



Publishing research: A very short tour

Allison Lang

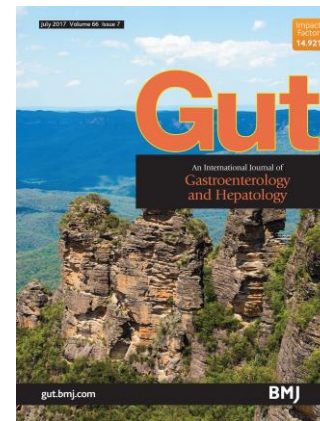
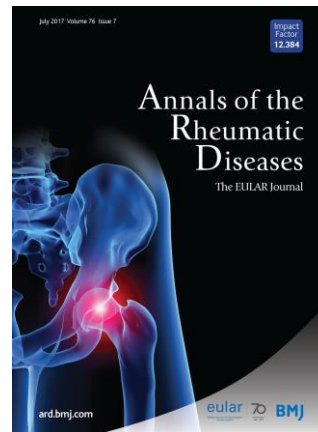
Publishing Director, BMJ



**A global healthcare
knowledge provider
with a vision of helping to
create *a healthier world***

We share knowledge and expertise to
improve experiences and outcomes.

BMJ journals portfolio is very diverse



10,000
+
articles

Open Access companion journals



Where to start?

The image shows a screenshot of two web pages. The top page is for Nature Research, featuring a navigation menu with 'Services', 'Resources', 'About', 'Contact Us', and 'Build My Solution'. A search bar is on the right. The main content area has a red geometric background and a white box containing a photo of a workshop and the text 'Nature Research Academies - Getting Published'. Below this is a 'Contact Us' button. A dark grey banner at the bottom of this page contains a privacy policy update notice and an 'I agree' button.

The bottom page is for BMJ Editage, with a navigation menu including 'Services', 'Quality Assurance', 'Publication Ethics', 'FAQs', 'Editors', and a green 'Get a quote' button. The main content area has a blue background and features the text 'Welcome to BMJ Author Services' followed by two bullet points: '✓ 24/7 Service With A Reply In Minutes' and '✓ 100% Satisfaction / Your Money Back'. Below these is a green 'Choose your service' button. To the right is a diagram showing a hand holding a yellow pencil, with a line connecting the words 'Research', 'Write', 'Publish', and 'Promote' in sequence.

BMJ partners with Editage to offer Author Services to Medical Researchers worldwide and assist them in their publication goals. Editage offers professional editing by **specialized subject experts in Medicine**. With a comprehensive quality guarantee, Editage promises to assist you until you are ready to submit.

Services we offer

Author hub

The screenshot shows the BMJ Author Hub website. At the top right, it says "BMJ Journals". Below that, there is a search bar and a "MENU" dropdown. The main heading is "BMJ Author Hub" with an icon of a laptop and a smartphone. Below this, there is a section for "Early Career Researchers" with a pink envelope icon. A horizontal line separates this from the "In this section:" list, which includes: "From research to publication", "How to choose a journal", "Writing a cover letter", "Language editing services", and "How to promote your paper". To the right of the list, the "Early Career Researchers" section is titled, followed by a welcome message: "Welcome to our section for Early Career Researchers. Here you can find some useful resources that will help you get started in the world of Publishing – feel free to browse from the left-hand menu. To get you started, here is the first of a series of videos on how to get published, from the Editor in Chief of *Emergency Medicine Journal*". Below the text is a video player showing a woman's face, with the title "How to get published by EMJ: your Introduction section" and an "EMJ" logo in the top right corner.

authors.bmj.com

Research to Publication



...tion programme is part of The BMJ's commitment to building medical research capabilities around the world. In collaboration with the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), the programme launched in early 2016.

[About](#) [Researchers](#) [Institutions](#) [Pricing](#) [Register or Sign In](#)

Courses & Modules List

Free Modules



How to write & publish a study protocol

Understand different meanings of the term "protocol"; Communicate the value of planned research; Appreciate the characteri...



Introduction to randomized blinded trials

Define randomized blinded trials; Explain how to design RBTs; Describe how to choose the intervention and control conditio...

