CCTS Forum
Scientific Publications Panel Discussion
January 9, 2019
CCTS FORUM

Mastering Peer Review: Insights from the Editors

WEDNESDAY, January 9
4:00–5:30 PM

What does it take to publish your findings in a leading peer-reviewed biomedical journal?

If one of your 2019 resolutions is to see your research make it into publication, do not miss this special CCTS Forum. Join a multidisciplinary panel of Editors-in-Chief, we will explore best practices and what aspiring authors need to consider as they prepare articles for peer review. With rejection rates as high as 90% among certain high-impact journals and major changes on the horizon to address data sharing and reproducibility, even well-established science writers will benefit from this discussion.

SPEAKER/MODERATOR

CCTS Director of Genomic Medicine Bruce R. Kor, MD, PhD, UAB Chief Genomic Officer, and Editor-in-Chief, American Journal of Human Genetics

PANEL PARTICIPANTS

Kirby I. Bland, MD, Chair Emeritus, UAB Department of Surgery, and Editor-in-Chief, American Journal of Surgery

Daphne S. Cain, PhD, Associate Dean for Administrative Services and Professor, University of Alabama School of Social Work, and Editor-in-Chief, Best Practices in Mental Health

John D. England, MD, Chair, Dept. of Neurology, LSU Health School of Medicine, and Editor-in-Chief, Journal of the Neurological Sciences

Sadis Metlan, PhD, Vice Chair and Director, UAB Division of Molecular and Translational Biomedicine, and Editor-in-Chief, Physiological Reviews

Jean-Francois Pittet, MD, Director, UAB Organ Injury and Trauma Research, and Editor-in-Chief, Anesthesia and Analgesia

Alice E. Smith, PhD, PE, Joe W. Forehand/Accenture Distinguished Professor, Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, Auburn University, and Editor-in-Chief, INFORMS Journal on Computing

CCTS
Center for Clinical and Translational Science

Sharpening Your Science, Improving Human Health, Addressing Disparities in the Deep South

Pittman Center for Advanced Medical Studies (PCAMS)
1924 7th Avenue South

hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served
AJHG Society Journal Model

- Access for Society members
- Society members pay nothing to publish
- Subscription access to institutions
- All articles are open six months after publication
- Author option to pay for open access at publication
- Editorial office
  - Editor
  - Deputy Editor
  - Scientific Editor
  - Editorial Assistant
- Board of Associate Editors
- Published by Cell Press
- ASHG benefits from revenues but does not determine editorial content
Types of Journals

• Society (AJHG)
• For profit (Nature Genetics, Neuron, Cell)
• Academic press (HMG, Genome Research)
• Open access (PLoS Genetics)
What are the editors looking for?

• A paper that tells a story
• That is within the scope of the journal
• That is supported by the data presented
• That is succinct and well written
• That is without overblown conclusions
Impact Factor

Calculating the Impact Factor

No of article citations in 2014
(to articles published in 2012+2013)
Number of articles published in 2012+2013

= IF of 2014

Journal received 1500 citations in 2014
(to 350 articles published in 2012 +
400 articles published in 2013)

= IF is 2 (2014)

350 articles published in 2012 +
400 articles published in 2013
in total 750 articles published during 2012+2013

Preprint Servers
Choice of Journal

- Scope
- Impact factor
- Pre-submission inquiry
- Preprint servers
- Open Access
- Cascade Journals

Submission

Instructions for authors
Authorship
Reject without review
Review

Revision

Acceptance
Reasons for Reject without Review

• Out of scope
• Poorly written
• Insufficient evidence
Tips for Reviewers

• Respond to request promptly (even if the answer is no)
• If you can’t do it, suggest someone else
• Don’t comment on acceptance or rejection in comments to authors
• Be sure that your comments to editor are consistent with comments to author
• Don’t rehash the paper in the review
• Don’t rewrite the paper for the author
• Be specific in your comments and be sure they are consistent with your recommendations
Choice of Journal

- Scope
- Impact factor
- Presubmission inquiry
- Preprint servers
- Open Access
- Cascade Journals

Submission

- Instructions for authors
- Authorship
- Reject without review
- Review

Revision

- Addressing reviewer’s comments
- Dealing with rejection

Acceptance
After Review

• Politely address reviewers’ suggestions
• You don’t have to agree with all suggestions, but explain your thinking
• Split reviews
• Challenging a decision