

How to get Published

European School of Internal Medicine
Riga, Latvia

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Outline

- Why would you publish
- What distinguishes a good manuscript from a poor one
- Importance of using proper manuscript language
- Peer review process
- Handling rejections
- Revisions
- Research and publishing ethics



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Why would you publish & are you ready?

Your personal reason for publishing



Get funding?

Get promoted?

PhD degree?



...???



Editors, reviewers, and the research community don't consider these reasons when assessing your work.

Determine if you are ready to publish



You should consider publishing if you have information that advances understanding in your field which could be in the form of:



Presenting new, original results or methods



Rationalizing, refining, or reinterpreting published results



Reviewing or summarizing a particular subject or field



IF you are Ready to Publish ... a **STRONG** manuscript is next

What is a strong manuscript?



Has a **novel, clear, useful, and exciting** message



Presented and constructed in a **logical** manner



Reviewers and editors can grasp the scientific significance **easily**

Editors and reviewers are all busy doctors – make things easy to save their time



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How important is structure?



Manuscript type



Full articles/Original articles



Letters/Rapid or Short Communications



Review Papers/perspectives

Self-evaluate your work



Is it sufficient for a full article?



Or are your results so thrilling that they need to be shown as soon as possible?

Ask your supervisor and colleagues for advice on manuscript type.

General structure of a research article



Title Abstract Keywords



**Introduction Methods Results
AND Discussion**



**Conclusion
Acknowledgements
References
Supporting Materials**

The Process of Writing – Building the Article

Title & Abstract

Conclusion

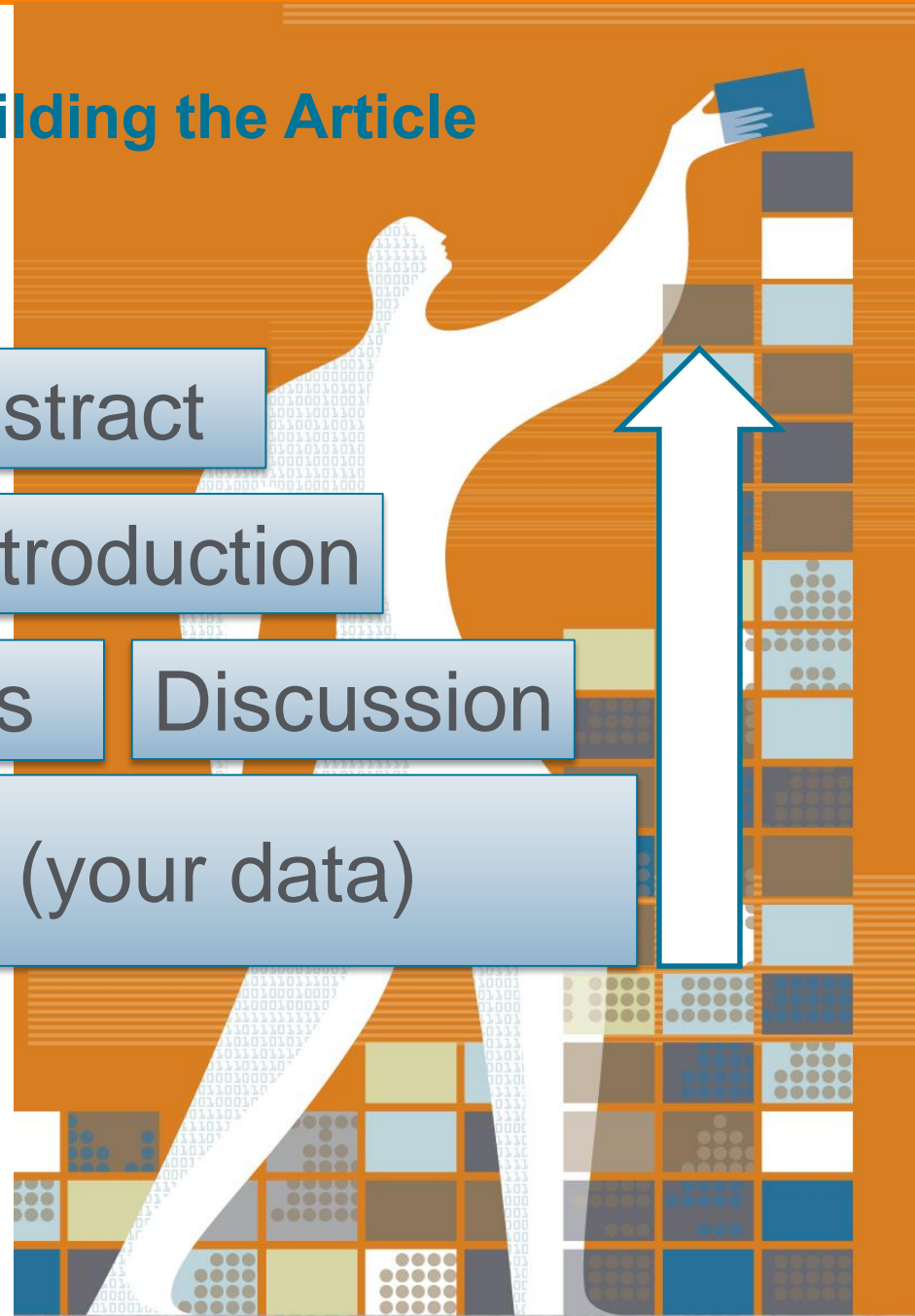
Introduction

Methods

Results

Discussion

Figures/Tables (your data)



Choosing an effective title



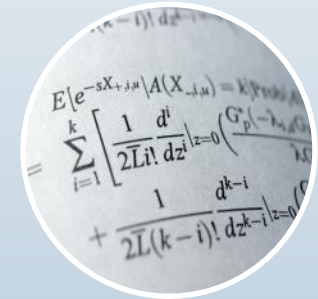
Fewest possible words



Adequately describes content



Identifies main issue



Does not use rarely-used abbreviations





Article titles

Preliminary observations on the effect of Etanercept in Patients with Ankylosing Spondylitis

Long title distracts readers. Remove all *redundancies* such as “observations on”, “the nature of”, etc.

