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TIPS FOR GETTING PUBLISHED – 5 STEPS TO SUCCESS

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Objectives

By the end of the workshop you will be able to

- Select 2/3 journals to submit your manuscript to
- Describe 5 steps for successful publishing
- Identify challenges and solutions to completing your manuscript
- Map your process to submission



*Writing is 90% procrastination
and 30% panic.*

Reasons for Not getting Published

- No data, no hypothesis, no money, no time
- Not writing
- Not submitting
- Getting rejected
- Others?



Who gets published?

- The determined, patient, attentive
- Writing **teams**
- Those who make it a habit to write and publish

Writing is just like clinical medicine – **practice makes an expert**



Strategies For Submission

- Strong leadership (expectation to publish) – first author
- Personal goal (motivation)
- Mentor/reviewer (accountability)
- Timeline and structure
- Writing partnerships/ team work (support/nag)

Getting Started – Step 1

Choose a project

- **Relevant** to day-to-day work
- With **realistic hypothesis** based on review (need IRB)
- Find writing **partner/s - clarify roles**
- Put together an **abstract** or **concept piece**
- Be open to **revision**

Where do I send it? – Step 2

- Ask editors if interested (email or call)
- Ask JANE

<http://biosemantics.org/jane/>

‘Have you recently written a paper, but you're not sure to which journal you should submit it? Or maybe you want to find relevant articles to cite in your paper? Jane can help’

