How to Publish a Paper?

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Where to Publish our Research Paper?
This session’s Content

- مجلات علوم پزشکی، تقسیم‌بندی و انواع
- معرفی انواع نماهنامه‌ها
- نماهنامه ISI
- نماهنامه Medline
- ضریب اثر مجلات Impact Factor
- بانک اطلاعاتی نشریات لاتین ULRICH
- بانک اطلاعاتی نشریات داخلی Open Access
- انتخاب مجله مناسب
Biomedical Journals

- Now 400,000 Journal
- 280,000 Active Journal
- 30,000 Active & Valid Biomedical Journal
- Publish Millions of Papers
Databases

- General Databases
  (Comprehensive OR Core Databases)

- Specialized Databases
  (Subjects Specified Databases)
General Databases
(Comprehensive OR Core Databases)

- Medical Sciences
  - Medline
  - Embase
  - Scopus

- All Sciences
  - Web of Sciences
Specialized Databases
(Subjects Specified Databases)

- Biological Abstracts
- International Pharmaceutical Abstract
- PsychInfo
- CINAHL
- Chemical Abstracts
- Agricola
- Econlite
Medline

- By US National Library of Medicine
- Bibliographic Data of +4900 Journal
- Over 17,000,000 papers of both clinical and preclinical studies.
- Complementary database known as PreMEDLINE includes citations and abstracts for studies that have been published recently but not yet indexed.
- Subject Coverage: All Specialties of Medicine
- 60% of References contain Abstracts
Medline

- Note that Medline, PubMed, Ovid Medline, Elsevier Medline, ... all are the same & have the same database content but different Interfaces.

- Also Index Medicus, Medlars & Medline Are the same, different generation of Medline.
Embase

- Publish by Elsevier Science Publishers, Netherlands.
- Numbers of Journals: 3500
- Bias: European in focus
- Thesaurus: Uses own thesaurus
- Subject Coverage: Strong on Pharmaceutical and Clinical Medicine
- Materials Indexed: Letters, Editorials, Research Articles from 1974 or 1981 onwards (depending on method of access)
- Overlap with MEDLINE estimated at between 25 and 70%
- 75% of References contain Abstracts
- Update: Updated Weekly and is about 4 weeks behind
Medline

1966- ; NLM

Biomedicine, dentistry, nursing, allied health, biological and physical sciences, humanities and information science as they relate to medicine and health care, communication disorders, population biology, and reproductive biology. More than 17 million records from more than 4,900 journals are indexed, plus selected monographs of congresses and symposia (1976-1981). Abstracts are included for about 67% of the records.

Embase

1984- ; Elsevier Science

Biomedical and pharmaceutical database indexing over 3,500 international journals in the following fields: drug research, pharmacology, pharmaceutics, toxicology, clinical and experimental human medicine, health policy and management, public health, occupational health, environmental health, drug dependence and abuse, psychiatry, forensic medicine, and biomedical engineering/instrumentation. Selective coverage for nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, psychology, and alternative medicine.
Embase & Medline

- Approximately 50% overlap
- Coverage: Medline 1966-; Embase 1984-
- Terminology differs e.g. back pain/backache
Print versions of electronic databases

- **Index Medicus** is the print version of MEDLINE
- **Excerpta Medica** is the print version of EMBASE
- **Science Citation Index** is the print version of Web of Science

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database</th>
<th>Printed version</th>
<th>Electronic version</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEDLINE</td>
<td>Since 1879</td>
<td>Since 1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMBASE</td>
<td>Since 1948</td>
<td>Since 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Citation Index</td>
<td>Since 1974</td>
<td>Since 1974</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Web of Science

- “Web of Science” is the database name provided by “Institute of Scientific Information” famous in our country as “ISI”.
- The complete company name is Thomson Reuters ISI.
- The Web of Sciences is the same database that we calculate the Journals Impact Factor from its data.
Web of Science

- If a journal is in Web of Science, it means it should have Impact Factor & vice versa.
- Don’t confuse Web of Sciences Journals with ISI Master list Journals!
- Web of Science indexed about 8000 Journals while ISI Master List 14,000 Journals.
The Journal Impact Factor

- The Journal Impact Factor is calculated for those journals only which are indexed & included in Web of Sciences Databases, NOT more!
- The database which contain the Journal Impact Factors is Journal Citation Report abbreviated JCR.
What is Journal Impact Factor?

