

Tim Albert



Writing a Journal Article – and Getting it Published (ws14-3)

January 20-22, 2014

Faculty

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

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 its paragraphs. It teaches you how to choose the appropriate journal, how to deal with your co-authors (who often offer little support while causing much delay) and how 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). 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

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

Outline of course

The course will run for three day. We will make use of the materials and concepts developed by Tim Albert. Each morning begins with a review of what you learned the previous day. During the extended break in the afternoon, participants can review course materials, catch up on emails or go skiing. We will reconvene at 5 pm and may carry on after dinner.

Monday

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

Tuesday

On Day 2 students will work on their articles. Participants must focus only on writing. Mobile phones should be switched off and email should not be checked during writing hours on Day 2.

Wednesday

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

Maximum number of participants

The course will have a maximum number of 12 participants.

Course book

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

Course fee (includes course book)

Academic: CHF 900
Industry: CHF 1500

Course hotels

See www.epi-winterschool.org