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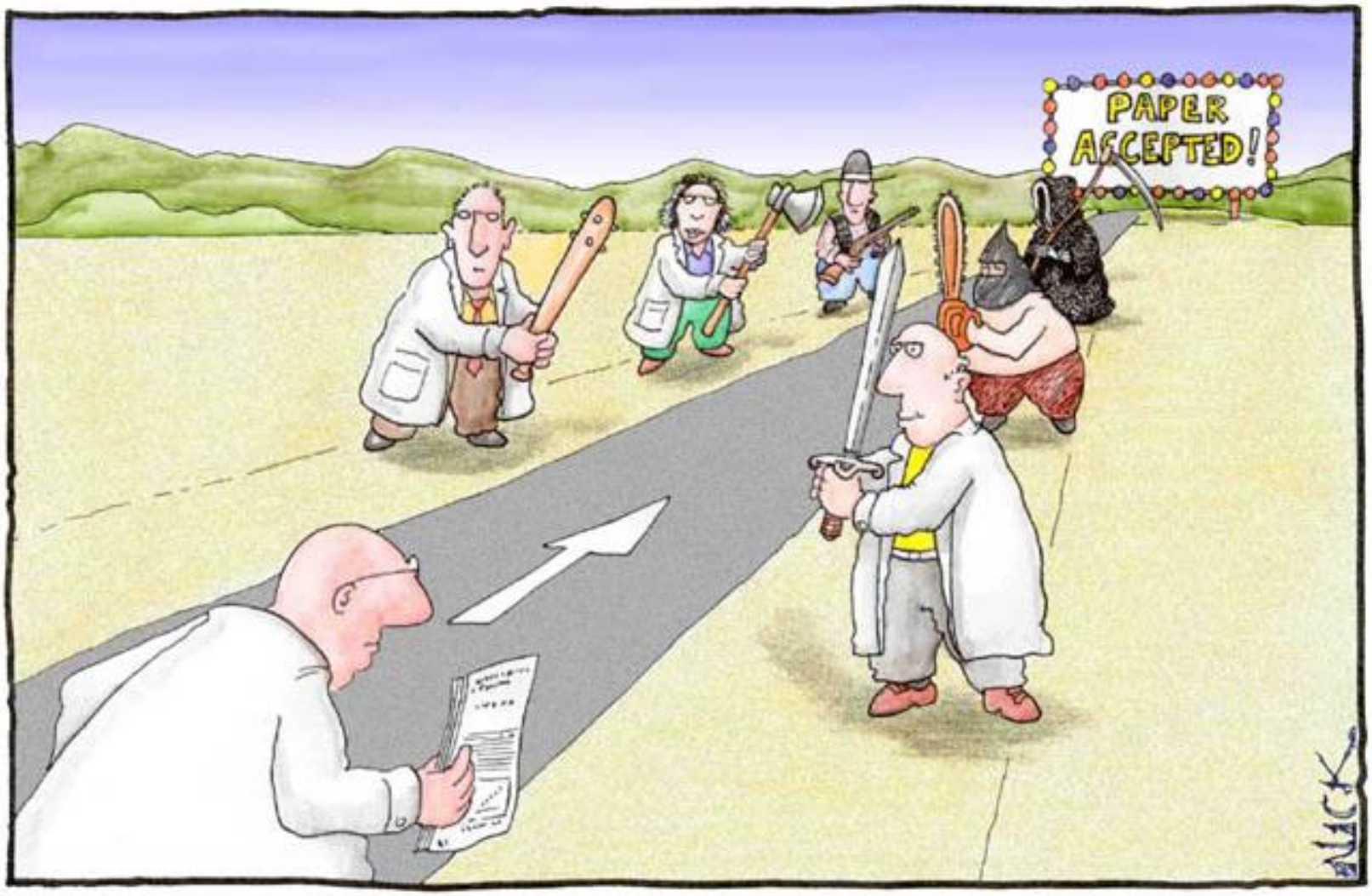
Successful Scholarly Publishing

Christian Schulz

Senior Publisher

Xiamen, 27.5.2018

Why are you here?



AGENDA

- **Preparing and submitting** a manuscript
- **Responsibilities** and **ethics**
- **Peer review**
- **Promoting your research** and **measuring its importance**

Introducing Researcher Academy

A new and free e-learning platform designed to unlock the full potential of early and mid-career researchers

Did you know?

Over 225,000 academics join the research community yearly *

Between 30-50% of papers get rejected before review *

43% of PhD's don't have a job at graduation *

Only 18.3% of grant applications are successful *

To stay ahead of the game, researchers need skills that cut across disciplinary lines and teach them how to succeed.

Discover a wealth of knowledge

Researcher Academy supports researchers throughout their research journey

60+
Modules created by research experts

>100
Videos, downloadable guides & tools

$
Earn certificates & exclusive discounts


Join a global community
Researcher Academy is unlocking the potential of thousands of researchers around the world
140,000+
Registered users
40,000
Monthly unique visitors
190
Countries
60,000
Certificates awarded
Visit researcheracademy.com
* Source: www.researcheracademy.com/infographic/refs

Origins of scholarly publishing

1439

Gutenberg and moveable type

Henry Oldenburg (1618- 1677)

Founding Editor and Commercial Publisher of the first scientific journal

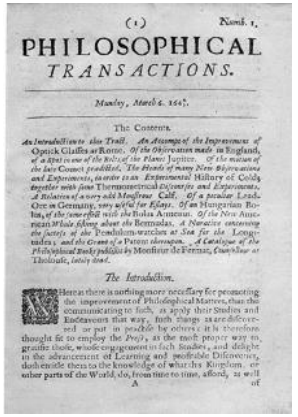
1580

Founding of the House of Elzevir

March 6,1665

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society

First true scholarly journal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PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS.

Monday, March 6. 166$\frac{5}{6}$.

The Contents.

An Introduction to this Tract. An Attempt of the Improvement of Optick Glasses at Rome. Of the Observations made in England, of a Spot in one of the Belts of the Planet Jupiter. Of the motion of the late Comet predicted. The Heards of many New Observations and Experiments, in order to an Experimental History of Cold; together with some Thermometrical Discourses and Experiments. A Relation of a very odd Monstrous Calf. Of a peculiar Load-Ore in Germany, very useful for Essays. Of an Hungarian Boy, of the same with the Bohia Armenus. Of the New Australian Isle lately found about the Bermudas. A Narrative concerning the success of the Pendulum-watches at Sea for the Longitudes; and the Grant of a Patent thereupon. A Catalogue of the Philosophical Books published by Monsieur de Fermat, Counsellour at Thoulouse, lately dead.

The Introduction.

Wherein there is nothing more necessary for promoting the improvement of Philosophical Matters, than the communicating to such, as apply their Studies and Endeavours that way, such things as are discovered or put in practice by others: It is therefore thought fit to employ the Press, as the most proper way to gratifie those, whose engagement in such Studies, and delight in the advancement of Learning and profitable Discoveries, doth entitle them to the knowledge of what this Kingdom, or other parts of the World, do, from time to time, afford, as well

A of

What do publishers do

- Detect & support emerging fields
- Establish, cultivate and maintain journal reputation and quality

Recruitment & retention of Editors and Editorial boards

Plagiarism detection software

Invest in Author Submission & Editorial Systems

Manage over 1 million submissions each year

Invest in reviewer training & tools

Manage the 1.4 million review reports completed per year

Follow up, track and make sure peer review occurs

Copyright registration and protection

Editing & typesetting

DOI registration & tagging for metadata

Establishing links & hosting of supplementary data

Production Tracking System

Electronic Warehouse

Platform upgrades and format migrations (eg. XML)

Integrate and track metrics (COUNTER / alt metrics)

Index & optimize for SEO

eNewsletters and alerts

Manage & respond to legal actions or author attestations

Still print and distribute paper copies

Ensure compliance with privacy, insurance, tax and other legal requirements.

Permanent preservation; Independent archive, CLOCKSS, Portico

Role of scientific publications

Registration

- The timestamp to officially note who submitted scientific results first

Certification

- Perform peer-review to ensure the validity and integrity of submissions

Dissemination

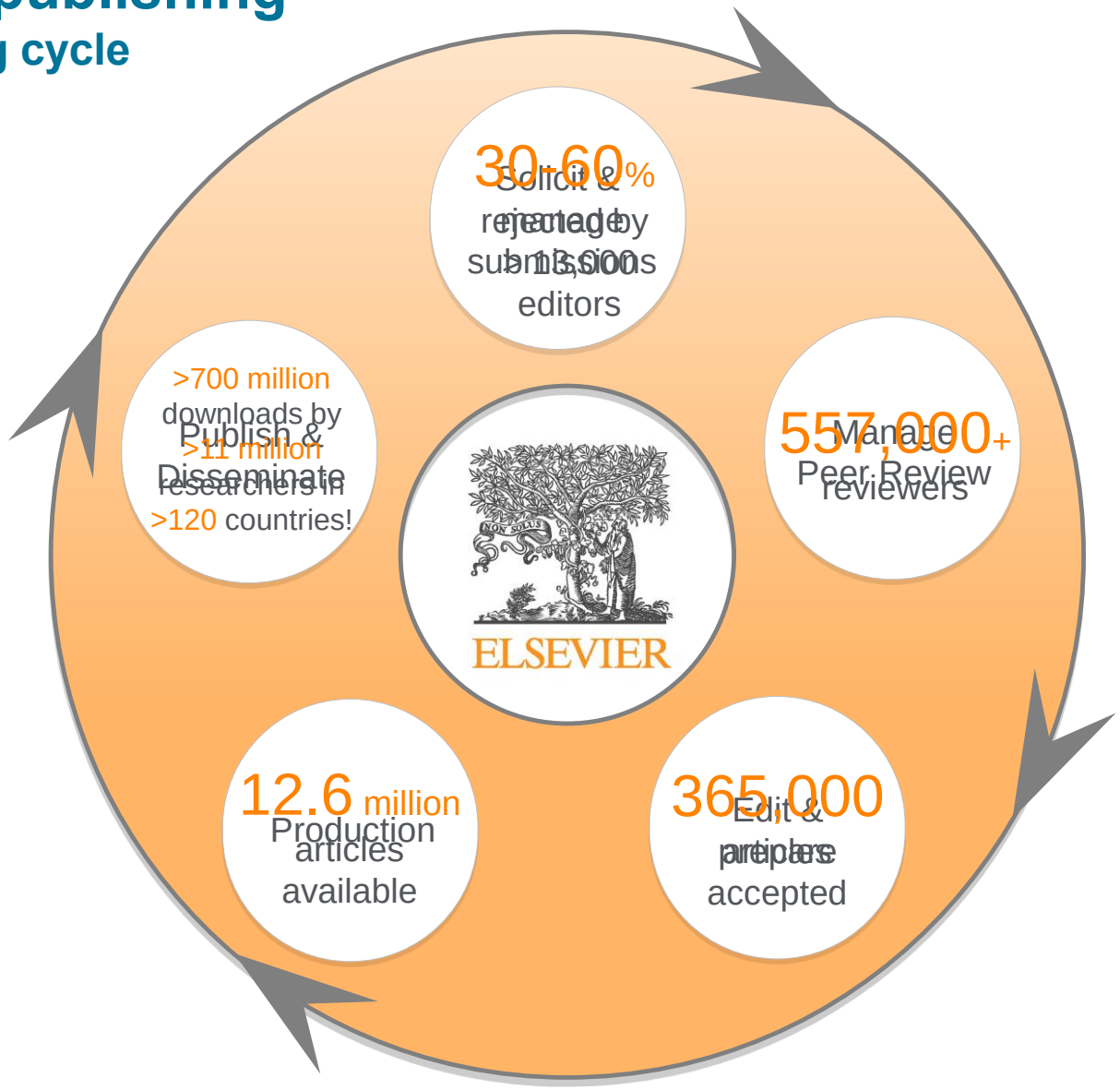
- Provide a medium for discoveries and findings to be shared