- The average citation frequency for articles published in a journal, or how many times, on average, during the study year the articles that appeared in the 2 preceding years of that journal received citations in other (ISI) indexed journals only.
Impact Factor Calculation

- Citations in the current JCR year to articles published in the previous two years divided by the number of articles published in the previous two years.

\[
\text{Citations in 2008 to articles published in 2006 + 2007} \\
\text{IF} = \frac{\text{Total 2006 + 2007 Papers}}{}
\]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Immediacy Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Impact Factor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cited ½ Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All Previous Years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to Find Impact Factors?

- Directly from **Journal Citation Report Database** through ISI.

- Using the Excel Datasheets, prepared especially for this matter.
## 2008 Impact Factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Abbreviated Journal Title (linked to journal information)</th>
<th>ISSN</th>
<th>Total Cites</th>
<th>Impact Factor</th>
<th>5-Year Impact Factor</th>
<th>Immediacy Index</th>
<th>Articles</th>
<th>Cited Half-life</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>CA-CANCER J CLIN</td>
<td>0007-9235</td>
<td>7522</td>
<td>74.575</td>
<td>50.766</td>
<td>24.684</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>0028-4793</td>
<td>205750</td>
<td>50.017</td>
<td>49.911</td>
<td>12.225</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ANNU REV IMMUNOL</td>
<td>0732-0582</td>
<td>15519</td>
<td>41.059</td>
<td>46.200</td>
<td>7.625</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>NAT REV MOL CELL BIO</td>
<td>1471-0072</td>
<td>19628</td>
<td>35.423</td>
<td>34.221</td>
<td>7.238</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<td>PHYSIOL REV</td>
<td>0031-9333</td>
<td>17865</td>
<td>35.000</td>
<td>35.855</td>
<td>4.300</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>40.395</td>
<td>7.028</td>
<td>36</td>
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<td>114250</td>
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<td>7.556</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>7.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
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<td>NATURE</td>
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<td>443967</td>
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<td>8.194</td>
<td>899</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>NAT REV CANCER</td>
<td>1474-175X</td>
<td>18908</td>
<td>30.762</td>
<td>35.007</td>
<td>4.612</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Impact Factor

Figure 1. Generalized Citation Curve

Citations

Time after publication (Years)

Impact Factor Window

Immediacy Index Window

50% of citations

50% of citations

Cited half-life
Impact Factor

Figure 3. Impact Factors and Journal Type

Impact Factor window

Citations

Time after publication (Years)

Review

Letter

Full Paper
Open Access Model

Author pays small amount of money or rather, institution pays on author’s behalf

Result:

OPEN ACCESS

Everyone has access
All use is fair use
Open Access publishers

- BioMedCentral
- PubMedCentral
- Public Library of Science
- Journal of Medical Internet Research
Open Access publishing: the benefits

• **Free Access**
  - Anyone with Internet access can freely read the papers, no need to worry about subscriptions

• **Maximum Visibility = Maximum impact!**
  - BioMed Central’s papers average >200 downloads per article per month
  - High chance of being cited

• **Speed**
  - Online system for submission, peer review and publication
  - Published on the day of acceptance
  - No page constraints
  - Listed without delay in PubMed and deposited without embargo in PubMed Central and other secure archives
Full Peer Review • Immediate Publication • Open Access
BioMedCentral

- Independent publisher since 2001
- 158 open access journals
- Many already having impact factor
  - Prestigious publisher
  - So, pressure on Thomson/ISI for inclusion in the journal pool
- Article processing fees
  - 480-1380 € (depending on the journal)
  - Some still free (the newest, usually)
http://www.doaj.org/

Welcome to the Directory of Open Access Journals. This service covers free, full text, quality controlled scientific and scholarly journals. We aim to cover all subjects and languages. There are now 2998 journals in the directory. Currently 973 journals are searchable at article level. As of today 16407 articles are included in the DOAJ service.

