Let’s Publish!!
Advancing Your Abstract to a Manuscript

APIC Research Committee

Nothing to Disclose
Objectives

• When we’re finished here, you’ll...
  – Be able to describe the requirements for a manuscript to be published in a peer-reviewed journal
  – Have constructed an outline that can be followed to submit your current abstract for publication
  – Have identified potential mentors and other resources to consult with throughout the manuscript writing process
Pep Talk

• Deep breath...The hardest part is already finished!

• Remember college – this is fun!

• Find the right support
American Journal of Infection Control (AJIC)

Tim Landers, CNP, PhD
AJIC Editorial Board 2014
Vice Chair, APIC Research Committee
AJIC

• Official scientific publication of APIC
• Professional, peer-reviewed
• 5 article types
  – Major Articles
  – Brief Reports
  – Commentary
  – Correspondence
  – Practice Forum
AJIC

• Major Articles
  – Results of original research
  – 12 double-spaced, typed pages
  – 4 illustrations
  – 3 tables
  – 15 references
  – Structured abstract of 150-200 words
    • Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions
AJIC

• Brief Reports
  – 1000 words or less
  – 2 illustrations or tables
  – Maximum 10 references
  – Summary abstract (non-structured) of 50-75 words
AJIC

• Commentary
  – Opinions, philosophy, or comments related to IP practice
  – Sent to Editor for review
  – Brief
  – Referenced as appropriate
AJIC

• Correspondence (Letters to the Editor)
  – Letters pertaining to articles published in AJIC
  – Sent to Editor
  – Subject to review and/or responses by authors of referenced article
AJIC

• Practice Forum
  – Reports of IP practices and related applications of epidemiology
  – 2-5 double-spaced, typed pages
  – Referenced as appropriate
  – Summary abstract (non-structured) of 50-75 words
Preparation of Manuscripts

- 9th edition of AMA’s Manual of Style
- Standard abbreviations used consistently
- Abbreviations spelled out first time
- Generic drug names (proprietary names may be inserted in parentheses)
- Equipment identified by proprietary name must have the manufacturer name and city/state
- Weights and measures in metric units; Temperatures in degrees centigrade
Preparation of Manuscripts

• Title page
  – Title; names/degrees of authors; department/institution; corresponding author name, address, phone number, email

• Manuscript pages
  – Title page without author identifiers; abstract; double-spaced, 1-inch margins, basic font, references

• References
  – Number in order of their mention in text
Preparation of Manuscripts

• Institutional Review Board (IRB)
  – State in Methods section the procedure used to ensure ethical conduct of research

• Copyrighted Material
  – Must be accompanied by written permission for their use from the owner

• Conflicts of Interest and Financial Disclosure
  – Not released to reviewers

• Prior Publication
  – Including under consideration by another journal
Questions?
Authorship and Ethics of Submission

Ida Androwich, PhD, RN, FAAN
Member, APIC Research Committee
Authorship

• Gift authorship
• Redundant publication
Ethics

• Plagiarism
• Fabrication
• Falsification
• Conflict of interest
Questions?
Developing an Outline

Kate Gase, MPH, CIC
Chair, APIC Research Committee
Developing an Outline

• Why bother?
  – Time saver
  – Get to the point and stay on track
  – Organize thoughts and flow

• Work from your abstract
  – Background
  – Methods
  – Results
  – Discussion
Developing an Outline

• Working title
  – Work in progress and is subject to change

• Background
  – Why is this important?
  – What does the current research say?
  – What hasn’t been answered?
    • Objective of your research
Enough Lecturing

Take 10 minutes to complete page 1 of outline handout
Discuss with table and mentors
Developing an Outline

• Methods
  – Recreate what you did
    • Reader should be able to replicate
  – Be sure to list any concurrent projects
    • These will be discussed as potential confounders
Enough Lecturing

Take 10 minutes to complete page 2 of outline handout
Discuss with table and mentors
Developing an Outline

• Results
  – Report significant and non-significant findings
  – Report positive and negative findings
  – Be clear and concise – use tables, charts, graphs, figures when possible for clarity
Developing an Outline

• Discussion
  – Highlight key findings
  – Interpret results
    • Tie back to the literature when possible
  – Implication of findings
  – Limitations (very important)
    • Identify and explain why they couldn’t be avoided
    • Transparency = Trust
Enough Lecturing

Take 10 minutes to complete page 3 of outline handout
Discuss with table and mentors
Common Themes?

