

# How to get your papers published in different types of journals

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The workshop aims to help you:

- Describe essential features of a good academic paper
- Describe major challenges when seeking to publish
- Demonstrate a strategy for selecting journals
- Explain how the editorial process works
- Demonstrate how to respond to reviewers critiques

# What makes a good paper?

- Add knowledge to existing evidence
- Concise
- Simple
- Trustworthy
- Good quality
- Explains why Interesting and engaging
- Not “so what”
- Joined up and cohesive
- Well written
- Adds and change perception
- Transparent
- Addresses a gap
- Good question
- Well written answer to a question
- Honest about its limitations
- Pitched at the right level and targeted
- Relevant question
- Timely
- Unbiased
- High impact
- Important
- Data all displayed and available
- Answers the research question
- Clear

Task in fours:

What are the challenges of getting published?

Any solutions?.

## What are the challenges ? Any solutions :

1. Knowing what journal to publish in
  1. Perception that med ed journals are harder to publish in
  2. Think about letters, opinion pieces, commentaries
2. Not being taken seriously as students
  1. JASME / TASME organisation opportunity
  2. Student BMJ
  3. Not enough information on how to publish papers for students
  4. Students and junior doctors have difficult to access networks and journals
3. Challenge of sticking with the process until you do get published
4. Difficulty knowing what to do if starting and networking
  1. Work to find a mentor
5. Lack of statistical support – not available and not free
6. Who you know; trumps quality

## Overcoming the challenge :

- Narrative : Telling a story to fill a gap in the literature
- Define the message
- Aim to write the abstract and/or the status box first
- Use the introduction to engage: problem/gap/hook
- Where does this message belong?

## Which journal?

- Decide on your target audience
  - Researchers? Teachers? Specialty? International?
  
- Factors
  - Does it usually publish this type of content?
  - Impact Factor
  - Acceptance and turnaround rates
  - Profile

## Medical Education journals:

- Academic Medicine
- Advances in Health Sciences Education
- BMC Medical Education
- Canadian Medical Education J
- Education for Health
- Education for Primary Care
- Journal of Graduate Medical Education
- Medical Education
- Medical Teacher
- Perspectives on Medical Education
- The Clinical Teacher



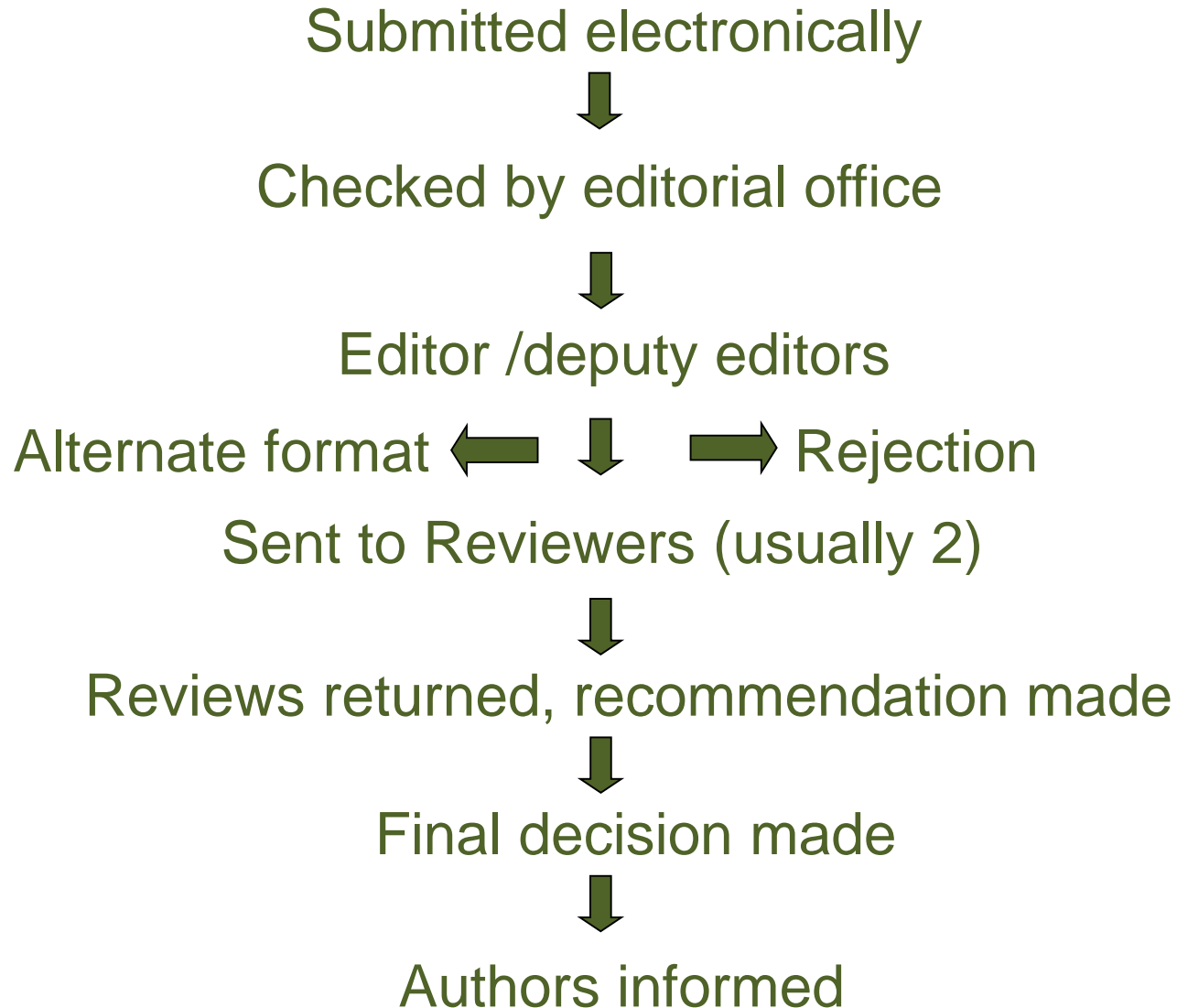
## Basic Medical Science Education Journals:

- Advances in Physiology Education
- Anatomical Sciences Education
- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education
- Cell Biology Education-Life Sc.
- J. Microbiology & Biology Education
- Medical Science Educator

## Clinical Education Journals:

- Academic Emergency Medicine
- Academic Pediatrics
- Academic Psychiatry
- Acad. Radiology
- Am. J. of Medicine
- Am. J Obst & Gyne
- Am. J. Surgery
- JAMA – Education issue
- J. of Gen. Internal Medicine – Educ. Section west.
- J. Family Medicine
- Neurology
- Obstr & Gyne J.
- J Surgical Educ

## The Editorial Process:



## EPC Editorial decisions :

- Accept immediately
- Minor revisions
- Revise and resubmit
- Write in another format (leading article, letter)
- Reject

# Revisions following peer reviewers' comments

Deputy Editor, Medical Education: JB

Reviewer 1: TT

Reviewer 2: Withheld

Reviewer 3: DB

Comment Number	Reviewer	Comment	Changes made
1	JB		
2	TT		
3	JB		

## Party bag time

- What story do I want to tell? (Eva)
  - The importance of the “de roode draad”! (Dutch idea)
  - How do I frame the story so that it is interesting, important, compelling, influential?
  
- Think of your paper as joining a scholarly conversation (Dornan, Lingard, Eva)
  - Where is this conversation taking place?
  - Where is the conversation going (or has been)?
  - How does my paper contribute?

## Before you go

- Get to know your target journal(s) (Driessen)
  - Top 10 downloads to see what the journal's readers are interested in
  - Review editorials and leading articles to get a sense of journal's ethos and purpose
  - What is its academic or institutional home?
  
- The Problem, Gap, Hook approach (Lingard)
  - What is the problem
  - What is/are the gap(s) in the literature
  - So what; Why does this matter?

## Just a few more things

- The title should attract attention but not reveal the punchline  
e.g.:
  - *Spatial abilities and technical performance in healthcare: a systematic review*
  - *A curious case of the phantom professor: mindless teaching evaluations by medical students*
- Pay attention to the art of writing abstracts that grab attention; suggest authority; imply academic rigour; encapsulate essence
  - The abstract sets the mood and level of interest for the editor and reviewers
  - It is the metaphorical front door to your paper



## Exit

- Try to write with at least one other person
  - Show your work to critical friends who are willing to comment on drafts
  - Think about a writing retreat to give yourself some unbroken working time
  
- Come to regard reviewers as uninitiated co-authors (Driessen)
  
- Send corrections back within a week (Driessen)
  - Shows editor that you are serious
  - Your paper is still fresh in the mind of the editor
  
- Tabulate responses to reviewer criticisms and suggestions

## A final word

“A word devoid of thought is a dead thing,  
and a thought unembodied in words  
remains a shadow.”

Vygotsky LS in Thought and Language



## Books which might be helpful

Winning the publications game Tim  
Albert 3rd edition 2014

Stylish academic writing Helen  
Sword