Preservation

- Preserving the minutes and record of science for posterity

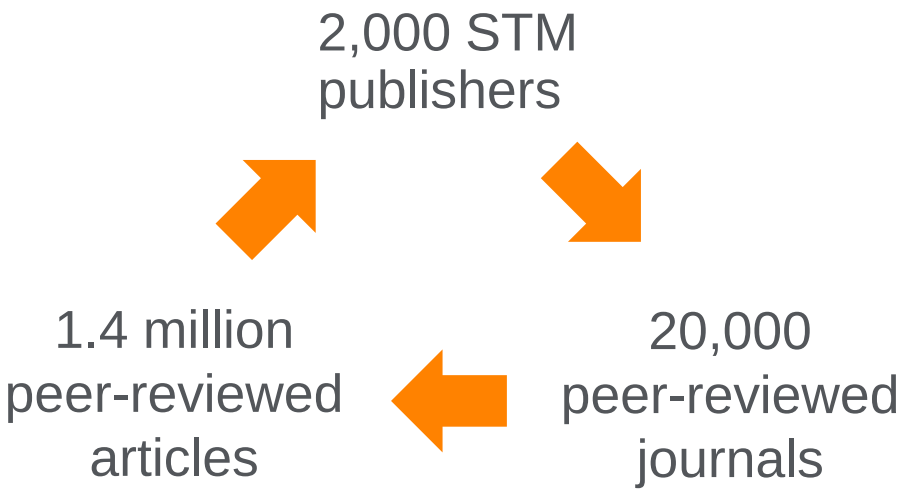
Academic publishing

The publishing cycle



Scholarly publishing today

Scientific, technical and medical (STM) publishing



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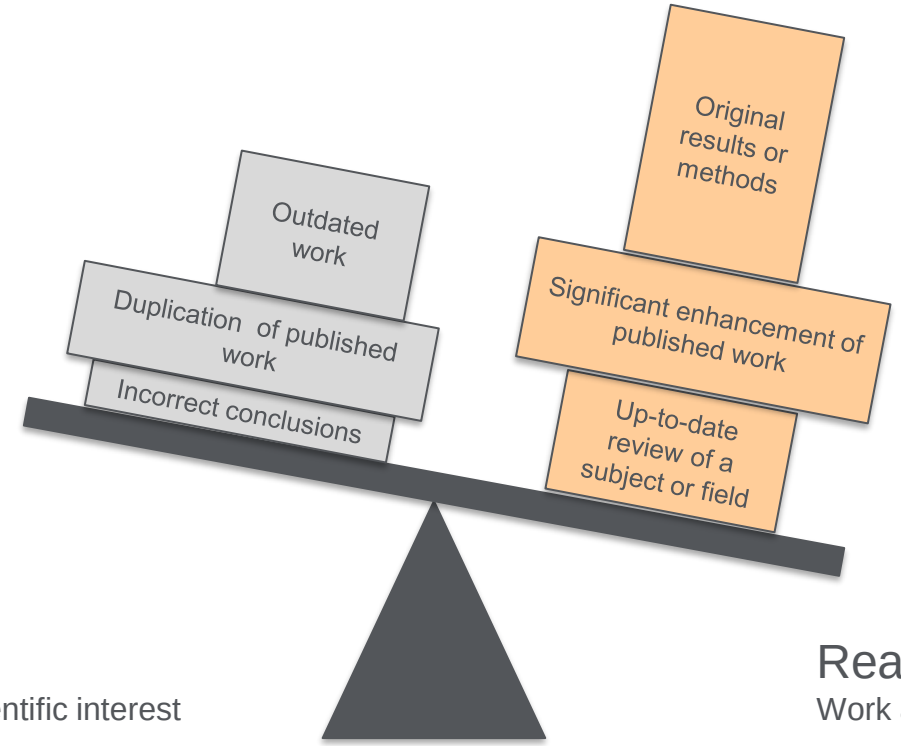
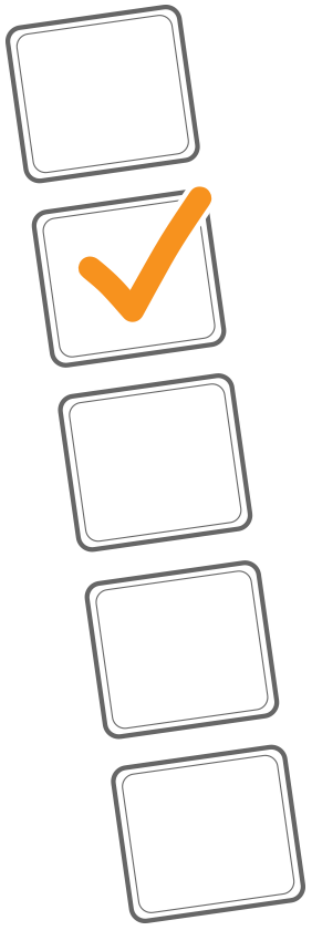
Preparing your manuscript

Planning your article
Are you ready to publish?



Not ready
Work has no scientific interest

Ready
Work advances the field



Planning Your Article

What makes a strong manuscript?

- Clear and useful message
- A logical manner
- Readers grasp the research

Editors, reviewers and readers all want to receive well presented manuscripts that fit within the aims and scope of their journal.

Planning your article
Types of manuscripts

Full articles

- Substantial, complete and comprehensive pieces of research
  Is my message sufficient for a full article?

Letters or short communications

- Quick and early communications
  Are my results so thrilling that they should be shown as soon as possible?

Review papers

- Summaries of recent developments on a specific topic
- Often submitted by invitation

Your supervisor or colleagues are also good sources for advice on manuscript types.

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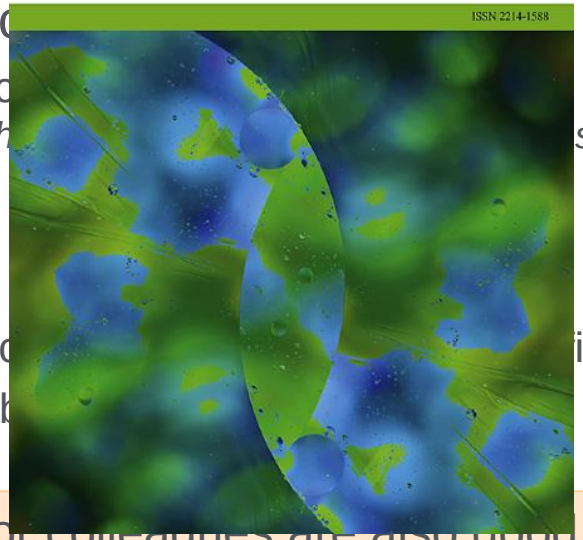
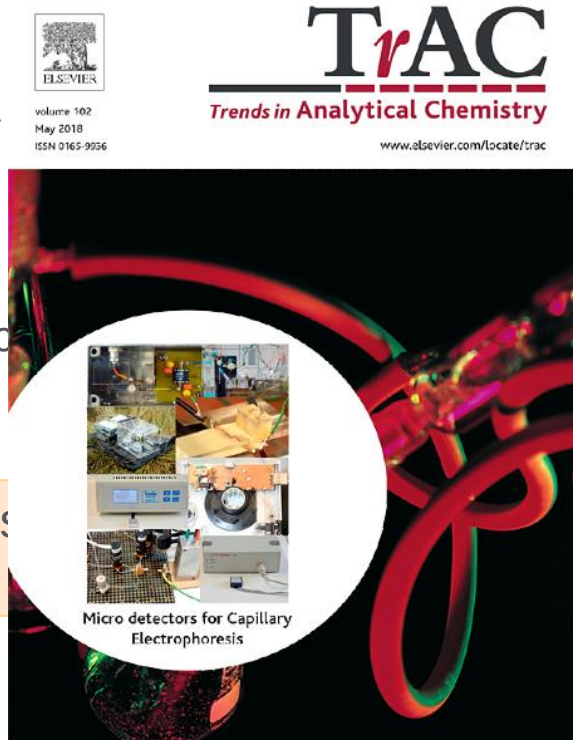




Review papers

- Summaries of rec ic
- Often submitted b

Your supervisor or colleagues are also good s
advice on manuscript types.

Choosing the right journal

Best practices

- Aim to reach the intended audience for your work
- Choose only one journal, as simultaneous submissions are prohibited
- Supervisor and colleagues can provide good suggestions
- Shortlist a handful of candidate journals, and investigate them:
  - Aims
  - Scope
  - Accepted types of articles
  - Readership
  - Current hot topics

Articles in your reference list will usually lead you directly to the right journals.

Your Journals list for this manuscript

So you now have a list of candidate journals for your manuscript……

✓ All authors of the submission agree to this list and the sequence of journals

✓ Write your draft as if you are going to submit to the first journal on your list. Use its Guide for Authors - these differ per journal

✗ **DO NOT gamble by submitting your manuscript to more than one journal at a time.**

International ethics standards prohibit multiple/simultaneous submissions, and editors DO find out!

Choosing the right journal

The Impact Factor

- It indicates how many times the more recent papers in a journal are cited on average in a given year
- It is influenced by editorial policies of journals and turnover of research

The impact factor can give you a general guidance, but it should NOT be the sole reason to choose a journal.

What is the Impact Factor (IF)?

Impact Factor

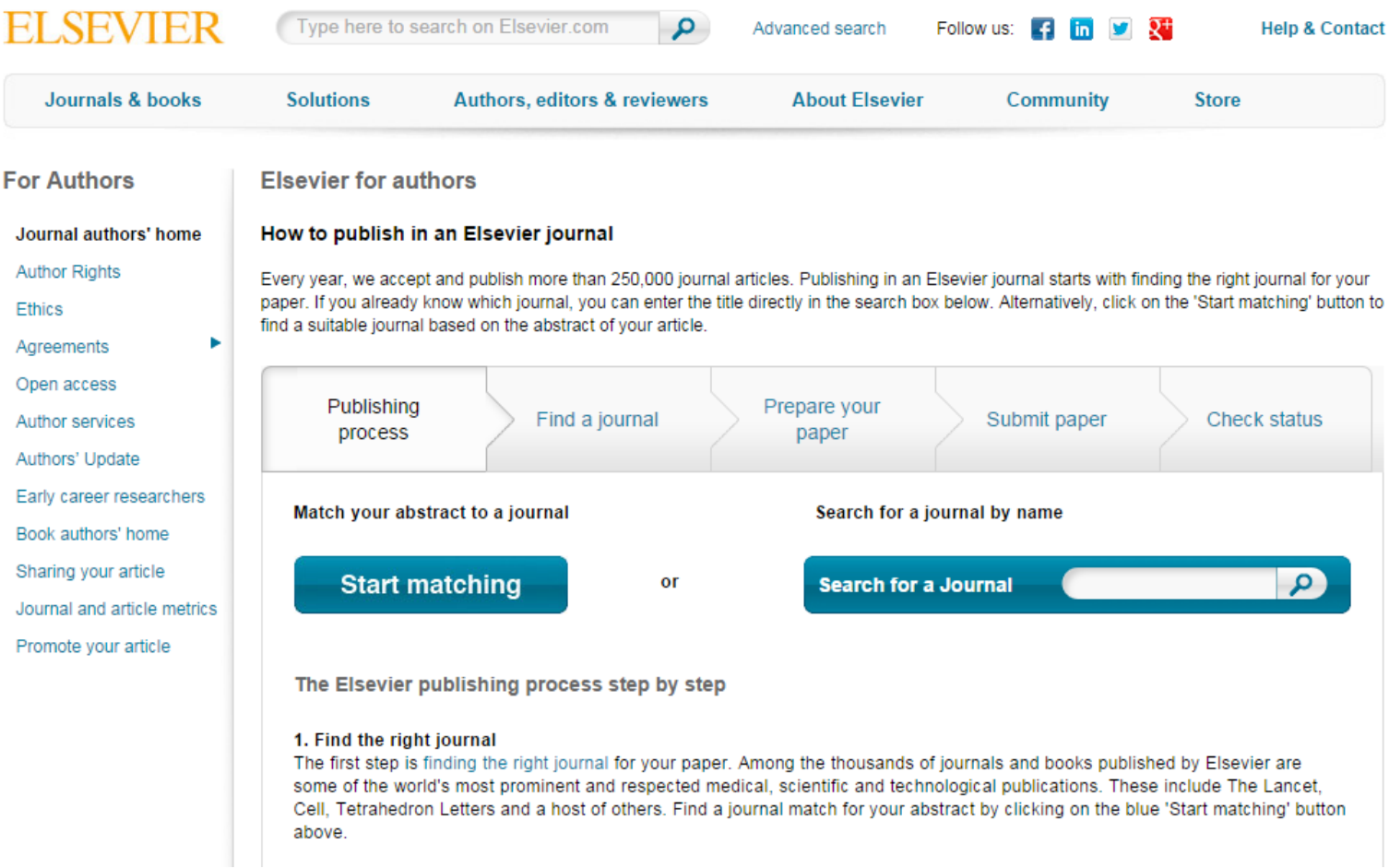
[the average annual number of citations per article published]

For example, the 2014 impact factor for a journal is calculated as follows:

- *A* = the number of times articles published in 2014 and 2015 were cited in indexed journals during 2016
- *B* = the number of "citable items" (usually articles, reviews, proceedings or notes; not editorials and letters-to-the-Editor) published in 2014 and 2015
- 2016 impact factor = *A*/*B*
- **e.g. $\frac{\text{1.000 citations}}{\text{50 + 50 articles}}$ = 10.000**

Choosing the right journal

Journal Finder Tool



Preparing your manuscript
Guide for Authors

- Find it on the journal homepage of the publisher, *e.g.* **Elsevier.com**
- Keep to the Guide for Authors in your manuscript
- It will save your time

Common problems with submissions:

An international editor says…

"*The following problems appear much too frequently*"

- *Submission of papers which are clearly out of scope*
- *Failure to format the paper according to the Guide for Authors*
- *Inappropriate (or no) suggested reviewers*
- *Inadequate response to reviewers*
- *Inadequate standard of English*
- *Resubmission of rejected manuscripts without revision*

– Paul Haddad, former Editor, *Journal of Chromatography A*

Recap

Before writing your paper

- **Determine** if you are ready to publish your work
- **Decide** on the best type of manuscript
- **Choose** the target journal
- **Check** the Guide for Authors

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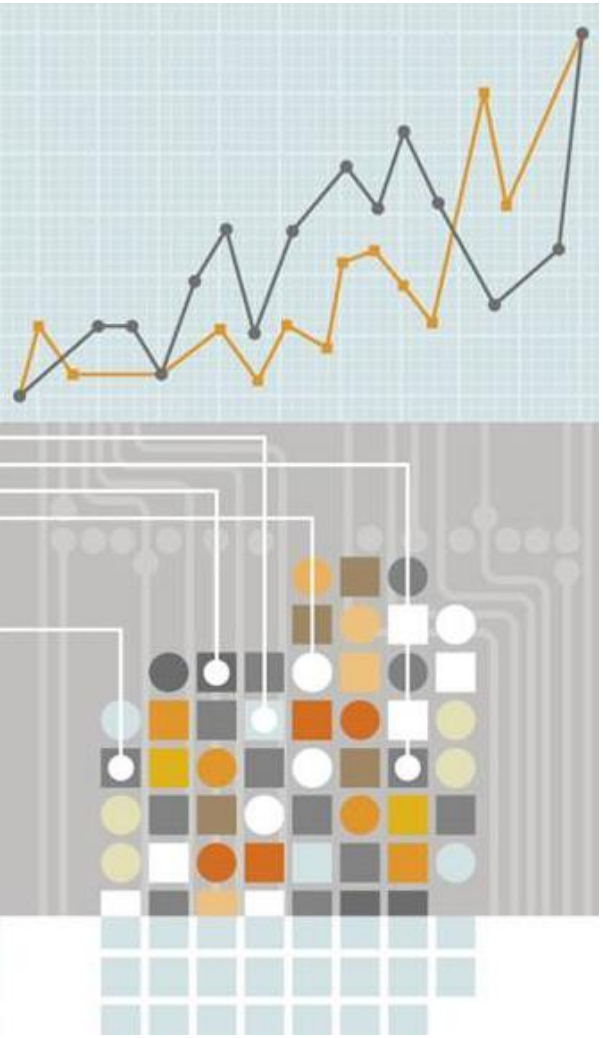
Writing your manuscript

PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



General structure of a research article

- Title
- Abstract
- Keywords

- Introduction
- Methods
- Results and Discussion

- Conclusion
- Acknowledgements
- References
- Supporting Materials

Read the Guide for Authors for the specific criteria of your target journal.

