

## Art of publishing scientific research papers: A guide for pharmaceutical and biosciences researchers

The art of publishing a scientific paper is somewhat different from the art of drafting a research paper. Publishing is the process that starts after the draft of a research paper is finalized. The publishing process involves finding a suitable journal, submission of a research paper, replying to the comments of the reviewers, and finally, selecting a publishing model. All these processes follow a sequential flow, and the final product is a published paper. Each of the four steps in the publishing process is critical, and research should not take any step lightly. Many times, due to simple mistakes of the authors, their paper gets rejected from the journal after replying to two of three rounds of peer review. The present editorial aims to guide pharmaceutical and biosciences students regarding the publishing process so that they can effectively communicate their research to journals and get it published in the minimum time frame.

The first step in publishing is selecting a suitable journal. Authors should always try to find a journal that publishes papers in the same context. Targeting a non-specific journal usually leads to the rejection of the paper. Authors should know about the level of their research and should focus on journals that publish research papers of a similar level. Authors can assess the recently published papers in a journal in the same context and read them carefully to make a fair estimate that their manuscript stands on the same level or not. Going for a big publishing and high impact factor without having a strong manuscript will lead to the rejection of the paper. Authors can also go for a multidisciplinary journal if it publishes the research in the same context. It is also advised not to target the high-impact factor or big indexing. A good publisher is most important to be selected as, with time, a good publisher is going to achieve the impact factor and indexing and will be able to maintain that, whereas an average publisher is going to lose the impact factor

The second step is to communicate the paper to the journal. It is advised to the authors to prepare the paper strictly according to the guidelines of the journal. For example, some journals kept the heading 'introduction,' and others kept the same heading as 'background.' Some journal demands unstructured abstract, whereas other demands a structured abstract. There are guidelines

regarding the number of words in each section, placement of tables and graphs in text or as separate files, and size and resolution of the images. Journals are also very strict about their reference style. Authors should carefully understand the reference style of the journal and prepare their manuscripts accordingly. Submission of a paper without formatting in a journal style will lead to rejection of the paper even before going for peer review.

Thirds step is replying to the reviewer's comments. Authors should understand that the reviewers are selfless individuals who devote their time to reading, interpreting, analyzing, and finding the loopholes in the manuscript. Journals usually do not provide any financial assistance to the reviewers, even if the journal asks for a huge publication fee from the authors. Authors should make a table having two columns where in the first column, comments of the reviewers should be written, and in the second column, authors should provide a pointwise reply to each comment. Always try to highlight the text in the manuscript, which is revised as per the reviewer's comments. Ultimately it is the reviewers whose opinion will decide whether the research paper is going to publish or not. Taking even a single comment from the reviewer lightly may lead to the loss of many month time of or authors.

The last step is the publishing model. Once the paper is accepted, authors usually have the choice to publish the paper as open-assessed or as a subscription-based model. In the open-assessed model, the author has the copyright of the paper, and the paper is freely assessable on the journal website to everyone. In the subscription-based model, the copyright is transferred to the journal, and to assess the paper, the reader will require a subscription to the journal. If the authors have sufficient funding, it is advised to publish a paper in the open-assessed model.

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