

Scientific
Publications

Webinar:

Choosing a Journal

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MDAnderson
Cancer Center

Making Cancer History®

Many journals to choose from!



What we will cover

- Identifying potential journals
- Selecting a journal
- Avoiding disreputable (“predatory”) journals

Identifying potential journals

- Journals that you read
- Journals where you publish
- Journals that published articles cited in your manuscript
- Recommendations from colleagues

Expanding your list of journals

- Use JANE (<http://jane.biosemantics.org/>)
- Search PubMed using key words
- Use a publisher's journal finder

Selecting a journal

- Skim articles in the journal
- Read the instructions to authors
- Start early if possible



Factors to consider

- Reputation
- Audience
- Types of articles published

Factors to consider

- Impact factor
- Proportion of manuscripts accepted
- Speed of peer review
- Speed of publication

Factors to consider

- Publishing model: subscription-based or open access?
- Ease of use of manuscript submission system
- Ease of working with editorial office
- Terms of publishing agreement

Ensuring a good fit

- Submit a presubmission inquiry
- Ask your colleagues



Disreputable (“predatory”) open-access journals



Common deceptive practices

- Fail to mention publication fees
- Falsely claim rigorous peer review



Common deceptive practices

- Adopt names that are very close to the names of legitimate journals
- Falsely claim indexing in PubMed
- List editors or editorial board members who have not agreed to serve



Why publish in reputable journals?

- Because NIH wants you to!
- Preserve your reputation
- Ensure that your work is noticed
- Ensure that your publications remain accessible

Avoiding disreputable journals

“Simply put, publish where you cite.”

*–Dr. Michael Lauer,
NIH Deputy Director for
Extramural Research*

Avoiding disreputable journals

“If you are not familiar with a particular journal, then consider speaking with your local academic librarian as well as consulting resources from the publishing community (e.g., Think Check Submit) and the federal government (e.g., Federal Trade Commission).”

–Dr. Michael Lauer

FTC recommendations

- What does your librarian have to say?
- Are there any publication fees?
- What is the journal's publishing process?

Think Check Submit questions

- Do you or your colleagues know the journal?
- Can you easily identify and contact the publisher?
- Is the journal clear about the type of peer review it uses?
- Are articles indexed in services that you use?

Think Check Submit questions

- Is it clear what fees will be charged?
- Do you recognize the editorial board?
- Is the publisher a member of a recognized industry initiative?
 - Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)
 - Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

Telling the difference

Shamseer et al. *BMC Medicine* (2017) 15:28
DOI 10.1186/s12916-017-0785-9


BMC Medicine

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access



Potential predatory and legitimate biomedical journals: can you tell the difference? A cross-sectional comparison

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Group 1: Possibly disreputable open-access journals

Group 2: Open-access journals in PubMed Central

Group 3: Traditional subscription-based journals

Other red flags

- Website has spelling and grammar errors
- Manuscript submission is by email
- Rapid publication is promised
- Publication charge is very low (e.g., <\$150 USD)
- Contact email has domain not related to journal (e.g., @gmail.com, @yahoo.com)

Source: Shamseer L, et al. BMC Med 15:28, 2017.

Scientific Publications

- <http://inside.mdanderson.org/departments/scipub/index.html>
- Tel: 713-792-3305
- Email:
scientificpublications@mdanderson.org
- Location: Mid-Campus Building, 16th floor

Resources for authors

JANE: Journal/Author Name Estimator. <http://jane.biosemantics.org/>

Elsevier Journal Finder. <http://journalfinder.elsevier.com/>

SpringerNature journal suggester. <https://journalsuggester.springer.com/>

Wiley journal finder. <https://authorservices.wiley.com/author-resources/Journal-Authors/find-a-journal/index.html>

Resources for authors, continued

Think. Check. Submit. <http://thinkchecksubmit.org/check/>

Instructions to Authors in the Health Sciences.

<http://mulford.utoledo.edu/instr/> [comprehensive, frequently updated list of links to author instructions for journals in the health and life sciences]

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