Introduction to Scientific Publishing

How to Get Started

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Why Publish?

• Share oncology expertise and important findings with colleagues

• Expand your knowledge base and help promote positive health care outcomes

• Promote your group, department, institution, or even profession

• Professional development and career advancement

• Personal satisfaction and accomplishment
Common Reasons for NOT Publishing

• Do not enjoy writing
• No training or experience
• Time consuming
• Nothing original to share
• No incentive or motivation
• Fear of rejection or failure
## Publishing Opportunities

### “Popular” or Non-Peer Reviewed
- Newspaper
- Popular journals
- Institutional publications, or newsletters
- Editorials, book reviews
- Blogs or online postings

### Scholarly, Professional, or Peer Reviewed
- General Med vs. Oncology
- Clinical Med vs. Basic Science
- Profession, Health Discipline, or Practice setting
  - General (e.g. JAPA, ADVANCE, Clinical Advisor)
  - Specialty (e.g. Surgical Physician Assistant, JDPA)
  - Oncology-specific (e.g. Oncology Nursing Forum, JADPRO, JOP)
Deciding to Publish

• What to publish?
  – Abstract vs. Manuscript
  – Original study vs. Lit. Review
  – Case Study vs. Editorial, etc

• Choosing your forum
  – What audience are you targeting?
  – What type of journal is best for you?

• Research the journal
  – Publication guidelines
  – Article style
  – Quality of journal (e.g. indexed journal, impact factor, etc.)
Matters of Style

• Author Guidelines or Information for Authors
• Mainly formatting and references
• APA (6th Ed) and AMA (7th Ed) are most common
• Use *EndNotes* or other software to assist with formatting
• Bottom line... do the best you can!
Choosing a Topic

• Choose something you’re passionate about
• Intervention that worked well in your practice
• Interesting patients or case studies
• Newly approved drug (may pair up with a pharmacist)
• Original research, review articles, or critical appraisals
• Professional roles and practice
• Oral presentation: most of the hard work has already been done!
Types of Articles

- Original research
- Review articles
- Grand Rounds
- Prescriber’s Corner
- Practice Matters
- Tools & Technology
- Translating Research Into Practice (TRIP)
- Diagnostic Snapshot

*For more information, please refer to JADPRO Information for Contributors*
Case Based Articles

• Grand Rounds and Diagnostic Snapshot
• Case writes itself; just add discussion and context
• Generally, shorter articles (2-5 pages)
• Use graphics to enhance the article
• Great place to start for new authors!
Getting Started: Your Research

• Gathering information
  – Needs to be carefully planned, organized approach
  – Use up-to-date references (avoid textbooks)
  – Periodicals and online resources
  – Be aware of your bias

• Organize your approach
  – Choose a study design
  – Sharpen your focus (e.g. audience, purpose, scope)
  – Start with an outline
Elements of a Good Manuscript?

• **Title**: descriptive and specific
• **Abstract**: 1st impression; structure and length
• **Introduction and Background**: short and strong
• **Research Question**: is it clearly stated?
• **Methods**: can it be replicated?
• **Results**: short and to the point; support conclusion
• **Figures and Tables**: critical to paper; able to stand alone
• **Discussion**: keep it relevant; how did findings help solve problem; limitations and implications for future work
• **References**: relevant to topic; check format and style
The Dreaded Writer’s Block

• Create an outline
• Placeholder text
• Write the middle section first
• Use your own words, then fix later
• Work of reference section last
Tips and Tricks

• Identify the best time of day for you to write, then create a schedule and stick to it. Be accountable to someone else if need be.

• Make your own PowerPoint presentation for outlining before writing. Very visual, can move slides around easily.

• Read your draft aloud, and/or have someone read it to you.

• Give to colleagues to read. Do not be defensive about edits.

• Do not imitate others’ writing. Develop your own style.

• Rewrite, rewrite, rewrite!
Referencing

• Over-reference, rather than under-reference

• Can use EndNotes or similar program to help manage references

• Use primary sources when possible

• Seek permission to use graphics, illustrations, etc.

• Double-check numerical data. Re-check for accuracy

• Be careful of plagiarism, even when inadvertent
Publishing Process

• Double blind, masked Peer Review

• 2-3 reviewers per article

• Peer review process takes ~ 1 – 3 months

• Time to publication from initial submission varies (check with the journal)

- Editor receives manuscript
- Editor or AE filters out unacceptable manuscripts

- Peer Review Team members receive manuscript
- Provide feedback with goal for improvement

- Peer reviewers accept, accept with revisions, or reject
- Manuscript returned to Editor / AE with suggestions for improvement

- Final acceptance and decision to publish made by the Editor
- Ready for Publication
Important Ethical Point

While you may query several journals at once about potentially writing a particular article, you may only submit the paper to one journal at a time.
How to Get Started?

• Work with a mentor (for authors and reviewers)
  – Decide on a topic
  – Make an outline
  – Meet established deadlines
  – Be open to constructive criticism

• Get your feet wet by reviewing
  – Can be paired with more seasoned reviewer(s)
  – Can receive other reviewers’ feedback for learning purposes
Final Words

• Publishing can be very rewarding—there is no way to get experience, except through experience!

• Choose a topic you are passionate about, and familiarize yourself with the appropriate journal

• Process of writing should be analogous to the research process—it requires attention to detail, time and revision

• Consider working with a mentor, and get ready to be challenged!