Authorship: Who is allowed to be an Author?

- Policies regarding authorship can vary
- Most common example: the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors ("Vancouver Group") declared that an author must:
  1. **substantially contribute** to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data;
  2. **draft** the article or **revise** it critically for important intellectual content; and
  3. **give their approval** of the final full version to be published.
  4. agreement to be **accountable for all aspects of the work** in ensuring that questions related to accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

ALL four conditions must be fulfilled to be an author!

All others would qualify as "Acknowledged Individuals"

Authorship - Sequence & Abuses

- General principles for who is listed first:
  - First Author
    - Conducts and/or supervises the data generation and analysis and the proper presentation and interpretation of the results
    - Puts paper together and submits the paper to journal
  - Corresponding author
    - The first author or a senior author from the institution.
    - Particularly when the first author is a PhD student or postdoc, and may move to another institution soon.

- Abuses to be avoided:
  - ✗ Ghost Authorship: leaving out authors who should be included
  - ✗ Gift Authorship: including authors who did not contribute significantly

The process of writing – building the article

Title, Abstract, and Keywords

Conclusion | Introduction

Methods | Results | Discussion

Figures/Tables (your data)

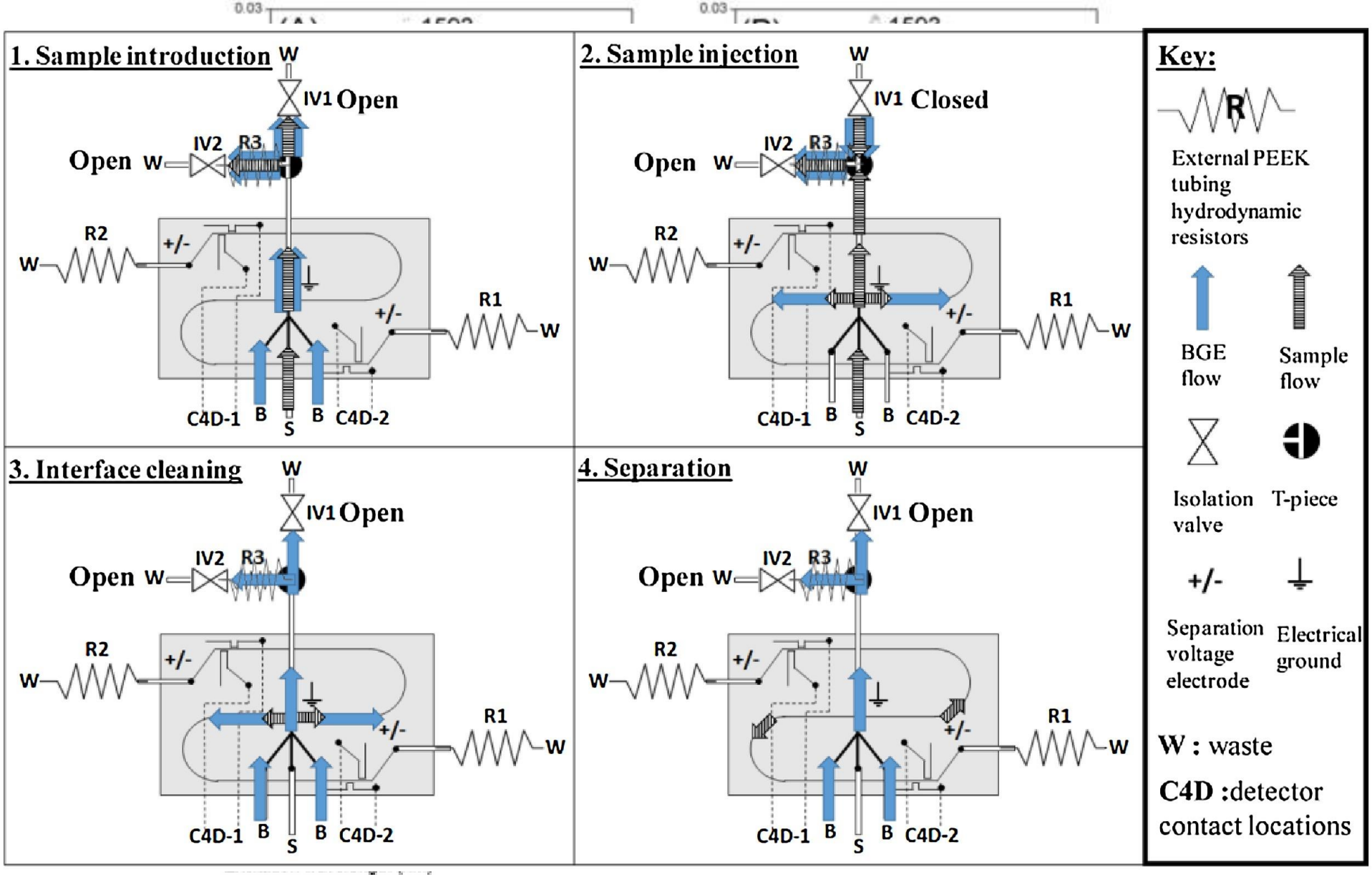


Fig. 6. Convolution (full line) of the simulated spectra of isolated tyrosine (a), P1 in compact form (b), P1 in extended form with helices preserved (c) and P1 in extended form (d). Transitions are shown by bars.

Table 3.1. *Choosing the most effective type of illustration for a given goal*

To accomplish this	Choose one of these
To present exact values, raw data, or data which do not fit into any simple pattern	Table, list
To summarize trends, show interactions between two or more variables, relate data to constants, or emphasize an overall pattern rather than specific measurements	Line graph
To dramatize differences or draw comparisons	Bar graph
To illustrate complex relationships, spatial configurations, pathways, processes, or interactions	Diagram
To show sequential processes	Flowchart
To classify information	Table, list, pictograph
To describe parts or electric circuits	Schematic
To describe a process, organization, or model	Pictograph, flowchart, block diagram
To compare or contrast	Pictograph, pie chart, bar graph
To describe a change of state	Line graph, bar graph
To describe proportions	Pie chart, bar graph
To describe relationships	Table, line graph, block diagram
To describe causation	Flowchart, pictograph
To describe an entire object	Schematic, drawing, photograph
To show the vertical or horizontal hierarchy within an object, idea, or organization	Flowchart, drawing tree, block diagram

From: Matthews and Matthews (2008), Successful scientific writing, 3rd ed., Cambridge University Press

Legends

Too vague: Fig. 1. Graph of relevant data

Over-specified: Fig. 1. Outcome of multifactorial analysis of the variation of temperature, pressure and additive on the yield of nanoparticles using the Fields-method for assembly.

Better: Fig. 1. Comparison of reaction conditions for optimal nanoparticle production.

Methods

- Describe how the problem was studied
- Include detailed information
- Do not describe previously published procedures rather refer to them
- Identify the equipment and materials used

Results

- Include only data of primary importance
- Use sub-headings to keep results of the same type together
- Be clear and easy to understand
- Highlight the main findings
- Feature unexpected findings
- Provide statistical analysis
- Include illustrations and figures

Discussion

- Interpretation of results
- Most important section
- Make the discussion correspond to the results and complement them
- Compare published results with your own

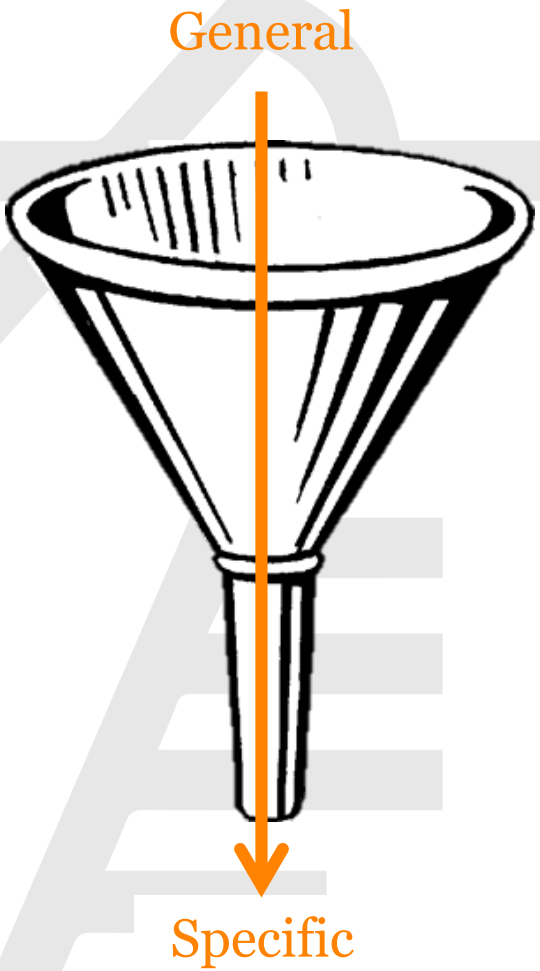
Be careful not to use the following:
- Statements that go beyond what the results can support
- Non-specific expressions
- New terms not already defined or mentioned in your paper
- Speculations on possible interpretations based on imagination

Conclusion

- Be clear
- Provide justification for the work
- Explain how your work advances the present state of knowledge
- Suggest future experiments

Introduction

- Provide a brief context to the readers
- Address the problem
- Identify the solutions and limitations
- Identify what the work is trying to achieve
- Provide a perspective consistent with the nature of the journal



Write a unique introduction for every article. DO NOT reuse introductions.

Keywords

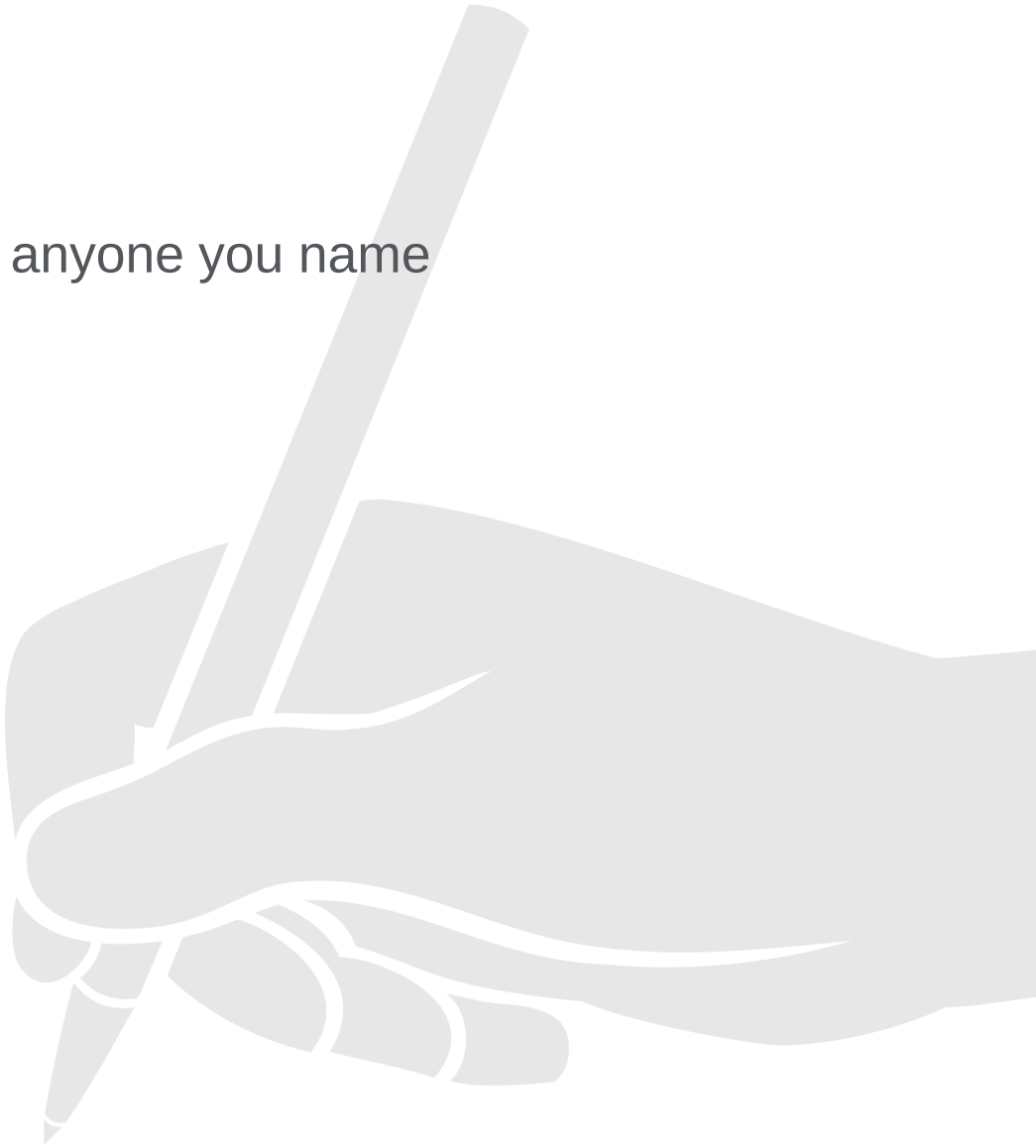
- Are the labels of the manuscript
- Are used by indexing and abstracting services
- Should be specific
- Should use only established abbreviations (e.g. DNA)

Check the Guide for Authors for specifics on which keywords should be used.

