Some tips for writing high quality research papers

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Why we need to publish?

- Obligation to funding agency/society
- Both positive and negative results are important for sharing
- Brings visibility to the organization
- Enhances scientific reputation of the scientist (citation index, etc.) and eventually makes the scientist famous at international level
- Believe in “publish or perish”
Where we should publish?

- Reputed scientific journals (and not trash)
- Try to publish in “Open Access” journals
- Assess the quality of the work and check theme/ scope/ content of the journal
- May try with highest impact factor to lower impact factor till the paper is published.
What we should do for experiments?

- Plan experiments carefully e.g. control, etc.
- Data recording, data analysis, statistical analysis should be sound.
- Never “cook” the data. Always report what you observe/notice.
- Never report “wrong” because of being impressed with the current trend of publication.
The first component of the paper?

- Paper has Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results and Discussions
- After completion of experiments, prepare Tables and Figures first.
- Then Results and try to interpret them and write Results section
- Then write Introduction part, and Discussions
- And Material and Methods in the last
How we should write a good paper?

- For trying your luck in High Impact Factor journals, contact Editor(s) of the journal with a crisp summary and highlight why this study is so unique.

- If the Editor responds positively, one can prepare the MS as per his/ her suggestions.

- In other cases, prepare a high quality MS in good English language. Try to find a good friend who has expertise in the language or seek help of Copy Editor.
How we should write a good paper?

- Always write what you think is correct and if required you can ask your English language friend that you want to write this.

- Many times MSs written by non-native language speakers are rejected because of language

- NEVER do Plagiarism. It is the "wrongful appropriation" and "stealing and publication" of another author's "language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions"

- So AVOID COPY & PASTE
How we should write a good paper?

- Write smaller sentences
- DON’T use many parenthesis and commas, to explain things
- Tables and Figure should be self explanatory (with foot notes)
- Figures should be “high resolution” (600 dpi is good)
- DO NOT worry about size of figures.
How we should write a good paper?

- For good journals, it is important to have many figures and tables as SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS.
- Also pay attention to the references. A good paper should have about 40 references.
- About 50-60% references should be from last 5 years, and 30% reference of earlier 10 years and only 10% references can come from 15 years earlier publications.
How we should write a good paper?

- Write a good cover letter. This letter should emphasize the quality of the work. DON'T COPY AND PASTE ABSTRACT.

- One can suggest preferred editors and reviewers. DON'T GIVE MORE THAN 1-2 CHINESE EDITORS and REVIEWERS.

- Avoid to give your friends names as reviewers
What we should do when we receive feedback?

- If the paper is rejected, don’t worry. Try to revise the MS in view of suggestions made by reviewers and go to other journal.

- If the journal has asked revision, start to work on revision.

- In both cases, write a THANKING MAIL to the Editor.
What we should do when we receive feedback?

- Divide the job of revision— in case more experiments are asked, you can plan in collaboration with your colleagues.

- For writing the response to comments and revising the MS, first author/corresponding author should prepare the responses to comments and when they agree, they start to revise the MS.

- Never criticize the Reviewers in your response file.
What we should do when we receive feedback?

- Now prepare the cover letter for revised MS
- Highlight that you have revised the MS according to the suggestions of Editors and Reviewers and you have attached “Response to Comments” of Reviewers and Editors.
What we should do when we receive acceptance of your MS?

- Feel very happy
- Send an email to your boss and co-authors (and not all your friends)
- Have celebration
What we should do when we receive proofs of your MS?

- Spend your quality time and ask your co-authors also to check the proofs
- Send edited file of proofs in 24-48 hrs
- Have celebration again when paper is available online and then you can tell your friends
Thanks for your kind attention!