Support the development and operation of DOAJ. Sign up for membership - go to the membership page (Membership fee for members signing up now and the rest of the year will cover year 2008). We are very thankful for the support from those of you who have already decided to become DOAJ members. See the list of members

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Browse by subject
- Agriculture and Food Sciences
- Arts and Architecture
- Biology and Life Sciences
- Business and Economics
- Chemistry
- Languages and Literatures
- Law and Political Science
- Mathematics and Statistics
- Philosophy and Religion
- Physics and Astronomy
Local Databases

- www.iranmedex.com
- www.magiran.com
- www.irandoc.ac.ir
- www.srlst.com
- www.sid.ir
بانک اطلاعات نشریات کشور

www.magiran.com
دانشگاه اطلاعات و مدارک علمی ایران

IranDoc
www.irandoc.ac.ir
www.srlst.com

Islamic Republic of IRAN
Ministry of Science, Research and Technology
Regional Information Center for Science & Technology (RICeST)

Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC)

ContentSearch

New URL: http://www.ricest.ac.ir

Favorites Services

Ask Librarian
- DOCUMENT DELIVERY SERVICES
- Linda Hall Library Doc. Delivery Services
- SDI
- IJST Journal
- Search Form
- Mail List
- Check your E-Mail at RICeST
- Links
- Web of Science Guide

NEWS & Notices

RICeST's website addresses:
http://www.srlst.com
http://www.ricest.ac.ir
www.sid.ir
Questions to answer in choosing a journal for paper submission

1. National or international audience?
2. Language?
3. Databases indexes Journal?
4. Multidisciplinary or specialty journals?
5. The journal’s content area/scope?
6. Chances of acceptance?
7. What about the impact factor?
8. Practical matters (time to publication, etc.)
English or Another Language?

- Impact factor (English journals typically 3.0, single other language about 0.5)
- Need an English speaking colleague, not a translator
- Size of audience
- Most journals will help with copyediting but reviewers need readable English
Which language?

- For international audience: English is probably the language of choice
- Option: Publish in several languages (with editors’ permission)
- For national audiences: publish in the language of the country
Consider your chances of being accepted?

- Acceptance rates: English language: 15 - 95%, non-English: 25 - 100%
- Note: many journals do not know their acceptance rates or do not want to state them
- Acceptance depends on quality and style of the article and administrative resources of the journal (some journals may help with text and language editing)
Consider, but do not be fooled by, the Journal Impact Factor (JIF)

- JIF is determined by the frequency at which articles in that journal were cited.
- High impact journals have more prestige, but JIF depends on other things, like number of co-authors and indexing.
- Non-English journals are at a disadvantage.
- Number of databases indexing the journal will determine who sees abstract of article.
Consider these practical aspects:

- How long to get the article peer reviewed?
- How long between acceptance and publication?
- Geographical distribution (i.e. penetration outside US and Europe)
- Special audiences
- How much editorial support does it give?
Finding and choosing an appropriate journal to Submit

- Where to look for the journal:
  - Personal experience
  - Colleagues’ experience
  - Library
  - Citations in Databases
  - Online Resources
Iranian Journal Currently Indexed in Medline

1. Archives of Iranian Medicine
2. Iranian Journal of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
3. Urology Journal
4. Iranian Journal of Immunology
5. Iranian Biomedical Journal
6. Iranian Journal of Kidney Diseases
Iranian Journals Currently indexed in Web of Science