Article title	Keywords
“An experimental study on evacuated tube solar collector using supercritical CO_2”	Solar collector; supercritical CO_2; solar energy; solar thermal utilization

Acknowledgements

- Co-workers
- As a courtesy, ask consent for anyone you name



Ethical & financial declarations

- Patient consent
- Funding: Provide the relevant funding details. If none, include the following statement: "No funding or grant support."
- Conflict of interest: Provide the details about potential conflicts. If none, include the following statement: "The following authors have no financial disclosures: (Authors initials)."

Abstract

- Summarize the problem, methods, results, and conclusions in a single paragraph
- Make it interesting and understandable
- Make it accurate and specific
  - A clear abstract will strongly influence whether or not your work is considered
- Keep it as brief as possible

Take the time to write the abstract very carefully. Many authors write the abstract last so that it accurately reflects the content of the paper.

Effective manuscript titles

- Attract reader's attention
- Contain fewest possible words
- Adequately describe content
- Are informative but concise
- Identify main issue
- Do not use technical jargon and rarely-used abbreviations

Editors and reviewers do not like titles that make no sense or fail to represent the subject matter adequately. Additionally, if the title is not accurate, the appropriate audience may not read your paper.

Supplementary Material

- Data of secondary importance for the main scientific thrust of the article
  - e.g. individual curves, when a representative curve or a mean curve is given in the article itself
- Or data that do not fit into the main body of the article
  - e.g. audio, video, ...
- Original figure before color correction or trimming for clarity
- Not part of the printed article
  - Will be available online with the published paper
- Must relate to, and support, the article

Reference Management Software helps

- Many journals are helpful in formatting the journal reference style for you (e.g. Elsevier's Your Paper Your Way service).
- If the publisher is not offering this service it is your responsibility to format references correctly!

MENDELEY

BibSonomy

THOMSON REUTERS ENDNOTE

zotero

Reference Manager Version 12 THOMSON REUTERS

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_reference_management_software

Final Check List - Manuscript

- Is the title accurate, succinct, and effective?
- Does the abstract represent all the content within the allowed length?
- Does the introduction set the stage adequately but concisely?
- Is the rest of the text in the right sequence?
- Is all of the text really needed?
- Is any needed content missing?
- Do data in the text agree with data in the tables/ figures?
- Should any of the tables of figures be omitted, restructured, or combined?
- Are the correct references included?

Cover lette

- Submitted
- This is you
- Mention (a
- State what
- Pay attenti
  - Excl
  - Sug

Professor H. D. Schmidt
School of Science and Engineering
Northeast State University
College Park, MI 10000
USA

January 1, 2008

Dear Professor Schmidt,

Enclosed with this letter you will find en electronic submission of a manu
entitled "Mechano-sorptive creep under compressive loading – a microm
model" by John Smith and myself. This is an original paper which
previously nor simultaneously in whole or in part been submitted
Both authors have read and approved the final version submitted.

Mechano-sorptive is sometimes denoted as accelerated creep. It has been experimentally observed that the creep of paper accelerates if it is subjected to a cyclic moisture content. This is of large practical importance for the paper industry. The present manuscript describes a micromechanical model on the fibre networ level that is able to capture the experimentally observed behaviour. In particular, th difference between mechano-sorptive creep in tension and compression is analyse John Smith is a PhD-student who within a year will present his doctoral thesis. Th present paper will be a part of that thesis.

Three potential independent reviewers who have excellent expertise in the this paper are:

Dr. Fernandez, Tennessee Tech, email1@university.com
Dr. Chen, University of Maine, email2@university.com
Dr. Singh, Colorado School of Mines, email3@university.com

I would very much appreciate if you would consider the manuscript for publication in the *International Journal of Science*.

ely yours,

A. Professor

de, e.g.

Final approval from all authors

Explanation of importance of research

Suggested reviewers

What leads to acceptance ?

- ✓ **A**ttention to details
- ✓ **C**heck and double check your work
- ✓ **C**onsider the reviewers' comments
- ✓ **E**nglish must be as good as possible
- ✓ **P**resentation is important
- ✓ **T**ake your time with revision
- ✓ **A**cknowledge those who have helped you
- ✓ **N**ew, original and previously unpublished
- ✓ **C**ritically evaluate your own manuscript
- ✓ **E**thical rules must be obeyed

– Nigel John Cook
Former Editor-in-Chief, *Ore Geology Reviews*

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Scientific and ethical misconduct

Please note

While the following slides offer guidance and general principles of responsibilities that Authors should consider, different aspects of publishing ethics can vary greatly by discipline and journal.

It is recommended that all Authors consult their peers, advisors and journal Editors to learn the specific Author responsibilities in their discipline.

The most serious issues to avoid

These are the 3 most common forms of ethical misconduct that the research community is challenged with:

1. **Fabrication**
   Making up research data
2. **Falsification**
   Manipulation of existing research data
3. **Plagiarism**
   Previous work taken and passed off as one's own

What may be plagiarised?

Work that can be plagiarised includes…

- Words (language)
- Ideas
- Findings
- Writings
- Graphic representations
- Computer programs
- Diagrams
- Graphs
- Illustrations
- Information
- Lectures
- Printed material
- Electronic material
- Any other original work

Higher Education Academy, UK

Correct citation is key

Crediting the work of others (including your advisor's or your own previous work) by citation is important for at least three reasons:

- To place your own work in context
- To acknowledge the findings of others on which you have built your research
- To maintain the credibility and accuracy of the scientific literature

Can you plagiarise your own work? Text re-cycling/self-plagiarism

A grey area, but best to err on the side of caution: always cite/quote even your own previous work

For example
You publish a paper and in a later paper, copy your Introduction word-for word and perhaps a figure or two without citing the first paper

Editors may conclude that you intentionally exaggerated your output

Who is really responsible for Ethics?

All Stakeholders

Authors

Institutions/Companies/Agencies/Funding Bodies

Publishers/Journal Editors

All Elsevier journals are members of:

COPE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION ETHICS

sense about science

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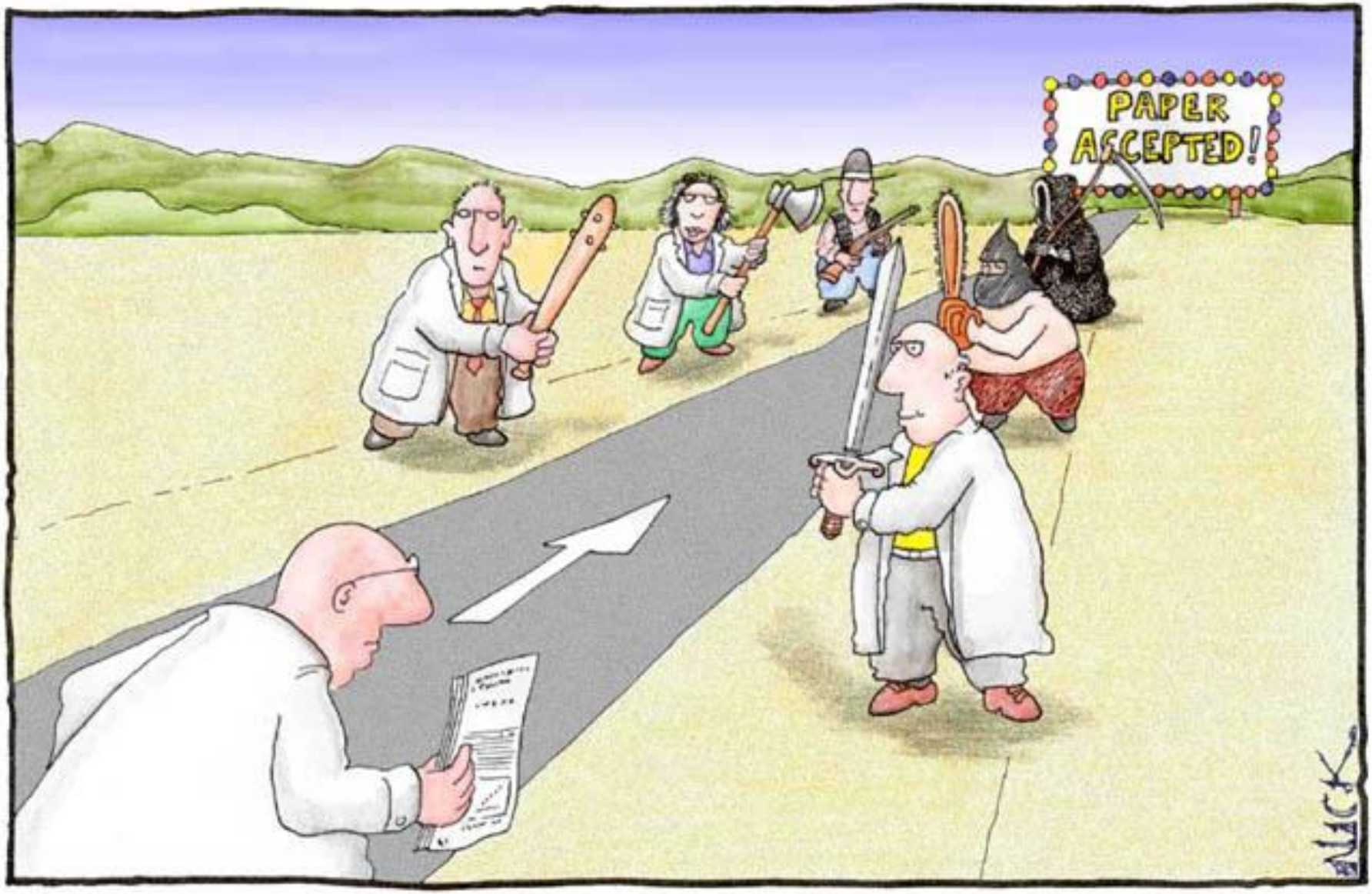
Elsevier Publishing Campus

The Peer Review Process

Publishing Connect

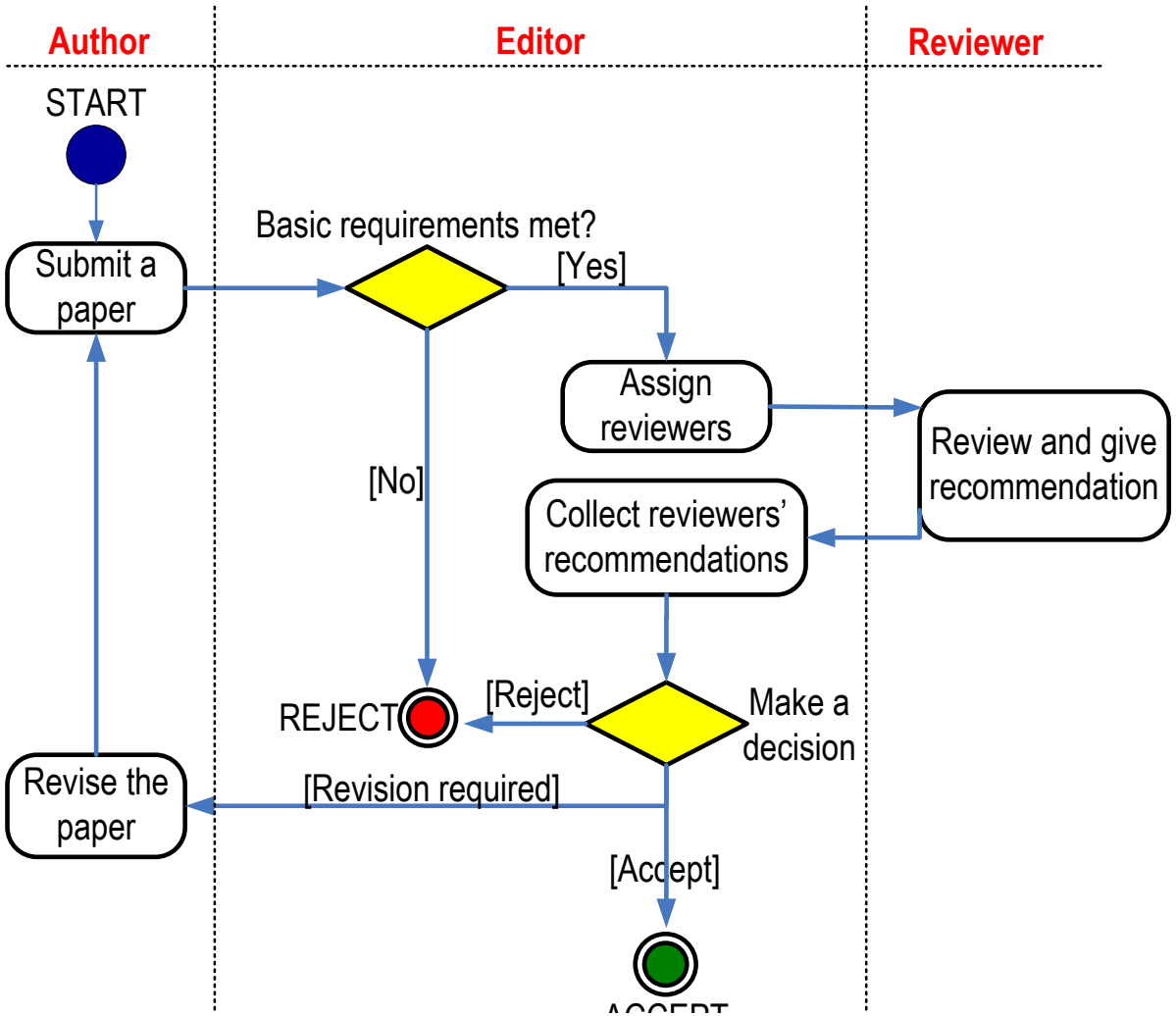


Source: Nick D. Kim, PhD

Peer review

- Helps to determine the quality, validity, significance, and originality of research
- Helps to improve the quality of papers
- Publishers are outside the academic process and are not prone to prejudice or favour
- Publishers facilitate the review process by investing in online review systems and providing tools to help Editors and Reviewers

The Peer Review Process is not a black hole!

