Download at: **edanzediting.com/FTM2016**

edanz

Writing Research Manuscripts That Have Impact

Faculty of Tropical Medicine,
Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand
27 September 2016

Trevor Lane, PhD
Education Director, Edanz

edanz

Your goal is not only to publish, but also to be widely read and highly cited

Maximize the impact of your research

- ✓ Plan well for academic publishing
- ✓ Understand IMRaD manuscript writing
- ✓ Maximize your chances of acceptance
- ✓ Edanz–FTM, Mahidol University collaboration: services available to you

edanz 2

Download at: **edanzediting.com/FTM2016**

Section 1

Plan well for academic publishing

edanz 3

Researchers need continued help on the path to publication success

edanz 4

Planning well

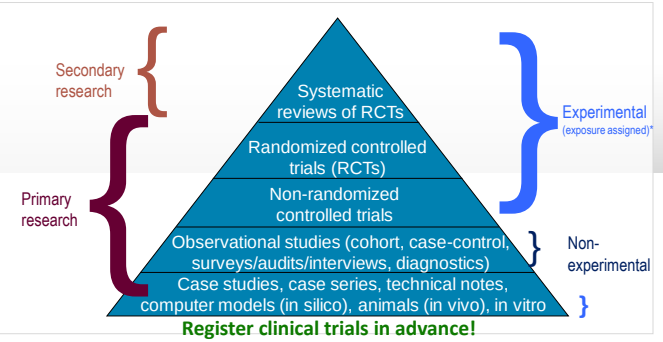
Publishing plan (1)

1. **Identify trends:** *reviews, editorials, theme issues, featured web articles, Calls for papers, "most read"…**organize journal clubs***
2. **Read the *primary literature***
3. **Identify an important question, or incorrect or incomplete knowledge/evidence**
   - Do you have the *expertise/resources*?
   - Is the question *focused*?
   - What is *new*? How is the study *useful*?
   - What is the best/most practical *study design*?

edanz 5

Planning well

Impact and study design



Register clinical trials in advance!

Use international reporting guidelines!

edanz 6

Planning well

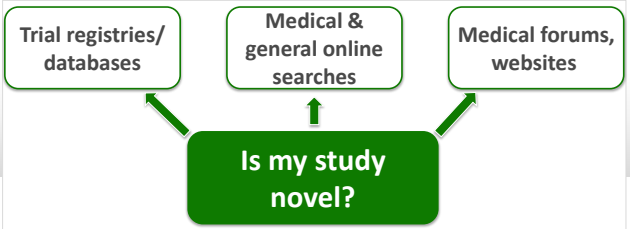
Types of study/articles

Research Article (Original Article, Original Paper, Research Report…)	**Most common; full-length paper**
Short Communication (Brief, Note, Communication, Brief Communication…)	**Brief report about a specific finding**
Technical Note	**Brief report about a new methodology**
Review Article	**Summary of recent advances in a field**
Case Report	**Clinical observations of 1 or 2 cases**
Editorial	**Brief discussion about an interesting topic**
Letter to the Editor	**Brief discussion about a previously published article;** in some journals, can also be a "Research Letter" containing original research

edanz 7

Planning well

Publishing plan (2)



Use **ICD codes from WHO** or **MeSH keywords** for consistency, but also try synonyms

Sign up for eTOCs and eAlerts

edanz 8

Planning well

Publishing plan (3)

Get feedback at conferences
- Check novelty, relevance, interest level
- Check methods, data, illustrations, conclusions

Pre-submission "publication" OK if:
- Abstracts in conference proceedings
- Clinical trial summaries in online registers
- Own web? Preprint servers (bioRxiv)? Dissertation/thesis? **Check the target journal**!

- **Organize pre-submission peer review**
- **Know what editors are looking for; adhere to guidelines**

edanz 9

Planning well

What editors are looking for (1)

Safety	Ethics board approval; for humans: signed consent, data privacy; animal & environmental safety
Submissions	Submit to only one journal; do not republish an article; no salami; do not manipulate peer review
No plagiarism	Paraphrase/summarize/synthesize & cite all sources
No data manipulation	Do *not* fabricate or falsify data Do *not* manipulate parts of images
Authorship	(1) Study design or data acquisition/analysis; (2) Writing/revising; (3) Approval; (4) Accountability
Conflicts of interest	State funding source and any financial/personal relationships that could bias the work

edanz 10

Planning well

What editors are looking for (2)

COPE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION ETHICS

Committee on Publication Ethics, **COPE**

Good Publication Practice 3, **GPP3**

International Committee of Medical Journal Editors , **ICMJE**

Always follow ethics guidelines

edanz 11

Planning well

What editors are looking for (3)

Original and unpublished

Not submitted to other journals

All authors agree and contributed

Declare in your cover letter…

Funding & potential conflicts of interest

Research ethics

Recommend/ oppose reviewers

Clinical journals: authorship, COI, ethics approval & consent, ©

edanz 12

Planning well

What editors are looking for (4)

1. **Original and novel research ("journalism" aspect)** — *News, importance, innovation, timeliness*
2. **Well-designed, well-reported, transparent study** — *High scientific & technical quality, sound research & publication ethics*
3. **Logical, engaging contents; correct English & formatting** — *High readability & interest, informative*
4. **Useful message** — *Clear, real-world relevance, influence*

"Journal Impact Factor" = No. citations in indexed journals ÷ No. articles, past 2 years → Altmetric

edanz 13

Planning well

Selecting a journal

Which factor is most important to you?

