

**ONE MANUSCRIPT – TWO PERSPECTIVES  
ENHANCING THE ACCEPTANCE OF YOUR  
PAPERS  
AUTHOR CONSIDERATION**

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**YOUNG ISHAM WORKSHOP  
ISHAM CONGRESS  
BERLIN, 2012**



# ENHANCING THE ACCEPTANCE OF YOUR PAPERS AUTHOR CONSIDERATION

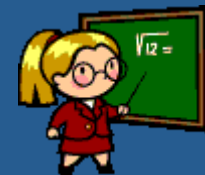
Personal Perspective



Selective Presentation



Not A Lecture But A Workshop – Ask Questions



# PROBLEMS WITH ENGLISH AND EDITING



In a recent submission to *Medical Mycology* we find the following:

We report here a case of fungal keratitis caused by *Aspergillus viridinutans* that presented with clinical and antifungal susceptibility patterns distinct from those of resembling species, *A. fumigatus*. A 26-year-old woman presented with contact lens-associated keratitis with slow progression of corneal infiltrates. She was diagnosed as fungal keratitis but was found to be resistant to amphotericin B and voriconazole.



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In a recent submission to Medical Mycology we find the following:

a case of fungal keratitis -- clinical and antifungal susceptibility patterns distinct from those of resembling species, *A. fumigatus*.

While a case may have distinct clinical features, a case doesn't have antifungal patterns and a case is not distinct from a fungus

A 26-year-old woman presented with contact lens-associated keratitis with slow progression of corneal infiltrates. She was diagnosed as fungal keratitis but was found to be resistant to amphotericin B and voriconazole.

The patient was the corneal infiltrate, was the fungal keratitis, and was resistant to the antifungals

# **AUTHOR CONSIDERATIONS – JOURNAL SELECTION**

**What is your audience?**

**Review the scope of the journals**

- **Does the presence of mediastinal adenopathy confer a risk for disseminated infection in immunocompetent persons with pulmonary coccidioidomycosis?**
- **The high dose of methylprednisolone decreasing the incidence of infusion-related reaction in patients with acute leukemia treated with amphotericin B colloidal dispersion**

**Journal circulation – Is larger better?**

# AUTHOR CONSIDERATIONS – JOURNAL SELECTION

## Duration of editorial processing

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- Time from first decision to acceptance

Received 4 May 2011; Received in final revised form 4 July 2011;  
Accepted 31 July 2011

## Open access or not\*

- Granting agency requirements - Funding for author fees
- Gold or green
  - Gold – Full, immediate open access by publisher on multiple sites
  - Green – Open access, but on author's institution's site
- Could restrict choice of journals and ability to publish
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## On-line or print

- On-line faster than print
- But print more accessible worldwide
- Combine the two

\*<http://the-scientist.com/2012/02/07/occupy-elsevier> or [www.guardian.co.uk/science/2012/apr/09/wellcome-trust-academic-spring](http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2012/apr/09/wellcome-trust-academic-spring)

# **AUTHOR CONSIDERATIONS – JOURNAL SELECTION**

## **IMPACT OF IMPACT FACTOR GENERAL SUMMARY**

- **IMPACT FACTOR IS ONLY A POINT-METRIC ATTEMPTING TO CONVEY COMPLEX DESCRIPTIONS**
- **IMPACT FACTOR AND OTHER METRICS CAN NOT CONVEY THE UTILITY OF JOURNALS TO THEIR COMMUNITIES**
- **A SIMPLE, ONE-SIZE-FITS ALL METRIC IS UNLIKELY TO BE DEVELOPED AND IMPACT FACTOR AS A SOLE METRIC DOES NOT APPROPRIATELY MEASURE IMPORTANCE OR QUALITY**
- **BUT IT HAS BECOME AN INDICATOR OF THE IMPORTANCE AND QUALITY OF JOURNALS AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, IS USED IN THE MYSTERIOUS PROCESS OF PROMOTION AND TENURE**

Source = EON 1(6):2-5, 2008

# SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPT TO HIGH IF JOURNALS

## FINAL DISPOSITION

### Manuscripts Submitted to the EMBO Journal (2007)

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Total submitted                             | 3,184       |
| Total accepted                              | 325 (10%)   |
| Total rejected                              | 2,849 (90%) |
| Total rejected found in PubMed (2009)       | 2,403 (84%) |
| Total rejected apparently unpublished(2009) | 446 (16%)   |



### Manuscripts Rejected by EMBO, but Published

|                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| High IF journals       | 01.2% |
| Comparable IF journals | 10 %  |
| Lower IF journals      | 73 %  |
| Not published          | 16 %  |



Submit to a high IF journal but be prepared for the consequences - **REJECTION**  
But eventually you work will be published, albeit in a lower IF journal

It's a gamble with the odds stacked against you

European Molecular Biology Organization – A Nature Publication



# AUTHOR CONSIDERATION - INSTRUCTIONS

Three simple rules in preparing your manuscript:

1. **Read the Instructions for Authors**  
Failure may result in rejections



2. **Read the Instructions for Authors**  
Failure may result in return of manuscript



3. **Read the Instructions for Authors**  
Failure may negatively impact reviews





**Thomas Hunt Morgan (1866-1945) – Evolutionary biologist, geneticist, and embryologist who won the Nobel prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1933 for discoveries relating the role the chromosome plays in heredity.**

# AUTHOR CONSIDERATIONS- AUTHORSHIP

**Most widely adopted definition of authorship**



**In accord with the Committee on Publication Ethics guidelines, authors have; (a) made a substantial contribution to the conception and design, acquisition of data, and/or analysis and interpretation of data, (b) participated in the drafting of the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content, **AND** (c) have read and approved the final manuscript**

**Instructions for Authors – Medical Mycology – March, 2012**

# **AUTHOR CONSIDERATIONS- AUTHORSHIP**

## **Author seniority or order**

**Position may be important for promotion or tenure**

**Position may be important for inclusion in indices**

## **Corresponding author**

**The individual with resources to communicate with journal and co-authors**

## **Alterations of order or authors**

**May not be possible after submission and/or acceptance – journal dependent**

# AUTHOR CONSIDERATIONS- AUTHORSHIP

Authors should not be (the big three G's) –

- **Guest authors** are those who do not meet accepted authorship criteria but are listed because of their seniority, reputation or supposed influence

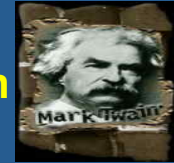
- **Gift authors** are those who do not meet accepted authorship criteria but are listed as a personal favor or in return for payment 

- **Ghost authors** are those who meet authorship criteria but are not listed



# AUTHOR CONSIDERATIONS – MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION - GENERAL

- Statistics – “Three type of lies – lies, damn lies and then there is statistics”\*



- Authors must establish specific termination dates for their data collection describe them in their work.
- Authors must describe all variables collected during the course of their investigations.
- Authors must describe all experimental conditions, materials, and methods, even those that were discontinued during the investigations.
- Eliminate or define “jargon” – because you understand the term or phrase doesn’t mean that the reader will too
- Please do not use the terms isolate and strain interchangeably. There can be many isolates of the same strain, but strains are by definition different from one another. Furthermore, don’t use strain when you mean species.
- Cultures don’t grow fungi, fungi grow in (broth) or on (agar) cultures
- Define all abbreviations when first used

# AUTHOR CONSIDERATION-MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

## Abstract

### History

**Objective – Why did you conduct the studies?**

**Materials and Methods – How did you conduct the studies?**

**Results – What did you find?**

**Discussion – So this is important because???**

**All in 200 to 250 words or less**

## Introduction



**History – Restricted literature review – multiple sources – complete review for the Discussion**

**Objective – What is novel and/or significant in your studies– Good to repeat in Abstract and Discussion**

# **AUTHOR CONSIDERATION-MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION**

## **Materials and Methods**

**Sufficient information to repeat and/or evaluate results and discussion**

**Informed consent, animal rights, biosafety practices**

A pillar of our scientific system is that “true” findings will be validated when other labs repeat experiments, and thus, there is almost a sacred obligation to clearly explain our technical details in the Methods or Procedures sections of our papers. Without a doubt, there has been a steady erosion of this process, making it difficult, if not impossible to recapitulate the findings of others.

Irwin H. Gelman | May 3, 2012 | The Scientist

## **Results/Discussion**

**Tables— Method to summarize data, reduce text, stand alone**

**Figures – One illustration is really more valuable than any text description**

**History – literature review – multiple sources**



## **AUTHOR CONSIDERATIONS – MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION**

**PHASE: "Agreement with the predicted curve is excellent."**

**DEFINITION: Fair.**

**PHRASE: "...good."**

**DEFINITION: Poor.**

**PHRASE: "...satisfactory."**

**DEFINITION: Doubtful.**

**PHRASE: "...fair."**

**DEFINITION: Imaginary.**

[HTTP://WWW.REACTIVEREPORTS.COM/HUMOR/1.HTML](http://www.reactivereports.com/humor/1.html)

# AUTHOR CONSIDERATIONS – MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

Let's eat grandma!



Let's eat, grandma!

**PUNCTUATION  
SAVES LIVES!**

## AUTHOR CONSIDERATIONS–MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

Despite the rarity of these infections, they appear to be highly virulent when they do occur, often affecting patients without discernible immune deficiencies or other predisposing conditions, and often highly fatal despite appropriate antifungal therapy and surgical excision.



First, what does the rarity of the infections have to do with the fact that they are highly virulent? In addition, does the author mean that the infection has a rapid or acute course (virulent) OR that the agent is highly infectious (virulent). Furthermore, a disease is either fatal or it is not, but it cannot be highly fatal.

A great example of the use of jargon is the following:



“The 484 patients in this pooled-analysis were participants, randomized to vehicle, in five previous 3-way, randomized, parallel group, double-blind, vehicle-controlled clinical bioequivalence trials involving the use of test and reference anti-fungal agents against tinea pedis infection”.

## **AUTHOR CONSIDERATIONS–MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION**

**This case involves a middle-aged female GSD infected with a previously unreported fungus, *Oxyporus corticola***

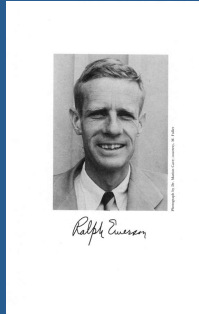
**If the fungus has a binomial it has obviously been previously reported and described in the literature. What is meant is that the fungus had not been previously reported as a pathogen**

**Our previous study ..... which was performed simultaneously with this study**

**How can a previous study be performed at the same time as a current study?**

# **AUTHOR CONSIDERATIONS – GENERAL**

## **When Quality Was As Equally Important As Quantity**



**Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences**

**Member of the National Academy of Sciences**

**Guggenheim Fellow (Twice)**

**Twenty-five doctoral candidates and post-docs**



**Total of 30 published papers, only 10 as senior or sole author**

# RESOURCES

The Committee on Publication Ethics has made available the following resources, as of March, 2012, at [publicationethics.org](http://publicationethics.org):

**International standards – Introduction**

**International standards for Editors**

**International standards for Authors**

**EON-Editorial Office News – International Society for Managing and Technical Editors – Dec.2009/Jan.2010 – available at [www.ismte.org](http://www.ismte.org)**

**You as a resource – become a member of Medical Mycology's editorial board to serve as one of the journal's reviewers**

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE RESOURCES

American Journal Experts - [www.JournalExperts.com](http://www.JournalExperts.com) -USA

Bioedit Ltd. - [www.bioedit.co.uk](http://www.bioedit.co.uk) - UK

Cambridge Language Consultants - [www.camlang.com](http://www.camlang.com) -UK

Genedits - [www.genedits.com](http://www.genedits.com) - UK

Edanz Editing <http://www.edanzediting.com> - Japan

Liwen Bianji (Edanz Editing, China) - <http://www.liwenbianji.cn> -  
China

ScienceDocs, Inc. - [www.sciencedocs.com](http://www.sciencedocs.com) -USA .

Science Manager - [www.sciencemanager.com](http://www.sciencemanager.com) - Australia

SciTechEdit International - [www.scitechedit.com](http://www.scitechedit.com) - USA

Write Science Right - [www.writescienceright.com](http://www.writescienceright.com) -USA



**Trust you weren't too bored during these discussions**



# THANK YOU





20fox-fanfare.mp3





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