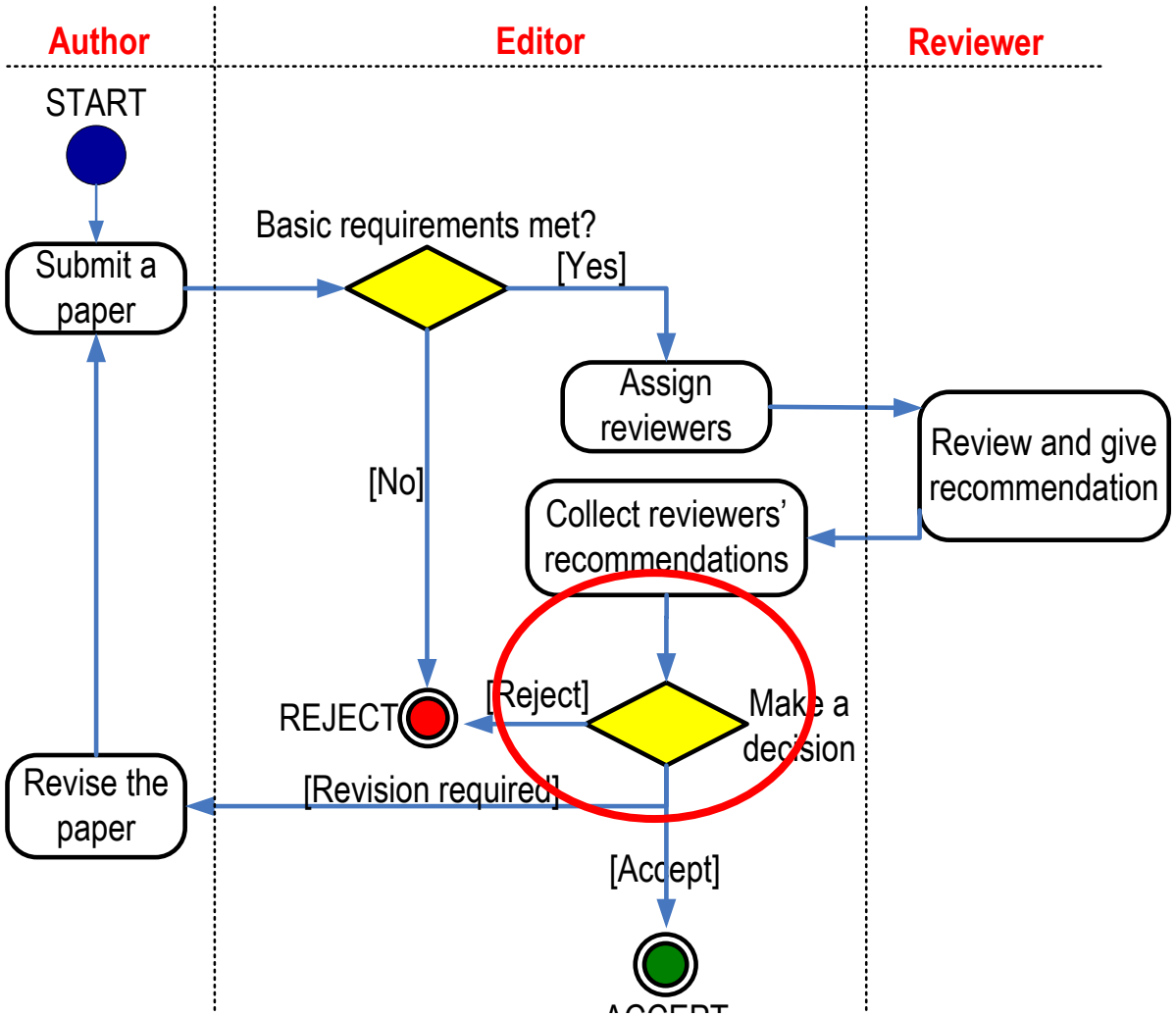


Michael Derntl. Basics of Research Paper Writing and Publishing.
http://dbis.rwth-aachen.de/~derntl/papers/misc/paperwriting.pdf

Rejection without external review

- The Editor-in-Chief evaluates submissions and determines whether they enter into the external review process or are rejected
- English language inadequate
- Prior publication of the data
- Multiple simultaneous submissions of the same data
- Out of the scope of the journal
- Manuscript quality (also scientific) not sufficient for the journal (the higher the reputation of the journal the more important this becomes)

The Peer Review Process – revisions

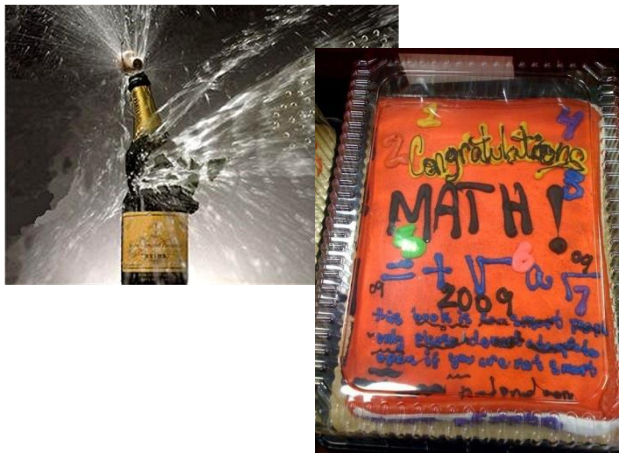


Michael Derntl. Basics of Research Paper Writing and Publishing.
http://dbis.rwth-aachen.de/~derntl/papers/misc/paperwriting.pdf

First Decision: “Accepted” or “Rejected”

Accepted

- Very rare, but it happens

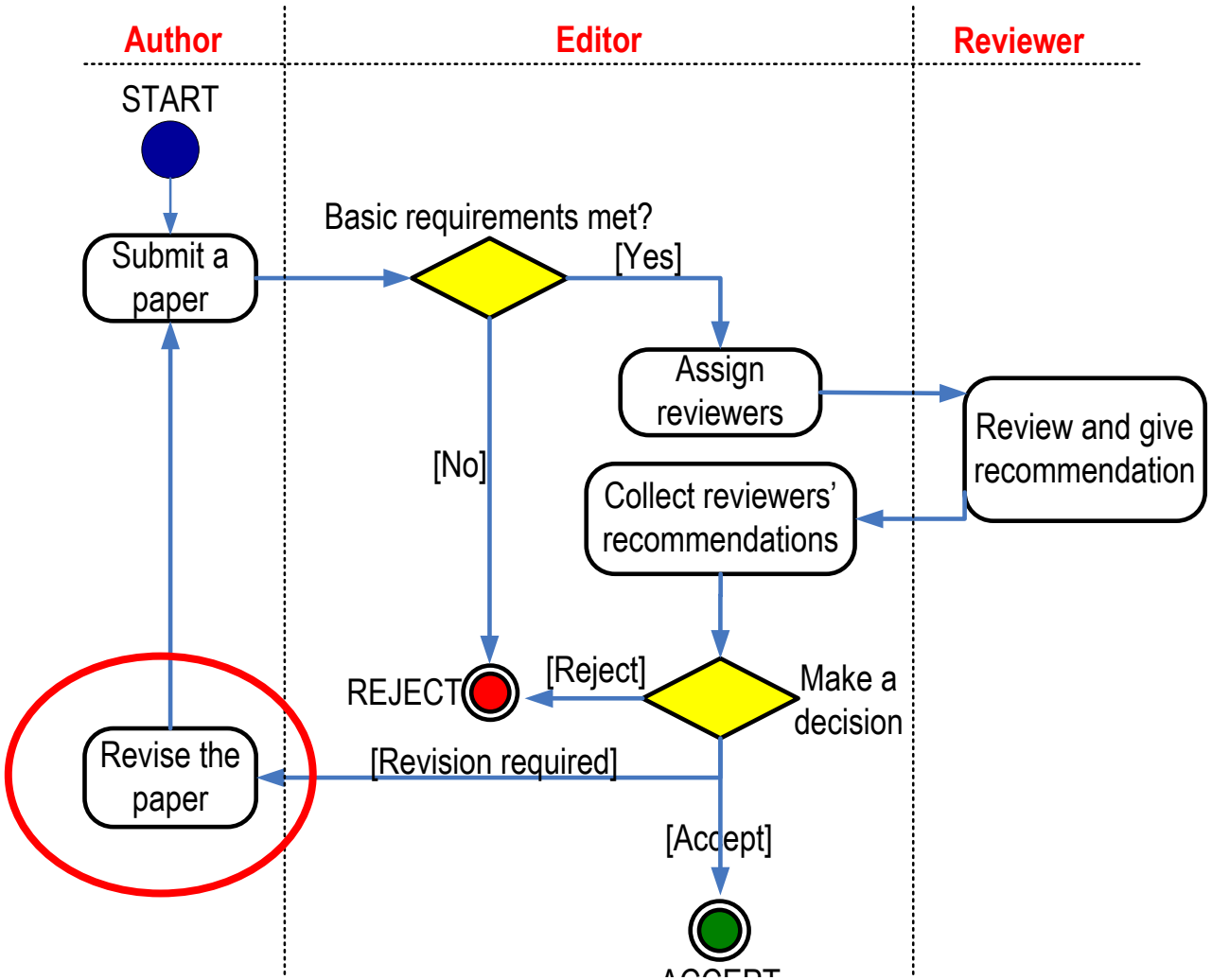


- Congratulations!
  - Cake for the department
  - Now wait for page proofs and then for your article to be online and in print

Rejected

- Probability 40-90% ...
- Do not despair
  - It happens to everybody
- Try to understand WHY
  - Consider reviewers’ advice
  - Be self-critical
- If you submit to another journal, begin as if it were a new manuscript
  - Take advantage of the reviewers’ comments and revise accordingly
  - They may review your manuscript for the next journal too!
  - Read the Guide for Authors of the new journal, again and again.

The Peer Review Process – revisions



Michael Derntl. Basics of Research Paper Writing and Publishing.
http://dbis.rwth-aachen.de/~derntl/papers/misc/paperwriting.pdf

Review process – considerations

- Reviewers must not communicate directly with authors
- All manuscripts and materials must be treated confidentially by Editors and reviewers
- The aim is to have a first decision to the authors by 4-6 weeks (depending on the field) after submission
- Meeting the schedule objectives requires a significant effort by all involved
- Reviewers should treat authors as they themselves would like to be treated

Why do reviewers review?

- Value from mentoring young researchers
- Enjoyment in reviewing
- General interest in the area
- Awareness of new research and developments before their peers
- Career development
- Help with own research or new ideas
- Association with journals and Editors
- Keep updated with latest developments

- Are you interested? Have a look at: http://www.elsevier.com/reviewers/becoming-a-reviewer-how-and-why

First Decision: “Major” or “Minor” Revision

- Major revision
  - The manuscript may finally be published in the journal
  - Significant deficiencies must be corrected before acceptance
  - Usually involves (significant) textual modifications and/or additional experiments
- Minor revision
  - Basically, the manuscript is worth being published
  - Some elements in the manuscript must be clarified, restructured, shortened (often) or expanded (rarely)
  - Textual adaptations
  - “Minor revision” does NOT guarantee acceptance after revision, but often it is accepted if all points are addressed!

Manuscript Revision

- Prepare a detailed Response Letter
  - ✓ Copy-paste each reviewer comment, and type your response below it
  - ✓ State specifically which changes you have made to the manuscript
    - ✓ Include page/line numbers
    - ✗ No general statements like “Comment accepted, and Discussion changed accordingly.”
  - ✓ Provide a *scientific* response to comments to accept, ...
  - ✓ ..... or a convincing, solid and polite rebuttal when you feel the reviewer was wrong.
  - ✓ Write in such a manner, that your response can be forwarded to the reviewer without prior editing
- Do not do yourself a disfavour, but cherish your work
  - You spent ***weeks*** and ***months*** in the lab or the library to do the research

.....Why then run the risk of avoidable rejection by not taking manuscript revision seriously?

Increasing the likelihood of acceptance

All these various steps are not difficult.

- ✓ You have to be consistent.
- ✓ You have to check and recheck before submitting.
- ✓ Make sure you tell a logical, clear, story about your findings.
- ✓ Especially, take note of referees' comments. They improve your paper.

This should increase the likelihood of your paper being accepted, and being in the 30% (accepted) not the 70% (rejected) group!

A systematic approach for reviewing

Article section	Description
Writing	Clear and concise English
Title	Specific and reflecting the content of the manuscript
Abstract	Brief and describing the purpose of the work, not overstating the significance
Methodology	Full explained and relevant to the study
Figures	Justified and clear with fonts proportionate to the size of the figure
Tables	Can they be simplified or condensed? Should any be omitted?
Results	Show results match the results described in the text and are properly controlled?
Discussion	Discussion of the findings relating back to the study aims, based on the results and not on speculation
Conclusion	Implications of the results obtained, and their place in a broader research context; not a summary of findings.
Trade Names/ Abbreviations/Symbols	Properly used where indicated
References	Are all previously published sources properly referenced?

