



Tim Albert



UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE

FACULTÉ DE MÉDECINE

Institut de santé globale

## Writing a Journal Article – and Getting it Published

For students of University of Geneva

January 21 - 23, 2016

### Course description

Faculty	<b>Dr. Kali Tal, PhD</b> (course co-ordinator and certified Tim Albert trainer) Institute of Social & Preventive Medicine (ISPM), University of Bern, Switzerland
Place	<b>CH – 3823 Wengen   SWITZERLAND</b> Seminar room Hotel Sunstar (see map on <a href="http://www.epi-winterschool.org/hotels">http://www.epi-winterschool.org/hotels</a> )
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”? This one is different: it goes beyond telling you how to structure an article and write paragraphs, and shows you how to choose the appropriate journal, to deal with your co-authors (who may offer little support, but cause much delay), and resolve conflicts about authorship. These are important but neglected aspects of the process of scientific writing and publishing. Best of all, it teaches you to produce a lot of good writing in very little time.  The course takes the “evidence-based writing” approach developed by Tim Albert, author of several books on effective writing (see <a href="http://www.timalbert.co.uk">www.timalbert.co.uk</a> ). 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 have to bring	An idea for a journal article or scientific paper is essential. Ideally, the data for the article will already be analysed, and you will have drawn up draft tables and figures. Students should bring laptops, especially for writing on Day 2.

#### Contact:

University of Bern | Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine  
Finkenhubelweg 11  
3012 Bern | Switzerland  
[www.epi-winterschool.org](http://www.epi-winterschool.org) | [winterschool@ispm.unibe.ch](mailto:winterschool@ispm.unibe.ch)

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**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 article. The second day is a writing day: you will work independently, and use techniques you learned in class. By the end of the day, you should be close to finishing 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 afternoon breaks, participants may review course materials, catch up on emails, or go skiing. .

***Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> (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 22<sup>nd</sup> (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 23<sup>rd</sup> (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

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**Credit**

1.5 ECTS

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**Maximum number of participants**

The maximum number of participants on this course is 12.

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**Registration**

This course is only for students of University of Geneva, Institute of Global Health  
Registration on the Winter School website [www.epi-winterschool.org](http://www.epi-winterschool.org).

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**Course hotels**

Participants must book accommodation themselves (see map and recommendation on [www.epi-winterschool.org/hotels](http://www.epi-winterschool.org/hotels)).