

Translating research into publication



Rajeev Kumar
Additional Professor of Urology
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
Editor, Indian Journal of Urology

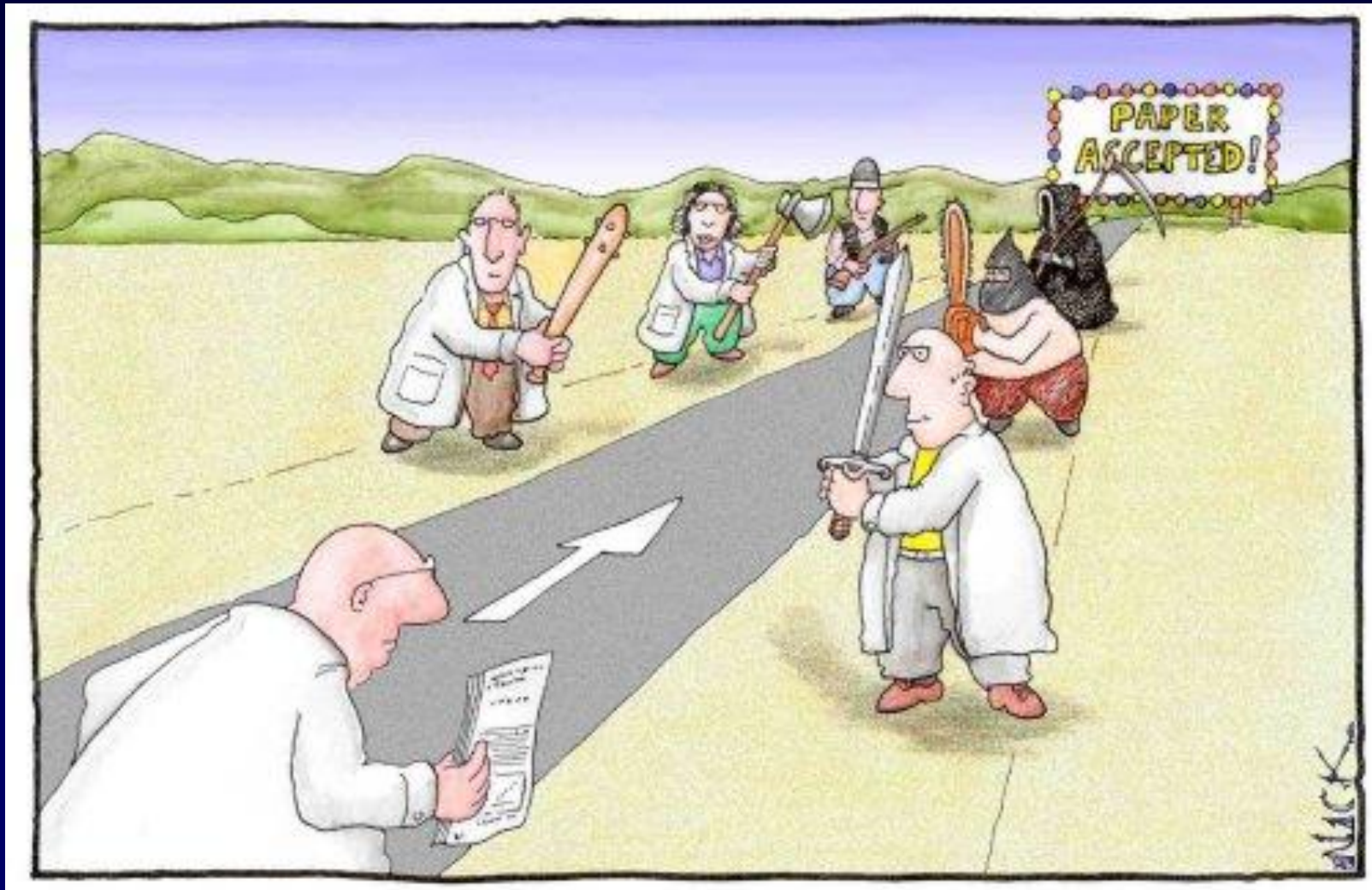
Why publish?

- It is obligatory to report your results
- Benefit mankind

- Announce your existence
- Academic progress
- *Monetary gain*



The author's perspective



What editors want

- Timely, appealing subject
- Technically complete manuscript
- Understandable language, brevity
- No conjecture
- No plagiarism

Ingredients

- The study
- Writing
- Journal selection
- Submission
- Correspondence

The study

- This is the most important part of your paper
- Do the leg-work before starting the study
 - Set up your hypothesis
 - Check what data you will need
 - Sample size, statistics
 - Pre-defined performance
 - Do not confabulate
 - Even a negative study is worth writing

The writing

The basic questions to be answered:

- Introduction:
 - Why did you do this study?
- Methods:
 - How did you do it?
 - Can the reader re-do the study based on your description?