1. Archives of Iranian Medicine
2. Daru - Journal of Faculty of Pharmacy
3. Hepatitis Monthly
4. Iranian Biomedical Journal
5. Iranian Journal of Allergy Asthma and Immunology
6. Iranian Journal of Environmental Health Science & Engineering
7. Iranian Journal of Fertility & Sterility
8. Iranian Journal of Immunology
Iranian Journals Currently indexed in Web of Science

10. Iranian Journal of Parasitology
11. Iranian Journal of Pediatrics
12. Iranian Journal of Pharmaceutical Research
13. Iranian Journal of Public Health
15. Iranian Journal of Radiology
16. Iranian Journal of Reproductive Medicine
17. Iranian Red Crescent Medical Journal
18. Journal of Research in Medical Sciences
19. Yakhteh
Instructions to Authors in the Health Sciences

- This site contains Instructions to Authors in the Health Sciences Journals & others good available guidelines in paper writing:

- [http://mulford.meduoio.edu/instr/index.htm](http://mulford.meduoio.edu/instr/index.htm)
Prepare for Submit

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School of public health
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Title Page

Based on “Instruction to Authors”

- Title
- Running Title
- Authors
- Affiliation
- Organization
- Correspondence
Title & Running title

- On the title page, the main title is typed in uppercase and lowercase letters.

- If the main title is more than one line, use a double space between the lines.

- An abbreviated version of the title is called a running title, which may be used for identification of the report on subsequent pages.

- Usually 30-40 including white spaces
Authors

- Full name, highest academic degree, title/s, position and address

- Many journals limit number of authors to 12

- Write The name of authors in separate lines
Corresponding Author

- Name
- Affiliation
- Organization/Department
- Postal Address
- Phone
- Fax
- E-mail

Date on which the paper was submitted
Review

☐ Both in terms of science and the presentation
☐ Coauthors or coworkers
☐ When a paper are badly constructed, reviewers tend to fix the immediate problems without focus on content
☐ Drafts must be at highest standard that you can
☐ Serial or parallel circulation
☐ Mini-writers group
Feedback

- Verbal, written or electronic
- Number of drafts
- Comments should always be taken seriously
- First author must decide to accept or reject the suggestions
- Remember that you cannot keep all the people happy all the time
- Communication skills are needed!
Instruction to authors and checklists

- It's better to read “Instruction to authors” of your selected journal before writing the paper.
- Commonly used checklists:
  - Randomized controlled trials
  - Qualitative studies
  - Statistical reviews
  - Economic evaluation
  - Systematic review
Creating a good impression

Visual topic changes

- Use subheadings to divide sections
- Use new paragraphs for new topics
Before submit

- One last proofread
- One last spell check
- One last walk through the checklists
- Instruction to Authors
Covering letter

- Write a cover letter, short and direct, addressed to the editor
- Polite
- Why Journal chosen
- Importance of paper
- Brief
Covering letter

- Describe the paper
- Repetitive publication and duplicate submission
- Conflict of interest
- Corresponding author
- Suggest reviewers
Covering letter

Example of a letter to the editor

Dear Editor

Please find enclosed a paper entitled ‘Exact statistical methods for presenting data of rare diseases’ for consideration for publication in your journal.

The data included in this manuscript have not been published previously and are not under consideration by any other journal. A form with consent to publication signed by the authors is enclosed. All authors have read this final manuscript and have given their approval for the manuscript to be submitted in its present form.

(continued)
List of Potential Reviewers

1) Dr. Joe Smith  
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438 Nanaline Duke/Box 3709  
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e-mail: dsp4@psu.edu

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M616 Medical Sciences Building DC 04400  
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Fax: 573-882-4287  
e-mail: SmithAL@missouri.edu
Archiving and documentation

- Original data in the form of questionnaires, data sheets, CDs, medical records, etc.
- Duration of archiving
- Study handbook
- Data set
Authorship & Publication Ethics

Dr. Gholamreza Khalili
Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics
School of public health
Tehran University of Medical Sciences
Authorship

- Authors are listed to provide a public record of responsibility and credit for the work

- Only those who can take both responsibility and credit for a work should be authors
Author or Contributor!