Wisdom from around the room
What’s Next?

Other things you’ll need to know to be successful
Choosing a Mentor

• Mentoring is a process of accompaniment. It is a way of helping another person to become familiar with and to succeed in a particular environment.

• It involves a willingness to share experiences – both successes and failures – on a basis of trust and mutual respect.
1\textsuperscript{st} Author Responsibilities

- Include all relevant contributors
- Coordinate writing
  - Break up by section?
  - One author then out for edits?
- Set reasonable deadlines
- Project manager
Performing a Literature Search

Comprehensive without slowing the project down
Systematic Literature Search

• Search methods should include:
  • Languages other than English
  • Gray literature
    • Conference proceedings
    • Dissertations & theses
    • Clinical trials registries
  • Hand-searching of journals
  • Reference lists of relevant studies
Eliminating Bias in Study selection

• Do Not:
  – set arbitrary limits (date, language)
  – only pick studies that agree with your opinion
  – limit to studies published in top tier journals
  – limit search to publications that are easy to access or full text available online

• Do:
  – Match study design to question
    • must be appropriate study design to match study question.
    • RCTs are great, but not the only study design
Google and Google Scholar

• Useful for:
  – “free association” searches to identify more specific terminology for future searches
  – exploring an unfamiliar topic
  – searching for gray literature
  – finding references that cite a highly relevant study
PubMed / MEDLINE

- Bibliographic database covering a wide range of biomedical literature
- 10,000-20,000 completed references are added each week
- Indexes 3500+ medical journals, 1200 are full text
MeSH Terms

• MeSH = Medical Subject Headings
• Used for indexing journal articles for MEDLINE
• Similar to key words
• Standardized vocabulary
  – Imposes uniformity and consistency to indexing biomedical literature
  – Hierarchical structure
Further Exploring PubMed

Useful Quick Tours

• Simple Subject Search
• Searching with MeSH
• Combining MeSH Terms
• Saving Searches and Creating E-mail Alerts
Cochrane Collaboration

- Database of existing systematic reviews
- Covers broad range of disciplines
- Limited to therapy and prevention
CINAHL

• Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature
• Bibliographic database that primarily focuses on the nursing and allied health literature
• Updated monthly
EMBASE

- Tracking drug adverse events
- Comparing drug therapies for disease
- Evidence Based Medicine research
- Indexes over 7,000 active journals, including 1800 not indexed by Medline
Reference Manager

• Software used to record citations
• Can usually be integrated with word processors
• Will create reference list in appropriate format
• Reference list created as you write
• Most enable users to search online libraries
Common Mistakes

Breaking down each section further
Background

• Purpose
  – Provide all the information a reader needs to understand the rest of the paper

• Common Mistakes
  – Too much/not enough information
  – Unclear what the study is
  – Confusing structure
  – 1st person anecdotes
Methods

• Purpose
  – Provide enough detail for reader to be able to reconstruct your work

• Common Mistakes
  – Not enough information
  – Background, results, or discussion included
  – Verbose descriptions
Results

• Purpose
  – Present the key findings without interpreting their meaning

• Common Mistakes
  – Raw data presented
  – Redundancy
  – Methods or discussion included
  – No figures/tables
Figures & Tables

• Common Mistakes
  – Inappropriate format
  – Redundant information
  – Ugly
  – No labels/captions
Discussion

• Purpose
  – Interpret the results and tie everything together

• Common Mistakes
  – New results
  – Broad statements
  – “Inconclusive”
  – Ambiguous
  – Missing information
References

• Common Mistakes
  – Nepotism
  – Too many non-peer reviewed works
  – Formatting
  – Not enough
Enough Lecturing

Take 20 minutes to go through manuscript writing checklist
Discuss with table and mentors
Wrapping things up

Good luck to you!
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