



Writing a Journal Article – and Getting it Published

January 22-24, 2015

Faculty

Dr. Kali Tal, PhD (course co-ordinator and certified Tim Albert trainer)
Institute of Social & Preventive Medicine (ISPM), University of Bern, Switzerland

Place

Room Kath. Kirche or Hotel Falken, Wengen (see map on <http://www.epi-winterschool.org/hotels>)

Introduction

“Publish or perish” is a widely quoted phrase. It describes the relentless pressure to further or sustain a career in academia by publishing your research. As a result, there are many courses on scientific writing. You might ask, “Why another one”? Well, this one is different: it focuses on the message and the anatomy of a successful article, not just how to structure the article and write paragraphs. You will learn to choose the appropriate journal, to deal with your co-authors (who may offer little support, but cause much delay), and to resolve conflicts about authorship. These are important but neglected aspects of the process of scientific writing and publishing.

The course is based on the “evidence-based writing” approach developed by Tim Albert, the author of several books on effective writing (see www.timalbert.co.uk). Tim developed the concepts, course book, slides, and materials. Our individual research output and that of our institute has benefited enormously from Tim’s witty and subversive wisdom. We hope that you will too.

Course objectives

This course will help you write and submit your article to an appropriate journal. You will learn to do this by example, with a single article on which you’re now working. But that is not all! By the end of the course, you will have a good understanding of the process, and be able to surmount obstacles to publishing your future work.

What you should bring

An idea for a journal article or scientific paper is essential. Ideally the data for the article will already be analysed, you will have drawn up draft tables and figures. Students should also bring their own portable computers.

Outline of course

The course will run for three days, morning and evening, with a long afternoon break. The first morning introduces you to the basic concepts behind evidence-based writing; by afternoon, you will be well on your way to writing your own articles. The second day is a writing day: you will work on your own and use techniques you learned in class. By the end of the day you should be close to having a first draft of your article. The third morning begins with a review, and covers editing,

dealing with co-authors, submitting your article, and responding to editorial comments. During the extended break in the afternoon, participants may review course materials, catch up on emails, or go skiing. We will reconvene at 5 pm and may carry on after dinner.

Thursday, January 22nd (8:30 – 12:00 | 17:00 – 19:00)

On Day 1 we will help you develop your article idea. By the end of the day, you should have a clear outline for your article, plus the first draft of the introduction. Day 1 will teach you how to:

- Understand the publication game
- Understand the key players
- Set the brief
- Organize your material
- Plan the article
- Write the article

Friday, January 23rd (8:30 – 12:00 | 17:00 – 19:00)

On Day 2, you will work on your own article. Focus only on writing, for at least 4 hours. Mobile phones should be switched off and email should not be checked during writing hours. Remember, the longer you spend on your article on Day 2, the closer you will be to submitting your article.

Saturday, January 24th (8:30 – 12:00 | 17:00 – 19:00)

On Day 3 we will return to the classroom and you will learn to:

- Rewrite
- Add the extras
- Deal with other authors
- Complete the package
- Understand medical journals
- Deal with reviewers and editors
- Strategize for success
- Set a personal action plan

Credit

1.5 ECTS

Maximum number of participants

The course will have a maximum of 14 participants.

Course book

Albert, T. (2009) *Winning the Publications Game*, Oxford: Radcliffe Publishing.

Course fee

Academic: CHF 900

Industry: CHF 1800

Registration

Registration on the Winter School website www.epi-winterschool.org.

Course hotels

The participants have to book their accommodation themselves (see map and recommendation on www.epi-winterschool.org/hotels).