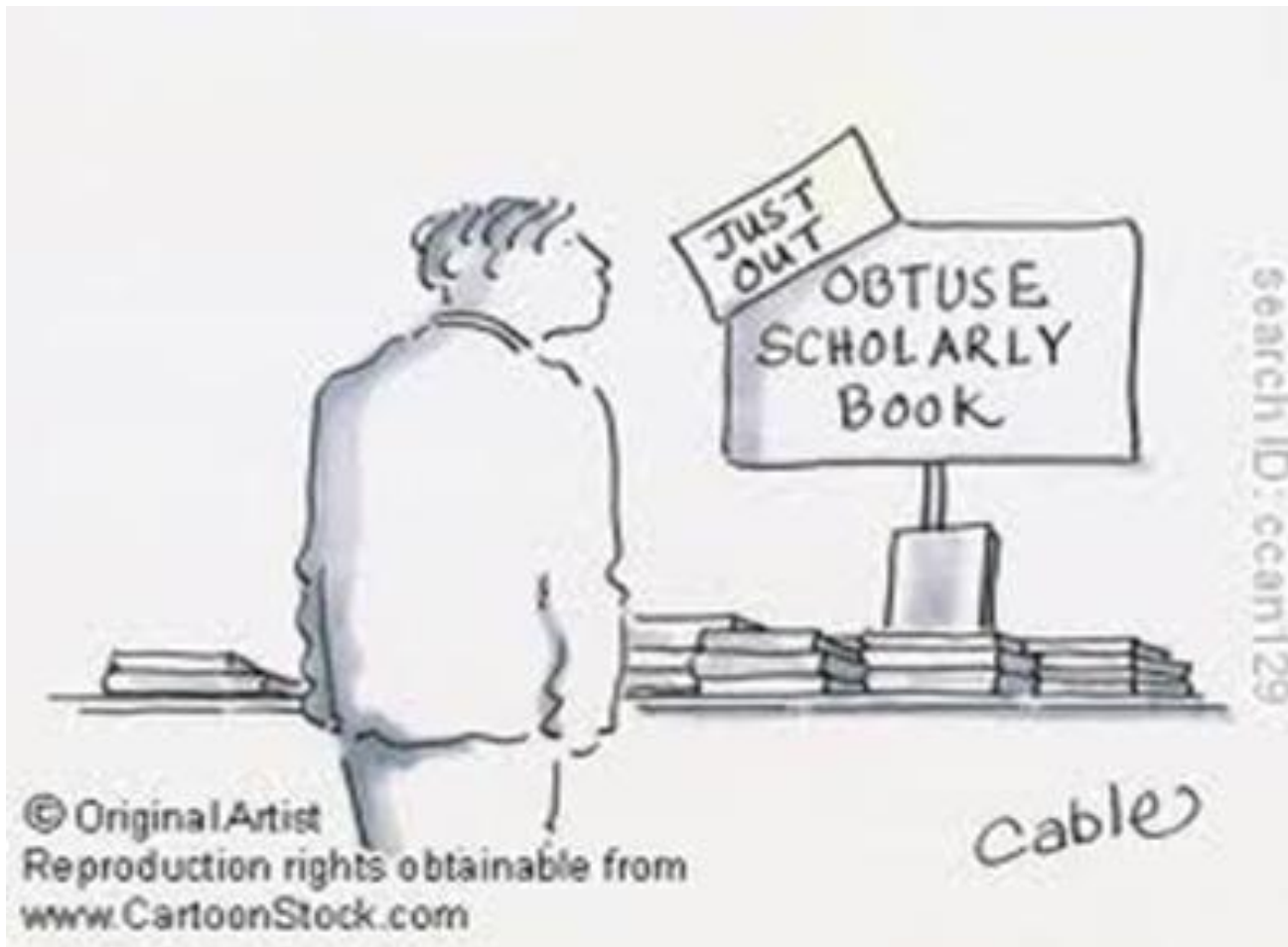
Audience Exercise

- Copy and paste your abstract or manuscript title into Jane <http://biosemantics.org/jane/>
- Identify the top 3 journals that publish in your area
- Find the impact factor (JCR) or article influence (AI) factor for those journals
- Identify the 3 authors most likely to publish in your area

Which Journal?

Factors to consider:

- Impact factor (citation index) or article influence (AI)
- **Likelihood of publication**
- Access to editorial support and assistance
- Intended audience
- Cost of publication
- Speed of publication (= speed of updates in your field)



Why Should the Journal Publish My Paper?

- Is the topic of interest to its **audience**?
- Is the information new/**innovative**?
- If research-based, is there a **hypothesis**?
- Does it influence **future policy**/education?
- Is it written with **clarity**?
- Is there a '**take home**' message?
- Are all required **elements** met?

Step 3 - Conforming to Journals

- Print and read instructions
- Create **Shell** for your manuscript using headings
- Delineate author writing **roles and sequences**
- Construct **timeline**
- Set work and **submission deadline**

Step 4 – Mapping Content

- Marcus will cover

Writing Groups – Challenges

- Who?
 - Int. vs ext. group
 - Authorship order
 - Roles
- How?
 - Coordinator?
 - Communication strategy?
 - Keeping to timeline
- When?
 - Getting reviewers
 - Submitting and revising

Authorship Guidelines

- See JAMA

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/site/misc/ifora.xhtml>

Flanagin A, Fontanarosa PB, DeAngelis CD. Authorship for research groups. *JAMA*. 2002;288(24):3166-3168

- Uniform ICMJE guidelines

http://www.icmje.org/ethical_1author.html

- Unethical writing practices

Bennet DM and Taylor DM. Unethical practices in authorship of scientific papers. *Emerg. Med.* June 2003;15(3):263-70

- Handling disputes in authorship

http://www.provost.duke.edu/pdfs/Authorship_guidelines.pdf

Authorship Dilemmas

- Determining order
- Parceling out roles
- Constructing a process
- Managing conflicts (unjustified authors, omissions)
- Building incentives for success
- Meeting timelines

Cases for Audience

Case A: You are the (last) mentoring author on a paper with 4 co-authors. The first author has failed to provide leadership and the writing has stopped for 2 months. The agreed submission deadline is 4 weeks away. How would you solve the problem?

Case B: You are the first author on a paper with 2 other co-authors and this is your first-ever submission. You have done all the writing and the co-authors have not responded to emails to review the paper. What are your options? List the challenges and possible solutions.

Step 5 – Pre-submission review

- Find **reviewers** (2 to 3) for your paper ahead of time
- Send them a draft before submission, for feedback
- Revise the manuscript and get all co-authors' approval
- Then submit!

After Submission

- How long to wait?
- Check average review time
- Send gentle reminder/query
- Respond to editor requests



Reasons for Not Getting Published

- Not submitting
- Not conforming to formatting or other requirements
- Wrong journal
- Writing unclear
- Uninteresting manuscript (already published)
- Flawed method, poor statistics, inappropriate outcome measures

Editors' Responses

- Outright rejections
- Major revisions
- Minor revisions
- Next submission

Don't - Ignore/delete editor's letter

Do - Take a deep breath and wait a few days

- Review letter with your co-authors and mentor
- Follow advice given
- Thank the editor!

If at first you don't succeed, try, try and try again

What if I Don't Have a Hypothesis-Driven Idea or Data?

Consider non-research papers:

- Case Reports (n of 1)
- Descriptive reports
- Convert conference abstracts or posters
- Opinions

Non-Research Papers

- Letter to editor

Golub RM. Correspondence course: tips for getting a letter published in *JAMA*. *JAMA*. 2008;300(1):98-99

- Perspectives (see individual journals)

- Descriptive (e.g. Clinical journals)

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL PUBLISHING

- Have a plan with timeline (5 steps)
- Define clear roles for all authors
- Follow key outline and 'recipe'
- Get the paper reviewed before submission
- Have a backup plan for next journal
- Celebrate!



QUESTIONS?

NEXT – MIND-MAPPING