- **Aims & scope, Readership** — *Topic area, Audience type and location*
- **Article type/length, evidence level** — *Clinical/Basic, Surgical/ Medical, Theory/Practice*
- **Publication speed/frequency** — *Review quality, Cascading review, Fast track*
- **Indexing, Rank, Impact factor** — *Reputation, Experience, Relevance (recent papers cited in your manuscript?)*
- **Print/Online, Open access** — *Circulation/reach, Cost, Production quality, Copyright, Services*
- **Acceptance rate/criteria** — *"Luxury" / Traditional / Megajournal*

edanz 14

Planning well

Cascading review

Nature (IF, 38.138)	• Subscription-based • Groundbreaking, all disciplines
Nature Medicine (IF, 30.357)	• Subscription-based • Basic to clinical medicine, "latest advances"
Nature Communications (IF, 11.329)	• Open access • (Multi-)Disciplinary not covered by others, lower "scientific reach"
Scientific Reports (5.228)	• Open access • Natural/clinical sciences, "scientifically valid primary research"

Also: Nature Methods (25.328); Nature Protocols (9.646); Scientific Data

Sources: www.nature.com/npg_/company_info/journal_metrics.html; and homepages of each journal

edanz *Save time with a pre-submission cover letter* 15

Planning well

Types of peer review

Blinded/ masked?

- **Single-blind:** Reviewers' names not revealed to authors
- **Double-/Triple-blind:** Anonymous
- **Open:** All names revealed
- **Transparent:** Reviews published with paper

Fast Track: Expedited if public emergency

Other models

- **Transferable/Cascading:** First journal passes manuscript (+/- reviews) to next one
- **Portable:** You submit manuscript & past reviews to next journal
- **Collaborative:** Reviewers (& authors) engage with each other
- **Post-publication:** Online public review
- **Pre-submission:** Reviews obtained first

edanz 16

Planning well

Publication models

Subscription-based	• **Mostly free for the author** • **Reader has to pay**
Open access	• **Free for the reader** • **Author usually has to pay**
Hybrid	• **Subscription-based journal** • **Has open access options**

edanz 17

Planning well

Open access (OA) models

Green

May be mandated by funder

- **Self-archive accepted version** in personal, university, or repository website (e.g., PubMed Central)
- Subscription journal may
  - have **embargo period** before self-archiving is allowed
  - allow **final pdf** to be archived

Gold

- **Free for public** on publication
- Author might keep © but may pay (e.g., US$1000–5000)

edanz *http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/* 18

Planning well

Questionable journals (1)

Some OA journals/publishers are not good!

Easy way to cheat authors!

- Promise quick and easy publication; "submission/handling" fee
- May copy name of real journal; fake website; fake impact factor
- May not exist, or may be of very low quality
- Beware of spam e-mails!

Watch List: *Beall's List*

https://scholarlyoa.com/2016/01/05/bealls-list-of-predatory-publishers-2016/

Safe List: *Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)*

https://doaj.org/

edanz *Check spammers at: www.scientificspam.net* 19

Planning well

Questionable journals (2)

Website	**Unprofessional, language errors, adverts, false contacts, predatory conferences**
Editorial board	**Unknown, non-existent, false, says "Coming soon" or "international" but not really**
Indexed	**Not indexed by common databases, or false claims of indexing**
Articles	**No articles or "Articles soon", they contain obvious errors or are unrelated to journal scope, they are not archived well**
Fees	**Charged on submission**

!!! Fake IF, Spam emails, Not published on time or regularly, Pretends to be American/international, Launches 100s of new "journals" at the same time…

edanz 20

Planning well

Trustworthy journals

Reputable publisher	Springer, Elsevier, Wiley, PLoS, etc.
Editorial board	International and familiar
Indexed	Indexed by common databases
Your peers	Do you recognize the authors? Do your peers read it?
Article Processing Charge	Paid *after* acceptance; clearly listed

thinkchecksubmit.org

edanz 21

Planning well

COPE/DOAJ/OASPA/ WAME guidelines


COPE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION ETHICS

Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing

Introduction

The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA), and the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME) are scholarly organizations that have seen an increase in the number, and broad range in the quality, of membership applications. Our organizations have collaborated in an effort to identify principles of transparency and best practice for scholarly publications and to clarify that these principles form part of the criteria on which membership applications will be evaluated.

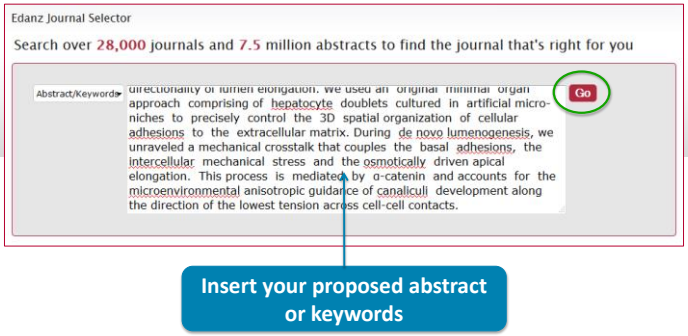
These criteria are largely derived from those developed by the Directory of Open Access Journals. Note that additional membership criteria may also be used by each of the scholarly organizations. The organizations will not share information about applications received. We do not intend to develop or publish a list of publishers or journals

edanz *http://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines* 22

Planning well

Journal Selector

www.edanzediting.com/journal_selector


Edanz Journal Selector

Search over 28,000 journals and 7.5 million abstracts to find the journal that's right for you

Abstract/Keywords

directionality of lumen elongation. We used an original minimal organ approach comprising of hepatocyte doublets cultured in artificial micro-niches to precisely control the 3D spatial organization of cellular adhesions to the extracellular matrix. During de novo lumenogenesis, we unraveled a mechanical crosstalk that couples the basal adhesions, the intercellular mechanical stress and the osmotically driven apical elongation. This process is mediated by α-catenin and accounts for the microenvironmental anisotropic guidance of canaliculi development along the direction of the lowest tension across cell-cell contacts.

