

# Publishing Your Manuscript

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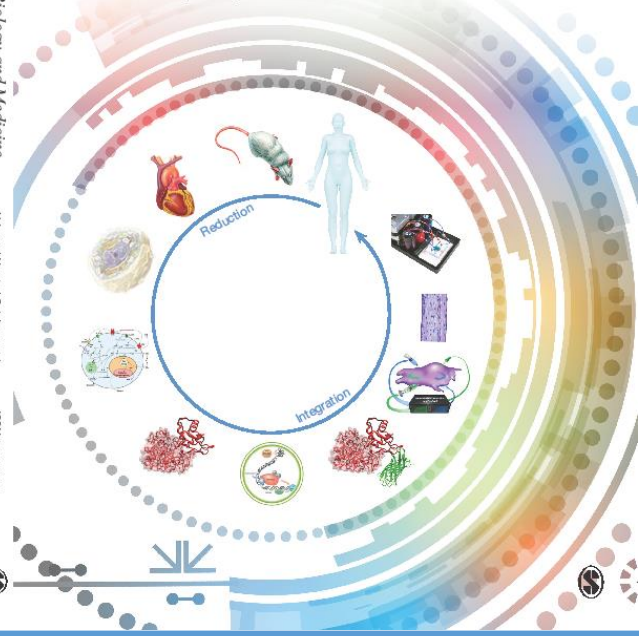
A Journal Dedicated to the Publication of Multidisciplinary  
and Interdisciplinary Research in the Biomedical Sciences

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- Anatomy/Pathology
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# Selecting A Journal

- **What is the audience that I am trying to reach?**
- **Which Journals have strength in my area of interest? How do I determine this?**
- **How do I determine the Scope of the potential journals?**

# Publish Complete Studies that Advance Your Field and Your Reputation

## Salami Slicing

The "slicing" of research that would form one meaningful paper into several different papers is called "salami publication" or "salami slicing".

Slicing not only skews the "scientific database" but it creates repetition that wastes readers' time as well as the time of editors and reviewers, who must handle each paper separately. Further, it unfairly inflates the author's citation record.



Abraham P (2000). Duplicate and salami publications. Journal of Postgraduate Medicine, 46: 67

# Writing the Manuscript

## First Steps

- **Read the Guidelines for Authors.**
- **Write an outline of your paper.**
- **Prepare all figures and tables that you need to tell the story (and legends).**
- **Put them in the order that you want and make sure that the story is in logical sequence.**

# Writing Your Manuscript

## Introduction

- **Short and sweet.**
- **What were you trying to accomplish in these studies?**
- **What relevant material was published before?**
- **One sentence summary of your findings.**

# Writing the manuscript

## Materials and Methods

- **Write in enough detail so that another researcher can perform your study by reproducing your methods.**
- **But do not give detailed explanations of already published techniques. Give the reference with any modifications explained.**
- **Be as succinct as possible.**

# Writing the manuscript

## Results

- **Once you have all figures prepared and in order, then writing the results is simple.**
- **You are explaining the why and how of the experiment briefly followed by the result.**
- **You are telling a story so there needs to be a smooth transition of how one result leads to the next experiment.**
- **Do not use the Results section for Discussion, unless the Instructions for Authors allows.**



# Writing the Manuscript

## Discussion

- **Your discussion should be succinct.**
- **Do not restate the results in detail, but briefly summarize the major findings.**
- **How does your study advance the field?**
- **What are the limitations to your findings?**
- **Do not over-interpret your data!**
- **What would be the next steps?**

# Writing the Manuscript

## Figure Legends, References, etc.

- **Just follow instructions!**
- **Your journal will tell you about page limits, figure limits, word limits, style of figures, style of references, etc.**

# You have a first draft, now what?

- **Have others in your lab read the draft and suggest revisions.**
- **Give it to your trusted Advisors for a careful review.**
- **Be thick skinned. Your advisors have the job of helping you write the best scientific paper.**
- **Enlist the help of the Office of Scientific Writing....URL is**  
<http://www.uthsc.edu/research/scientific-writing/>
- **Ultimately, this is your manuscript.**

## Multiple Drafts

- **Your manuscript should go through multiple drafts until all authors are satisfied with the final product.**
- **All authors must approve the final version prior to submission.**
- **Authors must make a substantive contribution to gathering, analyzing and/or interpreting the data. There are no courtesy authorships.**

# ICMJE Guidelines

**Authorship credit should be based on**

- 1. Substantial contribution to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; and**
- 2. Drafting the article or revising it critically for important content; and**
- 3. Final approval of the version to be published; and**
- 4. Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.**

**Authors should meet conditions 1, 2, 3 and 4.**

Does not meet requirements

- **Merely providing funding, space, or use of equipment.**
- **Providing routine technical work.**
- **Providing fee for service core work.**
- **Editing the manuscript.**

**People providing this type of assistance can be listed in the acknowledgement with permission.**

# Senior Author

**Senior author, the PI,**

- **plays a major role in deciding (along with the first author) who should be an author and the order. He/she is also responsible for communicating this to all authors and determining who receives acknowledgements;**
- **must review and take responsibility for all data in the manuscript;**
- **must describe the role of each author;**
- **oversees manuscript submission;**
- **oversees response to peer review critiques;**
- **and must properly store data.**

## First Author

**First author participated significantly in the work by:**

- **Doing the experiments and collecting data;**
- **Interpreting the results; and**
- **Writing the first draft.**



Thou shalt not....

- **Fabricate data.**
- **Falsify data.**
- **Plagiarize.**
- **Make false statements about unpublished data or data not shown.**
- **Dual submit.**



# Plagiarism (including self-plagiarism)

- **Warning: You will get caught!**
- Most or all manuscripts go through iThenticate software.
- Software in a matter of minutes gives Similarity index.
- Shows the AE and EIC every section of your manuscript which is plagiarized (with a word count).
- Shows the AE and EIC the articles from which you have plagiarized.
- Allows the AE or EIC to look at the article which you have plagiarized.
- **Please put your own manuscripts through Plagiarism software before submitting.**

# Submission

- **Most journals have gone to electronic submission.**
- **Simply follow instructions.**
- **The cover letter is important!**
- **You can always request exclusion of reviewers who have a conflict.**
- **You can sometimes request reviewers with appropriate expertise.**

# The review process

- **Role of Editor-in-Chief**
- **Role of Associate Editors**
- **Role of Editorial Board Members**
- **Role of outside reviewers**
- **Possible Outcomes (Accept, Reject, Major Revisions, Minor Revisions)**
- **Priority scores**

My manuscript needs revision

***Rookie Mistakes:***

**Responding to critiques...**



- **Be thoughtful in your response. Educate gently.**
- **Do not fight the reviewer or AE. They are actually on your side.**
- **You may think that they are fools, but those fools control the fate of your manuscript.**

My manuscript was rejected...

- **It happens to everyone.**
- **Learn from the critiques.**
- **Do more experiments if necessary.**
- **Modify figures or text as needed.**
- **Reformat and resubmit to another journal.**



# My Manuscript Was Accepted...

- **Let all authors know ASAP.**
- **Celebrate!**
- **Get back to work.**



Thanks! Questions?