


Navigating the Path the Publication

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Agenda

1. Identifying a target journal(s)
 - Why and how
2. Test driving your ideas
 - Before and during writing
3. Responding to reviews



Mar 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit to Annals of Internal Medicine • Rationale: "They publish QI"
Aug 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit to Journal of General Internal Medicine • Rationale: "More friendly to primary care"
Nov 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JGIM responds (after peer review) – no invitation to resubmit • Issues: analysis, # time points analyzed, possibility of secular trends influencing outcomes • Helpful: specific suggestions for more info on context, other features of "good QI reports"
Dec 2011 - Oct 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Abyss
Oct 2012 - Jul 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resurrection: Draft reviewed a scholarship-in-progress meeting. Follow up in individualized mentoring meeting to make specific revision plan (major weakness was literature) and carefully select new journal. Multiple revisions. • Technical delays: formatting, merging drafts, references, computer issues
Aug 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit to Quality in Primary Care
Sep 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisional acceptance! (minor comments)
Oct 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepted!

How to find relevant journals

- Talk to your librarian (and mentor, colleagues).
- Examine reference lists in articles you've read.
- Consider publications of professional societies.
- Search NLM catalog or PubMed.

Short (2-minute) online tutorials:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/viewlet/search/journal/journal.html>

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/viewlet/nlmcat/journals.html>

- Your thoughts? What's missing from this list?



How to find relevant journals

For fun (and maybe good results), try this website: <http://biosemantics.org/jane/>



- Enter title or abstract of your paper
- Click on 'Find journals'
- "Jane compares your document to millions of documents in *Medline* to find the best match."



How to choose a journal

- Some features to consider:
 - Scope and Audience - Match with your article's message?
 - Impact factor
 - Acceptance rate
 - Circulation (# of subscriptions)
 - Abstracting/indexing
 - Frequency of publication (quarterly, monthly, weekly)
- Read the journal, identify "model" article
- Make a list (3-5 targets)
- Top-tier will triage often, but usually rapidly
- If reviewed, but rejected – use comments to improve your article



PEDIATRICS[®]

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Pediatrics | About | Current Issue | AAP Policy | eArchives | Supplements | Collections | eLetters | Early Release

About Pediatrics

Vital Signs

Circulation: 66,000 (English-language circulation)

Frequency: Monthly

Number of Translated Editions: 4 (China, Portugal, Mexico and Argentina)

Circulation of Foreign Language Editions: 25,000

ISSN Numbers

Print: 0031-4005
Online: 1098-4275

Impact Factor: 5.119 (2012)*


PEDIATRICS has the second highest impact factor, second highest 5-year impact factor, and highest total citations among all journals in the field of pediatrics.

Total 2012 Citations: 59,035*

PEDIATRICS is among the top 2% most-cited scientific and medical journals.

Example: *Ethnicity and Disease*

- **Focus:** Causal relationships in the etiology of common illnesses through the study of ethnic patterns of disease
- **Multidisciplinary journal:** epidemiology, genetics, health services, social biology, anthropology
- **Subscribers:** physicians, medical researchers, other healthcare providers who treat patients and conduct research in the U.S. and abroad.

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Take your draft (core ideas) for a “test drive”



- Dictate (or jot down) your idea, then listen to (or read) it a week later. Does it still enthruse you?
- Query a journal editor about your idea.
- Present at a suitable seminar or conference (poster, oral presentation).
- Circulate your main ideas in writing to trusted colleagues for feedback.

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Why non-journal first?

- Get feedback on strengths/limitations of your project
- Practice explaining what you did
- Keep momentum while working on manuscript
- Identify collaborators for next work



Five tips for setting up a review with colleagues

1. Give advance notice

"I expect to have my draft ready in about 2 weeks. Will you be available then to review this?"

2. Negotiate a timeframe for feedback

"If I get this to you on Friday, will you have time to look at it by the following Tuesday?"

3. Provide all relevant materials

In addition to your text, include tables, figures, name of target journal, and article category



4. Decide on a format for feedback

"Can we meet next week to go over your comments?" Or, in later stages of review, "Can you e-mail or fax your comments to me by Monday?"



5. Provide guidance on the type, depth of review

"I'm looking for serious criticism on the discussion section, so give that section your best shot. In the introduction, just assess for overall readability and flow."