Effect of Etanercept on Patients with Ankylosing Spondylitis

Action of antibiotics on bacteria

Titles should be *specific*. Think to yourself: “How would I search for this piece of information?” when you design the title.

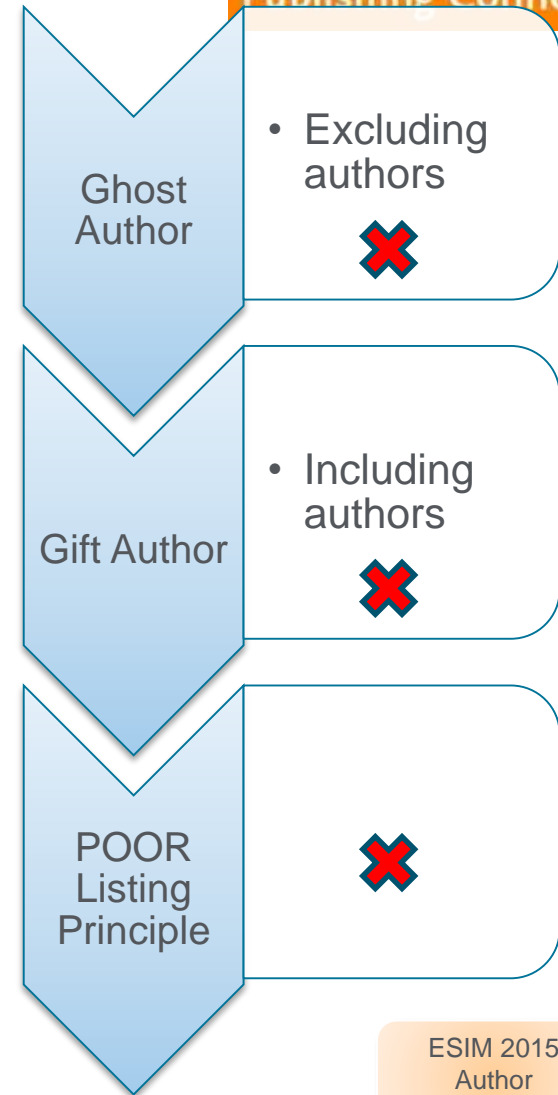
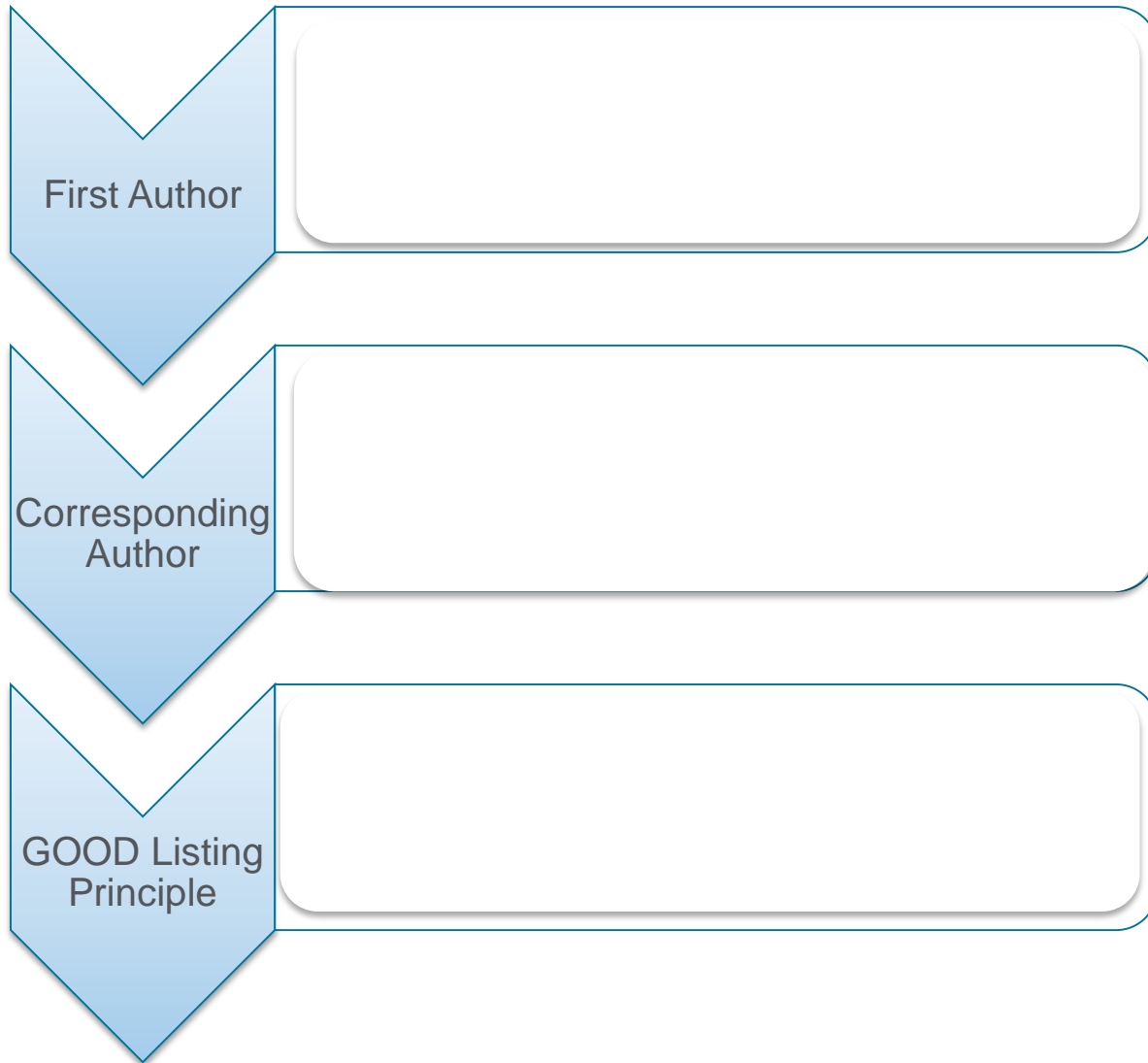
Inhibition of growth of mycobacterium tuberculosis by streptomycin

