheres to a specific figure style. For this reason, we discourage authors from using outside illustrators. However, you may be able to use your own figures as-is, provided they are high quality and they adhere to our style, but you should contact us in advance to discuss this and provide the figures so we can evaluate them.

6. I have a very specific color scheme that I wish to use in my figures. Can you work with this?

Yes. Please let me know your specific needs in advance, and I will be happy to accommodate you.

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7. Can I submit my figures in color?

If you are publishing a review article in Gastroenterology, you are strongly encouraged to publish 4-6 color figures. For articles to be published in Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology (CGH), you may include up to 2 color figures, with any additional figures printed in black and white and shown in color online. I can work with you to add color to your illustrations, if your original sketches are in black and white.

8. Is there a cost for your services?

No, we do not charge for our illustration services.

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9. Will I get to see a proof before my figures are published? Will I have a chance to modify our figures after the initial proof stage?

Yes, I will work with you to ensure that you are happy with your final illustrations. I will email you a jpeg version of each figure to review. After each round of revisions, you will see the modified figures, and you will have a chance to send me your comments and edits.
10. How will the final artwork look different from the sketch proof?

The early sketch versions of figures are done in “flat” colors and simpler shapes. This makes them easy to edit, so I can incorporate any changes you might need.

The finalized illustrations have highlights and shadows and other small details, giving them an effect of depth (see examples below).

Preliminary sketches (A) and finalized versions (B) of illustrations for Gastro and CGH.

11. How long will it take for you to complete the illustrations for my manuscript?

Priority is given to articles that are scheduled for earlier publication. Turnaround time for preliminary sketches is often as short as one day for editorials, and sometimes several weeks for reviews, depending upon workload, complexity of the manuscript, and other factors. Of course, I always appreciate as
much lead time as possible to complete your illustration[s].

12. Will you redraw my tables and graphs in addition to my illustrations?

Yes. We will redraw any line art (graphs and charts) for style consistency. In addition, the journal’s publisher, Elsevier, will reformat any tables you submit. For additional information on this topic, please see our Line Art FAQ.

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13. Am I responsible for submitting the final artwork to the publisher? How large will the file[s] be?

We send the final artwork to the publisher for you when it is complete. You will also receive a digital copy of the illustration(s) for your files. The final file format is RGB jpeg, so although the images are high resolution and excellent print quality, they generally will not be more than 1 or 2 MB in size.

14. Once you have sent me the completed illustration file, can I use it for other things (presentations, publications, etc.)?

To reuse the illustration(s) in any form or by any means, including electronic or mechanical, please contact our publisher’s permissions office at healthpermissions@elsevier.com or go to www.elsevier.com/permissions.

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15. Which software packages do you use to create the illustrations?

My illustrations are created entirely using digital media. I work with Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop CS3. I use Illustrator to create the basic shapes, lines, and labels in the illustrations, followed by Photoshop to add the highlights, shadows, and fine details when I finalize the figures. The final images are exported as RGB jpeg files.

16. What kind of science and art training do you have?

Before completing a master of arts in medical illustration from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 2001, I earned a bachelor of arts degree in biology/anthropology from Western Washington University in 1995, and studied fine art (the Seattle Academy of Fine Art, now called the Gage Academy) and scientific illustration (the University of Washington).

Graduate-level medical illustrator training includes courses in anatomy, histology, pathology, surgery, cellular and molecular biology, and as well as traditional and digital illustration techniques.

For more information on the field of medical illustration and specific training programs:
http://www.ami.org/
http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/medart/
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medical_illustrator

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