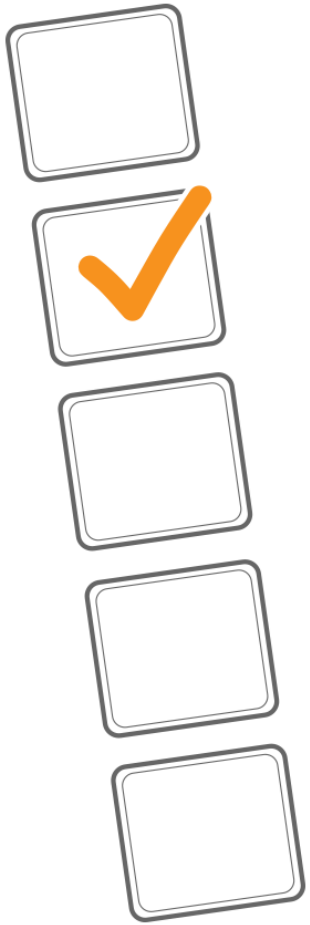
General impression and abstract

- Look at the manuscript as a whole
  - General comprehension of the manuscript
  - Language/style/grammar
  - Structure
  - Reviewer's general level of enthusiasm

- Is the Abstract included?
  - Is it a real summary of the paper?
  - Does it include the key results
  - Does it contain unnecessary information?
  - Is it too long? Journals set a limit for the number of words

Introduction

- Is it effective, clear, and well organized?
- Does it really introduce and put into perspective what follows?
- Suggest changes in organization and point authors to appropriate citations if necessarily
- Be as specific as possible when giving feedback
  - Don’t just write “the authors have done a poor job”



Assessing the methodology

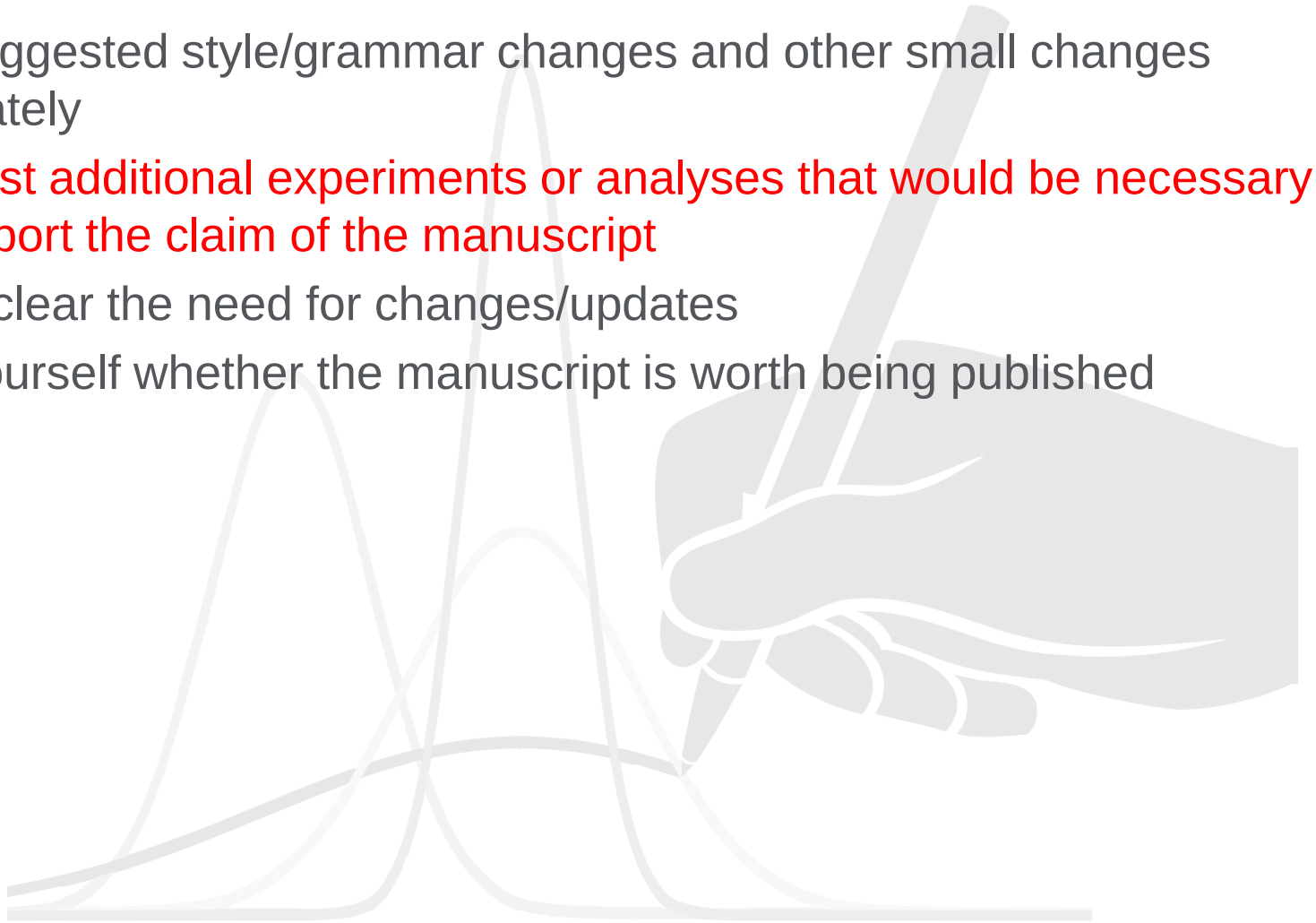
- Can a colleague reproduce the experiments and get the same outcomes?
- Is the description of new methodology complete and accurate?
- Did the authors include proper references to previously published methodology?
- Is the sample size large enough and was it selected in an appropriate way?
- Was the data collected in accordance with accepted practice?
- Could or should the authors have included supplementary material?

Results and discussion (I)

- Suggest improvements in the way data is shown
- Comment on general logic and on justification of interpretations and conclusions
- Are the results reflecting the raw data appropriately?
- Are the results well controlled?
- Comment on the number of figures, tables, and schemes
- Write concisely and precisely which changes you recommend

Results and discussion (II)

- List suggested style/grammar changes and other small changes separately
- Suggest additional experiments or analyses that would be necessary to support the claim of the manuscript
- Make clear the need for changes/updates
- Ask yourself whether the manuscript is worth being published



Assessing the conclusions

- Comment on importance, validity, and generality of conclusions
- Request toning down of unjustified claims and generalizations
- Request removal of redundancies and summaries
- The Abstract, not the Conclusion, summarizes the study

References, tables, and figures

- Check accuracy, number, and appropriateness of citations
- Comment on tables and figures, and their quality and readability
- Comment on any footnotes
- Assess completeness of legends, headers, and axis labels
- Comment on need for color in figures
- Check presentation consistency

Editors' view: what makes a good reviewer?

- Provides an objective, thorough, and comprehensive report
- Provides well-founded comments for authors
- Gives constructive criticism
- Provides a clear recommendation to the Editor
- Submits the report on time

Comments to the editors

Comment on novelty and significance

Recommend whether the manuscript is suitable for publication

Remember that confidential comments will not be disclosed to the author(s)

Comments to the authors

- Provide specific comments on the design
- Comment on the presentation of data, results and discussion
- Ensure comments to the author(s) are consistent with your recommendation to the Editors

> "When reviewing, try to remember that you are an author too and be professional and constructive in your approach. That can be hard but don't let your inner nitpicker get the upper hand. Leave 24 hours between reading the manuscript and writing your review, to allow time for your reasonable self to rise to the fore."
> Stephen Curry, Professor of Structural Biology, Imperial College London

Bad examples of peer review reports

Accept/ Revise/ reject suggestions without any comments.

Comments purely about language, typos or formatting

Offensive comments

Bad examples of peer review reports

The article may be accepted after carrying out the following minor corrections:

1. The abstract and concussion may be improved.
2. Fig. 5, X-axis unit should be mentioned.
3. Thickness of the crystal should be mentioned in UV-Vis. studies.
4. particle size should be mentioned in Kurtz Powder technique.

Bad examples of peer review reports

This is a comprehensive study and I recommend publication in this journal. The author needs to proof read this manuscript well and also I recommend figure 1 which concerns with synthesis to be moved to the supplemental part of the journal.

Bad examples of peer review reports

To reduce the number of tables and figures, Tbls. 3 & 6 and Figs. 2 & 4 should be placed in supplemental materials.

I find it difficult to compare the experimental spectra in fig. 5 to their predicted ones. The authors should offset/stack the spectra on one another or covert the experimental spectra into absorbance.

Bad examples of peer review reports

- References are incorrect formatted and need to be redone according to Journal's format.

- Figures 4 and 5 should be placed in supplementary materials.

- Stay consistent with labeling…either x or U/mL.

After these minor corrections I recommend publication of this manuscript.

Good examples of peer review reports

- Comments on the substance of the submission
- Correlating text and figures and checking that conclusions made are based on data
- Comments on how easy it is to read & understand the paper
- See submission in light of the scope of the journal

Good examples

The manuscript examines structures of peptides that are known to form amyloid-type assemblies by mass spectrometry. The main point of the paper is that beta-strand assembly is observed for the peptides. The topic of the paper is of interest for the audience of IJMS. However, there a couple of shortcomings of the current manuscript that I would like to see addressed before re-reviewing the paper.

My major concerns are as follows:

1. The paper is based on the notion that it is possible to determine the secondary structure of peptides and their assemblies by MS/MS. **It is not clear to me how that could be done.**
2. In this respect, I also note that the authors heat the capillary to 200 degrees Celcius. Proteins and their assemblies can be structurally denatured by elevated temperatures. **Can it be reasonably expected that any conformations observed in the MS/MS experiments contain any information on the solution-phase assembly structure (which is what's important)?**
3. At several parts throughout their investigation, the authors emphasize the significance of the charge on the beta-sheet formation pathway. Why would the charge state observed in a mass spectrum be relevant for the peptide assembly formation mechanism in the solution phase.
4. XYZ and co-workers noted a conformational transition for NNQQNY and VEALY oligomers. Can the authors reproduce such conformational changes by their MS/MS approach?
5. **In this respect I find it particularly important to add a peptide system to the study that can serve as a negative control to the study.** XYZ and co-workers used YGGFL to that end. Can the authors observe such a difference between the oligomers of YGGFL and those of the beta-assembling systems ?

Minor points:

1. Page 4 top paragraph: this paragraph is based on reference 28 not 25. Please change [25] to read [28].
2. **The paper is often hard to read due to many abbreviations and jargon**, especially when discussing the fragmentation patterns.
3. There are too many display items. At least some of the MS spectra in Figures 4-8 can be placed to the SI as well as Table 2 and Figure 3.

Good examples

The resolution and sensitivity enhancement in this experiment are solely due to a elegant band-selective homonuclear decoupling scheme during data acquisition (HOBS). The HOBS technique, applied to 1D and 2D 1H experiments, has just been accepted for publication elsewhere by the same authors.

To some extend, therefore, the current manuscript cannot be advertised as novel.

It is just a new application/implementation of their technique, but I must say that it is a very nice application, that allows/facilitates quantitative measurements of long range 13C-1H scalar couplings in small molecules.

I think it is publishable after minor modifications.

Good examples

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I think it is publishable after minor modifications.

Good examples

Now, for biosynthesis, the authors made very good observations but they **didn't carry enough experiments to warrant the conclusion made in this paper. For instance, the fact that the isomers responded differently to the different lights is not indication that there exist different routes for the synthesis of different isomers**. **Here, I think the authors speculated beyond the data could allow**. The results as present here are still in their early stages to warrant a reasonable publication. As such, I would recommend that the authors do other experiments (transcriptomics and proteomics) and combine with the metabolite data and submit in relevant journal such as plant physiology and biochemistry.

unfortunately my recommendations are that the paper needs major redone before it could be considered in another journal even.

Confidential document

- Manuscripts are confidential documents where the data is and remains exclusive property of the author(s)
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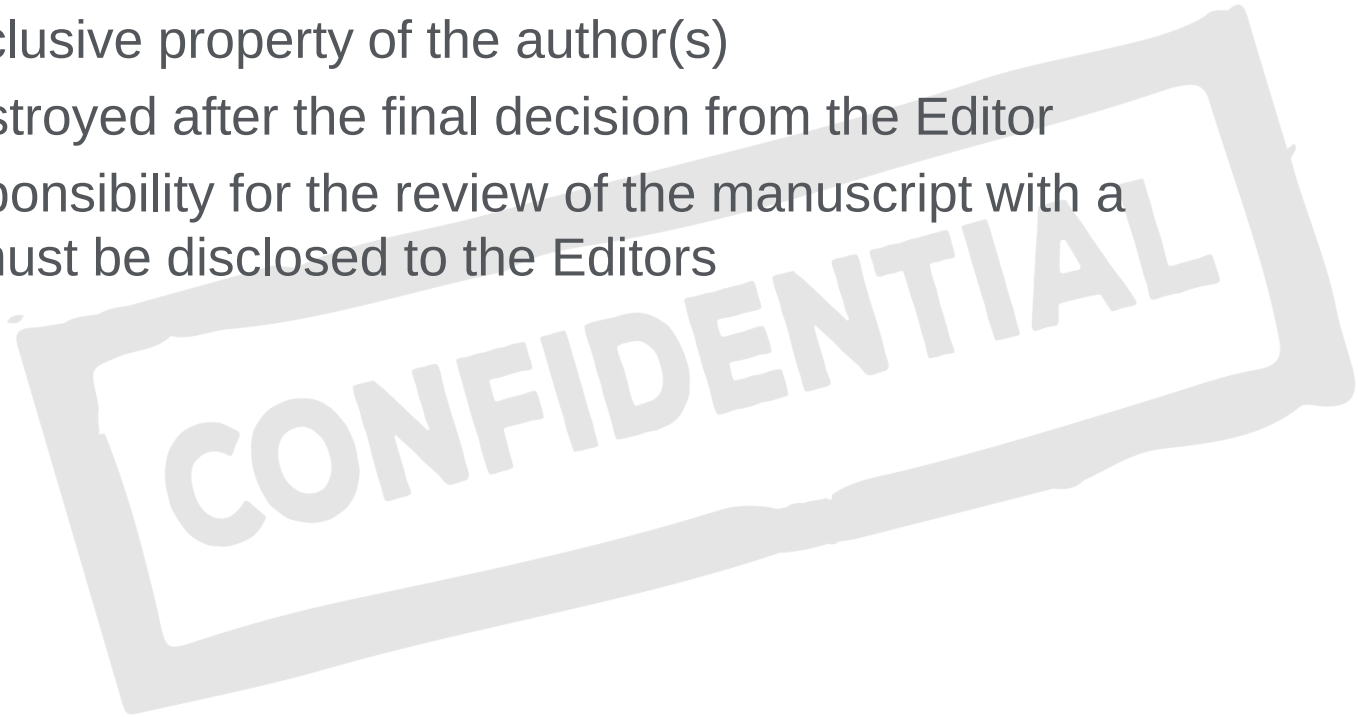

