A housewife’s guide to paper writing

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Objectives

• to review the specific prep-work required to get started on scientific manuscript writing
• to conceptualize and structure the core components of scientific manuscripts including text and tables/figures
• to build a transferable, fool-proof recipe for manuscript writing for people with multiple responsibilities (ie. working parents) and little time
Concept

• Prep work: Team, journal, authors guidelines, reference manager program (endnote, other)
• Title (sexy)
• Authors affiliations
• Core
  – Background
  – Methods/patients
  – Results
  – Discussion
  – References
  – Tables and figures
Order of manuscript writing

• Methods
• Tables and results
• Discussion
• Introduction
• Abstract
Methods

Total: 6 paragraphs

1. Study design, patients time frame, inclusion, exclusion criteria, data capture, ethics (No)

2.- 4. paragraph independent variable description (clinical, lab, imaging, treatment)

5. Paragraph: outcome (primary, secondary)

6. Analysis (what tests, software)
Results/Tables

3 tables/5-6 result paragraphs
Corresponding paragraphs to methods

• Concepts:
  – Information can be found in either, written info is usually important summary data or unimportant data
  – Avoid duplications, refer tables at the end of to summary data
Discussion

5 paragraphs

1. **Paragraph**: Summary highlighting the unique aspects of the study (1. sentence), then 3 sentences to summarize

2. **Key point 1**: make the point (1. sentence), support the point (2.), turn around and compare with literature (max 3 sentences with reference), may finish with “motherhood statement”
Discussion

3. **Key point 2**: make the point (1.sentence), support the point (2.), turn around and compare with literature (max 3 sentences with reference), may finish with “motherhood statement”

4. Paragraph: **limitations** (max 3), pair with however sentence

5. Paragraph: **conclusion** (3 sentences)
Introduction

4 paragraphs
• Disease of interest (4 sentences, max 5 ref), start with disease x is and make a strong statement
• Problem of interest (4, max 5 ref)
• Gap of knowledge (3)
• Aims: Therefore the aims of the study were (max 3 aims)
  • Description
  • Comparison
  • prediction/punchline analysis
Abstract

• Short version of your manuscript info – align!
• Check structured versus unstructured abstract as per journal guideline
Specifics of each journal

• Key points
• Take home messages
• Research in context
Authors

• Make sure you integrate all authors
• Make a list of criteria for order
• Consider shared first and last authorship
final

• Read it out loud
• Give your co-authors 2 weeks to review
• Integrate their opinions
• Submit
• Send info plus submitted version to your team
You did it...