New Author's Discussion Forum
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Publishing/Getting Published

- ✓ Can have a goal, in cases where publishing is an important aspect of your position, to have one paper being written, another under review and another being published.

- ✓ **Getting Started:**
  - Results are ***key*** when it comes to what one will write. Graph and do statistical analysis to see what the study is telling you.
  - Start an outline early on based on your results in order to make sure your write up tells a complete story – shows that the study is well thought out.

- ✓ **Parts of the Paper:**
  - ***Topic:*** If you have a research topic in mind and a particular journal that you plan to submit it to, you may want to run the idea by the editor if you have a question as to whether it would be something that the journal would consider.
  - ***Abstract & Cover Letter***: Must be well written and clear
    - Most Important part of submission because many times
  - ***Introduction:*** needs to focus on the key topics, based on study results
    - *Suggestion* – 2.5 pgs., double spaced limit – forces one to focus and just state what is important
  - ***Limitations:*** Need to be clearly stated
  - ***Conclusion:*** Need to clearly stated, people only take one or two sentences away from what is written. Need to think about what you want them to take away from the conclusion when it comes to your study.
  - ***Visuals:***
    - Need to be apparent, clear and easy to read
    - Need to speak to the reader/reviewer.
    - Must be visually appealing.

- ✓ **Where to Submit**
  - ***Impact Factor***, while important is not the first thing to consider.
  - Things to Consider:
    - Who is your audience & will they have access to your work?
      - (Needs to be indexed in ***PubMed***)
      - New Journals are not indexed in Pub med for several years and there may be a question of their long term viability.
    - What is your message? Your message may mean that you choose to publish in a journal outside of your discipline in order to have a great impact.

- ✓ **Reviews and Responding to Reviewers**
  - Always maintain a respectful and courteous tone
    - Chance the reviewer will see the responses and may review articles for more than one journal.
  - Must be able to find a way to detach and be able to evaluate comments in a productive way.
    - Try not to take the reviewer's comments personally
    - Take a couple of days after reading the comments to cool down before addressing the points made by the reviewer(s).
  - Categorize Changes – ***Those You Can Live With*** and ***Those You Cannot Live With***
    - Recommendations/Comments need to be dealt with in a productive way.
  - Write formal letter to the editor on the points of the reviewer and be sure that you address each point.
    - Be sure when it comes to each point that you provide some commentary whether you agree with the point or not. (***Positive & Negative Comments Must Be Responded To***)
    - Need to be clear as to what changes you made and may want to highlight those changes in the paper.
      - *Things need to be clear and easy to see*
  - Contact the editor directly when you feel suggestions or comments are unfair or not acceptable.

Thoughts from Editors

- ✓ **Be Sure to Follow Author Instructions**
  - Format of References
  - Be sure to proofread, no typos

- ✓ **What is Evaluated in Determining What to Publish (80% or more rejected)**
  - Novelty (Importance of Question)
  - Impact on the Field(s) of Knowledge
  - Interest to the Audience
  - Well Designed Study - ***Methods are Critical***
  - Balanced Discussion of Strengths and Weaknesses of the Study
  - Must be Well Written

- ✓ **Feedback from Reviewers** – Always consider the comments/recommendations and make changes, whether the article is published in the journal or not, as the intent is to improve your study.
  - Many times reviewers review material for more than one journal and there is a chance that they may see your study again if you should submit it to another journal. To improve your chances of getting your study published, changes have to be addressed.
- ✓ **Authorship** – must directly contribute to the paper
- ✓ **Conflict of Interest** – must be declared (authors/reviewers) – Bias
- ✓ **Plagiarism** – need to be careful, especially when students assist.
- ✓ **Deadlines** – Be sure to never miss them.
  - Create a system to help you adhere to deadlines.