+ How to Write a Paper

+ What Editors and Peer Reviewers look for

+ Publication Ethics

+ Designing Clinical Research

+ Responsible Conduct of Research

+ Introduction to Clinical Trials

rtop.bmj.com



Core guidance on writing papers

- **International Committee of Medical Journal Editors**
recommendations for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals
<http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/manuscript-preparation/preparing-for-submission.html>
- Reporting guidelines for research, at the **EQUATOR network**
<http://www.equator-network.org/>

ICMJE guidelines on manuscript preparation

The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) is a small working group of general medical journal editors that meets annually to work on the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals.

Members: Annals of Internal Medicine, The BMJ, Canadian Medical Association Journal, Chinese Medical Journal, Ethiopian Journal of Health Sciences, JAMA, Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Geneeskunde (The Dutch Medical Journal), New England Journal of Medicine, New Zealand Medical Journal, Revista Médica de Chile, PLOS, Tidsskrift for Den Norske Lægeforening (The Journal of the Norwegian Medical Association), The Lancet, Ugeskrift for Laeger (Journal of the Danish Medical Association), the U.S. National Library of Medicine, and the World Association of Medical Editors.

Home > Recommendations > Browse > Manuscript Preparation > Preparing for Submission

Preparing for Submission

PAGE CONTENTS

1. General Principles
2. Reporting Guidelines
3. Manuscript Sections
 - a. Title Page
 - b. Abstract
 - c. Introduction
 - d. Methods
 - e. Results
 - f. Discussion
 - g. References
 - h. Tables
 - i. Illustrations (Figures)
 - j. Units of Measurement
 - k. Abbreviations and Symbols

1. General Principles

The text of articles reporting original research is usually divided into Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion sections. This so-called "IMRAD" structure is not an arbitrary publication format but a reflection of the process of scientific discovery. Articles often need subheadings within these sections to further organize their content. Other types of articles, such as meta-analyses, may require different formats, while case reports, narrative reviews, and editorials may have less structured or unstructured formats.

Electronic formats have created opportunities for adding details or sections, layering information, cross-linking, or extracting portions of articles in electronic versions. Supplementary electronic-only material should be submitted and sent for peer review simultaneously with the primary manuscript.

2. Reporting Guidelines

Reporting guidelines have been developed for different study designs; examples include CONSORT for randomized trials, STROBE for observational studies, PRISMA for systematic reviews and meta-analyses, and STARD for studies of diagnostic accuracy. Journals are encouraged to ask authors to follow these guidelines because they help authors describe the study in enough detail for it to be evaluated by editors, reviewers, readers, and other researchers

FAQ
How do I format a specific citation?
[View Answer](#)

KEEP UP-TO-DATE
Request to receive an E-mail when the Recommendations are updated.
[Subscribe to Changes](#)

EQUATOR network

- Enhancing the QUALity and Transparency Of health Research



Enhancing the QUALity and
Transparency Of health Research



EQUATOR resources in
Portuguese | Spanish

- Home
- Library
- Toolkits
- Courses & events
- News
- Blog
- Librarian Network
- About us
- Contact

Your one-stop-shop for writing and publishing high-impact health research

find reporting guidelines | improve your writing | join our courses | run your own training course | enhance your peer review | implement guidelines



Library for health research reporting

The Library contains a comprehensive searchable database of reporting guidelines and also links to other resources relevant to research reporting.



Search for reporting guidelines



Not sure which reporting guideline to use?



Reporting guidelines under development



Visit the library for more resources



Reporting guidelines for main study types

Randomised trials	CONSORT	Extensions	Other
Observational studies	STROBE	Extensions	Other
Systematic reviews	PRISMA	Extensions	Other
Case reports	CARE	Extensions	Other
Qualitative research	SRQR	COREQ	Other
Diagnostic / prognostic studies	STARD	TRIPOD	Other
Quality improvement studies	SQUIRE		Other
Economic evaluations	CHEERS		Other
Animal pre-clinical studies	ARRIVE		Other
Study protocols	SPIRIT	PRISMA-P	Other

[See all 343 reporting guidelines](#)

Publication School (2-day workshop)
The secrets of success in writing and publishing research articles

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Identify key writing elements for the success of a research article
- Understand the reporting and writing process from concept to publication and how to address the needs of your research
- Produce the correct journal and manuscript format
- Develop and receive constructive peer review
- For more details of the course and other EQUATOR resources visit [equator-network.org](#)

Then, this is the course for you!

A large number of published health research articles are rejected yearly. This is not because the research is of poor quality, but because the authors did not follow the correct format for submission. EQUATOR's Reporting Publication School offers to develop essential writing skills to help you overcome common problems, writing, publishing and communicating research for high-impact journals and other channels.