Fabrication of carbon/CdS coaxial nanofibers displaying optical and electrical properties via electrospinning carbon

“English needs help. The title is nonsense. All materials have properties of all varieties. You could examine my hair for its electrical and optical properties! You **MUST** be specific. I haven’t read the paper but I suspect there is something special about these properties, otherwise why would you be reporting them?”
– *the Editor-in-Chief*

Electrospinning of carbon/CdS coaxial nanofibers with optical and electrical properties

Authorship





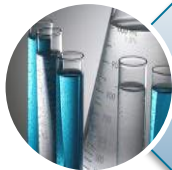
Keywords



Are used by indexing and abstracting services



Are the labels of the manuscript



Use only established abbreviations (e.g. DNA)

Article Title

“Rate and patient features associated with recurrence of acute myocarditis”

Keywords

Epidemiology,
Myocardial disease,
Myocarditis, Recurrence



Abstract



This is the advertisement of your article.
Make it interesting and understandable



Make it accurate and specific



A clear abstract will strongly influence
whether or not your work is considered



Keep it as brief as possible



Introduction

The place to convince readers that you know why your work is relevant, also for them



Provide a brief context to the readers



Address the problem



Identify the solutions & limitations



What is hoped to be achieved



Consistent with the nature of the journal



Methods



Describe how the problem was studied

Include detailed information

Do not describe previously published procedures

Identify the equipment and describe materials used



Results



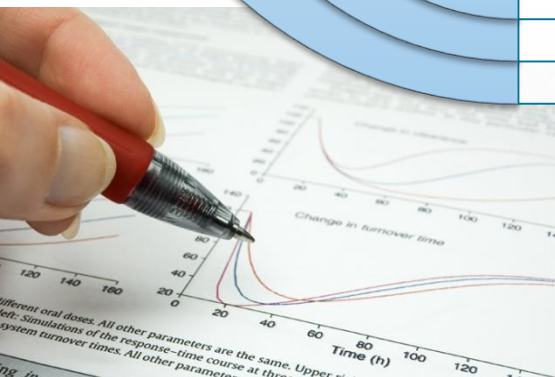
Be clear & easy to understand

Highlight the main findings

Feature unexpected findings

Provide statistical analysis

Include illustrations & figures





Discussion

	What do the results mean?
	Most important section
	Make the discussion correspond to the results
	You need to compare published results with your own



The conclusion

	Should be clear
	Provide justification for the work
	Advance the present state of knowledge
	Provide suggested future experiments

References



	Do not use too many references
	Always ensure you have fully absorbed material you are referencing
	Avoid excessive self-citations
	Avoid excessive citations of publications from the same region
	Conform strictly to the style given in the guide for authors



Help with your article



Writing an article is hard work – finding and sorting research, preparing references, sourcing feedback...

You can get help from Mendeley (www.mendeley.com), a free reference manager and academic social network.

The Mendeley Reference Manager generates citations and bibliographies in Word, OpenOffice, and LaTeX.


You can also use Mendeley to connect with colleagues and securely share papers, notes and annotations.


Or use Mendeley's social network to identify potential collaborators.







Article structure – What do you remember?


 Structure?


 Building blocks = foundation is your data (figs/tables) then 2nd level is methods, results & discussion. 3rd level is the conclusion, introduction and the top level is Title & Abstract


 Title?


 Identify the main issue, begin with the subject, short and informative, enticing & interesting


 Authors?


 First = data generation, analysis; proper presentation & interpretation of the results
Corresponding = 1st author or senior author from Inst.
Good Policy = Contribute/draft/approve


 Abstract?

 A single paragraph summarising the problem, the method, the results, and the conclusions; catchy

 IMRAD?