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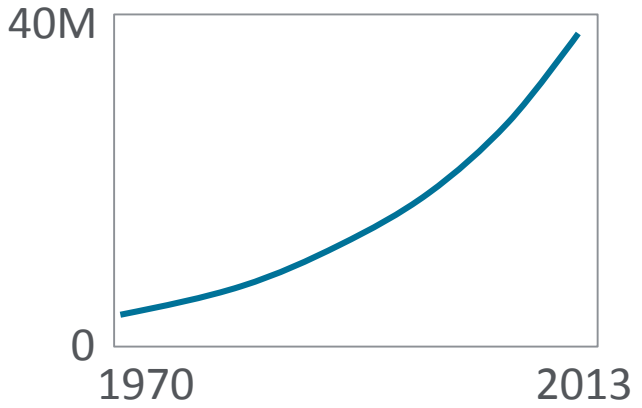

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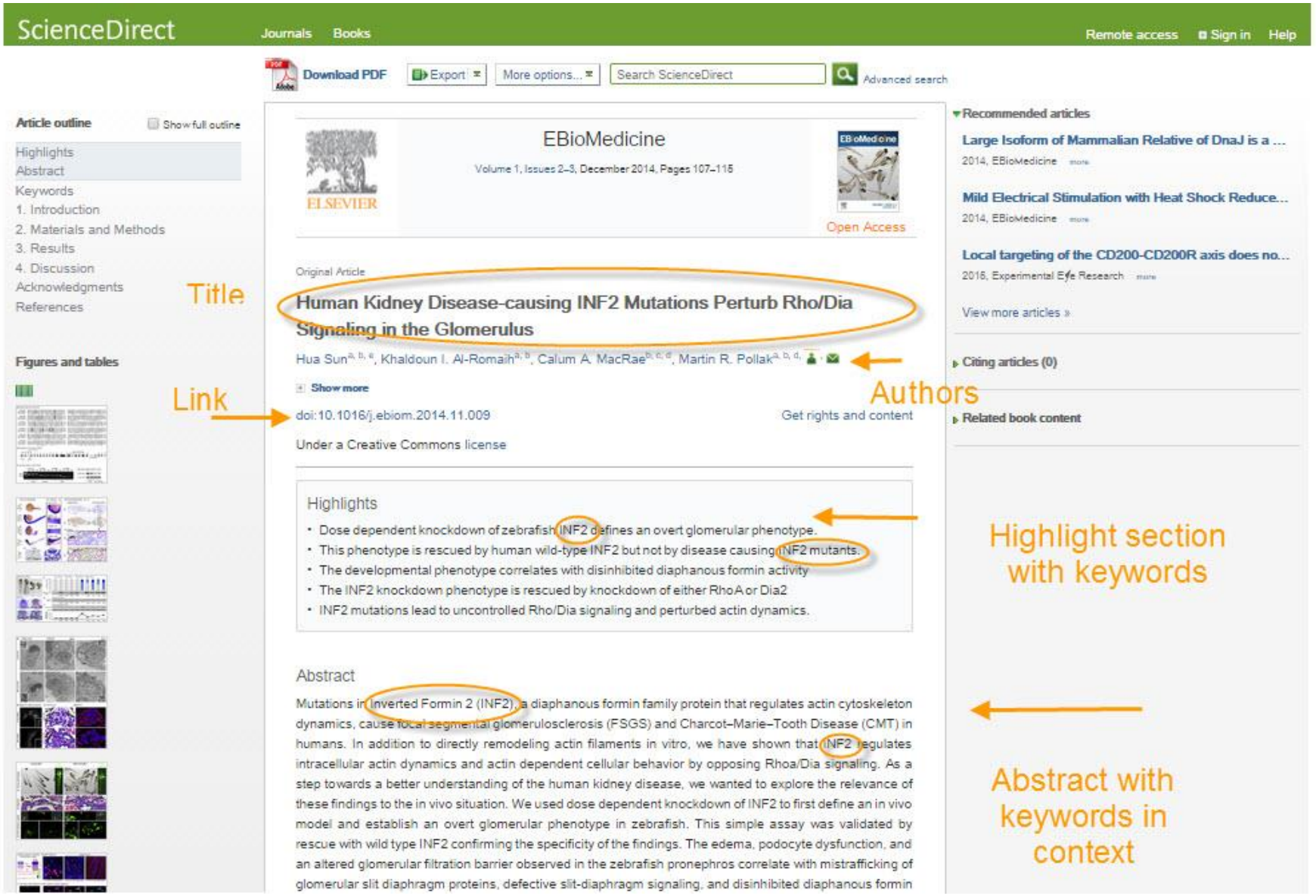

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Animal Behaviour
Volume 86, Issue 6, December 2013, Pages 1165–1181

Cuckoos in raptors' clothing: barred plumage illuminates a fundamental principle of Batesian mimicry

Thanh-Lan Gluckman, Nicholas I. Mundy

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DOI: 10.1016/j.anbehav.2013.09.020

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Highlights

- We quantified barred plumage in Old World parasitic cuckoos and sympatric raptors.
- We test whether distribution overlap predicts similarity in barred plumage.
- Cuckoos match sympatric raptors and similarity is rarely influenced by habitat.
- There is no match for any aspect of patterning in cuckoos and allopatric raptors.
- This conforms to Batesian mimicry and cuckoo–hawk mimicry may be widespread.

A fundamental principle of Batesian mimicry is that it pays to look like a local harmful species that is recognizable to other local species (receivers). Mimicking an allopatric species confers no benefit, as it is

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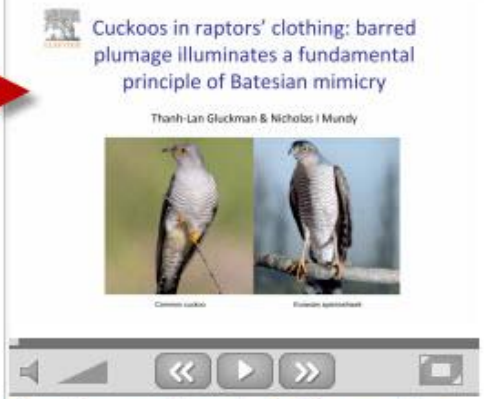

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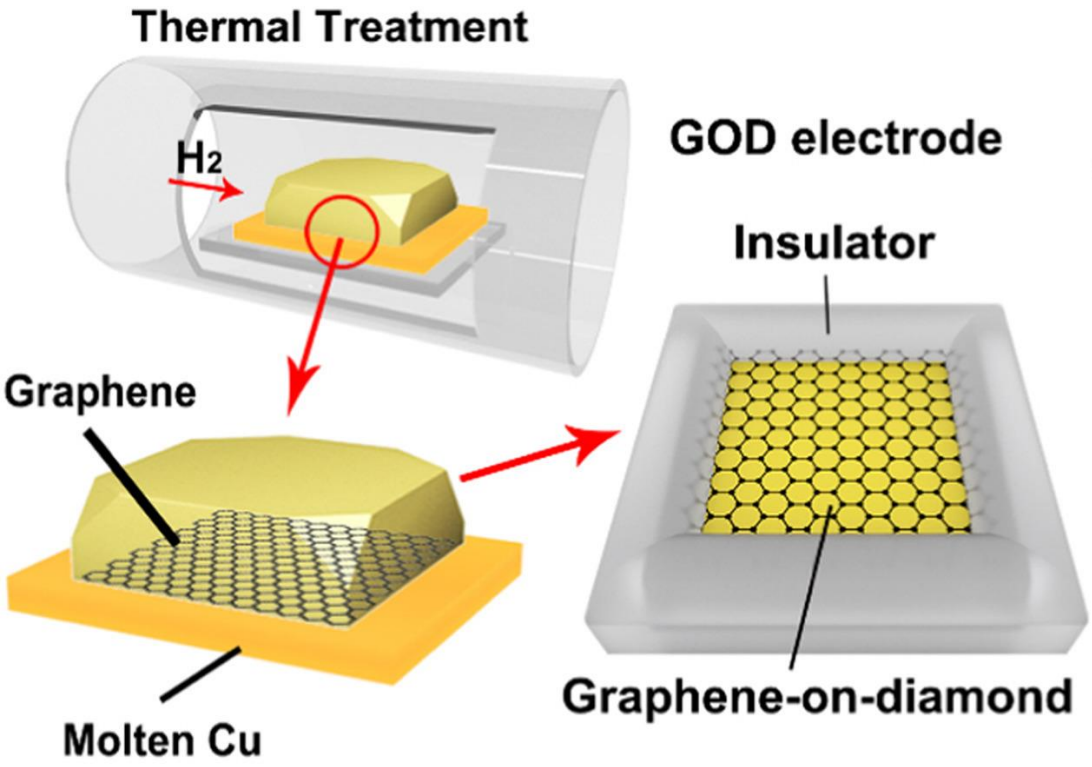

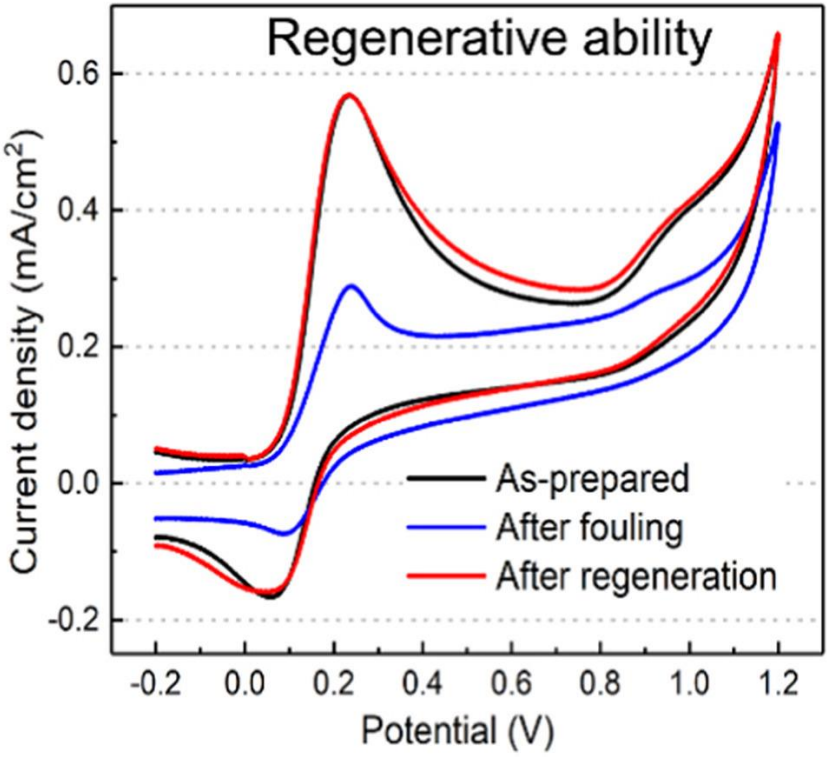

Highly stable and regenerative graphene–diamond hybrid electrochemical biosensor for fouling target dopamine detection

Yuan et al., Biosensors and Bioelectronics, Volume 111, 15 July 2018, Pages 117-123

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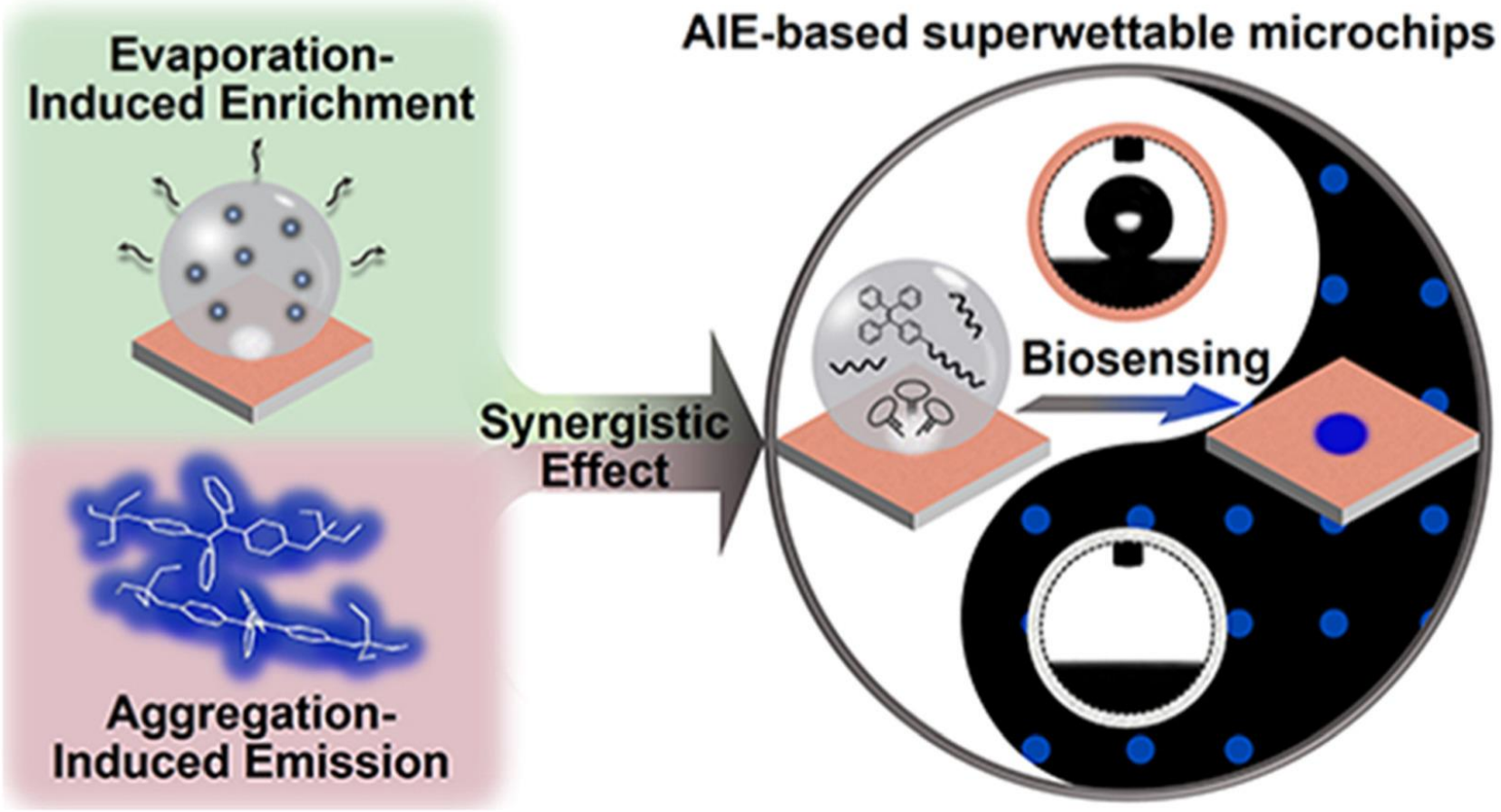