Course topics include:

- Prof Paul Glasziou, An-Ping Doherty (Baker Heart Institute), and Dr Donald Brown (EQUATOR Centre)

equator network **CRITERION** **UNIVERSITY** **UNIVERSITY**

EQUATOR Publication School: December 2016, Australasian EQUATOR Centre

IMRaD structure for research papers

- **Introduction:** why ask this research question?
- **Methods:** what did I do?
- **Results:** what did I find?
and
- **Discussion:** what might it mean?



IMRaD structure: Introduction

- Brief background for this audience
- 3-4 paragraphs only: mind the word limit
- What's known/not known on research question
- Don't bore readers, editors, reviewers
- Don't boast about how much you have read

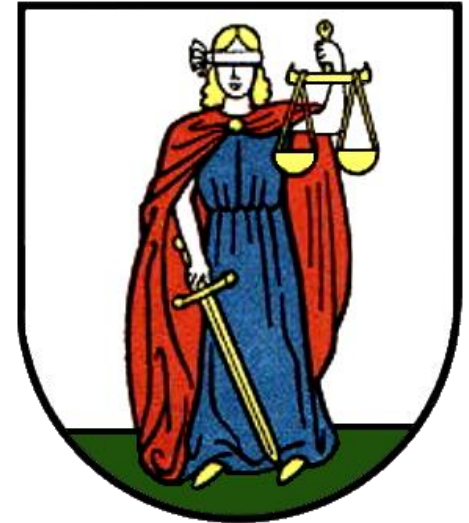
The research question

- State it clearly in last paragraph of introduction
- State why the question matters

Ethical aspects to consider in the Methods section

Ethics aspects of methods:

- What was the consent procedure?
- Were there any deviations from normal practice?
- Might publication reveal patients' identities?
- What burden was imposed?
- What are the risks and benefits for participants/others?
- How might society or future patients benefit in time?



IMRaD structure: Results

- Report results fully & honestly, as pre-specified
- Text (story), Tables (evidence), Figures (highlights)
- Report primary outcomes first
- Give confidence intervals for main results
- Report essential summary statistics
- Leave out non-essential tables and figures; these can be included as supplementary files
- Don't start discussion here

Abstracts

- Often the only part of the study that will be read
- All authors must approve it
- Editors may screen papers based on the abstracts
- Structured abstracts for The BMJ need:
 - 300-400 words
 - Structured format
 - Active voice
 - Results plus p values
 - %s with denominators
 - No references
 - Trial registration details

Structured abstracts

Post-traumatic stress, anxiety and depression following miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy: a prospective cohort study

Jessica Farren¹, Maria Jalbrant², Lieveke Ameye³, Karen Joash¹, Nicola Mitchell-Jones⁴, Sophie Tapp¹, Dirk Timmerman^{3,5}, Tom Bourne^{1,3,5}

Abstract

Objectives This is a pilot study to investigate the type and severity of emotional distress in women after early pregnancy loss (EPL), compared with a control group with ongoing pregnancies. The secondary aim was to assess whether miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy impacted differently on the type and severity of psychological morbidity.

Design This was a prospective survey study. Consecutive women were recruited between January 2012 and July 2013. We emailed women a link to a survey 1, 3 and 9 months after a diagnosis of EPL, and 1 month after the diagnosis of a viable ongoing pregnancy.

Setting The Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU) of a central London teaching hospital.

Participants We recruited 186 women. 128 had a diagnosis of EPL, and 58 of ongoing pregnancies. 11 withdrew consent, and 11 provided an illegible or invalid email address.

Main outcome measures Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) was measured using the Post-traumatic Diagnostic Scale (PDS), and anxiety and depression using the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS).

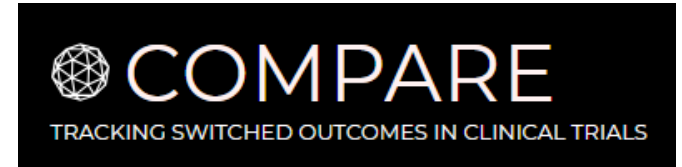
Results Response rates were 69/114 at 1 month and 44/68 at 3 months in the EPL group, and 20/50 in controls. Psychological morbidity was higher in the EPL group with 28% meeting the criteria for probable PTSD, 32% for anxiety and 16% for depression at 1 month and 38%, 20% and 5%, respectively, at 3 months. In the control group, no women met criteria for PTSD and 10% met criteria for anxiety and depression. There was little difference in type or severity of distress following ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage.