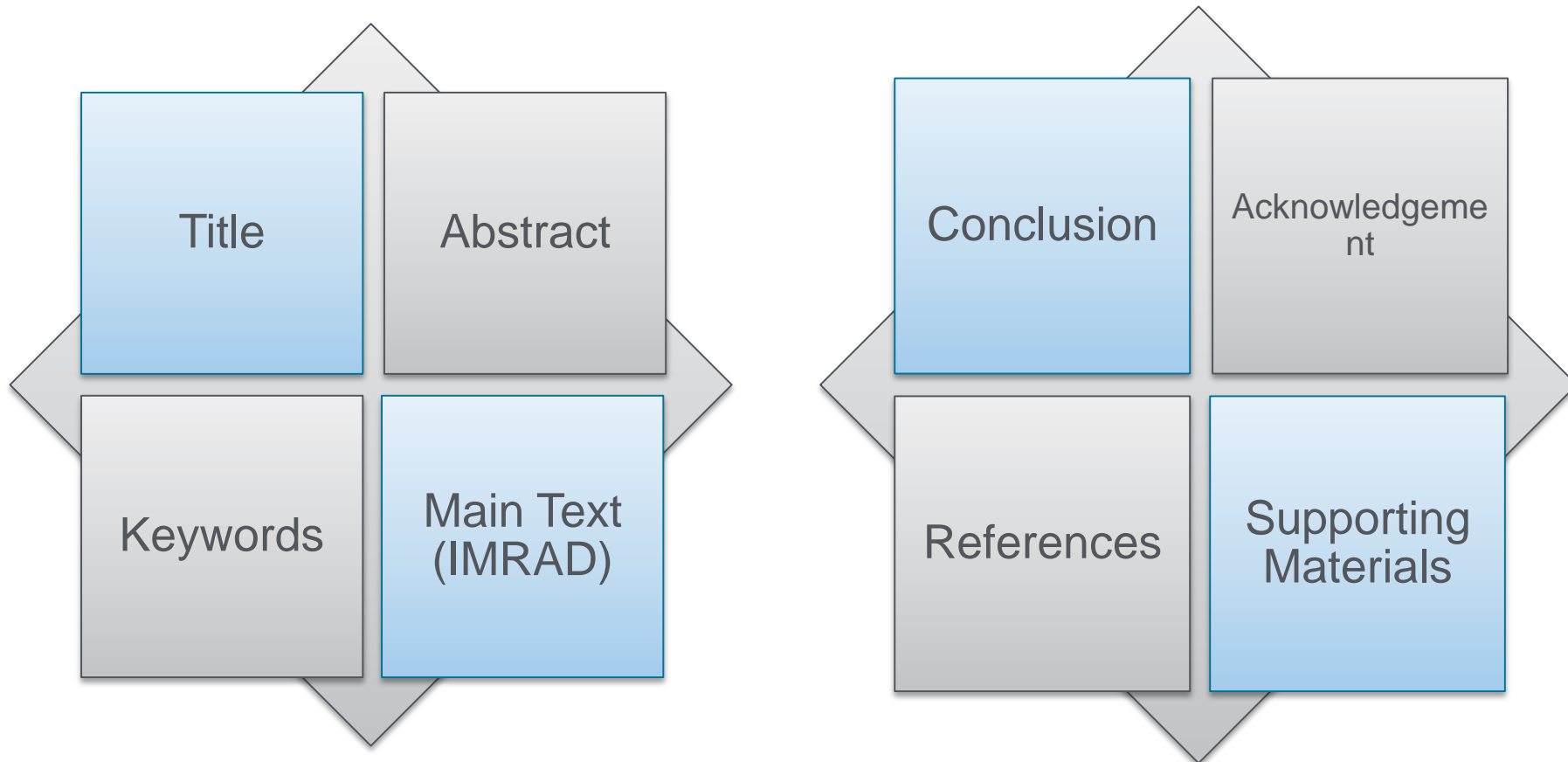
 Introduction = Why; **M**ethods = What I did?; **R**esults = What I found; **A**nd **D**iscussion = What it meant

 Finally?

 Conclusions - how your work advances the field; Acknowledgements; References – not too many



Recap – Building my article properly





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Using proper scientific language

Why is language important?



It can delay or block publication of work

Proper English should be used





Do publishers correct language?

***No! It is the
Author's
responsibility.***

..



*...but
resources
are available*



Manuscript language: Overview



Accurate



Concise



Clear



Objective



Manuscript language - Sentences



Write direct and short sentences



One piece of information per sentence



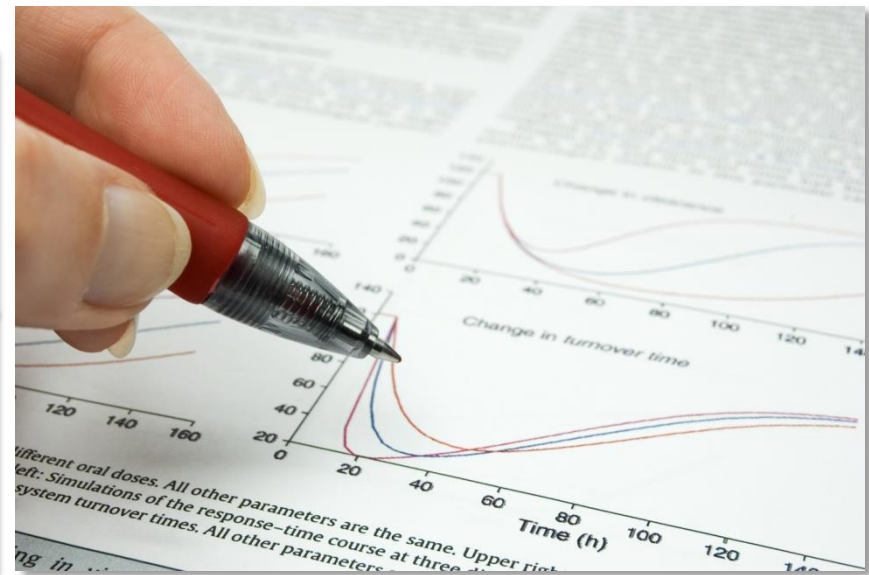
Avoid multiple statements in one sentence