AIE-based superwettable microchips for evaporation and aggregation induced fluorescence enhancement biosensing

Chen et al., Biosensors and Bioelectronics, Volume 111, 15 July 2018, Pages 123-130

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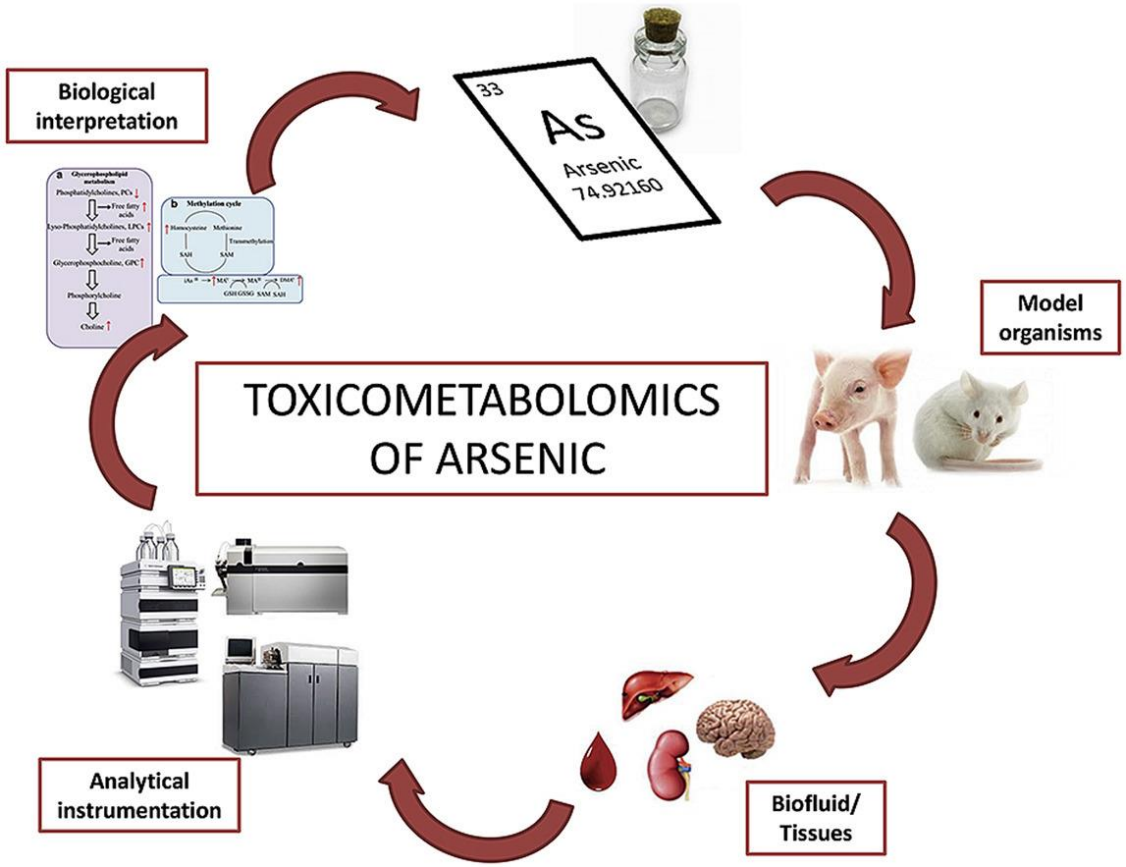

Mass spectrometry based analytical approaches and pitfalls for toxicometabolomics of arsenic in mammals: A tutorial review

Garcia-Barrera et al., Analytica Chimica Acta, Volume 1000, 13 February 2018, Pages 41-66

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Promoting your article

Fentanyl Can Sicken First Responders. Here's a Possible Solution.

NIST researche **exposure to synthetic opioids.**

May 09, 2017

NIST researchers explain how first responders and evidence examiners can use screening technologies to reduce the risk of accidental exposure to synthetic opioids.

Dan Kallen, a detectiv
southern New Jersey,
searching a home witl
fellow officers in Augu
2015, when they foun
of white powder. Kalle
removed a scoop of p
for testing. When he w
done, he closed the b
a bit of air escaped, ca
a puff of powder with
was enough to send K
and a fellow officer to
emergency room.

A lethal dose of heroin compared to a lethal dose of fentanyl. This is just an illustration—the substance actually shown in this photo is an artificial sweetener. *Credit: Bruce A. Taylor/NH State Police Forensic Lab*

The drugs in the bag had been spiked with fentanyl, a synthetic drug that, like heroin, is an opioid. But it is 50 times more potent than heroin, and accidentally inhaling even a tiny amount can be extremely dangerous. Kallen described his experience in a Drug Enforcement Agency video that warns first responders of the dangers of handling unknown powders.

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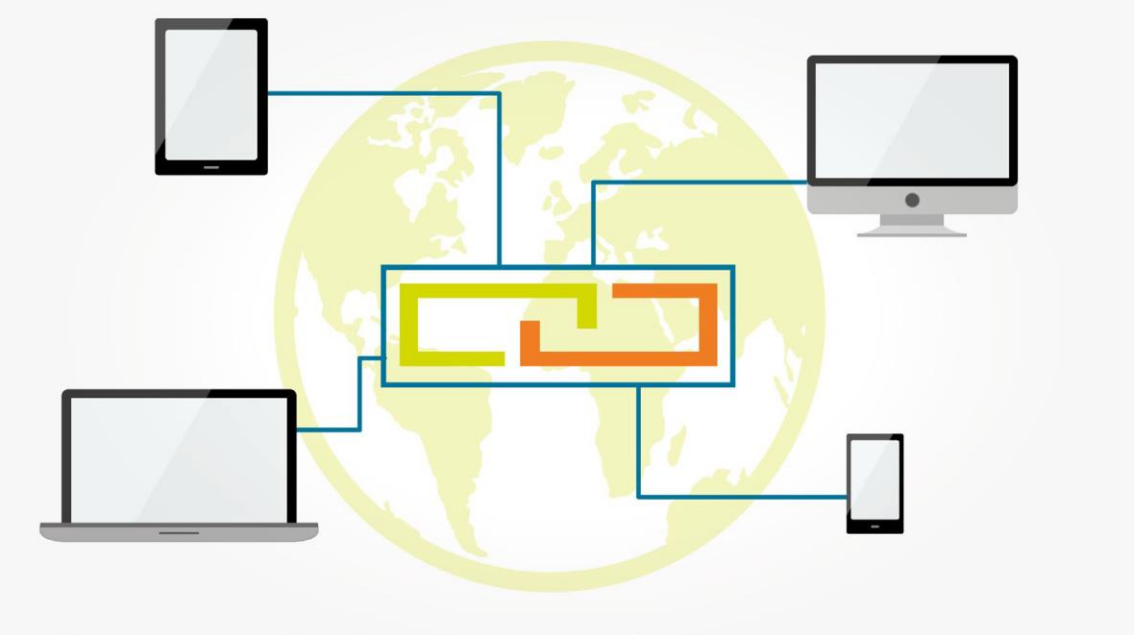

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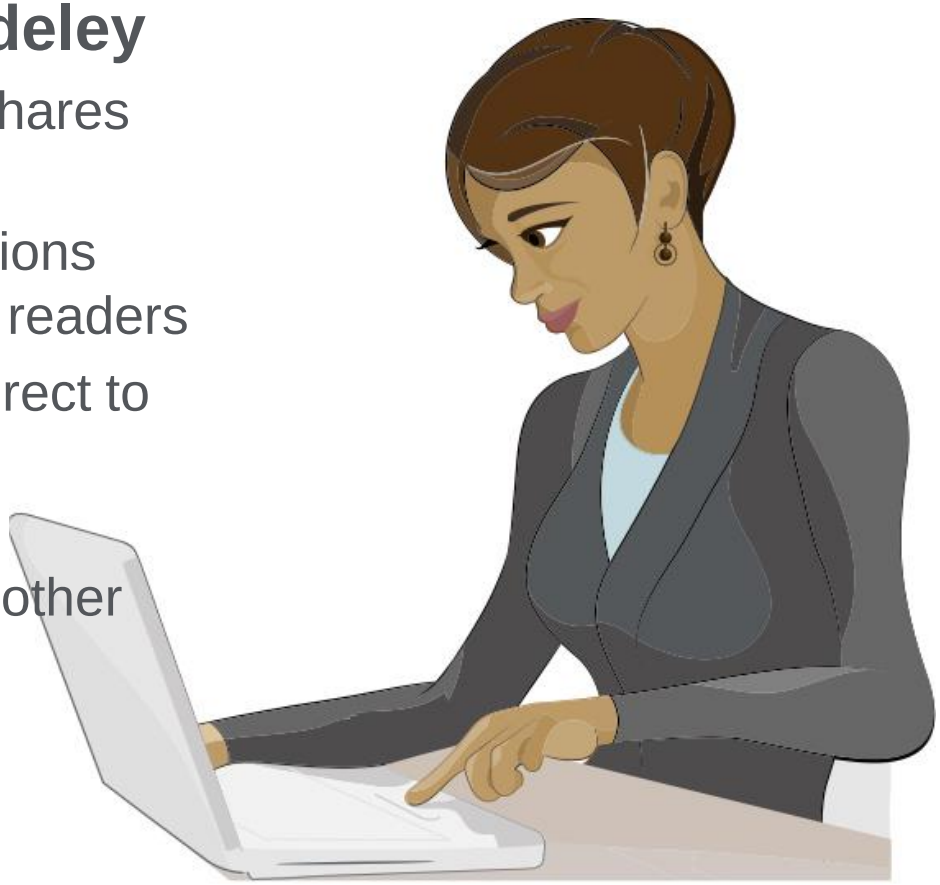


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An empirical validation of four different measures to quantify user interface characteristics based on a general descriptive concept for interaction points. ScienceDirect

by Donahue M., Ivonin L., Chang H.M., Chen W.
Personal and Ubiquitous Computing, vol. 17, no. 4 (2012)

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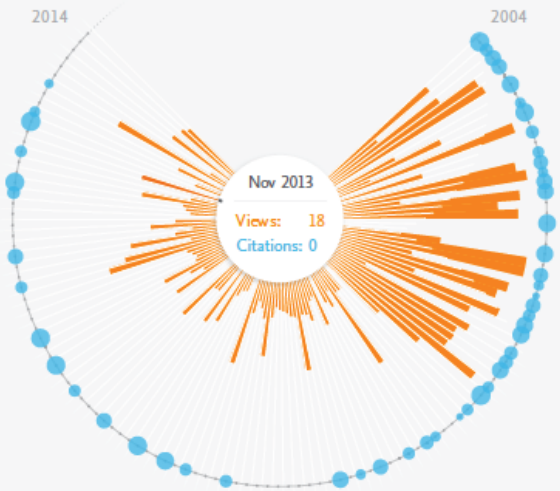

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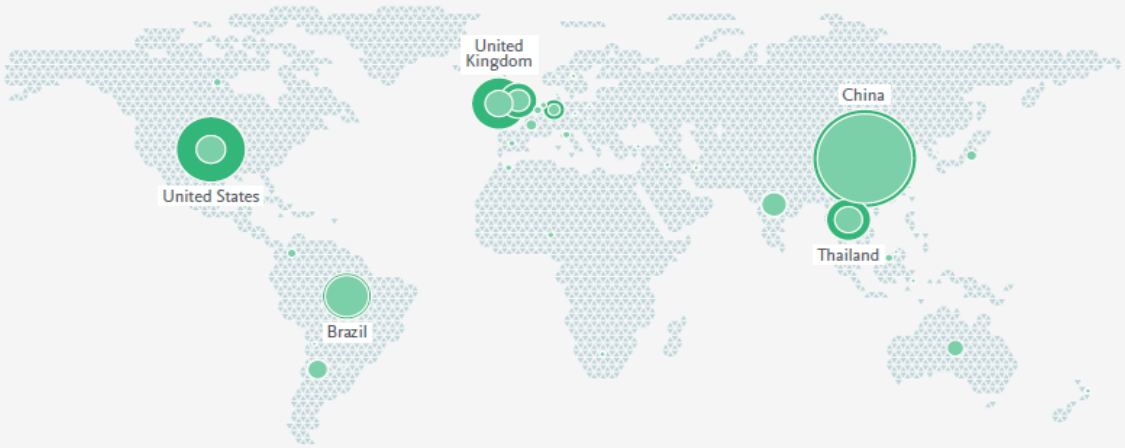

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Citation data: Forensic chemistry, ISSN: 2468-1709, Vol: 4, Page: 108-115
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