- Author or Contributor
- Authorship or Contributionship
- Correspondence or Guarantorship
Authors Roles!

A five-year study of ophthalmia neonatorum in Iran: Prevalence and etiology

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² Pediatric ward, Vali-e-Asr Hospital, Medical Sciences University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran
³ Department of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, Medical Sciences University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran

Source of support: Departmental sources
Authorship Policies Try to

- Ensure that all those who deserve authorship are listed as authors
- Ensure that those who do not deserve authorship are not listed as authors
Authorship

1. Substantial contributions 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 intellectual content **AND**
3. Final approval of the version to be published

**All 3 conditions should be met for assigning authorship**

(Consensus Statement, International Council of Medical Journal Editors)
Acknowledgments

☐ All contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in an acknowledgments section

- who provided purely technical help
- writing assistance
- department chair who provided only general support
- Financial and material support
How to avoid problems with authorship?

1. Follow the international guidelines.
2. Agree before starting
3. Don’t add a senior author to improve the chances of publication
4. Agree on who will be corresponding author.
Types of Authorship!

- Gift Authorship
- Ghost Authorship
Gift Authorship

- **Gift authorship**: inclusion of authors who made no substantial contributions (heads of departments, superiors, family, colleagues & collaborators).

- Some one who has **NOT** contributed substantially to the work

- Often a senior person whose name has cache.
Ghost Authorship

- Ghost authorship: exclusion of authors who did contribute significantly (junior staff, "supporting" contributors)
- A “nobody” writer (the ghost) writes an article, then a “somebody” agrees to put his or her name on the byline
ترتیب نویسندگان

به ترتیب الفبای نویسنده:

نویسنده اول: مسئولیت اصلی جمع‌آوری و آنالیز داده‌ها و نویسندگان ویراستار اول مقاله

نویسنده ویراستار اول مقاله

نویسنده آخر: محقق صاحب‌نام، مسئول کلی مطالعه

نویسنده میانی: به ترتیب اهمیت نقش
What is Plagiarism?

According to Webster's New World Dictionary, to plagiarize is to "take the ideas, writings, etc. from another and pass them off as one's own."

Plagiarism is the act of presenting the words, ideas, images, sounds, or the creative expression of others as your own.
سرقت علمی (Plagiarism)

استفاده بدون ذکر مابه، از ایده و اثر انتشار یافته یا انتشار نیافته دیگران.

تمام منابع باید ذکر شوند.

اگر میزان قابل توجهی از اثر دیگری قرار است مورد استفاده قرار گیرد باید از وی اجازه گرفته شود.
در مقاله نویسی، درجات مختلفی دارد که بدترين درجه آن در مقاله Fraud است به این معنی که Data و Fraud درجه بارزی دارد که اصلا وجود خارجی نداشت. به معنی داده های خاصی را نگیرید که اصلا وجود خارجی نداشته اند.

درجه خفیفتر Fraud، به معنی اینکه تعدادی از داده ها را حذف کنید و یا تعدادی را اضافه کنید و به Falsification، به معنی فراخواند یا اینکه خودکار داده ها را حذف کنید و به Falsification. اگر داده های عوارض جانبی را در یک مطالعه clinical trial گزارش نکنید، باز هم به نوعی اتفاق افتاده است. Falsification
How to avoid Plagiarism?

1. Quoting
2. Re-wording or Re-phrasing
Direct Quotes

- If you use someone else’s writing without putting it in quotes, you have blatantly plagiarized.
- Even if you add the source in your bibliography, it is still plagiarism!
Paraphrasing

- Be careful about rewriting someone else’s words. If your sentences use many of the same words and grammatical structure as the original source, it could be construed as plagiarism. Just put the text in your own words.
When Paraphrasing…

- Be sure you are not just rearranging or replacing words.
- Rewrite the phrase in your own words and credit the original source.
- Double check what you have wrote by comparing it with the original writing.
Let’s Practice: Are the Following Plagiarism or Not?