Manuscript language - tenses



Present tense:
for known facts & hypotheses

Past tense:
for experiments conducted & results





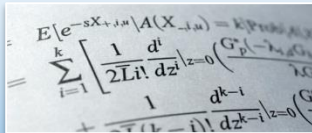
Manuscript language - Grammar



Use active voice to shorten sentences



Avoid abbreviations



Minimize use of adverbs



Eliminate redundant phrases



Double-check unfamiliar words or phrases



Language

- A** In eight patients, a biopsy from the affected sites of the head and neck was performed
- B** In eight patients, biopsies from the affected sites of the head and neck were performed
- A** Data were normalized to the internal reference housekeeping gene actin, revealing that ...
- B** Data were normalized to the internal reference housekeeping gene actin, which showed ...
- A** The proportions of various monocyte surface markers were 45%, 63% and 70%, respectively.
- B** The proportions of monocytes positive for CD163, CD7 and CD11a were 45%, 63% and 70%, respectively.
- A** Expression levels of p53 in smokers were compared with those in non-smokers
- B** Expression levels of p53 in smokers were compared with non-smokers



Recap



Important so Editors and Reviewers can understand the work



Refer to the journal's Guide for Authors for specifications



Work has short sentences, correct tenses, correct grammar and is all in English



Have a native English speaker check your manuscript or use a language editing service

Am I using proper manuscript language?



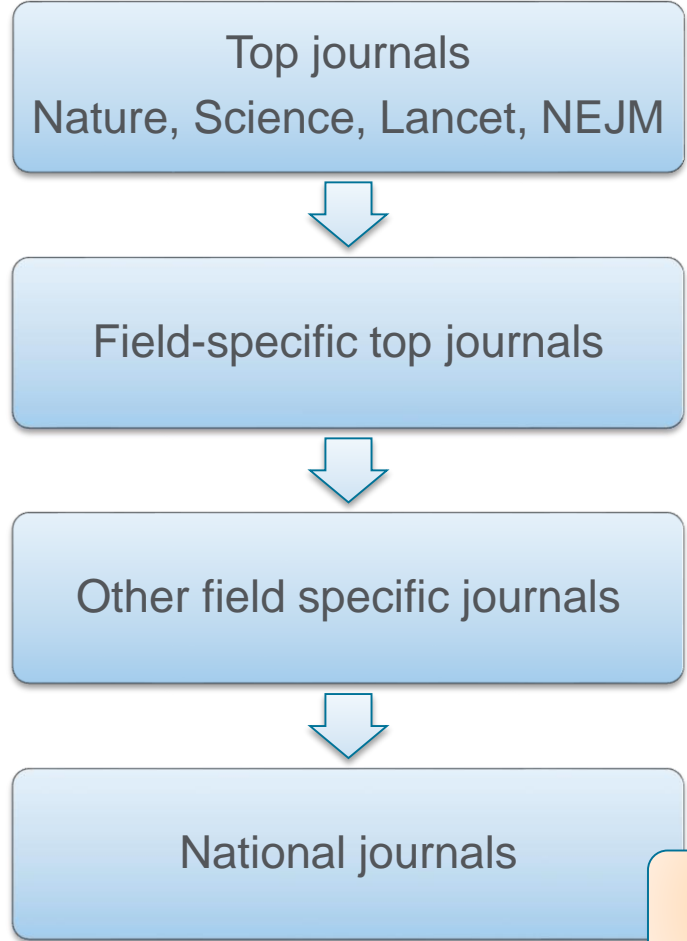
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Choosing the right journal

Choose the right journal



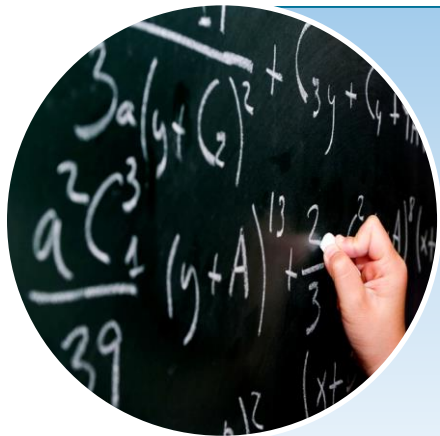
Do not just “descend the stairs”