Conclusions We have shown a large number of women having experienced a miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy fulfil the diagnostic criteria for probable PTSD. Many suffer from moderate-to-severe anxiety, and a lesser number depression. Psychological morbidity, and in particular PTSD symptoms, persists at least 3 months following pregnancy loss.

Why publish study protocols?

Why publish study protocols?

- Keep researchers and funding bodies up-to-date
- Enable collaboration amongst the research community
- Prevent unnecessary duplication of work
- Increase transparency by making more information available than required by trial registries
- Give others the opportunity to see and understand deviations that occur during the study
- **Increase transparency and trust**



What journals provide: peer review & scholarly publishing



Factors to consider when choosing a journal

- Journal scope
- Journal indexing and Impact Factor
- Language of publication
- Likelihood of acceptance
- Speed of publication
- Colleagues' advice
- Open access or not?
- Publication fees
- Editorial and peer review policies

The purpose of journals often differs

- **For readers**

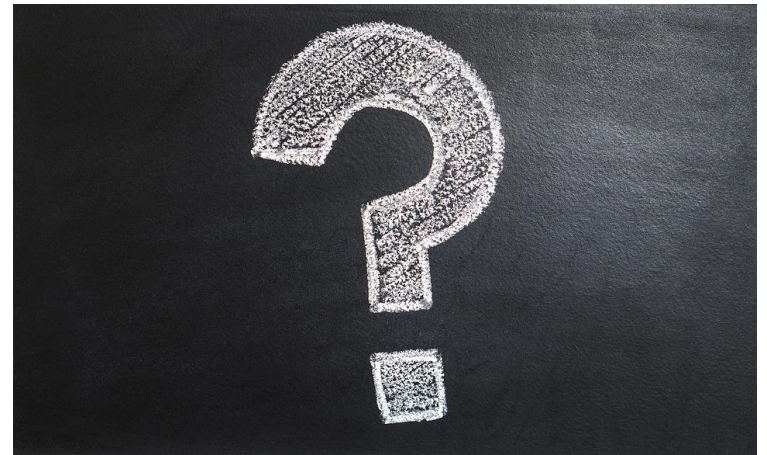
- Many journals focus largely on readers, choosing and commissioning articles of most interest and use to particular types or group of readers (eg The BMJ, BMJ Supportive and Palliative Care). These may appear online as well as in print, and may provide Open Access.

- **For authors and funders**

- Some newer “megajournals” focus on providing authors with a fast, fair peer review process; relatively high acceptance rates, rapid online only publication; and Open Access, e.g., BMJ Open, PeerJ, F1000 Research.

Impact Factor: Questions

- Do you use the Impact Factor when selecting a journal (either as an author or a reader)?
- Do you think journals with a high Impact Factor are “better”?
- Do you know what the Impact Factor represents?



Impact Factor

The 2017 IF for a journal is calculated using the following ratio:

Total citations to scholarly articles (published in 2015 and 2016)
in 2017

Number of citable articles in the journal in 2015 and 2016

Impact Factor: Positives

- Intuitively, it seems like a sensible metric to use to place a value on a journal
- Choosing a journal can be difficult—a quantifiable measure is extremely useful. Impact Factor has become the standard in the publishing industry.

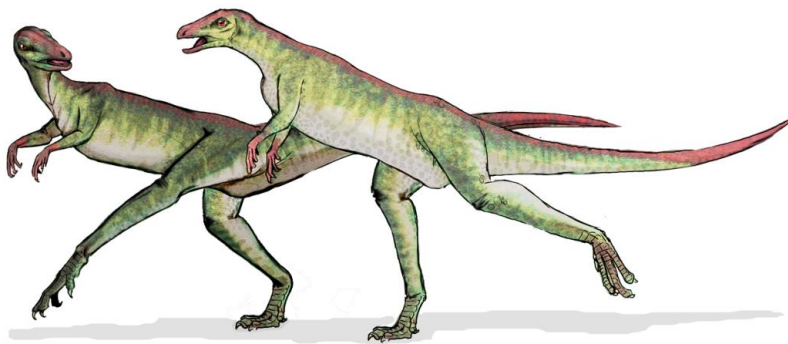


Impact Factor: Problems

- Different journals have different objectives
- Authors and publishers play the Impact Factor “game”
- Chasing Impact Factor contributes to bias in the scientific record
- The Impact Factor can be seen as a driver for research misconduct

