

ATUDER
Acil Tıp Uzmanları Derneği

Tips for publishing success for medical and scientific papers


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Conflict of Interest

Colin Graham is the Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Emergency Medicine and receives a modest annual honorarium for his editorial work

European Journal of
Emergency Medicine

Scotland



Scotland




Audience poll

- How many of you have written a paper for a journal?
- How many of you have had that paper rejected?
- How many of you finally managed to get the paper published?


Objectives

At the end of this session you will:


- Understand the anatomy of a paper
- Know how to write a paper
- Understand what is important for a paper from the perspective of an Editor-in-Chief




Important questions to ask




- What are you trying to publish?
- Why are you publishing it?
- Where are you going to publish it?
- When are you going to publish it?




The end point of a study




- Results – the answer to a specific question
- New knowledge – positive or negative
- Something that changes practice
- A line on your CV....




The role of an EM journal




- To educate readers
- To report important original research findings
- To uphold high scientific and ethical standards
- To enhance high quality evidence based EM




What are you trying to publish?




- A full paper
- A short report (brief report / research report)
- A letter to the editor (correspondence)
- An abstract




What are you trying to publish?




- A technical report
- A report for a grant funding body
- A public summary
- A press release




Why are you publishing it?




- To complete the study process
- Dissemination of the results
- To change practice
- As a foundation for further work




Why are you publishing it?




- To get it off your back
- To add to your CV for promotion +/- tenure
- To keep your boss happy
- To fulfil exam or institutional requirements




Who is going to write it?




- Those involved in the research project
- Strict authorship criteria
- Must have roles clearly defined at the outset
- There must be a clear leader for the paper
- Someone (the leader) has to produce a draft
- Others will edit / criticise / complain




Types of papers




- Full papers are appropriate for major studies
- Short reports are appropriate for most small studies and locally applicable studies
- Correspondence is for case reports or audits
- Vast majority of papers can be shortened




Type of paper




- If your paper is not a high quality RCT, it is unlikely to be accepted by a top rated journal
- Clinical studies should go to clinical journals
- Lab studies should go to basic science journals
- Don't waste time by submitting the wrong paper to the wrong journal!




Which journal to submit to?



- Decide as early as possible in planning the study
- Ideally name the journal in the protocol
- If possible, try to publish the protocol too
- Think of a realistic back-up plan



Journal factors to be considered



- Journal status
- Editorial standpoint
- Standing within the EM community
- Geographical (local) factors

Impact factor 2009									
Rank	Abbreviated Journal Title (linked to journal information)	ISSN	JCR Data 2009				Eigenfactor™ Metrics 2009		
			Total Cites	Impact Factor	Immediacy Index	Articles	Cited Half-Score	Eigenfactor™ Score	Article Influence™ Score
1	ANNALS OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE	0196-0644	8703	4.733	1.013	155	8.4	0.01040	1.112
2	RESUSCITATION	0300-9572	4971	2.712	2.500	665	236	4.6	0.01437
3	BLAISE JOURNAL OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE	1099-6503	4040	2.418	2.403	341	194	5.8	0.01324
4	EMERGENCY	0006-1181	5427	3.181	3.066	278	271	6.3	0.01175
5	AMERICAN JOURNAL OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE	0735-6757	3105	1.542	1.531	260	177	0.1	0.00727
6	EMERGENCY MEDICINE JOURNAL	1472-0240	1800	1.411	1.313	1194	170	4.8	0.00701
7	EMERGENCY MEDICINE CASE	1066-1137	764	1.267	0.176	74	5.3	0.00363	0.179
8	EMERGENCY MEDICINE	0736-4079	2145	1.205	1.134	216	140	7.4	0.00515
9	EMERGENCY MEDICINE IN DENMARK	0743-9847	961	0.964	0.990	123	24	6.8	0.00105
10	EMERGENCY MEDICINE CASE	0740-5161	1641	0.814	0.837	104	102	6.3	0.00570
11	EMERGENCY MEDICINE AUSTRALASIA	1742-6731	301	0.901	0.313	67	3.5	0.00196	0.306
12	EMERGENCY MEDICINE	0909-9040	625	0.733	0.174	69	5.8	0.00194	0.181
13	EMERGENCY MEDICINE	0177-5537	1537	0.502	0.950	132	106	7.6	0.00255
14	EMERGENCY MEDICINE	1434-6222	292	0.573	0.237	93	3.7	0.00030	0.582
15	EMERGENCY MEDICINE	0909-1107	343	0.239	0.121	91	6.0	0.00142	0.049
16	EMERGENCY MEDICINE	1306-406X	141	0.234	0.050	120	5.0	0.00035	0.032
17	EMERGENCY MEDICINE	1360-9933	57	0.207	0.222	90	0.00010	0.00010	0.049
18	EMERGENCY MEDICINE	1334-5403	7	0.175	0.000	13	0.00003	0.00003	0.032
19	EMERGENCY MEDICINE	0177-2200	50	0.076	0.208	34	0.00004	0.00004	0.032