The writing

The basic questions to be answered:

- Results:
 - What did you find?
- Discussion:
 - So what?
- Conclusions:
 - Based on your study only

The writing

- Follow the guidelines
- Brevity
- Understandable language
- No conjecture
- No plagiarism



Choose the journal

- Impact versus impact factor
- Reach
 - Subject
 - Geography
 - Language
- Previous publications
- Costs
- Time

The submission

- READ INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS
- Follow all rules
 - File types, content
 - Reference styles
 - Image quality, number, labels
- Online submission (most common)

The first submission

- Usually the one that gets the decision
- As perfect as possible
- Grammar and spell check
- Accuracy
- Referencing style and accuracy

Use the cover letter

- Editors have limited time: grab eyeballs!
- Explain
 - What's the big deal about your paper
 - State the conflicts
 - Describe prior publications
- Do not re-write the paper in the letter!

What reviewers often do

Avoid blinkers

- Good use of language
- Extensive methodology
- Lots of tables, statistics
- Big names, institutions
- Large numbers

Pros and Cons

Features that make reviewers want to reject:

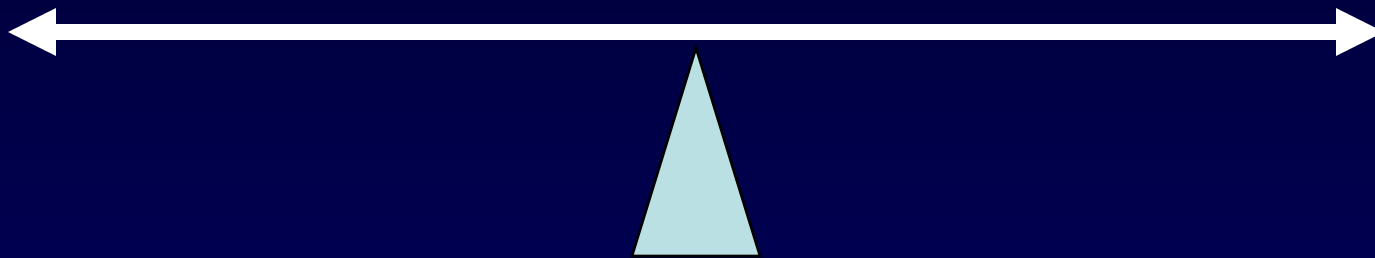
- Fatal flaws
 - Plagiarism
 - Unsound methodology
- Remediable flaws
 - Discourses
 - Clearly biased reports
 - Conclusions over-reaching the brief



Fatal flaws: Misconduct

Deliberate

Probably Accidental



- Fabrication
- Falsification
- Omission

- Sample size
- Test errors
- Recording errors
- Statistics

Fatal flaws: Plagiarism

Deliberate Plagiarism

- Stealing a paper
- Hired writers
- Intentional duplicate submission

Probably Accidental Plagiarism

- Copied text
- Non-citation
- Close paraphrasing
- Copied ideas

Source: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagar.html



Revisions

- Answer all points clearly
- Analyze reason behind the query
- Do not use harsh or obsequious language
- Mark changes as requested by the journal
- Revision does not mean accept!

Handling a rejection

- Most common outcome: 80% or higher
- Use the review: improve manuscript
- Resubmit
- A different journal may be more receptive
- Nearly all manuscripts can be published



This does not work!

Acceptance of Bulk Articles - Terms & Condition – Reg

Registrar [redacted] University <registrar@[redacted].ac.in>
To: rajeev.aiims@gmail.com

Mon, Jan 13, 2014 at 3:01 PM

Dear Sir / Madam,

[redacted] are constituent colleges of [redacted] university. Both our Institutions have Post Graduate Courses. So we have an enormous number of unpublished quality research papers consisting of original articles.

I am the Registrar of the University and would like to know the terms & condition for immediate publication of these articles in Bulk at the least possible time. We are ready to oblige for most terms on immediate publication guaranty.

Expecting your speedy & positive response.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely

Prof. [redacted]

M.D., F.R.C.P., (Glasgow), F.I.M.S.A,

Prof. of [redacted]

&

Registrar



Thank you