Limitations of Journal Impact Factor

- Skewed by a minority of highly cited articles, e.g., review articles
- Cannot be compared across fields
- Higher in research fields with literature that is cited quickly
- May be artificially inflated by “self citation” by journals
- Calculated using the SCI database that includes only some journals, with a bias towards journals in English



Article Level Metrics

- **Article-Level Metrics** (ALMs) are a new approach to quantifying the reach and impact of published research.
- As electronic dissemination of scholarly content has surpassed print, it has become easier to disaggregate an individual article's impact from the publication in which it appeared.
- It's also possible to track different markers of an article's reach, beyond just citations.
- ALMs seek to incorporate new data sources (sometimes referred to as “altmetrics”) along with traditional measures to present a richer picture of how an individual article is being discussed, shared, and used.

<http://sparcopen.org/our-work/article-level-metrics/>

Altmetrics

The Altmetric Attention Score and donut are designed to help you easily identify how much and what type of attention a research output has received. You might come across them on publisher article metrics pages, institutional repositories, or even individual researcher or lab publications pages.

You can always click on the donut to visit the details page for the research output, to see the original mentions and references that have contributed to the attention score.

The colors of the Altmetric donut each represent a different source of attention:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| ● Policy documents | ● Google+ |
| ● News | ● LinkedIn |
| ● Blogs | ● Reddit |
| ● Twitter | ● Faculty1000 |
| ● Post-publication peer-reviews | ● Q&A (stack overflow) |
| ● Facebook | ● Youtube |
| ● Sina Weibo | ● Pinterest |
| ● Wikipedia | |



The amount of each color in the donut will change depending on which [sources](#) a research output has received attention from:

www.altmetric.com/about-our-data/the-donut-and-score/

Altmetrics Top 100 list 2018

- Mortality in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria
- The spread of true and false news online
- Alcohol use and burden for 195 countries and territories, 1990–2016: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016

Altmetric ALTMETRIC TOP 100 2018

THE 2018 ALTMETRIC TOP 100

In the past year, Altmetric has tracked over **25 million** mentions of **2.8 million** research outputs. This page highlights the top 100 most-mentioned scholarly articles published in the past year – those which have truly captured the public imagination.

[ABOUT THE ALTMETRIC TOP 100](#) [EXPLORE THE DATA](#)

Filter articles Showing 100 articles. Sort by Altmetric Attention Score

Search for articles

Journal / Collection +

#1 of 100
10724 Mortality in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria

FREE

Get an ORCID number

ORCID

Connecting Research
and Researchers

DISTINGUISH YOURSELF IN THREE EASY STEPS

ORCID provides a persistent digital identifier that distinguishes you from every other researcher and, through integration in key research workflows such as manuscript and grant submission, supports automated linkages between you and your professional activities ensuring that your work is recognized. [Find out more](#)

1 REGISTER Get your unique ORCID identifier [Register now!](#)
Registration takes 30 seconds.

2 ADD YOUR INFO Enhance your ORCID record with your professional information and link to your other identifiers (such as Scopus or ResearcherID or LinkedIn).

3 USE YOUR ORCID ID Include your ORCID identifier on your Webpage, when you submit publications, apply for grants, and in any research workflow to ensure you get credit for your work.

BMJ Open Science

About

BMJ Open Science is a new open journal publishing **preclinical and basic research** that is close to medicine.

The journal has a clear focus on **methodological rigour** with an emphasis on **transparency** and **reproducibility** of the evidence-base in order to improve healthcare.

Open access, open data, open review

BMJ Open Science

Transparency & Credit

bioRxiv
beta

THE PREPRINT SERVER FOR BIOLOGY

medRxiv

THE PREPRINT SERVER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES

“By posting preprints, authors can help promote openness and transparency and reduce research waste from duplicated efforts and non-reporting. By helping ensure a balance of safety and speed, we believe medRxiv can provide a valuable service to the clinical research community.”

Rawlinson & Bloom 2019, <https://www.bmj.com/content/365/bmj.l2301>

Get involved!

- Peer review process
- Contribute to blogs/podcasts
- Social media editor posts
- Twitter journal clubs
- BMJ Hackathon

- **Tell publishers what you think!** Author surveys, research programmes

Thank you

Web: bmj.com

Email: alang@bmj.com

