

## **Writing for Publication in a Scientific Journal: A Primer**

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Medical research is essential to improving our understanding of the nature of psychiatric disorders and developing more effective treatments. Conduct of a useful research study requires articulation of a relevant and answerable research question, development of a proper research design and use of appropriate methods, rigorous implementation of the research protocol, and careful data analysis and interpretation. But for even the best of research studies to have any impact, their information needs to be communicated to the broader research and clinical community- this is generally via the medium of a scientific publication. Many investigators are very adept at conducting high quality research but have difficulty in getting their important research findings published in high impact journals because of difficulty in composing high quality manuscripts.

**In this workshop, the fundamental principles of scientific writing will be outlined and basic skills in constructing high quality manuscripts will be reviewed. The expectations of the four “audiences” of any research paper (the Editor, Reviewers, Readers, and one’s own Research Team) will be outlined and the implications of these expectations for each of the major sections of the manuscript (Introduction, Methods, Results, Conclusion), their elements (tables, figures, etc.), and other sections (Title, Abstract, List of authors with conflicts of interest, list of References, Acknowledgements, Keywords) will be discussed using examples and illustrations. Answers to frequently asked questions will be provided along with specific recommendations (“pearls”) for composing better manuscripts and improving their chances of acceptance for publication in high impact journals.**