Getting Your Work Published

Mike Makris
Editorial experience

• Current
  • Editor: Haemophilia
  • Editor: Cochrane Inherited Bleeding Disorders section
  • Editorial board: British Journal of Haematology, Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis, Blood Transfusion

• Previous
  • Associate editor: Thrombosis Research, Acta Haematologica
  • Editorial Board: American Journal of Hematology, Thrombosis and Haemostasis

• Personal publications
  • Books 4; Chapters 21; Original papers 125; Reviews 60; letters to the editor 38

• Review of manuscripts
  • 50-100 per year for other journals
  • 300 per year for Haemophilia
Design your research properly

• Research design
• Good hypothesis
• Adequate power to answer the question
• If you submit a manuscript you must have something new to say
Choose the right journal
Journal hierarchy in Haemostasis

• General Medicine
  – *New England Journal of Medicine, Nature, Lancet*

• Haematology
  – *Blood, British Journal of Haematology, Haematologica*

• Haemostasis and Thrombosis
  – *Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis, Haemostasis and Thrombosis*
  – *Haemophilia, Thrombosis Research, International Journal of Laboratory Haematology*
What does the journal publish?

- Research papers
- Reviews
- Editorials/commentaries
- Case report
- Short papers
- Letters to the editor

Avoid “new” open journals that ask you to pay to get your paper published and are not on MEDLINE.
Once you decide on a journal

• Read several issues of the journal
  – Preferably read it regularly

1. You will see if they publish papers in your area
2. You will see how papers in the area are presented
Author instructions

• Choose the journal
• Go to the journal website
• Download the author instructions
• Do they publish papers in the format you want?
• Follow the instructions
  • Word length
  • Number of references
Title

- Short
- Accurate
- Attractive to get readers interested in reading it
- Not too clever/obscure
Authorship

• All authors must fulfil the following criteria:

1. Substantial contributions to research design, or the acquisition, analysis or interpretation of data
2. Drafting the paper or revising it critically
3. Approval of the submitted and final versions

From: Instructions to Authors for Haemophilia
The components of every article

• Title
• Authors
• Summary (abstract)
• Keywords
• Introduction
• Materials and methods or Patients and methods
• Results
• Discussion
• Acknowledgements
• Conflicts of interest (disclosures)
• References
• Legends to figures and tables
• Figures and tables
Writing the manuscript

• Adhere to the rules eg word count
• Do not skip any sections
• In the results section, figures and tables are much better than words
• At the end of the introduction state the aim
• State the limitation of your study
• End your discussion by commenting on whether you achieved the aim
My order of writing the paper

• Materials and methods or Patients and methods
• Results
• Introduction
• Discussion
• References
• Summary
• Legends to figures and tables
• Acknowledgements
• Conflicts of interest (disclosures)
References

• Journals use different formats
• Take care when submitting to another journal after rejection
• Best to use a computer reference program
  • Endnote
  • Reference manager
  • Mendeley (free)
Submit your manuscript

• Register on ScholarOne or similar
• Complete all the sections
• Recommend 2 reviewers, not from your own institute or persons you work with
• Confirm that the paper has been submitted and converted to PDF successfully
• Actually complete the submission, otherwise you will have a long wait
**Possible outcomes**

- Acceptance with no changes – extremely rare
- Minor changes
- Major changes – may require further work
- Rejection
  - If all reviewers are very critical: go for another journal with lower IF
  - If reviews mixed:
    - Consider appealing the decision when you calm down
    - Address all comments in detail
    - Be polite
    - Ask editor to consider sending it to a further reviewer
Areas to avoid
Duplicate submission

• You should only submit your paper to one journal at a time.
• Simultaneous submission to several journals is scientifically unacceptable
• Getting your paper published twice is misconduct
Salami Publication

• Performance of a study and publication of many small sized papers in different journals

• It is acceptable to publish more than one paper from a study
  • Large study
  • Different times
  • Different aspects
  • Can be in the same journal even the same issue
**Plagiarism**

- “The unauthorised use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one’s own original work” (source dictionary.reference.com)

- All manuscripts submitted to *Haemophilia* are first submitted to similarity detection software: iThenticate (similar to Turnitin)
  - Generates a similarity index
  - Editors alerted if similarity above a certain level
  - If you copy sentences from published papers they will be picked up

- **Manipulation**
  - Change words to get similarity index down
  - Add white font zeros white between words
Summary: How to maximise your chances of success

• Read journals you intend to submit to
• Design your research study properly in the first place
• Follow the instruction to authors provided by the journal
• Use a co-author with publishing experience
• Ask a colleague to read and comment on your manuscript
• Appeal only if there was disagreement among reviewers
• If invited to review “always” agree provided it is within your area of expertise