

Course ID: CMEC03

How to write and publish a scientific paper

Course director: Povl Munk-Jørgensen

Educational Objectives: To give the participant the basic knowledge needed for writing a manuscript for an international peer reviewed journal.

Course description: The course consists of two halves: The first part deals with basic principles for writing a manuscript about a clinical study, defined in its broad sense. How to write a manuscript about qualitative research studies and basic biological science will not be discussed.

A carefully planned research project is easier to report. Therefore, it will be recommended to have the manuscript in mind already when the protocol is performed, and it will be taught that there are advantages in working with the manuscript alongside the performance of the project. Also already at the point of planning the project, to consider in which of 1-3 journals it might be relevant to publish the results.

The parallel between reading and writing an article/manuscript will be highlighted. The standard sections of manuscripts will be presented: abstract, introduction, purpose, material and methods, results, discussion, acknowledgement, literature list.

The second half of the course will be occupied with the editorial assessment of manuscripts and the (hopefully) succeeding publication.

With examples from *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica* we will go through concepts as e.g. instructions to authors, peer reviewing, assessment time, manuscript revision, proof reading, acceptance/rejection percentage, publication time, impact factor. The course will comment on most suitable choice of journal and what an author can do to increase the probability of an accept for publication – given the quality of the research.

Methods: During the course PowerPoint presentation or traditional overhead transparencies will be used together with hand outs of (most of) the material. The course will be a combination of teaching hour and interaction between teacher and audience.

The course firstly applies to inexperienced young researchers who do clinical research and who have none or only limited knowledge of international publication. However, supervisors who do not feel experienced in how to guide and advise their trainees in this matter of manuscript writing and publishing are also welcome.

Target audience: Anyone that writes scientific papers

Course level: No previous experience in manuscript writing is needed, but some participating in research projects will be an advantage.