

The Second Joint Forum on Expanding the Horizons of Medical Communications

## 効果的な医学論文：業績への道

日時：2008年1月19日 13:00-18:45

場所：日本大学医学部記念講堂

### 演者からの問題と解答

J.P. Barron

Q1. One of the best ways to get published in a specific journal is to:

- A. Refer to the Vancouver Style
- B. Based on notes taken of individual sections of papers from the journal, try to recreate the text of the journal
- C. Refer to the Instructions to Authors
- D. Create a variety of checklists

Answer

B

This is a difficult question because both A and C are also of importance in writing a paper, but the question is about getting published in a specific journal. To do that, it is best to have your paper written in the style of the journal. D is clearly false because you really need only one checklist for yourself that can be used for any kind of submission. The Instructions to Authors and the Vancouver Style are important, but one of the best ways, as I mentioned in my lecture, to get published in a specific journal is to select a paper in that journal in a field close to your own, and take notes in Japanese or English about the Introduction. Then, without looking at the original journal, try to recreate the Introduction and see how your writing differs from the original. Then repeat this with the Materials and Methods, the Results, and the Discussion. After doing this for several times with that journal, you will be writing in a manner that is very similar to the style of the specific journal that is your target.

Q2. An excellent strategy to develop a career based on publication is to:

- A. Appeal to the Editor-in-Chief in the covering letter
- B. Focus your introduction from the beginning
- C. Build up a network of active colleagues in your field and nominate them as possible referees
- D. Pay attention to the Cosmesis Factor

Answer

C

Giving an idea of the main point or the most attractive point of your paper in the cover letter to the Editor-in-Chief is sometimes useful, but it is not as powerful as having a referee who understands what you are trying to do. B is false, because in my lecture I talked about focusing the Discussion (not the Introduction) from the beginning. D is important because, as pointed out in my lecture, cosmesis is indeed a factor, but the most important step between writing a paper and appearing in a journal is for it to pass the peer review system.

Most journals are generally looking out for good reviewers in a variety of fields, therefore if you have a network of people whom you have met at international meetings, with whom you have discussed your work with or discussed their work, it is likely that they would be at least understanding of your work and give your paper an objective review (please see the comments regarding Oral Presentations by Prof. Raoul Breugelmans). The Editor-in-Chief does not want you to give the names of famous people because he already knows them and they are probably too busy to review. What the Editor-in-Chief is looking for is to increase the number of reviewers who are presently involved in the actual field, and will give good reviews, so the answer is C. In order to do this effectively, it is important to participate regularly at the same international congresses and to build up your own network of acquaintances and colleagues.

R. M. Gerling

Q1. What words should you use instead of the following expressions?

- a. At this point in time
- b. Provided that
- c. Reveal
- d. In addition

Answers

- a. Now
- b. If
- c. Show
- d. And

Q2. What is the correct meaning of the following words?

- a. Case
- b. Dose
- c. Imply
- d. Prior to

Answers

- a. a subject of study (Not a patient)
- b. The amount of medication a patient takes at one time (not the total)
- c. Means
- d. Use 'before', that's what it means.

J. R. Benfield

Q1. Please select the **best** response among those offered:

The introduction to a paper should

- a. Include a literature review
- b. State the methodology to be used
- c. Capture the readers' interest
- d. Give a preview of the findings
- e. Allude to the conclusions

Answer

C is the best answer because you are telling the reader why your paper will be of interest. You hope that he will continue to read. Methodology, findings and conclusions should be given in the appropriate sections of the manuscript.

Q2. When an editor informs you that your manuscript needs to be *significantly* revised you should:

- a. Send the manuscript to another journal
- b. Take the letter to your chief for his advice
- c. Start over and write the manuscript again
- d. Address each criticism in detail
- e. Try to convince the editor to publish you manuscript

Answer

D is the best answer because a request for revision means that the editor would like to publish your manuscript if you make the recommended changes in satisfactory fashion. You may certainly also confer with your chief, or even start again from the beginning in order to make the recommended changes, but neither of these steps is required. The manuscript is yours and your co-authors'. If you are the first author, the responsibility for revision is yours. Very few manuscripts are ever accepted without revisions, and if you send your unchanged manuscript to another journal, you will almost certainly get another request for revision. There is no point in trying to convince an editor to change his mind until you have addressed the points he questioned.

Breugelmans

Q1. Which of the following is **preferred** in a manuscript submitted to a top-level journal?

- a. The patient was diagnosed to have hepatocellular carcinoma.
- b. The patient was diagnosed as having hepatocellular carcinoma.
- c. The patient was diagnosed with hepatocellular carcinoma.
- d. The patient was given a diagnosis of hepatocellular carcinoma.
- e. We diagnosed the patient with hepatocellular carcinoma.