Editorial standpoint

- What are the editorial policies of the journal?
 - EJEM discourages case reports
 - Annals of EM encourages RCTs
 - International Journal of EM has a declared international focus
 - AJEM does not publish QA or survey papers
- What are the specific Instructions for Authors?

The most suitable journal?

- The most suitable journal will depend on the type and quality of the paper you have written
- Examine the Instructions for Authors carefully
- Papers should be targeted at an appropriate journal for the topic and the quality


Open access journals

- Charge an author fee for article processing and publishing (usually online)
- Make papers freely available to all readers
- Authors (or their institutions) need to be prepared to pay to publish


Writing the paper

- Comply with Instructions for Authors
 - General template, but each journal has specifics
- Write the paper as soon as the study is complete
 - Incorporate time into the research design process
- Present your results at scientific meetings such as this one and you'll get valuable feedback


Present your paper




You will get excellent feedback which will improve your paper when you write it




Writing




- Use a single style / font
- Avoid using lots of **BOLD** and *Italics*
- Make sure you put page numbers in
- Follow the instructions for authors
- Above all, be consistent
- Look for internal disagreements




How do you write a paper?




- The hardest part is the first draft
 - This is the skeleton on which the paper is formed
 - It is the most difficult bit to do
 - It will be ripped apart by all your co-authors
 - But without it the paper cannot proceed
- Writer's block is common at this stage - just sit down and write something!




Writing – in English




- English is not a first language for many writers
- Get help before submission
 - Native English speaker if at all possible
- Consider this carefully before submitting to an English language journal




Finishing the paper




- Once it is written, give it to someone who can review it constructively (ideally a reviewer) and ask for honest feedback
- Revise and shorten the paper
- Almost all papers are too long initially
 - Be as concise as possible




Plagiarism







- Plagiarism is copying
- Completely unacceptable in scientific and medical writing
- Carefully reference all sources and acknowledge all contributions to the present work




Final Checks




- Page numbers
- Font
- Spelling
- All references correct?
- Quality of English (native English speaker)
- Submit everything required to the journal
- Electronic submission




What happens after submission?




- Acknowledgement from Editor
- Sent to referees
- Referee reports to Editor
- Editorial decision
- Request for revision
- Resubmit revision
- Further assessment




Then what?




- Resubmission refereed (often same referee)
- Further editorial decision made
- Accept or reject
- Publication
- Time to decision: 6-12 months
- Time to publication (from paper acceptance) is 6-18 months




Tips




- Leader must be focussed and committed to completing publication process
- Do not lose hope - everything is eventually published somewhere
- Follow the Instructions for Authors
- Ask for advice
- Set deadlines
- Revise, revise and revise again!




Tips




- If the referee suggests a change, then make the change – don't argue with referees and editors!
- Editors will not waste time arguing – they will reject the paper
- Get help with English language – if the science is hidden by the poor English, it will not succeed
- Don't spend a lot of time on case reports
- Ethical approval is paramount – no exceptions




Further reading




- Tim Albert's books and courses
- "How to write a medical paper"
- by BMJ Books
- Experienced authors




Submissions




- Try to be realistic about the target journal
 - Don't send lab studies to the EJEM
 - Don't send quality assurance studies to the AJEM
 - Don't send clinical studies to a lab science journal
- Ask yourself: is this an internationally important paper or a locally useful study?
 - If you can't answer this, ask someone who can




Submissions




- You can only submit the paper to one journal at any time – dual submission is forbidden
- Follow the Instructions for Authors to the letter
- Write an informative and eye catching letter to the editor to accompany the paper on submission




Rejection



- Very, very common
- Use reviewers comments constructively
- Rethink your publishing strategy
- Get senior advice if not sure how to proceed



Summary



- Journals are looking for quality papers
- Don't waste your time on case reports for international journals
- Aim high but be realistic about your chances
- Good luck!




Questions ?