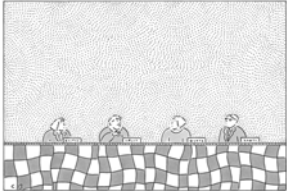
Two surefire ways to annoy your colleagues

- Ask them to review a rapidly moving target.
- Ignore all of their suggestions on draft 1, then ask them to review draft 2.





The Manuscript Review Process

ACADEMIC IDOL




Professor Johannsen's paper was zippy. It had robust vocabulary and I almost felt that I could dance to it. I would give it a 7.



Example: *JGIM* article review form

- **ORIGINALITY, NEW INFORMATION:** High 1 2 3 4 5 Low
- **STUDY DESIGN:** __adequate __contains minor flaws __seriously flawed
- **STATISTICAL ANALYSES:** Appropriate 1 2 3 4 5 Inappropriate or absent
--Or--
- **Recommend review by Statistical Consultant:** *_Yes __No
- **VALIDITY OF CONCLUSIONS:** Valid 1 2 3 4 5 Invalid
- **CLARITY OF WRITING:** High 1 2 3 4 5 Low
- **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

__ACCEPT:	__REJECT	__RECONSIDER
() as is		() with major revisions
() conditional		() with minor revisions




What Reviewers Provide

- Publishing recommendation
- Quality ranking
superior, good, fair, poor
- Priority ranking
high, intermediate, low
- Remarks to the editor
- Remarks to the author



Understanding the Verdict

- Rejection, no invitation to resubmit
 - *No peer review (triaged)*
 - *Negative peer review*
- Rejection “in its present form”
 - *Revise, resubmit, re-review, reconsider*
 - *Major revisions, minor revisions*
- Provisional “acceptance”
- Final acceptance (in press)



Reasons for Outright Rejection

- Mismatch with journal
 - *No clinical implications*
 - *Results of narrow interest, too specialized*
- Unimportant, unoriginal topic (“me too”)
- Poor study design and methods
- Findings misinterpreted, inflated



Surviving Rejection

<p><u>Don't</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despair • Malign the editor • Let the manuscript collect dust • Disregard the critique 	<p><u>Do</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be persistent • Use the critiques • Identify a new target journal • Resubmit a better manuscript
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A salve for rejection


- Reviewers' comments are meant to enhance the quality and impact of your work.
- Your work is almost always better – in numerous facets – after you revise in response to critiques:
 - Better argumentation of significance
 - Better analyses
 - Better discussion of findings
 - Better writing (clarity, concision)
- There many, many, many journals.
- Persistence pays off.



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When the verdict is an invitation to revise and resubmit:

1. Carefully read, then re-read the comments. Compare your understanding of them with others.
2. Informally rank them by priority (severity). Cluster like comments together.
3. Make a revision plan!
4. Revise the manuscript.
5. Draft the response letter.
6. Revise the response letter.
7. Cross-check response letter with manuscript.

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The Response Letter

Dear Dr. Tenure, [The editor who sent you the reviews]

We are pleased to resubmit to you our manuscript entitled, "_____", MS # _____.

We found the reviewers' critique of our initial submission to be very helpful. In responding to their comments, we believe our manuscript is greatly strengthened. Our point-by-point responses to their concerns and revision suggestions are outlined below:

Reviewer 1

1. [*Quote the specific critique point.*]

Response: [Clear, concise, explanation of how you've revised the manuscript. Indicate sections and page numbers]



Use Responsive Language

1. "We revised paragraph 2 of the introduction to include additional literature on..."
2. "As suggested, we deleted Figure 1 and combined Tables 3 and 4."
3. "As recommended, we reanalyzed our validity data using t-tests rather than ANOVA procedures."



Use Explanatory Language

1. "Unfortunately, we did not collect data on variable X, so we are unable to assess its interaction effect. We acknowledge this as a limitation on page 22."
2. "Our decision to use the EPDS rather than the CES-D as our depression screening tool was informed by several factors....We have added this rationale to our methods section on page 4."



**When necessary, defend your original text
(without being defensive), respectfully disagree.**

1. "We have added citations to support our position. We have also rewritten several sentences in the discussion to avoid overstatement."
2. "Were we to build in many of the extra process measures suggested by the reviewer, ...our clinics' processes for initiating the [XXXX] system would have been very different. Our study was designed to evaluate PPIP in a real-world setting."