Answer

D is the best answer. According to the American Medical Association Manual of Style, patients themselves are not diagnosed, but their conditions are. It is therefore not correct to say “the patient was diagnosed to have/as having/with <condition>”, but it is correct to say “the patient was given a diagnosis of <condition>” or “the patient’s <condition> was diagnosed.” Note that many native-English-speaking physicians do regularly use these incorrect expressions, and that they are frequently used in articles in second-rate journals. The point to remember, therefore, is that simply because an expression can be found in print in articles written by native-English-speaking authors, this does not mean that it is suitable for use in a manuscript for submission to a top-rate journal.

Q2. Which of the following is **not acceptable** for use in a written paper?

- a. Biopsy was normal.

- b. A biopsy of the mass was performed.
- c. The results of the biopsy were normal.
- d. The mass was biopsied.
- e. Biopsy yielded a diagnosis of squamous cell carcinoma.

#### Answer

A is the best answer. The 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of the American Medical Association (AMA) Manual of Style stated that *biopsy* should not be used as a verb. “d. *The mass was biopsied.*” was therefore considered to be incorrect. However, the new 10<sup>th</sup> Edition of the AMA Manual of Style states that such use has become common and acceptable. “b. *A biopsy of the mass was performed.*” and “d. *The mass was biopsied.*” are therefore acceptable equivalents. “e. *Biopsy yielded a diagnosis of squamous cell carcinoma.*” is an elegant expression to describe the result of the biopsy, and is a correct way of saying what is often incorrectly expressed as “*Biopsy was squamous cell carcinoma.*” Finally, “a. *Biopsy was normal.*” is incorrect while “c. *The results of the biopsy were normal.*” is correct, because observations are made of the biopsy specimen (in other words the “results” of the biopsy), not on the biopsy (=procedure) itself.

#### Breugelmans & Gerling

Q1. In which of the following ways can your participation in an international congress benefit the development of your academic medical career?

- a. A well-presented oral presentation can make a good impression on colleagues and help them remember you and your research.
- b. Although its value as a publication is considered lower than that of a written paper, an oral presentation given at an international congress can be counted as a publication.
- c. The other presenters at your session are likely to include future referees of your papers, and giving them a correct understanding of your research will improve the chances of your future papers being accepted for publication.
- d. An international congress is the ideal place for meeting colleagues who you can later suggest to target journals as possible referees for your manuscripts.
- e. All of the above.

Answer

E is the best answer. The balanced development of an academic medical career is essential. Original research papers are not the only way to career development. Attending conferences and giving oral presentations should complement your paper writing activities and vice versa. It is important to use not only your oral presentation itself but the entire congress, especially the social events, to broaden your network of friends and sources of information. Congresses are ideal places for developing contacts that could be very important for future research and academic activities. It is therefore advisable to check the Program on registration, see who will be the presenters and chairpersons at your session and memorize their names, go to the Opening Ceremony and sit as far front as possible, go to the Welcome Reception by yourself or with a friend from another country, and at coffee times, lunches, etc. take a positive attitude in introducing yourself. Avoid going around social events with a group of people speaking Japanese, because this makes it difficult for others to approach you. Actively developing an international network at international congresses can benefit the development of your academic medical career in all the ways listed above and more.

Q2. To emphasize an important point in a slide, which of the following is the most effective?

- a. Type the important point completely in upper case text.
- b. On a dark blue background with white text, type the important point in yellow text.
- c. On a dark blue background with white text, type the important point in red text.
- d. On a light blue background with black text, type the important point in yellow text.
- e. Use animation to have the important point spiral into the slide with a dramatic sound effect.

Answer

B is the best answer. A single word or expression in upper case text can sometimes be effective for emphasis, but too much text in upper case is difficult to read and can be counterproductive. For regular text, either a dark background with light text or a light background with dark text is recommend. Both white text and yellow text are very clear against a dark blue background, and therefore using yellow to emphasize important points among text in plain white against a dark blue background is very effective. Dark text on a dark background, however, is very difficult to read. Red text on a dark blue background, in particular, produces a “beating” effect and should be avoided. Yellow text on a light blue background should be avoided for the same reason. Keep in mind also that color combinations do not always look the same when

projected on a large screen as they do on a computer screen. Animation used sparingly can sometimes be effective, but overusing special effects, or using very flashy animation or sound effects may result in your audience remembering you for your special effects rather than for the content of your presentation. Aim to make an impact with your message, not with your audiovisual materials.

Karen Wooley

Q1. What are the two main differences between professional medical writers and ghostwriters?

Answer

Unlike ghostwriters, professional medical writers ensure that:

- a. authors control the content (messages and data)
- b. writers comply with ethical medical writing guidelines

Q2. What are the three key strategic questions that a professional medical writer should ask the authors before work begins on the structural outline?

Answer

The three key strategic questions are:

- a. What is the authors' main message?
- b. What is original about the authors' research?
- c. What is clinically important about the authors' research?