

Getting Published in the Biomedical Sciences

Why is publishing important?

- Validates the work through peer review
- Provides a record readily accessible worldwide, for now and in the future
- Advances the field
- Major criterion for a scientist's career development

How do you choose a journal for publishing your paper?

- Pick one that is a good fit for your paper
- Pick one that has good reputation and is widely known, thereby showcasing your work
- Pick one that has a qualified and fair editorial board
- Pick one that is of high quality and provides good customer service

How do you write your manuscript?

- Excite the reviewers and readers by writing an interesting story that advances the field
- Revolve the story around a hypothesis or question
- Place the results in the context of the field
- Answer the hypothesis or question with the conclusion

Follow principles of clear writing

- Use proper grammar
- Choose precise and accurate words
- Use keywords
- Construct short, clear sentences
- Use appropriate punctuation
- Compose well-organized paragraphs arranged in a logical sequence to build a story
- Adopt a writing strategy that is conducive to completing the manuscript in a timely fashion
- Start with the parts of the study that are finished (Methods; Results)
- Write the Discussion so that it interprets the results and places them in the context of the field
- Write the Introduction so that it identifies the topic, what is known, what is unknown, and what the study addresses
- Write the Abstract last, using the other sections of the manuscript as a template

What is ethical publishing?

Editors, Reviewers, Authors, and Readers are expected to uphold high ethical standards: an agreed upon set of rules governing the conduct of practicing scientists. Serious ethical flaws in publishing:

- Plagiarism—copying the work, words, or ideas of others without proper attribution; copying yourself (self plagiarism) by publishing the same work multiple times
- Fabrication of data, its inappropriate manipulation leading to misrepresentation, or its selective reporting leading to a biasing of the results to support a particular hypothesis or viewpoint
- Not recusing oneself when there is a conflict of interest, or an apparent conflict of interest