Go

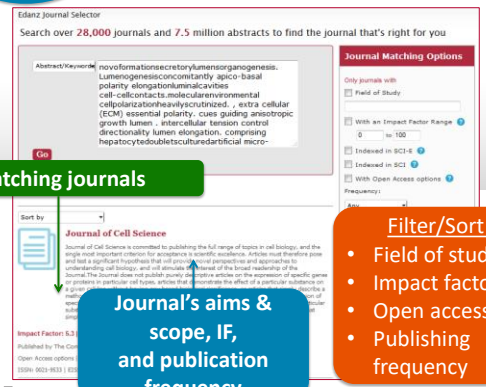
Insert your proposed abstract or keywords

edanz 23

Planning well

Journal Selector

www.edanzediting.com/journal_selector


Edanz Journal Selector

Search over 28,000 journals and 7.5 million abstracts to find the journal that's right for you

Journal Matching Options

Matching journals

Journal of Cell Science

Journal's aims & scope, IF, and publication frequency

Filter/Sort by:
- Field of study
- Impact factor, SCI
- Open access
- Publishing frequency

edanz 24

Planning well

Journal Selector

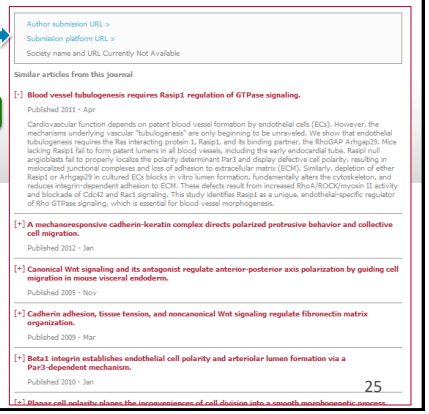
www.edanzediting.com/journal_selector

- Author guidelines
- Journal website

(Check requirements)

Similar published articles

- ✓ Are they *currently* publishing similar articles?
- ✓ Have you *cited* any of these articles?
- ✓ Check novelty, importance & usefulness



Planning well

Rankings: general medical (SJR, Q1)

1. Nature Reviews Immunology
2. Vital & health statistics. Series 3
3. Lancet
4. New England Journal of Medicine
5. Nature Medicine
6. Annual Review of Pathology: Mechanisms of Disease
7. Rhinology. Supplement
8. Journal of Experimental Medicine
9. MMWR (OA)
10. Journal of Clinical Oncology
11. Science Translational Medicine
12. Molecular Systems Biology (OA)
13. Journal of Clinical Investigation
14. NIH consensus and state-of-the-science statements
15. Journal of Cell Biology

Planning well

Rankings: parasitology (SJR, Q1)

1. PLoS Pathogens (OA)
2. Trends in Parasitology
3. Advances in Parasitology
4. Infection and Immunity
5. Malaria Journal (OA)
6. International Journal for Parasitology
7. Emerging Microbes and Infections (OA)
8. Parasites and Vectors (OA)
9. Virulence
10. Tropical Medicine and International Health
11. American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
12. Parasitology
13. Molecular and Biochemical Parasitology
14. Epidemics (OA)
15. Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases

Planning well

Rankings: infectious diseases (SJR, Q1)

1. Immunity
2. Lancet Infectious Diseases
3. Clinical Microbiology Reviews
4. FEMS Microbiology Reviews
5. Trends in Microbiology
6. The Lancet HIV
7. Clinical Infectious Diseases
8. Current Opinion in Microbiology
9. Journal of Infectious Diseases (OA)
10. Drug Resistance Updates (OA)
11. Trends in Parasitology
12. AIDS
13. Emerging Infectious Diseases (OA)
14. Frontiers in cellular and infection microbiology (OA)
15. Current Opinion in HIV and AIDS

Planning well

Rankings: tropical medicine (TR)

1. PLoS Neglect Trop D
2. Malaria J
3. Trop Med Int Health
4. Am J Trop Med Hyg
5. Acta Trop
6. Mem I Oswaldo Cruz
7. T Roy Soc Trop Med H
8. J Venom Anim Toxins
9. Pathog Glob Health
10. Rev Inst Med Trop Sp
11. J Trop Pediatrics
12. Rev Soc Bras Med Trop
13. J Vector Dis
14. Asian Pac J Trop Med
15. Leprosy Rev
16. SE Asian J Trop Med
17. Trop Biomed
18. Biomedica
19. Trop Doct

edanz 29

Activity 1

Please see Activity 1 in your workbook

edanz 30

Download at: **edanzediting.com/FTM2016**

Section 2

Understand IMRaD manuscript writing

edanz 31

IMRaD Manuscripts

IMRaD

Title/Abstract

Introduction — ***Why*** did you do the study?

Methods — ***What*** did you do?

Results — ***What*** did you find?

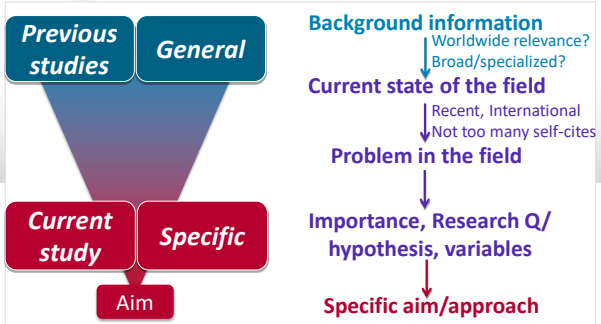
and

Discussion — ***How*** does your study contribute to your field?

edanz 32

IMRaD Manuscripts

Introduction



Why is your study needed?

edanz 33

IMRaD Manuscripts

Methods

Who/what was studied	• Design rationale; "power", N • Participants, controls; sampling • Materials, surveys, ethics
How the study was done	• Processes, treatments, measurements • Variables (direct/proxy) • Outcome/endpoints (1°, 2°)
Data analysis	• Data conversions • Statistical tests (& P level) • *Consult a statistician*

Describe all aspects of the design

edanz 34

IMRaD Manuscripts

Methods

Organization	• Arrange in (titled) subsections • Keep parallel to the display items • Use topic sentences (Aim-Method)
Established techniques	• Cite previously published studies • Briefly state modifications • Use flow chart/table* if needed
New techniques	• Give rationale; systematically evaluate • Give enough detail for reproducibility • Use Supplementary Information

*Summary of study settings, flow of participants, data/text selection, variables, chronology of analyses…

edanz 35

IMRaD Manuscripts

Results

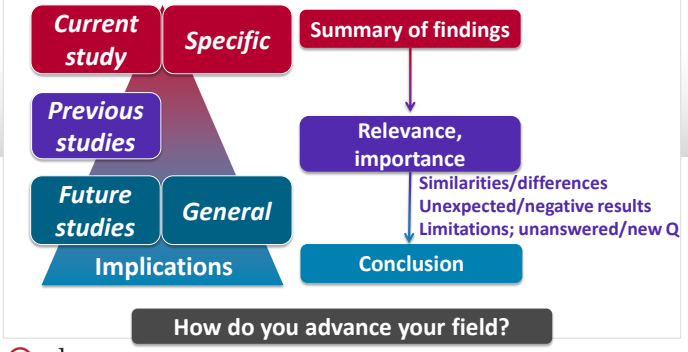
Logical presentation	• Efficacy/safety • Group/subgroups • Uni-/bi-/multivariable
Subsections	• Each (titled) subsection relates to *one* figure/ method • 1°, 2°; check figure Nos.
Factual description	• What you found, *not* what it means • Upload as Supplementary Materials • Data accessibility

Present results logically and factually

edanz 36

IMRaD Manuscripts

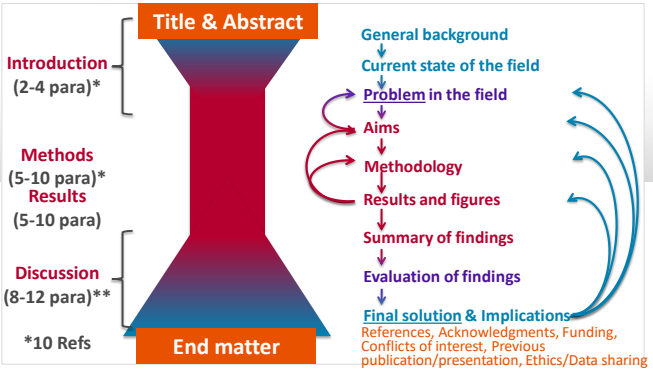
Discussion



edanz 37

IMRaD Manuscripts

Link your ideas logically



edanz 38

IMRaD Manuscripts

What reviewers are looking for

The science

- ✓ Relevant hypothesis
- ✓ Good experimental design
- ✓ Appropriate methodology
- ✓ Good data analysis
- ✓ Valid conclusions

The manuscript

- ✓ Logical flow of information
- ✓ Manuscript structure and formatting
- ✓ Appropriate references
- ✓ High readability
- ✓ Peer review is a positive process!

edanz 39

IMRaD Manuscripts

Drafting process

Where to start?

- ❖ Your ***findings*** form the basis of your manuscript
- ❖ First organize your findings
- ❖ Logic, then English language

Figure 1
Table 1
Figure 2
?
Figure 3

Logical flow

- Time order
- Most ⇔ least important
- General ⇔ specific
- Simple ⇔ complex
- Whole ⇔ parts

Is anything missing?

Additional analyses?

edanz 40

IMRaD Manuscripts

Writing 1st outline

1. Important reason for study
2. Research Q / Hypothesis
3. Aim & approach
4. Main methods
5. Display items & key findings
6. Major conclusion

- Write down key ideas in bullet points (topic sentences)
- Then, draft a very rough title/abstract
- Use the Edanz Journal Selector to find similar articles

edanz 41

IMRaD Manuscripts

Writing 2nd outline

1. **Introduction**
   - A. General background
   - B. Related studies
   - C. Problems in the field
   - D. Aim & approach
2. **Methods**
   - A. Subjects/Samples/Materials
   - B. General & specific methods
   - C. Statistical analyses
3. **Results**
   - A. Key points about Figure 1
   - B. Key points about Table 1
   - C. Key points about Figure 2
4. **Discussion**
   - A. Major conclusion
   - B. Key supporting findings
   - C. Relevance to published studies
   - D. Limitations; unexpected results
   - E. Implications
   - F. Future directions

- Expand on ideas, as bullets
- Draft article using IMRaD (Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion)
- Get feedback & revise each section
- Revise content/logic before language

List information from your reading in the appropriate section: Paraphrase with citations!

edanz 42

IMRaD Manuscripts

The "write" order

Title/Abstract
Introduction
Methods (can be at end or mostly online or in legends)
Results
Discussion (=IMRaD)

write

Title/Abstract
Methods
Results
Discussion
Introduction
Abstract /Title

edanz 43

IMRaD Manuscripts

International reporting guidelines

PRISMA	Systematic reviews & Meta-analyses
CONSORT	Randomized controlled trials

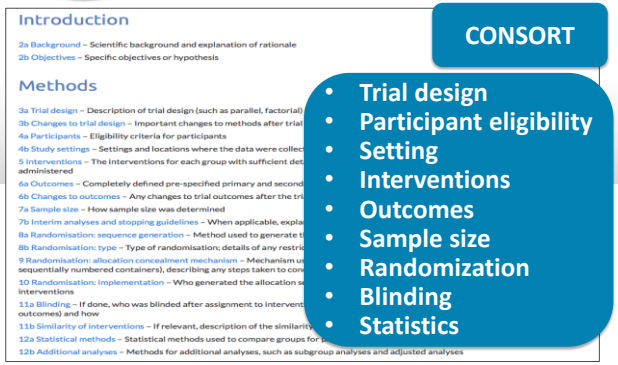
Register trials in advance at: clinicaltrials.gov; who.int/ictrp/network/en; controlled-trials.com; www.clinicaltrials.in.th

STROBE	Observational studies
QOREC	Qualitative studies
CARE	Case reports
ARRIVE	Animal studies

edanz *http://www.equator-network.org/* 44

IMRaD Manuscripts

International reporting guidelines



CONSORT

- Trial design
- Participant eligibility
- Setting
- Interventions
- Outcomes
- Sample size
- Randomization
- Blinding
- Statistics

edanz *http://www.equator-network.org/* 45

IMRaD Manuscripts

Evaluating impact

Assess your findings objectively

Novelty	How new/important are your findings? How strong is the evidence? How large is your scientific advancement? Low or high impact journal
Relevance/ Application	How broadly relevant are your findings? International or regional journal General or specialized journal

edanz 46

IMRaD Manuscripts

Evaluating journals

Journal indicators

IF (Thomson Reuters)	Impact factor = No. of citations to "items" published in past 2 years ÷ No. of "articles"
IPP* (CWTS, Leiden Uni)	Impact per publication = No. of citations to articles in past 3 years ÷ No. of articles
SNIP* (CWTS, Leiden Uni)	Source-normalized impact per paper = IPP corrected for discipline
Eigenvalue* & SJR* (SCImago)	Eigenvalue (Eigenvalue.org) and SCImago journal rank adjust IF for citing journals
Hirsch (h-) index	h = No. of articles with at least that No. of citations

edanz **Uses SCOPUS index; IF uses WoS; h-index can use WoS, SCOPUS, or Google Scholar* 47

IMRaD Manuscripts

Evaluating articles

Article/researcher indicators

Hirsch (h-) index	h = No. of articles with at least that No. of citations (depends on database)
Almetric (Altmetric.com)	How often articles are viewed/saved/ cited/discussed/recommended
Quartile scores	e.g., Q1/2/3/4 proportions for rank of target journal in different disciplines
Post-publication peer review	e.g., F1000Prime recommendations; UK institution-level assessment
Impact case studies	e.g., institution-level: 2014 UK Research Excellence Framework

edanz ***Moving away from IF: Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)*** 48

IMRaD Manuscripts

2014 UK REF Quality scores

Outputs (65%), Impact (20%), Research Environment (15%)

Four-star	World-leading in originality, significance, and rigor
Three-star	Internationally excellent…but falls short of highest standards of excellence
Two-star	Recognized internationally
One-star	Recognized nationally
Unclassified	Quality falls below standard of nationally recognized work / not "research"

IMRaD Manuscripts

2014 UK REF Quality scores

1. **Scientific rigor** and excellence regarding design, method, execution and analysis
2. **Significant addition** to knowledge and to the conceptual framework of the field
3. **Potential and actual significance** of the research
4. **Scale, challenge and logistical difficulty** posed by the research
5. **Logical coherence** of argument
6. **Contribution** to theory-building
7. **Significance to advance** knowledge, skills, understanding and scholarship in theory, practice, education, management and/or policy
8. **Applicability** and significance to the relevant service/research users
9. **Potential applicability** for policy in, for example, health, healthcare, public health, animal health or welfare

IMRaD Manuscripts

Nature publication criteria

1. **Provides strong evidence for its conclusions.**
2. **Novel.**
3. **Of extreme importance to scientists in the specific field.**
4. **Ideally, interesting to researchers in other related disciplines.**

In general, to be acceptable, a paper should represent an **advance in understanding likely to influence thinking in the field**.

There should be a discernible reason **why the work deserves** the visibility of publication in a *Nature* journal rather than the best of the specialist journals.

IMRaD Manuscripts

Nature peer review questions (1)

- **Who will be interested** in reading the paper, and why?
- **What are the main claims** of the paper and how significant are they?
- Is the paper likely to be one of the **five most significant** papers published in the discipline this year?
- How does the paper **stand out from others** in its field?
- Are the claims **novel**? If not, which published papers compromise novelty?
- Are the claims **convincing**? If not, what further evidence is needed?
- Are there **other experiments** or work that would strengthen the paper further?

IMRaD Manuscripts

Nature peer review questions (2)

- How much would **further work** improve it, and how difficult would this be?
  Would it take a long time?
- Are the claims appropriately discussed in the **context of previous literature**?
- If the manuscript is unacceptable, is the study sufficiently **promising** to encourage the authors to resubmit?
- If the manuscript is unacceptable but promising, what **specific work** is needed to make it acceptable?

edanz http://www.nature.com/authors/policies/peer_review.html 53

IMRaD Manuscripts

Evaluating your study

1 2 3 4

1. **Novelty/originality?**
2. Real-world significance and importance/interest?
3. How soon can the findings be applied?
4. Is the study discussed in the context of what is known?
5. Potential for changing international practice/policy?
6. Potential for changing thinking in the field?
7. Potential for changing thinking in other fields?
8. Are implications short term or long term?
9. Methodological quality (study design type, analyses)?
10. Study quality (sample/controls, size, duration, variables)?
11. Are biases minimized so as not to affect validity/reliability?
12. Compliance with (a) research, trial, publishing ethics?
13. (b) relevant reporting and data accessibility guidelines?
14. Writing is high quality and suitable for non-specialists?

edanz *...Be clear on topic/focus, report type, readers, urgency, reach, cost* 54

IMRaD Manuscripts

"Journalism" aspects

❖ **Newsworthiness: why care? PITCH**

- **Proximity**
- **Impact**
- **Timeliness**
- **Conflict**
- **Human interest** (e.g., unexpectedness)

edanz 55

IMRaD Manuscripts

Social media

ACADEMIA RG RESEARCHERID KUDOS ORCID

edanz **Respect copyright / CC licenses** creative commons **CC-BY** 56

Activity 2

Please see Activity 2 in your workbook

edanz 57

Download at: **edanzediting.com/FTM2016**

Section 3

Maximize your chances of acceptance

edanz 58

Maximize chances of acceptance

Importance of high-quality research

Avoidable waste in the production and reporting of research evidence

Iain Chalmers, Paul Glasziou Lancet 2009; 374: 86–89

~85% of biomedical research is waste

- Not addressing relevant questions
- Incomplete literature review to justify study
- Inappropriate methodology (low validity/reliability)
- Incomplete reporting to allow replication

edanz 59

Maximize chances of acceptance

Editors look for complete reporting

Introduction	***Why* did you do the study?** *Do a thorough literature review; justify the need for your study*
Methods	***What* did you do?** *Participants/materials, appropriate techniques, appropriate analyses (full protocol online), ethics*
Results	***What* did you find?** *Include unexpected/negative results; data availability/accessibility*
Discussion	***How* does your study contribute to your field?** *Include similarities and differences, limitations*

edanz ***Adhere to reporting guidelines and journal instructions*** 60

Maximize chances of acceptance

Cover letter


[Insert your Name and address here]

[Insert Journal Editor's name here]
Editor-in-Chief
[Insert journal name here]

[Insert date here - Day Month Year]

Dear Dr [insert editor's surname here],

Please find enclosed our manuscript titled "[insert title of your manuscript here]", which we would like to submit for publication as an [insert article type here] in [insert journal name here].

[Insert a sentence on the broad topic of the study and its importance. Then, insert 1–2 sentences explaining what is known on your subject and the relevant knowledge gap you are filling. In the final sentence, explain the objectives of the study and its novel aspect]

[Insert about 3 sentences briefly describing the methods of the study and the main findings]

[State the implications or potential applications of the findings. Explain who will be interested in the findings and why they should care about them. Explain how this is appropriate for the readership of the journal]

We confirm that this manuscript has not been published elsewhere and is not under consideration by another journal. All authors have approved the manuscript and agree with submission to [insert journal name here]. The study was supported by a grant from the [insert funding body here]. The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

We would like to recommend the following researchers as potential reviewers for this paper:

1. [Reviewer 1 name plus contact information]
2. [Reviewer 2 name plus contact information]
3. [Reviewer 3 name plus contact information]

We ask that the following researchers are excluded as reviewers because of potential conflict of interest:

1. [Reviewer 1 name plus contact information]
2. [Reviewer 2 name plus contact information]

Please address all correspondence to:
[insert contact address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address.]

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,
[Insert name], [Insert title]

- Your name and address
- Editor & Journal
- Greeting & Introduction
- Context & Importance
- Methods & Findings
- Implications & Relevance
- Originality & Ethics
- Reviewer Recommendation
- Reviewer Exclusion
- Contacts & Availability
- Sign-off & Signature block

edanz ***Highlight your study quality & impact in your cover letter*** 61

Maximize chances of acceptance

Journal decision letter

Respond to *every* reviewer comment

- Revise if you can; keep to the deadline; be polite!
- Restate reviewer's comment; refer to line and page numbers

(Minor revisions in presentation or major revisions via new work)

***Easy* for editor & reviewers to see changes**

- **Use a different color font**
- **Highlight the text**
- ~~**Strikethrough font for deletions**~~

edanz 62

Maximize chances of acceptance

Journal decision letter

Common reviewer complaints

- **Ideas** are not logically organized; poor presentation
- **Purpose** and relevance are unclear
- **Topics** in the Results/Discussion are not in the Introduction
- **Methods** are unclear or inappropriate; ethics problems
- **Wrong statistical tests**; incomplete reporting of results
- **Confusion** between statistical and clinical significance, or between association and cause
- Negative results, limitations, implications **not discussed**
- Results **repeated** in Discussion; Conclusions too general
- **Cited studies** are not up-to-date; key references missing

edanz 63

Maximize chances of acceptance

Common mistakes in the Introduction

- Ideas are not logically organized — **Why study needs to be done?**
- Too long, like a literature review; aim is unclear — **Keep focused**
- Topics in the Introduction do not match topics in the Results/Discussion — **Write last**
- Cited studies are not up-to-date — **<5 years**
- Cited studies are geographically biased — **International**

edanz 64

Maximize chances of acceptance

Use appropriate tests

Wrong statistical tests

Distribution of data affects analysis and presentation

- Parametric tests (e.g., *t* test and ANOVA) can be used only with continuous & normally distributed data with a large enough sample size
- Use the mean ± SD only for normally distributed data

Simple guide:

- **If SD is ≥ mean, most likely not normally distributed**
- **If SD is > 0.5 × mean, may not be normally distributed**

Use Shapiro-Wilk's W test for normality

edanz 65

Maximize chances of acceptance

Use appropriate tests

2 categorical endpoints

Paired (within sample)	Unpaired (between sample)
McNemar's test	Fisher's exact test 2 treatment groups
	Chi-square test >2 treatment groups

edanz 66

du Prel et al. Dtsch Arztebl Int 2010; 107: 343–8.

Maximize chances of acceptance

Use appropriate tests

Continuous endpoints

Parametric		Nonparametric	
Paired	Unpaired	Paired	Unpaired
2 groups: Paired *t* test	2 groups: Unpaired *t* test	2 groups: Wilcoxon signed-rank test	2 groups: Mann–Whitney *U* test (Wilcoxon rank-sum test)
>2 groups: Repeated-measures ANOVA	>2 groups: ANOVA (*F* test)	>2 groups: Friedman one-way ANOVA	>2 groups: Kruskal–Wallis test

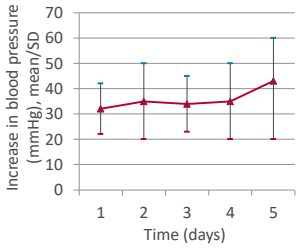
edanz 67

Lang and Secic 1997; 71.

Maximize chances of acceptance

Common mistakes in the Results

Do you agree with this interpretation?



Over 5 days of blood pressure monitoring during the new diet, the daily rise in resting blood pressure increased from 32 ± 10 mmHg to 43 ± 17 mmHg (Figure 2). This rise in blood pressure may be explained by…

Is this real?

edanz 68

Maximize chances of acceptance

Common mistakes in the Results

Statistical significance does not equal clinical significance!

"Drug A significantly reduced LDL cholesterol by 28% ($p<0.05$). Therefore, Drug A is effective in reducing cholesterol levels…"

- How much is 28%? Is this clinically relevant?

edanz 69

Maximize chances of acceptance

Common mistakes in the Results

"Drug A significantly reduced LDL cholesterol levels from 4.7±0.3 mmol/L to 3.4±0.6 mmol/L ($p=0.02$, 95% CI: 0.8–1.8). Because a minimal reduction of 1.4 mmol/L is required to be clinically effective, the efficacy of Drug A is still unclear."

- Use absolute values
- State exact *P*-value
- State 95% CI and minimal clinically relevant difference

edanz 70

Maximize chances of acceptance

Common mistakes in the Discussion

Do not overgeneralize your findings

Result: Drug A reduced breast cancer cell growth *in vitro*

In this study, we demonstrated that Drug A effectively reduced tumor growth. Therefore, this drug should have therapeutic applications in breast cancer treatment.

In this study, we demonstrated that Drug A effectively reduced the growth of various breast cancer cell lines. Our findings ***suggest*** that this drug ***may*** have therapeutic applications in breast cancer treatment.

edanz ***Use appropriate "hedging" words*** 71

Maximize chances of acceptance

Ensure high readability

Use short sentences

15–20 words

One idea per sentence; use short words

Use active voice

Simpler, more direct, and easier to read

Recommended by most writing style guides and journals!

"*Nature* journals prefer authors to write in the *active voice*"

(http://www.nature.com/authors/author_resources/how_write.html)

edanz 72

Maximize chances of acceptance

Prefer active voice and shorter words/sentences

To ascertain the efficaciousness of the program, all of the program participants were interrogated upon participant program completion.

To determine the efficacy of the program, we interviewed all participants.

edanz 73

Maximize chances of acceptance

Revising & Editing

- Write your manuscript section-by-section
  - Get feedback after each section; set deadlines
  - Easier for your colleagues to review
  - Less stressful for everyone
- Revise for content & overall logic (reporting guidelines)
- Revise for journal style (see guidelines/past papers)
- Edit for conciseness, clarity, consistency & accuracy: read aloud / print out / search for common errors
- Get feedback from pre-submission peer review
- Get language assistance

edanz 74

Maximize chances of acceptance

Tips for editing

- Edit in multiple rounds
- Macro-edit
  - Variables are consistent; check overall logic
  - Paragraph messages are clear; sentences flow
  - Data match between text and figures
  - Abstract matches main text (without copying)
- Micro-edit
  - Spelling, punctuation, grammar, sentence logic ("it")
  - Journal style; formality; no jargon or clichés; no repetition
  - Headings, legends, references
- Have a rest, then read the manuscript as a fresh reader: check readability, validity/reliability, certainty

edanz 75

Maximize chances of acceptance

Tips for editing

Be aware: language has different levels of meaning

- Syntax and structure

At day end, we can't rely on his study, Author1 et al (2015) was careless and forgot to include controls. =>

At the end of the day, Author1 et al (2015) were careless and forgot to include controls, so we can't rely on their study.

- Sentence meaning

Ultimately, Author1 et al (2015) failed to include controls, so the research community cannot rely on that study.

- Social meaning (appropriate among researchers)

There is only one published study on this topic (Author1 et al, 2015), but the lack of controls reduces the validity of that study's conclusions.

edanz 76

Maximize chances of acceptance

Improve readability

Readers expect…

- ***verbs*** **to closely follow their** ***subjects***
- ***Bottom heavy*** **(not top heavy) sentences**

~~The viral infection that was caught by the patient on a trip to an outbreak-prone area in Africa spread among the hospital staff quickly.~~

The patient caught a viral infection on a trip to an outbreak-prone area in Africa. This infection spread quickly among the hospital staff.

edanz 77

Maximize chances of acceptance

Improve readability

Which sentence suggests that you *will* get funding?

1. **You deserve the funding, but the study design is not perfect.**
2. **The study design is not perfect, but you deserve the funding.**

edanz 78

Maximize chances of acceptance

Improve readability

Readers focus at the end of the sentence for what is important. Information in this stress position can also introduce the topic of the next sentence *(useful for explanations and processes).*

Stress position

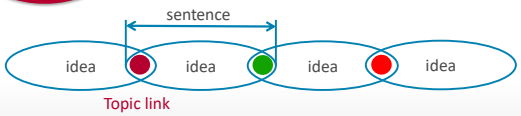
The study design is not perfect, but you deserve the funding. The grant will be awarded in two stages.

Topic position

edanz 79

Maximize chances of acceptance

Improve flow (1)



The local government has been striving to introduce **Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in education**. **In medical education,** technology was introduced through the **ICT-Connect-TED project**. **The program** aimed at improving the quality of lecturers through **the use of ICT**. **ICT-Connect-TED** recently provided computers and a networking infrastructure to all medical colleges.

edanz *Adapted from:* Kafyulilo et al. Educ Inf Technol. 5 May 2015; DOI 10.1007/s10639-015-9398-0 80

Maximize chances of acceptance

Improve flow (2)

Information in the topic position can introduce the topic of the next few sentences *(useful for definitions, descriptions, and narratives).*

Topic link

Lecturers were positive about the effectiveness of technology in teaching. **They** reported the effectiveness of technology on students' learning, and on simplifying their teaching process. **Most of the lecturers** reported to be comfortable and satisfied with the outcomes of the technology-integrated lessons they had developed and taught during the professional development program. **One of the lecturers** from College A said,…

edanz *Adopted from:* Kafyulilo et al. Educ Inf Technol. 5 May 2015; DOI 10.1007/s10639-015-9398-0 81

Maximize chances of acceptance

Improve flow (3)

Information in the stress position can introduce the topic of the next few sentences *(useful for lists and describing whole/parts).*

Topic link

Findings in this study are **presented in four sections**. **The first section** presents the continuation of technology use in teaching. **The second section** presents the factors affecting the continuation of use of technology in teaching among lecturers who participated in the study. **The third section** presents the college management view on the impact of the professional development program and the institutional challenges on using technology in teaching. **Finally,** the enabling and hindering factors affecting the continuation of technology are summarized.

edanz Adapted from: Kafyulilo et al. Educ Inf Technol. 5 May 2015; DOI 10.1007/s10639-015-9398-0 82

Maximize chances of acceptance

Improve flow (4)

Logical connectors

Addition	Furthermore…, In addition…, Additionally…, Moreover
Sequence	Until, After, Before, While, Since, When, Then, Next, First/Second/Third, Finally,…
Cause-Effect	Because (of), To (+verb), Owing to, So that, Therefore, Thus, Hence, Consequently,…
Contrast	Although, Even though, Whereas, However, In contrast, Despite (+noun or verb *-ing*),…
Condition	If, Even if, Unless, Whether (or not), Except, Provided that, Until, Without, Otherwise,…

edanz 83

Activity 3

Please see Activity 3 in your workbook

edanz 84

*Your goal is not only to **publish**, but also to be **widely read and highly cited***

Maximize the impact of your research

- ✓ Plan well for academic publishing
- ✓ Understand IMRaD manuscript writing
- ✓ Maximize your chances of acceptance
- ✓ **Edanz–FTM, Mahidol University collaboration: services available to you**

edanz 85

Any questions?

Thank you!

Trevor Lane: **tlane@edanzgroup.com**

partner.edanzediting.com/portal/ftm-mahidol-university
Access our services

@EdanzEditing
Follow us on Twitter

facebook.com/EdanzEditing
Like us on Facebook

edanz

86