Impact Factor



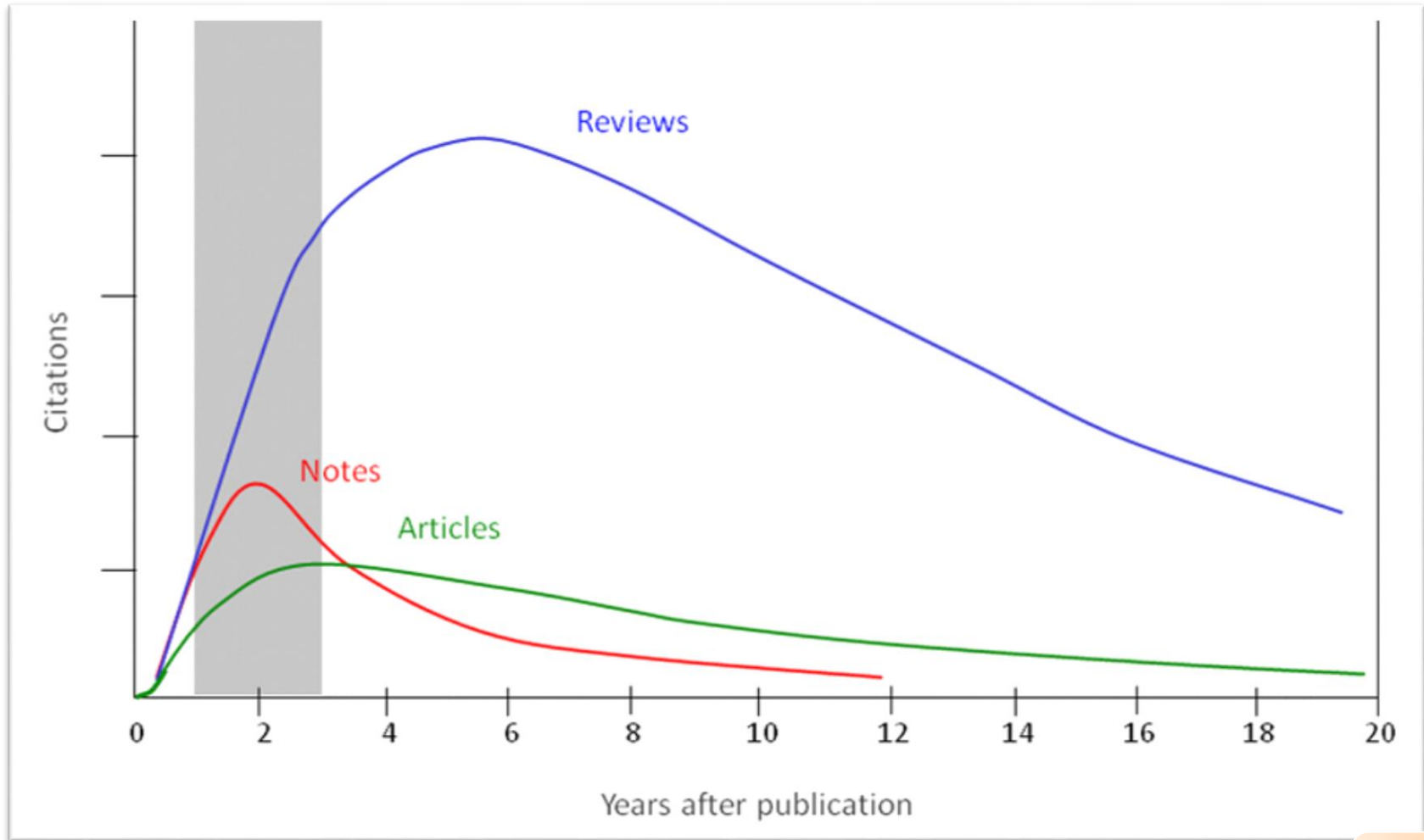
It is how many times the papers in a journal are cited on average



It is influenced by editorial policies of journals and turnover of research



Citations per article type



Finding the right journal



Find the perfect Journal for your Article with Elsevier's new

JOURNAL FINDER TOOL

Journal Finder Tool

The screenshot shows the Elsevier website's Journal Finder Tool. At the top, there is a search bar with the placeholder text "Type here to search on Elsevier.com" and a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar are links for "Advanced search", "Follow us", and "Help & Contact". Below the search bar is a navigation menu with options: "Journals & books", "Online tools", "Authors, editors & reviewers", "About Elsevier", and "Store".

The main content area is titled "For Authors" and "Elsevier for authors". It includes a section "How to publish in an Elsevier journal" with a brief description: "Every year, we accept and publish more than 250,000 journal articles. Publishing in an Elsevier journal starts with finding the right journal for your paper. If you already know which journal, you can enter the title directly in the search box below. Alternatively, click on the 'Start matching' button to find a suitable journal based on the abstract of your article."

Below this text is a horizontal flowchart showing the publishing process steps: "Publishing process", "Find a journal", "Prepare your paper", "Submit paper", and "Check status".

The "Find a journal" step is expanded to show two options: "Match your abstract to a journal" and "Search for a journal by name". Under "Match your abstract to a journal" is a blue button labeled "Start matching". Under "Search for a journal by name" is a search input field with a magnifying glass icon and a blue button labeled "Search for a Journal".

At the bottom, there is a section titled "The Elsevier publishing process step by step" with a sub-section "1. Find the right journal". The text reads: "The first step is finding the right journal for your paper. Among the thousands of journals and books published by Elsevier are some of the world's most prominent and respected medical, scientific and technological publications. These include The Lancet, Cell, Tetrahedron Letters and a host of others. Find a journal match for your abstract by clicking on the blue 'Start matching' button above."