- **Original source:** The effort required to provide online information literacy instruction is intense.

- **Your paper:** ”The effort required to provide online information literacy instruction is intense.” (Smith 2006, p.42)
Answer?

Not Plagiarism

You’ve used quotation marks and cited the source so that no one believes that these are your own words.
Let’s Practice: Are the Following Plagiarism or Not?

**Original source:** The effort required to provide online information literacy instruction is intense.

**Your paper:** Smith (2006, p.42) argues that providing online courses in information literacy is hard work.
Answer?

Not Plagiarism

You’ve interpreted without quoting, have cited your source, and have not used a great deal of the original terminology.
Let’s Practice: Are the Following Plagiarism or Not?

**Original source:** The effort required to provide online information literacy instruction is intense.

**Your paper:** The work needed to provide online information literacy teaching is intense.
Plagiarism

Your version is a paraphrase of the original with a lot of the original terminology still there as well as the same sentence structure.
There are lots of Plagiarism Detection Softwares which you can find on the web.

Here are some of them:

- http://www.anticutandpaste.com
- http://www.plagiarismdetect.com
- http://www.dustball.com/cs/plagiarism.checker/
- http://www.millikin.edu/wcenter/plagiarism3.html
Plagiarism Detection Websites

- There are lots of Plagiarism Detection Online Websites which you can find on the web.
- Here are some of them:
  - http://www.duplichecker.com/
  - http://invention.swmed.edu/etblast/etblast.shtml
Guidelines for Publication

Widely cited guidelines for publication written by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Guidelines can be found at www.icmje.org
Publication Ethics

Redundant Publication (تکراری بودن مقاله): وقتی است که دو یا چند مقاله بدون اینکه ذکر کنند، از یک استفاده کرده باشند و در حقیقت شبهه به هم باشند.

Duplicate Submission (ارسال همزمان): یا ارسال هم‌زمان یک مقاله به چند مجله نیز جزء تخلفات به حساب می‌آید.

 منتشر کردن متن کامل (Full text) مقاله‌ای که Abstract منتشر گردد، کاهش کلی ندارد.

 چاپ شدن قبلی (چاپ قبل نمی‌آید): یک مقاله، مانع از آن نیست که مقاله کامل آن را چاپ کنید.

 اصولا در مورد کانوون کپی رایت کمتر در مورد آن رعایت می‌شود. و ارسال و Abstract چاپ کردن یک مقاله حتی به صورت هم‌زمان در چند کنگره مختلف اشکالی ندارد.
منتشر کردن مقاله به یک زبان دیگر، اشکالی ندارد ولی بايد ذكر کنيد که اين مقاله قبل به زبان دیگری چاپ گرديده است.

نکته: اگر می خواهید كه مقاله خود را به مجله ديگری ارسال كنيد، در صورتی که قبل به کأی ديگری ارسال کرده ايد ولي به دليل گذشت زمان طولاني هنوز جوابی نگرفته ايد، بهتر است كه ابتدا با مجله اولی مکاتبه كرده و مقاله خود را پس بگيريد و سپس آنرا به مجله جديد ارسال كنيد.

نکته: سعی كنید كه در مقاله خود از خلاصه مقاله های كنگرهها، به عنوان رفرنس استفاده نكنيد و اصولا آنها را به عنوان رفرنس قرار ندهيد.
Publication Ethics Codes & Protocols

- You can find more guidelines & protocols of publication ethics in COPE (Committee of Publication Ethics) Website.

- http://www.publicationethics.org.uk/
A tale of two citations!
Peer review

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What is peer review?

