



## Editorial Message

### Developing Skills for Early-Career Researchers to Publish in International Journals

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Publishing research articles in international journals is crucial for expanding knowledge and creating a global academic impact.<sup>1</sup> However, many early-career researchers face challenges in preparing manuscripts that meet the rigorous review and acceptance standards of high-quality journals. This editorial discusses key strategies to enhance researchers' skills and improve their chances of successful publication.

#### 1. Ethics in Publishing Scholarly Work

As nursing scholars have been publishing more and more works in national and international journals, the issue of misconduct in publishing must be seriously considered. Lambert and Lambert<sup>2</sup> suggested avoiding misconduct in publishing (a) plagiarism both others and own published work; (b) putting a person's name on a manuscript without any contribution; (c) no permission to use or translate copyrighted research instruments and, (d) submitting a manuscript to more than journals at the same time. The authors should also look at the publications Ethic as outline by the selected journal which the authors want to publish their work.

#### 2. Understanding the Publication Process

Publishing in international journals involves several steps, including selecting an appropriate journal, formatting the manuscript according to journal guidelines, undergoing peer review, and revising the manuscript based on reviewers' feedback.<sup>3</sup> Early-career researchers should familiarize themselves with these steps to minimize errors and increase publication success rates.<sup>4</sup>

#### 3. Developing Academic Writing Skills

Effective research writing must be clear, concise, and well-structured. Researchers should practice academic writing by focusing on accurate language use, logical presentation of information, and evidence-based argumentation.<sup>5</sup> Additionally, proficiency in English is essential for international publications, and attending academic writing workshops can further improve these skills.<sup>6</sup> However, with the advance AI technology, such as chat GPT may help in improve writing, but researchers must use it appropriately. Grammarly writing is a free AI assistant in reviews the spelling, grammar, and tone of a piece of writing. EQUATOR check list is a guideline that can help to report research clearly and fully for each design. The researcher can visit at <http://www.equator-network.org/>. The other useful guideline is Wiley Writing for publication- An easy- to- follow guide for nurses at [www.nursingopenjournal.com/app/10](http://www.nursingopenjournal.com/app/10).

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**The ‘Four Rules of writing by Wiley,<sup>7</sup> should be practiced, especially for the new researchers;**

- 3.1 Read the author’s guidelines and look at the latest articles published in selected journal to publish in.
- 3.2 Set targets and count words as you can achieve on a daily basis, create a file with the headings and subheading according to the journal you select to publish in.
- 3.3 Seek criticism from whom you trust and respect in academic writing such as your former advisor, who has published before.
- 3.4 Treat a rejection as your lesson learn for the next submission.

#### **4. Selecting the Right Journal**

Choosing an appropriate journal significantly influences publication success. Researchers should identify journals relevant to their field and consider factors such as Impact Factor, journal credibility, and submission guidelines<sup>8</sup> as well as the focus of the journal. Avoiding predatory journals is also essential to ensure that published work is recognized and respected in the academic community. The researcher also needs to look at the focus whether it is academic or clinical journal. Clinical journals are more widely read by the practitioners. Academic focus journal is more likely emphasized on theoretical and rigorous method and use a conventional format, which allow lengthier than clinical journal.<sup>7</sup> Some journal like Pacific Rim International Journal of Nursing Research publishes both clinical and academic paper.

#### **5. Managing Data and References Efficiently**

Using credible sources and following standardized citation guidelines enhance the credibility of a manuscript. Researchers should use reference management tools like EndNote, Mendeley, or Zotero to organize citations efficiently and ensure compliance with journal-specific formatting requirements. If researchers decide to handwrite the references, they should take extra care to ensure accuracy and consistency in formatting. Errors in citations, such as incorrect author names, journal titles, or volume and issue numbers, the abbreviation of journal’s name, the formatting/punctuation of every one of the authors’ references using the author guidelines and recently published articles in the journal to guide. It is important to include all relevant information as well as DOI numbers and abbreviate name of journals. Be sure that it is consistency with the style of your selected journal. Also, update the references as much as you can. Reference can impact the credibility of the manuscript. Manually formatting references according to the journal’s specific guidelines require meticulous attention to detail. To minimize mistakes, researchers should cross-check their references with official journal databases and citation style guides. Additionally, proofreading references before submission can help avoid potential delays in the publication process.

#### **6. Responding to Peer Review Feedback**

Once a manuscript undergoes peer review, researchers must take the reviewers’ comments seriously when revising the manuscript. In other words, do what is suggested unless you have a very good reason not to do it. Then state, in a cover letter, why you choose not to do it when you resubmit the revised manuscript. Responses should be constructive, well-supported with evidence, and clearly explain the revisions made.<sup>9</sup> Strong communication skills are necessary to convey research findings and defend key arguments persuasively.



## 7. Building Networks and Collaborations

Engaging with academic mentors and collaborating with experienced researchers can enhance publication opportunities. Early career researchers should participate in academic conferences, seminars, and research groups to exchange knowledge and seek guidance from experts in their field.<sup>10</sup>

## Conclusion

Developing the skills required to publish in international journals requires dedication and continuous improvement. Early-career researchers should focus on academic writing, journal selection, data management, and networking to increase their chances of publication. This editorial aims to provide valuable insights and guidance to support researchers in their journey towards successful academic publishing.

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