Check the Guide for Authors

Find it on the journal homepage of the publisher, e.g. **Elsevier.com**

Keep to the *Guide for Authors* in your manuscript

Editors do not like wasting time on poorly prepared manuscripts



[Sample Issue](#)

European Journal of Internal Medicine

The Official Journal of the **European Federation of Internal Medicine (EFIM)**

The *European Journal of Internal Medicine* is the official journal of: The European Federation of Internal Medicine (EFIM), The Icelandic Society of Internal Medicine, The Irish Association of Internal...

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Editor-in-Chief: P.M. Mannucci
[View full editorial board](#)

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Journal Metrics	
Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP):	1.041
SCImago Journal Rank (SJR):	0.839
Impact Factor:	2.300
5-Year Impact Factor:	

Journal Insights

Discover this journal's metrics



Impact



Speed

News

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[Flashcard Collections](#)

[VIEW ALL](#)

Special Issues

Covering letter

Professor H. D. Schmidt
 School of Science and Engineering
 Northeast State University
 College Park, MI 10000
 USA

January

Final approval from all authors

Dear Professor Schmidt,

Enclosed with this letter you will find an electronic submission of a manuscript entitled "Mechano-sorptive creep under compressive loading - a micromechanical model" by John Smith and myself. This is an original paper which has neither previously nor simultaneously in whole or in part been submitted anywhere else. Both authors have read and approved the final version submitted.

Mechano-sorptive is sometimes denoted as accelerated creep. It has been experimentally observed that the creep of paper accelerates if it is subjected to a cyclic moisture content. This is of large practical importance for the paper industry. The present manuscript describes a micromechanical model on the fibre network level that is able to capture the experimentally observed behaviour. In particular, the difference between mechano-sorptive creep in tension and compression is analysed. John Smith is a PhD-student who within a year will present his doctoral thesis. The present paper will be a part of that thesis.

Three potential independent reviewers who have excellent expertise in the area of this paper are:

Dr. Fernandez, Tennessee Tech, email1@university.com
 Dr. Chen, University of Maine, email2@university.com
 Dr. Singh, Colorado School of Mines, email3@university.com

Explanation of importance of research

I would very much appreciate if you would consider the manuscript for publication in the *International Journal of Science*.