- Review by peers

- Includes:
  - internal review (by editorial staff)
  - external review (by experts in the field)
Peer review

Articles submitted to peer-reviewed journals (manuscripts) are reviewed by experts who advise the editor on whether they should be published and what changes are necessary.
Editorial decision

An editorial committee may decide that a paper:

- Is acceptable for publication
- Is acceptable for publication following minor revisions
- Is acceptable for publication following major revision
- May be reconsidered for publication following major revisions
- May be considered for publication as a letter or a short report
- Is unacceptable for publication
Editorial decision

- Rejection rate: 15% (pay journals) to 60% (specialist journals) to 90% (NEJM, The Lancet)

- How long does it take? (Choice of journal)
  - BMJ: 70 days
  - JAMA: 117 days
  - Iranian journals?
Questions journals ask

- Is the research question important?
- Is it interesting to our readers?
- Is it valid? A scientifically sound study.
What editors look for

- Short, clear, precise title
- Good abstract
- Good design and methods
- Clear conclusions
- Brevity
- Follow instructions
What reviewers look for

- Good design and methods
- Simple tables and figures
- Logical organisation
- Brevity
- Balance
- Appropriate statistics
- Their papers
Peer Review - Functions

- To Protect
  i) The author from publishing &
  ii) The subscriber from reading

Material of insufficient quality
What do editors want from papers?

- Importance
- Originality
- Relevance to readers
- Usefulness to readers
- Truth
- Excitement/ “wow” factor
- Clear and engaging writing
Some things that bother editors

- Bias
- Data manipulation/suppression
- Duplicate publication
- Fabrication
- Falsification
- Gift/ghost authorship
- Plagiarism
- Self delusion
- Undeclared conflict of interest
- Wrong observations/analysis/references
Some problems

- Means different things at different journals
- Slow
- Expensive
- Subjective
- Biased
- Open to abuse
- Poor at detecting errors
- Almost useless at detecting fraud
Dealing with the Journal’s Response

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Dealing with the Journal’s Response

- **Absolute Rejection**
  - Don’t take it personal
  - Don’t write or call the editors (unless you know them well !)
  - Editorial rejection: send it out the next day to another journal
  - Reviewers comments:
    - Fix the easy ones
    - Fix the glaring ones
    - Unlikely to get much better sitting on your desk
    - Send it out the next day
Dealing with the Journal’s Response

- Conditional acceptance (rejection)
  - It is yours to lose
  - First cool down (24-48 hours)
  - Within 1-2 weeks decide on responses
  - Make real changes, say you have done great changes (describe, highlight, etc)
  - Look for clues from the editor as to the extent of the revision needed.
  - Avoid arguments
  - Thank sincerely, but avoid being obsequious
Responding to reviews

- Swallow your pride!
- You don’t have to accept all, but don’t over-reject
- Ask editor about conflicting comments
- However unreasonable the reviewers may seem: be polite!
- Distinguish conditional acceptance from offer to reconsider (and from rejection of course!)
- Use a table to list each of comments, your response and the amended text
General Tips

- Write for readers and not to please peer reviews
  - readers read to learn; reviewers, to improve
- Avoid self plagiarism
- Update the literature review
- Have a clinical colleague read your draft
- Seek out criticism
### Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Amendment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The long section on avoidance of food allergens is not useful. The paragraphs should be deleted …</td>
<td>Page 3</td>
<td>This section has been shortened but not removed because one of the studies forms the basis of our hypothesis that diet modification may be important in reducing the incidence of asthma.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>There should be discussion of the safety and possible side effects of Acaril</td>
<td>Page 5</td>
<td>A comment about the safety of Acaril has been added. Side effects of the active ingredient benzyl benzoate have only been reported when this compound has been applied directly to the skin or used to treat clothing at higher concentrations (10%). The concentration used in this study is 0.03% and is unlikely to cause these effects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>If sampling was by residential area, then there is a potential statistical issue to do with cluster designs</td>
<td>Page 6</td>
<td>We apologise for unintentionally being misleading. This study was not a cluster design and we have altered our wording accordingly. Children were selected who lived within a specified distance from the hospital. This has been made clear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The method for calculating measurement error does not correspond to the coefficient of repeatability described by Bland and Altman in 1996</td>
<td>Page 7</td>
<td>We have calculated measurement error according to the method of Chinn (1991) and included the limits of agreement as described by Bland and Altman (1996).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Continued)
Resubmission Letter

