

Why write and publish?

Surgery has enormously evolved in the last few decades, with quantum leaps in technology, therapeutic agents and techniques. The world of publishing has also undergone immense transformations with the progress in computerized information and practically uncontained diffusion with the onset of internet. Data banks and registries have flourished and matured with the help of electronic technology, while artificial intelligence (AI) has only scratched the surface of assistance in the logistics involved in both patient care and scientific research. The number of published scientific articles has skyrocketed in the last few years. Social media platforms and handheld devices have revolutionized our approaches to communication and diffusion of information.

Clinical research experienced unparalleled growth and expansion during the same time span. Wide-ranging studies of the safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of drugs, devices, tools, diagnostic tests, interventional and drug therapies, techniques, and technology, clinical research are the backbone to improving how we diagnose, treat, and manage our patients. Analysis of the data, particularly the outcomes of such studies, supported by ever-increasing and adapted statistical methodology has evolved to unprecedented levels.

With this background, the need for an up-to-date manual on medical writing and publishing was never more indispensable. The very reason for publishing is to capture and transmit the vast reservoir of information culled from clinical and experimental research to the medical universe. Without publishing, the written word, the efforts and accomplishments, as well as the knowledge gained from medical research would be lost, potentially leading to unnecessary repetition and redundancy, or worse, harmful paths. Publication provides a long-term, tangible product of the investment in research, and serves to archive trial results.

Publication relies on sound scientific writing, produced in a comprehensive language. Medical writing is a skill to be taught by masters such as the authors in this book. All contributors currently serve or have served as editors, co-editors, and/or are heavily involved in peer review for major surgical journals. Some co-workers are young surgeons whose initial writing experiences give a touch of modern tendencies in the medical writing community. Importantly, none of the text in this book was generated by AI, as only human intelligence (HI) was deployed.

This book, published in both the traditional paper and electronic versions, is meant to be a comprehensive, state-of-the-art guide to medical writing based on why to write and publish as much as how to get precise, informative, clear messages across to the readership. Correspondence between ideas and related information in different chapters is highlighted in the traditional paper version, as well as linked in the electronic version.

We have endeavored to include the essentials for outstanding and seminal scientific papers, irrespective of their level of evidence. We hope that you enjoy the excellent work of our esteemed colleagues who have contributed their expertise to our work.



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