Sincerely yours,

Suggested reviewers

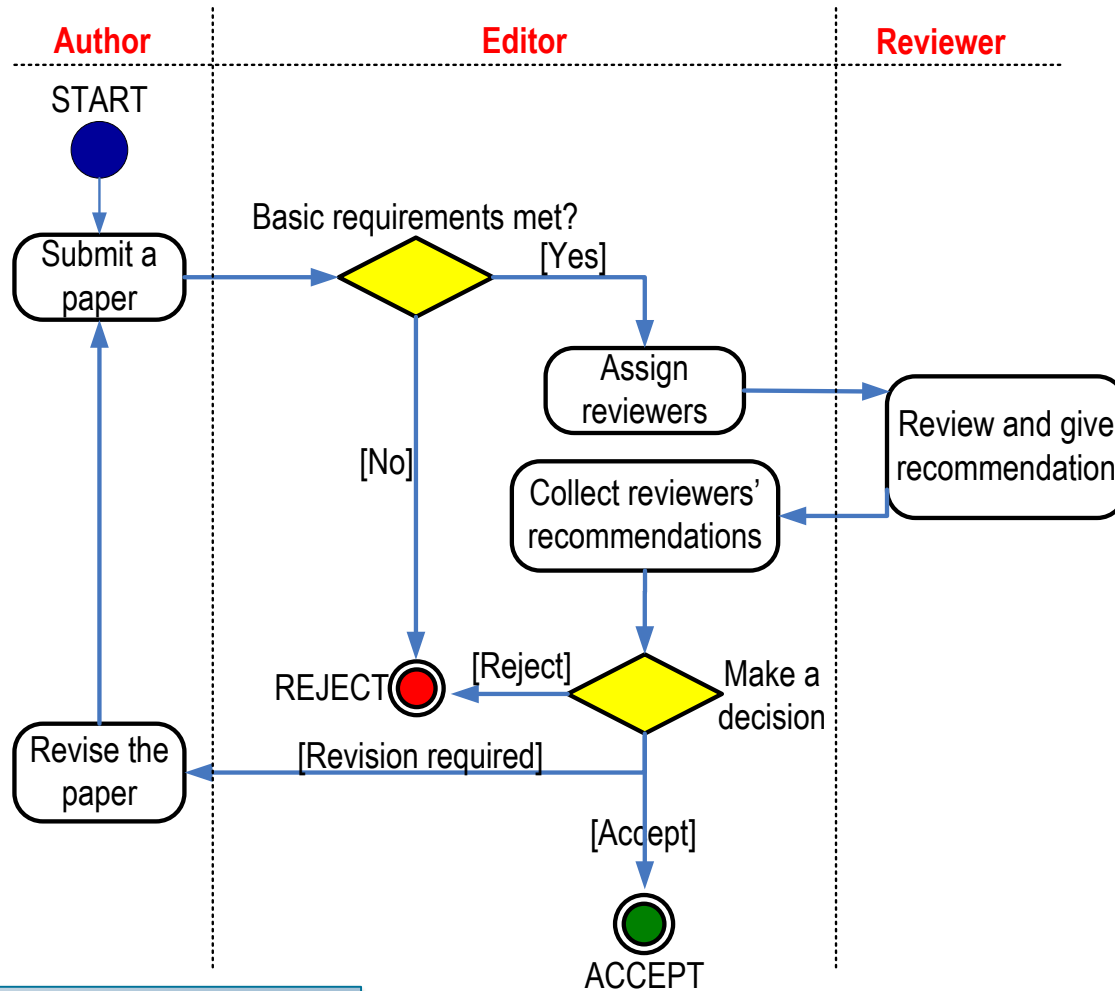
Professor



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Peer review process

Peer review process

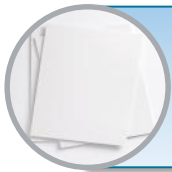




Purpose of Peer Review



Improves quality of the published paper



Ensures previous work is acknowledged



Determines the importance of findings



Detects plagiarism and fraud



Plays a central role in academic career development

Quality of the work



Are the methods appropriate and presented in sufficient detail to allow the results to be repeated?



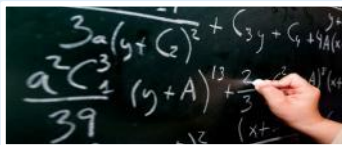
Is the data adequate to support the conclusions?



Do all methods have results?



Have all results been described in the methods?



Are all conclusions based on results?



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Handling the decision



Decision

Accept

Reject

Revise



Rejection

Not the end of the world



Do not take it personally

Understand why the paper was rejected

Take their advice seriously!

Re-evaluate and decide if it is appropriate to submit elsewhere.

Begin as if you are going to write a new article



Decision Revision

Minor Revision

Basically, the manuscript is worth being published

Some elements in the manuscript must be clarified, restructured, shortened (often) or expanded (rarely)

Textual adaptations

“Minor revision” does NOT guarantee acceptance after revision!

Major Revision

The manuscript may be worth being published

Significant deficiencies must be corrected before acceptance

Involves (significant) textual modifications and/or additional experiments

Revisions



Discuss your work with your colleagues

Look at responding to the points raised

Answer questions raised





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What you should beware of

Publish AND Perish!

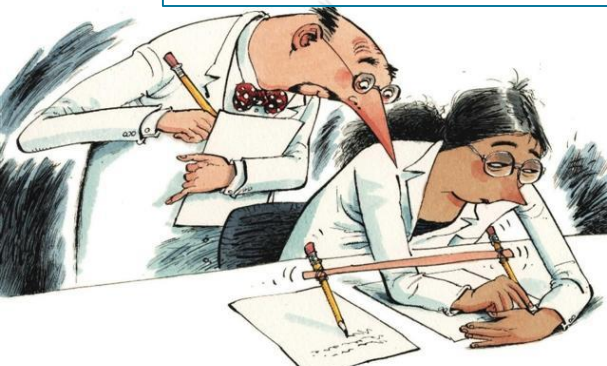
if you break ethical
rules



International scientific ethics have evolved over centuries
and are commonly held throughout the world

There is a *single ethical standard* for science

Ethics problems with scientific articles are on the rise
globally



M. Errami & H. Garner
A tale of two citations
Nature 451 (2008): 397-399

Plagiarism

Elsevier participates in 2 plagiarism detection schemes:

Turnitin (aimed at universities)

Ithenticate (aimed at publishers and corporations)

However there are other ways to be found out!

Editors and reviewers

Your colleagues

"Other" whistle blowers





Ethics Committee approval



Experiments on humans or animals must follow applicable ethics standards



Approval of the local ethics committee is required and should be specified in the manuscript, covering letter or the online submission system



Editors can make their own decisions on ethics

Confidentiality



Age or, gender
Location,
Clinical details
Test results



Images
Patient consent
Unidentifiable –
correct size

Ethics Resource



<http://www.elsevier.com/ethics/home>



ethics
IN RESEARCH & PUBLICATION

Be smart. **Be ethical.** Get ahead.

Ethics Tools

What constitutes scientific misconduct and breach of publishing ethics?

Scientific misconduct and breach of publishing ethics can take different shapes and forms, and can be committed knowingly or unknowingly.

The banner features an illustration of two scientists in white lab coats. One scientist is holding a test tube with green liquid, and the other is holding a clipboard. They are looking at a computer monitor. A mug with a blue atom symbol is on the desk.



What leads to acceptance ?

Attention to details

Check and double check your work

Consider the reviewers' comments

English must be as good as possible

Presentation is important

Take your time with revision

Acknowledge those who have helped you

New, original and previously unpublished

Critically evaluate your own manuscript

Ethical rules must be obeyed

– Nigel John Cook
Editor-in-Chief, Ore Geology Reviews

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- Early career researchers
- Book authors' home
- Sharing your article
- Journal and article metrics

Elsevier for authors

Publish in an Elsevier journal. The process step by step.



Match your abstract to a journal

[Start matching](#)

or

Search for a journal by name

[Search for a Journal](#)

Finding the right journal

Publishing in an Elsevier journal starts with finding the right journal for your paper. You can find journals in different ways but here are some suggestions:

Matching your abstract to a journal

You don't know which journal is best suitable for your article? By clicking the 'Start matching' button you will find in just a few seconds a list of journals that matches best with your article by providing just the title and abstract.



**Thank you
for your attention.**

Any Questions?