

1. Ten tips for a writing a
successful manuscript

2. Selecting a Journal to submit

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Ten Useful Tips for Writing... x

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Ho-Leung Fung
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, THE AAPS JOURNAL

Ten Useful Tips for Writing a Successful Manuscript: For Beginners

AAPSPHARMACEUTICA

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In this discussion:

- Assume science is novel and significant
- Everyone writes differently; find your most effective routine
- Tips apply to the process (not the substance) of writing a successful manuscript
- Some tips can be applied to term papers and research reports

1. Pick one or two target journals.
Read **AUTHORS INSTRUCTIONS**

More details later

2. Begin by organizing your thoughts

- Identify your talking points.
- Write them down, as outline, bullet points or flow chart, etc.
- Review and revise as you proceed.

3. Your writing order is different to that of the finished manuscript

- Writing order

- Tentative tables and figures (Based on talking points)
- Results
- Conclusions
- Materials and Methods
- Introduction
- Discussion
- Title
- Abstract

- Final product

- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Materials and Methods
- Results (Tables and Figures)
- Discussion
- Conclusion

4. Use simple, straightforward language and the correct tenses

- Avoid flowery and self-flattering language.
- One idea per sentence.
- Mainly use passive voice.
- Past tense to describe results.
- Active voice is okay sometimes (e.g., We examined...).

5. Good writing comes from rewriting—at least for 99.9% of us.

- Review your drafts at least several times.
- Make changes in each draft, including structure, flow, and transitions.

6. Don't plagiarize.

- Definition (from Merriam-Webster): “To steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own; To use (another's production) without **crediting** the source.”
- All manuscripts are now checked for plagiarism with high-tech software

7. Proofread and revise.

- Do it over and over again. A good manuscript can undergo up to a dozen drafts.

8. Have others proofread your penultimate draft before submission.

- Recruit your colleagues and friends to read your draft.
- Consider ALL suggestions and potential criticisms.
- Even if you disagree, you should revise the manuscript to anticipate these problems.

9. Don't fight with reviewers or editors.

- Be responsive and polite to their suggestions...After all, your goal is to publish a paper, not to win an argument.
- Find ways to accommodate suggestions.

10. Don't get discouraged by rejections. Some classic papers have previously been rejected.

- Allow yourself to be emotional: Rant, curse, cry if you must, **but only for a day or two.**
- After that, be cool and detached.
 - Identify weaknesses
 - Consider new experiments and conclusions
 - Rewrite to remove weaknesses

Selecting Target Journals for Your Manuscripts

Desired Journal Factors

Most
prestigious

Highest
likelihood of
getting
accepted

Fastest from
submission to
publication

Least costly



Impact Factor

- Devised by Eugene Garfield in 1975

$$2014 \text{ IF} = \frac{\text{\# all items published in 2012 + 2013 cited in 2014}}{\text{\# citable items published in 2012 + 2013}}$$

NOT Citable: Includes Editorials, Letters to the Editor, etc.

High Impact Journals

<http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/srp/publications/highimpactjournals.cfm>

- New England Journal of Medicine **54.42**
- Chemical Reviews **45.66**
- Nature **42.35**
- Nature Biotechnology **39.08**
- Nature Reviews Cancer **37.91**

- Cell **33.12**
- Science **31.48**
- PNAS **9.74**

Impact Factor is field specific

Pharmacy and Pharmacology

IF (# items published)

Nature Review Drug Discovery 37.23 (44)

Pharmacological Review 18.55 (35)

Annual Review Pharmacology and Toxicology
18.52 (26)

Advances in Drug Delivery Review 12.71 (150)

Trends in Pharmacological Science 9.99 (67)

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Factors to consider

- Does scope match?
- Has similar papers been published in the same area?
- Has your lab published in it?
- How confident do you feel about the science?
- Rejection rate of the Journal?



AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Summary Report of Journal Operations, 2013

Journal	Manuscripts				Printed pages				Print subscriptions	
	No. received	No. accepted	No. pending ^a	Rejection rate ^b	Items published ^c	Total pages published	Average lag in months ^d		Member/nonmember	Institutional
							Online First	Print		
Primary journals										
Behavioral Neuroscience	194	83	37	64%	94	938	1.2	2.3	105	161
Developmental Psychology	721	147	220	80%	208	2,400	1.6	7.7	333	581
Emotion	615	116	117	81%	118	1,156	2.0	5.3	433	40
Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology	99	60	5	44%	56	511	1.8	2.8	189	29
Health Psychology	873	141	99	84%	145	1,227	3.5	8.6	3,638	200
Jnl. of Abnormal Psychology	572	95	49	84%	112	1,196	1.6	3.5	650	519
Jnl. of Applied Psychology	953	81	313	91%	70	1,072	1.2	3.2	642	547
Jnl. of Comparative Psychology	84	41	18	54%	46	462	2.4	7.3	93	126

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Research Article

BDDCS Applied to Over 900 Drugs

Leslie Z. Benet,^{1,6} Fabio Broccatelli,^{1,2} and Tudor I. Oprea^{3,4,5}

Received 17 May 2011; accepted 22 June 2011; published online 5 August 2011

Abstract. Here, we compile the Biopharmaceutics Drug Disposition Classification System (BDDCS) classification for 927 drugs, which include 30 active metabolites. Of the 897 parent drugs, 78.8% (707) are

Not always depend on the Journal/Reviewers
but also on

- How many revisions are needed
- Authors timeliness in submitting revisions
- Authors' timeliness in returning proofs

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Costs associated with publishing a paper

- Submission fee
- Page charges
- Reprints (optional)
- Open Access
 - Charge of several hundred to 2-3 thousand dollars to allow free access
 - Reputable vs. Disreputable journals
<http://laikaspoetnik.wordpress.com/2011/12/19/jeffrey-bealls-list-of-predatory-open-access-publishers-2012-edition/>
 - Potential indicators of a questionable OA Journal
<http://expertedge.aje.com/2012/06/07/ways-to-identify-a-questionable-open-access-journal/>