



## *How to get a Paper Published: From Manuscript Writing to Peer Reviews*

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Trainee and New Investigator Session  
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# Some Key General Points

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  - The importance of the question
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# Some Key General Points

- A paper is a story
- The story is about a question that you answered
- The quality of your paper and the likelihood that it will be accepted depends on:
  - The importance of the question
  - How well you answered it
- SO, your paper needs to communicate clearly that your question was important and you answered it well

# What the reviewer is thinking about.

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- Did the paper provide an answer to the question? (Methods/Results)
- Is this the first time this question has been addressed/answered? (Discussion)
- Does anybody care about the question and/or answer? (Discussion)



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## Introduction:

- Needs to provide sufficient background for the reviewer/reader to understand the rationale for the question(s) addressed
- THE QUESTION NEEDS TO BE STATED CLEARLY  
(The aim of this study was...)
- Does not need (and should not be) a review of the literature

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## Methods:

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## BUT

- Not all methods need to be written in detail in the main paper (e.g. standard methods identical to those previously described in the literature can be briefly summarized and referenced; use of supplement)

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## Results

- Key information, communicates the essential basis for the authors' answer to the question(s) posed
- Figures and Tables are key; choose/design them carefully and make sure they convey the essential information to address the question
- In general, best to put most of the details in the display material and use the text to convey concepts (do not present duplicate info in text; or figure-table)



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  - Begin with concise statement of important findings (2 or 3 most important)

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## Discussion:

- Needs to communicate how the question was answered, what is new about the question/answer vs prior literature, deal with any weaknesses
- Standard parts
  - Begin with concise statement of important findings (2 or 3 most important)
  - Include sections dealing with 1) comparison to prior literature; 2) importance of findings; 3) Limitations of approach and data; 4) Conclusions (should be brief take-home messages)

# Some general suggestions/comments

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- Start with an outline of the main points you want to deal with in each part of the paper
- Prepare your display material (figures/tables) first, build paper around it
- All parts of paper are important (including title and abstract)
- Read the Instructions to Authors carefully
- Follow the instructions as closely as you can
- If you are not very experienced, try to find previous articles in the general area in that journal; model your paper after them
- Use subheadings to organize Methods, Results, Discussion