

Ethics

Ethics in publishing

- Never fabricate data.
- Never falsify data.
 - E.g. Do not throw out data points that “do not look right.”
- Do not plagiarise.
 - Reword (and even then attribute the source).
 - Direct quotes are rarely used, but make sure you use quotation marks and properly cite the source.

Authorship issues – who gets to be an author?

- Authorship is not clearly defined by many journals or societies and different labs adhere to different policies.

Authorship

- For inclusion as an author, they normally must make a substantial contribution in one (or all) of the following areas:
 - 1) Conception of the ideas or experimental design.
 - 2) Execution of the study
 - 3) Analysis or interpretation of data
 - 4) Writing of the manuscript
 - The person who writes the bulk of the manuscript tends to be first author.

Who is not an author?

- Contributing only the following is not enough to be an author:
 - Editing of the paper
 - Providing funding, equipment or lab space
 - Being an advisor
 - But, advisors often do contribute in other ways, too.
 - Lab technicians: While they often do the bulk of the labor, they normally do not have intellectual input into the project.
- The acknowledgements section is where you thank the people who contributions in these ways.

Authorship order

- Normally authors are listed in decreasing order of their input.
 - The senior author is the first author. They normally had the largest input into the project.
 - Exception: sometimes on multi-authored papers from a lab, if the head of the lab is not the senior author, then they are often listed last, which signifies their position.
 - The first author is normally the corresponding author because they know the most about the project.

How the review process works...

- When you finish the paper, follow the journal's submission instructions. Most journals want the manuscript sent as an e-mail attachment or they have a website for uploading the article.
- Your submission is assigned an editor who is responsible for finding reviewers (normally 2-3).
- After the reviewers weigh in, the editor makes the final decision about the acceptance of the manuscript (the editor normally follows the reviewers' recommendations, but not always).
- The review process can be slow. Reviews will normally take 2.5-4 months. If you do not hear from the editor by the end of 4 months, it is appropriate to contact the editor and kindly ask for an update.

How a journal will respond

- There are normally three responses you get from a journal.
 - Accepted with no revisions (pretty much never happens)
 - Accepted with revisions (the editor and reviewers will list specific items that need to be addressed before final acceptance)
 - Rejected

If you get rejected...

- Do not despair, it happens
- Read what the reviewers wrote
 - Fix the problems (unless they are really fatal problems that doom the project)
- Research other "lower impact" journals that would be appropriate
- Reformat according to the journal's instructions
- Resubmit
