

Publishing Your Research Project Barriers and Tips

Robert Mueller, PharmD, BCPS
Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Concordia University Wisconsin School of Pharmacy



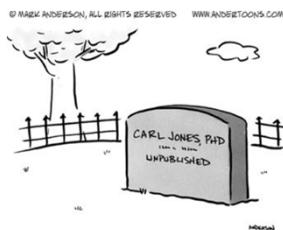
Special thanks to William Peppard, PharmD, BCPS, FCCM
for his contributions to this presentation

Objectives

- Describe the importance of publishing resident research projects
- Discuss barriers to publishing resident research projects
- Outline strategies to increase the likelihood of publishing resident research projects



WHY PUBLISH?



<http://www.dinktoons.com/tag/publishing/>
<https://www.anderloons.com/cartoon-blog/2011/08/education-cartoons-comics.html>
Accessed July 11, 2018

Why Publish?

- **Good for our discipline**
- **Good for your institution**
- **Good for you**
 - Opens doors – increases your marketability
 - Think more clearly about your work
 - Stay current in your field
 - Validates your work
 - Easy to obtain guidance now – will be more difficult



Deal EN, Pharmacotherapy 2016.

Low Rates of Publishing

Table 1.
AJHP Decisions on Manuscripts Written by Pharmacy Residents*

Type of Manuscript	No. Manuscripts		
	Accepted	Rejected	Pending ^b
Assumed residency project			
Retrospective study	1	21	0
Prospective study ^c	2	10	1
Audit	0	12	1
Survey	2	9	2
Descriptive report	4	4	1
Other			
Case report	2	11	1
Review article	6	3	1
Letter	3	0	1
Column	6	3	1
Opinion	2	1	0
Stability study	1	1	0
Total	29	75	9

*Manuscripts submitted from July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011, for which the first or second author was identified as being a pharmacy resident in a U.S. program when the project was done.
^bNo final decision before September 1, 2011.
^cIncludes studies with both retrospective and prospective data.



Hasegawa GR, AJHP 2012.

BARRIERS




Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as "quite an improvement."



<http://www.technology.org/2013/09/25/peer-reviewing-will-publish-perish-never-academic-publishing-peer-review-cartoon/>
 Accessed July 11, 2018

- **Most difficult barriers – residents’ perspective**
 - Developing realistic timeline, working through publication process, analyze data, collect data
- **Most difficult barriers – RPDs’ perspective**
 - Working through publication process, obtain IRB approval, develop realistic timeline, identify original research question
- **Self identified:** Time, limitations in study design or quality, resident motivation, mentorship


 Inlin AN. Pharmacy Practice 2013

Barriers

Top reasons for rejection


- Inappropriate topic for journal
- Not following manuscript preparation or submission instructions
- Too small an advance in knowledge – suboptimal reporting of results
- Lack of novelty
- Inadequate methods –design, execution, or description
- Poorly written


Never submitted

 Pierson DJ. Respir Care 2004.

STRATEGIES AND TIPS

Sometimes I just pretend I have writer's block. The truth is I'm lazy. Writing is really hard work.




 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/bob1905jes-young-professional-publishing-linkedin-mike-malazzo>
Accessed July 11, 2018.

Strategies and Tips

1. Focus on the project right now
2. Decide if it's publishable
3. Select appropriate journal and article type
4. Dedicate time to writing the manuscript


Work with a team!



Strategies and Tips

1. Focus on the project right now


- Have something unique/novel – Lit. search
- Use a collaborative, multidisciplinary team – try to include a physician, if possible
- Make data collection as efficient as possible
 - Do data elements need to be added, deleted, or rearranged? If so, do the changes impact the IRB submission?
- Use clear, appropriate methods
 - More robust, the better – MUE vs. Cross-sectional study
 - Document methods in detail – exclusion, inclusion criteria, process used, timeline



Strategies and Tips

2. Decide if it's publishable

- Would my project add something unique or novel to the body of literature?
 - Is my project related to a current hot topic?
 - Do I provide solutions to a difficult problem?
 - Do I make my addition to the literature clear?
- Could others use my project or its results to change or influence clinical practice?
- Is the main idea of the project clear?
- Is the project's design defensible?
- Are the results presented adequately?



Vazquez SR, AJHP 2010

Strategies and Tips

3. Select appropriate journal (singular) – and article type

- What are the aims and scope of the journal?
- Who is the audience of the journal?
- Has the journal previously published articles similar to yours?
- What are the journal’s restrictions?
- What is the journal’s impact factor?



Potential Journals

- The Journal - PSW
- AJHP - residents edition
- liP
- CPTL



Predatory Publishing

- Watch out for predatory publishing
- Exploit open access concept for profit
 - Pay for publication
 - Serve on editorial board
 - Present at an international conference
- Tips:
 - Consult Beall’s list of predatory journals and publishers
 - <https://beallist.weebly.com/>
 - Withhold payment until constructive criticism is received from two reviewers



Bowman JD. AJPE 2014.
<https://beallist.weebly.com/>
 Accessed July 18, 2018

Strategies and Tips

4. Dedicate time to writing manuscript

- Start writing DURING residency but AFTER you select a journal – this will save you time and energy
- Adhere to journal's preparation and submission specifications
 - Length, style, content, scope, attachments etc.
- Take the lead but continue to work with a team for writing and editing
 - Discuss authorship, order of authorship, how writing manuscript will be divided, and timeline
- Prioritize time during residency – submit BEFORE graduation



Barriers and Solutions Summary

- Inappropriate topic for journal
 - Select appropriate journal
- Not following manuscript preparation or submission instructions
 - Follow directions
- Too small an advance in knowledge
 - Work with a team – how does your project impact other disciplines
- Lack of novelty
 - Thorough literature search
- Inadequate methods
 - Focus on the project now – work with a team, document detailed methods
- Poorly written
 - Follow journal's guidelines, work with a team



QUESTIONS?