Dr. Brian F. McCabe
Editor, Annals of Otology, Rhinology and Laryngology
Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
Iowa City, IA 52242

Dear Dr. McCabe,

Please find enclosed a revised manuscript entitled, "Surfactant protein A in rabbit sinus and middle ear mucosa" by………

We have addressed the comments of the reviewers as detailed below:

1) We have changed the title of the paper as suggested by the reviewer.
2) We have expanded the description of the animals used in the study (page 4, paragraph 1). All the animals except the pathogen-free, were naturally infected with Pasteurella multocida. The antibiotic treated animals were chosen randomly. The infections were observed postmortem and pathogen was identified by culture by the Animal Care Unit.
3) The lengths of the micron bars in Figures 5-8 have been added to the legends. A magnification bar has been added to Figure 10.

We hope that you will now find our manuscript suitable for publication in the Annals of Otology, Rhinology and Laryngology. Thank you very much for your prompt review.

Sincerely,
20 August 2003

Dear prof. Hendriks

Thank you very much for your letter and reviewers comments dated 19th May 2003 regarding Ms. No. 03/028 “Association between total and beverage-specific alcohol intake and obesity and fat distribution: a population-based study in Hong Kong”. The changes in the revised manuscript according to reviewer`s comments are as follows.
Reviewer 1

This is an excellent paper.

I wonder if the total length of the paper could be reduced somewhat (10-20%), e.g. by making the results section more comprehensive and by decreasing the number of references.

Would the authors be able to spend a few words on the power of their study? Was the population large enough to detect the (largest) effects reported in other studies.

Reply: We have acted on the suggestions made by the reviewer and reduced the total length of paper.
Reviewer 2

This is an interesting and well written paper.

I suggest that the authors attend also the following points:

1. Page 5 second section: please explain the line: a total of 7730 eligible household (= presenting 7730 eligible subjects aged 25-74) were contacted and completed interviews; and 2900 of them attended the hospital. Does this mean that the response rate is 37.5% or was only a part of the eligible households/subjects invited to participate in this specific study. If the response rate is 37.5% indeed, is the sample also representative with regards to
Reply: We agree with the suggestion made by the reviewer and have added the following in the discussion: “Although the response rate of attendees to the hospital was lower than ideal, it should be noted that the prevalence of drinking of the attendees did not differ materially from those in the total sample, lending support to the representativeness of our sample of attendees. Furthermore, our analysts on the other aspects of data (Lam et al, 2000; Lam, et al, 1999; Janus, et al, 1997) gave us confidence that data quality is sufficient for this type of study and that our results can provide useful additional evidence on the relationship between alcohol consumption and obesity”.

2. Page 6. A definition of “Social drinking is laking.”
Reply: We believe social drinkers is not an appropriate term to be used have deleted the term social drinker and using the term “drink less than once a month “.

3. Page 7. The who cut off point for overweight and obesity were used. However, recent studies among people such as Polynesians, Indonesians, Ethiopians, black and Chinese have shown a universal cut off point for obesity may not be appropriate. In this study the proportion of overweight and obese subjects might be underestimated. This issue should be taken into account.

Reply: (TH please consider this comment)

4. Page 11, line 29: Food consumed while drinking rice wine may affect the obesity and fat distribution. This is also the case for other alcoholic drink, or are there reasons to believe that this pattern is different for rice wine versus other drinks?

Reply: We reanalyzed the data and found types of beverages was not a significant predictor of BMI or WHR after controlling other variables in regression model. So, we re-written the discussion section.

Yours truly: