Publishing Your Research: Raising Your Chances of Acceptance

The Japanese Association for Thoracic Surgery

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17 October 2012
Today’s presentation ...

- **Section One**: Good experimental design
- **Section Two**: Structuring your manuscript
- **Section Three**: Journal selection
- **Section Four**: Cover letters and response letters
Section One

- Good experimental design
  - Clinical trials
  - Case studies

- Experimental ethics
- Publication ethics
Before you start...

Experimental design

- Critical
  - What is your hypothesis or research question?  
    - The aim(s) of your study
  - What methods are appropriate?
    - Do you have the relevant resources?
  - Identify your controls
Before you start...

### Experimental design

- Sample sizes (n) large enough?
- Which statistical test(s)?

**When in doubt – talk to a statistician!**

- Does your study comply with *all* ethics requirements?
Before you start...

Clinical trial design

- **Trial type**
  - Randomized controlled trial? Observational? Single/double-blind?

- **Controls**
  - Active comparator? Placebo-controlled?

- **Well-outlined protocol**

**Only studies with approved protocols are likely to be accepted for publication**
Before you start...

Clinical trial registration

REQUIRED if:
- The interventions/treatments are ASSIGNED by the investigator

Pre-clinical  Phase I  Phase II  Phase III  Phase IV Post-marketing

必要な試験登録を行ったか確認する
Before you start...

Clinical trial registration

NOT REQUIRED FOR:

- Observational studies: interventions/treatments NOT assigned by the investigator
- Studies on pharmacokinetics and major unknown toxicity (e.g., Phase I studies)

Retrospective registration is sometimes possible
Before you start...

Case study design

What is publishable?

- New or emerging disease
- Unusual presentation of disease
- New treatment or diagnosis
- New or unusual adverse effect of treatment
Publication ethics

- Multiple submissions
- Plagiarism
- Improper author contribution
- Data fabrication or falsification
- Conflicts of interest
Before you start...

Consequences of unethical behavior

- Unable to publish in the future
- Journals ban
- Loss of business
- Loss of employment
Section Two

- Manuscript structure
- Readability
- Using display items
- How to write a clinical abstract
- Case reports
Structuring your manuscript

Reporting your research

- You are telling a story

Beginning → Middle → End

- Must be easy to read and easy to understand

読者にとって理解しやすく書く

edanz
“only 4% of readers understand a 27-word sentence the first time”

- Consider the reader
  - Only need to read once
  - Do not have to read slowly
  - Can understand author logic immediately
Structuring your manuscript

Structure of ideas

- Clear organization
- Helps you AND the reader

Start with a broad background

Logical flow of ideas

Specific
Cancers are clonal cell lineages that arise due to somatic changes that promote cell proliferation and survival. Although natural selection operating on cancers favors the outgrowth of malignant clones with replicative immortality, the continued survival of a cancer is generally restricted by the life span of its host.

Tasmanian devil facial tumor disease (DFTD) is an unusual cancer that has survived beyond the death of the individual that spawned it by acquiring adaptations for transmission between hosts. This cancer has spread through the Tasmanian devil population and is threatening the species with extinction (Hawkins et al., 2006, McCallum et al., 2009).

The genomes of the Tasmanian devil and its transmissible cancer, DFTD, are thus of interest both from the perspective of conservation of a threatened species as well as for the insights they may provide into the origins, somatic evolution and population genetics of an extraordinarily divergent neoplastic clonal lineage.

*Cell 2012; 148: 780-91*
Structuring your manuscript

Structure of ideas

General background information on cancer

Related background to a specific host and a particular cancer of concern for this animal

Narrowed the focus to genomes and how they may influence the evolution of this disease

Cell 2012; 148: 780-91
Therefore, our aims were to study (1) the kind of treatment the patients had received 3 months after hospitalization for self-poisoning and whether this varied according to the intention evaluated, (2) satisfaction with care during the initial hospital stay and the follow-up period, (3) if the patients had engaged in repeated acts of self-harm, (4) how the patients perceived their need for professional help, and (5) their level of depression, hopelessness, and generalized self-efficacy.
Structuring your manuscript

Creating readability

- Use support data or references for context
- Ensure transitions are smooth
  - Logical progression
  - Reference back to last topic
- What do these findings mean?
  - Finish the story
  - Tell readers why this research is important

Beginning → Middle → End
Display items

- Present a large amount of data *quickly* and *efficiently*
- Present the *most significant* result as a figure or table
- Keep it simple — use separate panels if necessary
- Label all parts of your figures
- Legends must be able to ‘stand alone’
Table 1. Percentages of cells that were dead as indicated by propidium iodide staining within a single field-of-view (40,000 μm²) using a 40x objective lens in hippocampal slices treated with a variety of concentrations of okadaic acid. Data are means±SD for 20 fields of view per treatment and region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>CA1</th>
<th>CA2</th>
<th>CA3</th>
<th>DG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 nM OA (medium only)</td>
<td>1.5±0.7</td>
<td>1.7±0.3</td>
<td>1.2±0.9</td>
<td>1.6±0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 nM OA</td>
<td>1.6±0.9</td>
<td>1.6±0.4</td>
<td>1.4±1.1</td>
<td>2.5±0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 nM OA</td>
<td>1.9±1.1</td>
<td>1.9±0.6</td>
<td>2.1±1.2</td>
<td>11.9±2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150 nM OA</td>
<td>1.9±1.3</td>
<td>2.1±0.5</td>
<td>2.5±1.5</td>
<td>19.6±3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 nM OA</td>
<td>2.1±1.2</td>
<td>2.1±0.5</td>
<td>3.0±1.2</td>
<td>26.7±4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OA=okadaic acid; CA1–CA3=the CA1–CA3 regions of the hippocampus; DG=the dentate gyrus of the hippocampus.
Structuring your manuscript

Figures

A. Tumor volume cm³ over time after intratumoral injection of PBS (n=21), VSV-WT (n=20), and srVSV (n=20) in NOD-SCID mice. Tumor volume was calculated using linear regression analysis. 

B. Representative microscopic images of tumor sections stained with TUNEL and Hoechst. Scale bars: 400 μm.

C. Kaplan-Meier survival analysis of PBS (n=11), VSV-WT (n=10), and srVSV (n=10) treated groups. 

Legend:
- PBS (n=21)
- VSV-WT (n=20)
- srVSV (n=20)

Clear, ‘stand alone’ legend

Axes labeled

Scale bars
Structuring your manuscript

Writing clinical abstracts

➢ Short and concise, but can vary with journal

- **Background**
  - Why was this trial conducted or why does this case need to be reported?

- **Patient information**
  - Age, gender, ethnicity, enrollment procedure/eligibility criteria

- **Interventions/Treatment**
  - Treatment given, patient management, follow-up

- **Observations**
  - Treatment outcomes, adverse events

- **Conclusion**
  - Clinical impact, learning points
Case reports: Essential elements

- **Tell a story!** Timeline of events...
- Short, 500-1500 words
- Write simple and concisely
  - Be careful with using “he” and “she”, be specific when referring to patient’s family members or other patients
- Needs to have educational value in addition to novelty

**Learning points**

- Consider vasculitis as a cause of peripheral artery aneurysm.
- Complications of vasculitis induced aneurysms are the same as more common traumatic and atherosclerotic aneurysms.
- Surgical treatment of the aneurysm is required.

Kukreja et al. BMJ Case Reports 2011.
Case reports: The patient’s story

1. Introduce the patient
   - Age, gender, ethnicity
   - Why did they come to see you?
   - Previous diagnoses
   - Family history

2. Diagnostic tests
   - Types of tests performed
   - Factual description of results

3. Summary of report
   - Explain and interpret your findings
   - Express your opinions and hypotheses

4. Context of relevant cases
   - Other cases about the same disease
   - Presentation seen in other diseases

5. Other side effects for same treatment
   - Side effects seen in other treatments
Although the incidence of kidney injury among patients receiving VEGF inhibitors is not known, our data suggests that it may be prudent to monitor patients receiving VEGF inhibitors closely for possible kidney injury. The optimal way to monitor such patients is not known...

Section Three

- Journal selection
- Evaluating the significance of your manuscript
Journal selection must be based on an honest evaluation of your manuscript.

- Novelty
- Significance
- Aims and Scope
- Impact Factor
The target journal should be chosen:
- After the results to be published have been obtained (with no new ones coming)
- After a decision has been made on how high to aim—high, medium or low impact
- Before writing the Title, Abstract, Introduction or Discussion sections
Journal Selection

Factors to consider

- Aims and scope
- Publishing frequency
- Impact factor
- Target audience
- Indexing status
- Open access or subscription
- Prestige
- Cost
- Publication type

Which factor is most important to you?
Journal Selector – A free tool from Edanz

Author’s abstract, short description, key phrases, or abstract from similar paper

Journal Selector βeta
Simplifying publication success

We derive the equations of the multiplicative decomposition in the context of finite strain plasticity with elastic isotropy and arbitrary (isotropic and anisotropic) flow rules. We include multiple surface yield criteria and mixed control of stress components, a requirement for special stress states such as plane stress or

Match only to journals with:
- an Impact Factor
- Open Access options

Find matching journals

a free tool from edanz - english editing for scientists

edanzediting.co.jp/journal_selector
Journal Selector—A free tool from Edanz

Recommended journals

Revise text to refine results

Impact Factor

Publication frequency and model

Example of recommended journals:
- Computational Mechanics: Impact Factor 1.83, Monthly, Hybrid
- Physical Review E: Impact Factor 2.35, Bimonthly
- Applied Mathematics and Mechanics: Impact Factor 0.51, Monthly
- Acta Mechanica: Impact Factor 1.02, Monthly, Hybrid
- J. Chemical Physics: Impact Factor 2.92, Weekly
- Numerische Mathematik: Impact Factor 1.38, Bimonthly, Hybrid
- Applied Optics: Impact Factor 1.7, Biweekly
- Experimental Mechanics: Impact Factor 1.85, Quarterly, Hybrid
- Acta Mechanica Sinica: Impact Factor 0.74, Bimonthly
- J. Optimization Th. and Applications: Impact Factor 1.01, Monthly, Hybrid

Your abstract:

Advanced Matching:
- Impact Factor: 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 3, 7, 10+
- Frequency: Any
- Publishing model: Any, Open Access, Hybrid
- Any Publishing Model

a free tool from edanz - english editing for scientists
Journal Selection

Journal Selector—A free tool from Edanz

- Match analysis
- Similar published articles
Evaluating significance: Novelty

How new are my results compared with those already published?

- **New findings**
  - Incremental advances
    - Low to medium impact
  - Conceptual advances
    - Medium to high impact
Evaluating significance: Relevance

Are your findings specific to a geographical region or ethnic population?

Regional significance?

Global significance?
Evaluating significance: Appeal

- Is my work in an area of ‘popular appeal’

- Examples:
  - Emerging diseases
  - Stem cells
  - Tissue engineering
  - Higgs boson
  - Global warming
  - Artificial intelligence
Section Four

- Clear communication
  - Cover letters
  - Response letters
Dear Editor-in-Chief,

I am sending you our manuscript entitled “Techniques to detect circoviruses in Japanese bird species” by Raye et al. We would like to have the manuscript considered for publication in Virology Methods Online.

Please let me know of your decision at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Warren Raye, PhD
Your cover letter

- Address to the editor personally
- State manuscript title and publication type
- Provide brief background, rationale and description of results
- Explain the importance of your findings and why they would be of interest to the journal’s target audience
- Provide corresponding author details
Dear Dr Graeber,

Please find enclosed our manuscript entitled “Amyloid-like inclusions in the brains of Huntington’s disease patients”, by McGowan et al., which we would like to submit for publication as a Research Paper in Neurogenetics.

Recent immunohistochemical studies have revealed the presence of neuronal inclusions containing an N-terminal portion of the mutant huntingtin protein and ubiquitin in the brain tissues of Huntington’s disease (HD) patients; however, the role of these inclusions in the disease process has remained unclear. One suspected disease-causing mechanism in Huntington’s disease and other polyglutamine disorders is the potential for the mutant protein to undergo a conformational change to a more stable anti-parallel β-sheet structure...

To confirm if the immunohistochemically observed huntingtin- and ubiquitin-containing inclusions display amyloid features, we performed Congo red staining and both polarizing and confocal microscopy on post-mortem human brain tissues obtained from five HD patients, two AD patients, and two normal controls. Congo red staining revealed a small number of amyloid-like inclusions showing green birefringence by polarized microscopy, in a variety of cortical regions.... detected inclusions observed in parallel sections, suggesting that only a relatively small proportion of inclusions in HD adopt an amyloid-like structure.

We believe our findings would appeal to a broad audience, such as the readership of Neurogenetics. As a wide-reaching journal publishing original research on all aspects of neuroscience...

Please address all correspondence to....
Dr. Mark Talamini
Editor-in-Chief  
*Surgical Endoscopy*

16 May 2012

Dear Dr. Talamini,

Re: Resubmission of manuscript reference No. XXXX-XX-XXXX

Please find attached a revised version of our manuscript originally entitled “How can progress from the laparoscope assistance to the totally laparoscopic distal gastrectomy?: Comparison of the intracorporeal anastomosis with a circular stapler and a linear stapler,” which we would like to resubmit for consideration for publication in *Surgical Endoscopy*. The reviewer’s comments were highly insightful and enabled us to greatly improve the quality of our manuscript. In the following pages are our point-by-point responses to each of the comments.

Revisions in the manuscript are shown as underlined text. In accordance with the first comment, the title has been revised and the entire manuscript has undergone substantial English editing. We hope that the revisions in the manuscript and our accompanying responses will be sufficient to make our manuscript suitable for publication in *Surgical Endoscopy*.
写作回复信件

- 礼貌地回应所有审稿人的评论
- 使其易于看到变化
  - 参考行和页码
  - 不同颜色的字体
  - 高亮显示文字

査読者はボランティアゆえ、礼儀正しく接しましょう！
Checklist for acceptance

- Appropriately designed study?
- Compliance with ethics guidelines?
- Novel and interesting results?
- Correct statistical tests?
- Significance of findings explained?
- Appropriate choice of journal?

論文投稿前に、上記の質問すべてに答えましょう。
Thank you!

Any questions?

ご質問はありますか？
edanzediting.co.jp/JATS2012
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