

Contents

	Acknowledgements	page xi
	INTRODUCTION	1
	Writing and Publishing a Scientific Paper: an Overview	3
	Opening Remarks	3
Part A	Major Issues in Drafting a Research Paper	4
	A.1 Research: Having the Right Mind-Set	4
	A.2 Getting the Right Framework	6
	A.3 Introducing Your Topic	6
	A.4 Telling Others What You Did	7
	A.5 Presenting the Results	7
	A.6 Discussing the Findings	8
	A.7 Coming to the End of the Writing of the Text	8
	A.8 Preparing an Abstract	9
	A.9 Giving the Paper a Title	10
	A.10 Writing in Good English	10
Part B	Final Preparation of a Paper before Submission	11
	B.1 Revising and Redrafting	11
	B.2 The Final Stages before Submission	11
	B.3 A Note on Ethics before Submission	12
Part C	Getting Published	12
	C.1 What Is Required	12
	C.2 What Is Not Permitted	13
1	General Features of a Scientific Paper: Structure	
	and Format	16
1.1	Introduction: Why We Publish	16
1.2	The Framework of a Research Paper	17
1.3	Introducing Your Paper	19

٧



ri .	Table of Contents	
1.4	How the Hypothesis Is Tested: Materials and Methods	20
1.5	Results: the Pivot of the Paper	20
1.6	Discussing the Findings	21
1.7	Acknowledging Others	22
1.8	The Relevant Literature	23
1.9	Missing Components	23
1.9	Appendix 1.1 Word Reduction	24
2	The Typical Scientific Paper: a Published Paper	
	with Annotations	28
2.1	Introduction: Types of Paper	28
2.2	The Primary Research Paper	30
2.3	An Annotated Research Paper	31
3	Results: Presenting Your Findings	55
3.1	Starting Out: Getting the Data Together	55
3.2	Arranging the Data	56
3.3	The Selection Process: Further Considerations	57
3.4	Positive, Negative and Neutral Evidence in the	
	Selection Process	58
3.5	Adding the Text	60
3.6	A Note on the Use of the Personal Pronouns, 'I' and 'We', in	
	Writing a Scientific Paper	60
3.7	Checking the Logic and Order	62
3.8	Controls: Have You Included all the Essential Ones?	62
3.9	Statistics	63
3.10	Summary: the Major Points of a Typical Results Section	64
4	Discussion: the Place to Argue Your Case	65
4.1	The Basis of a Good Discussion	65
4.2	State-of-the-Art: Never the Absolute Truth	66
4.3	Putting Your Findings into Context	67
4.4	Knowing Where to Start	67
4.5	The Strengths, and Weaknesses, of Your	
	Experimental Evidence	71
4.6	Succinct Arguments and the Use of Inference	72



	Table of Contents	vii
4.7	The World of Ideas (and Dreams): the Problem	
1.,	with Speculation	73
4.8	Is It Really Worth Publishing the Paper?	74
4.9	Reaching Conclusions	75
5	The Introduction: the First Major Section of a Paper	76
5.1	A Brief Preface	76
5.2	Informing Your Readers About the Subject Area	77
5.3	A Further Example	78
5.4	The Basis of all Research: the Hypothesis	78
5.5	The Immediate Background	79
	Appendix 5.1 The Hypothesis	79
6	Materials and Methods	83
6.1	General Overview	83
6.2	A Typical Materials and Methods Section	84
6.3	Concluding Remarks	91
7	The Abstract: the Summary of the Main Findings	93
7.1	Purpose of an Abstract	93
7.2	Structured versus Non-Structured Abstracts	93
7.3	Importance of the First Sentence	94
7.4	Building on the First Part of the Abstract	95
7.5	Putting in Some Background	95
7.6	Avoidance of Citations	96
7.7	Concluding an Abstract	97
7.8	Keywords and Abbreviations	97
8	The 'Smaller' Sections That Complete a Paper	99
8.1	Other 'Small' Sections Required	99
8.2	Title	99
8.3	Authors, Affiliations and Contributions	101
8.4	Corresponding Author	102
8.5	Conflicts of Interest	103
8.6	Acknowledgements	104
8.7	References (Bibliography, Literature)	106
8.8	The Digital Object Identifier	110



viii	Table of Contents	
9	Figures and Tables	111
9.1	Introduction	111
9.2	Figures	112
9.3	Tables	122
9.4	Schemata, Diagrams, Line Drawings, Symbols and Units	124
9.5	Supplementary Material	126
10	Presubmission	127
10.1	Introduction	127
10.2	Revision by the Main Author	128
10.3	Revision by Co-Authors	128
10.4	English Presentation	129
10.5	Author Sequence and Affiliations	129
10.6	Conflicts of Interest of the Co-Authors	130
10.7	Sections and Subheadings	131
10.8	Letter of Submission	131
10.9	Concluding Remarks	132
11	Submission of Manuscripts	134
11.1	Introduction	134
11.2	Complying with Journal Requirements	135
11.3	The Checklist	136
11.4	Charges Relating to Submissions	137
11.5	A Published Article as a Journal Guideline	138
11.6	Normal Formatting of Files for Submission	138
11.7	Submitting Your Manuscript: a Quick Revision	139
11.8	Uploading Your Manuscript	141
11.9	Problems in Submitting Papers	143
11.10	Dealing with Copyright at Submission	143
11.11	Preprints and the Future of Research Communications	143
12	Peer Review: the Crux of the Problem in	
	Publishing Papers	146
12.1	Introduction	146
12.2	Triage	147
12 3	Peer Review	148



	Table of Contents	ix
12.4	Choosing Reviewers	148
12.5	Contacting Reviewers	149
12.6	Reviewer Reporting	151
12.7	A Typical Reviewer Report Form	153
12.8	Abuse of Privilege in Peer Reviewing	153
13	The Last Stages of the Editorial Process: Decisions,	
	Revisions and Final Editing	156
13.1	Introduction	156
13.2	Editorial Decision	156
13.3	Dialogue with Authors	158
13.4	Revising Papers	159
13.5	The Editor's Job in Creating the Final Version of a Paper	160
13.6	Preparing for Publication	160
14	From Acceptance to Publication	162
14.1	Introduction	162
14.2	Procedures in the Publishing House	163
14.3	On Completion of the Proof	166
14.4	In Summary	167
	Appendix 14.1 Flow Chart	168
	Appendix 14.2 Description of the Types of Files	
	Commonly Used	168
15	Copyright	170
15.1	National and International Coverage of Copyright	170
15.2	Science and Medicine: Author, Employer and Publisher	171
15.3	Permission	172
15.4	How the Passage of Time Affects Copyright Restrictions	173
15.5	Truly Innovative Acts	174
15.6	Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society	174
16	Ethics and Scientific Integrity	176
16.1	Introduction	176
16.2	Highly Unethical Practices	177
16.3	Other Places to Consider Regarding Unethical Practices	183
16.4	Help Is At Hand	187



x Table of Contents

17	Epilogue	188
17.1	Cardinal Points	188
17.2	Last Words	190
	Further Reading	192
	Index	196