

## **Handout**

### **Research & Development Committee: A workshop for Early Career Researchers – IUGA Vancouver 2017**

#### **The FINER principles: Good research should be feasible, interesting, novel, ethical and relevant**

Veronica Mallett

This overview will offer a road map to research, outline what is involved in conducting a research project from A to Z, and list what to expect during this journey. It is important that you plan carefully and stay on track, as you won't be able to fix any flaws in your study design at the analysis stage.

Common research pitfalls are the following:

- 1) Not selecting a focused research question,
- 2) Selecting a research supervisor who can't make sufficient time to advise and help you throughout the research process,
- 3) Selecting a topic that you have little interest in,
- 4) Planning a complicated study with too many questions rather than a simple focused study,
- 5) Not drafting a research outline,
- 6) Not being realistic about how much time and effort your project will entail,
- 7) Basing a prospective study on rare outcomes,
- 8) Entering data into a format that is not compatible for importing into SAS (consult a statistician),
- 9) Not meeting with a statistician to discuss the analysis before you begin data collection, and
- 10) Waiting too long to begin your project.

Get started as soon as you leave this workshop so that you can really do a project that will answer many of the unanswered questions in our field. Have fun along the journey.

#### **You have got research ideas but you do not know where and how to start? Types of research studies, outcome measures and their assessment**

Kaven Baessler

This talk will cover commonly used study designs to answer different questions regarding diagnosis, assessment, therapy, etiology-pathogenesis, prevention etc. Different interventions like medication, operations, diagnostic tests, exposure will be taken into account.

Possible outcome measures including quality of life, severity, etc. will be discussed.

The research questions of participants will be collected and arranged according to the most appropriate study designs.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the different study designs
- Apply an appropriate study design to a certain research question
- Find suitable outcomes measures

**Ethical Consideration and Approval**

Wael Agur

The talk on ethical considerations and approval aims at familiarising attendees with the importance of designing, conducting and publishing the outcome of their projects with research governance in mind. The talk will cover the responsibility of researchers in designing patient-centered projects to answer the research question, seeking ethics approval, conducting the study/trial in an ethical manner as well as common ethical scenarios and how to address them. Attendees will discuss the reporting of adverse events, the ethics of offering incentives to research participants, and the awareness of authorship criteria and competing interests.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the principles of Research Governance and its role in protecting the public and facilitating good projects
- Engage with the various Ethics Approval processes e.g. IRB (Institutional Review Board) and IRAS (Integrated Research Approval System)
- Appreciate the importance of regularly refreshing research training e.g. GCP (Good Clinical Practice) and CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative)
- Maintain equipoise and avoid cognitive bias during conducting a project and reporting the results
- Value the role of international organisations dealing with publication ethics e.g. COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) and ICMJE (International Committee of Medical Journal Editors)
- Discuss common scenarios encountered during the lifetime of a research project
- Ensure a culture of safety and identify the types of reportable adverse events

**The 'Functional fun' approach to sample size calculation and statistical methods**

Debjyoti Karmakar

- Pre -test quiz
- How to deconstruct sample size calculations.
- When to get help with sample sizes?
- Examples and group activity with sample size .

- Basic statistical tests made easy.
- Things -need to know, handy to know , good to know.
- Examples and group activity with basic statistical tests.
- Tools needed to draft an early research career project
- Post test quiz

### **Writing and publishing**

Tony Bazi

## **Peer Review**

*(Merriam- Webster)*

a process by which a scholarly work (such as a paper or a research proposal) is checked by a group of experts in the same field to make sure it meets the necessary standards before it is published or accepted

## **PEER**

*(Merriam- Webster)*

a member of the British nobility

a person who belongs to the same age group or social group as someone else

*one that is of equal standing with another*

## The first peer-reviewed publication

- 1731: Medical Essays and Observations

*published by the Royal Society of Edinburgh*

## Peer Review

1. Publication process
2. Awarding of funding for research
3. Patents
4. Standards

## Not all got peer reviewed

Watson & Crick's 1951 paper on the structure of DNA in Nature

Abdus Salam: "Weak and electromagnetic interactions" (1968). Nobel Prize

## Manuscript types

- Original Research
- Review article
- Current opinion/update
- Letter to the Editor (Comment)
- Case report
- Video article

## Corresponding author

- Register : ID and password

Author's instructions

Responsible for ALL communications  
related to manuscript submission.

## 5 Impact

### Ranking within categories in the IF Year 2012

Category Name	Total Journals in Category	Journal Rank in Category	Quartile in Category
OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY	78	22	Q2

### Top 20 Journals in the category Obstetrics & Gynecology and the rank of *International Urogynecology Journal*

Rank	Abbreviated Journal Title	Publisher	ISSN	Total Cites	Impact Factor	5-Year Impact Factor
1	HUM REPROD UPDATE	OXFORD UNIV PRESS	1355-4786	5885	8.847	9.512
2	OBSTET GYNECOL	LIPPINCOTT WILLIAMS & WILKINS	0029-7844	25808	4.798	4.908
3	HUM REPROD	OXFORD UNIV PRESS	0268-1161	26733	4.670	4.596
4	FERTIL STERIL	ELSEVIER SCIENCE	0015-0282	28243	4.174	3.960
5	GYNECOL ONCOL	ELSEVIER SCIENCE	0360-8258	18243	3.929	3.923
6	AM J OBSTET GYNECOL	MOSBY-ELSEVIER	0002-9378	33759	3.877	3.821
7	BIOG-INT J OBSTET GY	WILEY-BLACKWELL	1470-0328	12405	3.760	3.754
8	ULTRASOUND OBST GYN	WILEY-BLACKWELL	0960-7692	8490	3.557	3.708
9	SEMIN REPROD MED	THIEME MEDICAL PUBL INC	1526-8004	3550	3.211	3.884
10	MENOPAUSE	LIPPINCOTT WILLIAMS & WILKINS	1072-5714	3749	3.163	3.131
11	PLACENTA	W B SAUNDERS CO-ELSEVIER INC	0143-4004	6187	3.117	3.179
12	CONTRACEPTION	ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC	0010-7824	4987	3.090	2.857
13	BIRTH-IS PERINAT C	WILEY-BLACKWELL	0750-7659	3706	2.926	3.161
14	MATURITAS	ELSEVIER IRELAND LTD	0378-5122	4185	2.844	2.867
15	SEMIN PERINATOL	W B SAUNDERS CO-ELSEVIER INC	0146-0005	3034	2.814	2.932
16	PRENATAL DIAG	WILEY-BLACKWELL	0197-3851	5318	2.685	2.534
17	REPROD BIOMED ONLINE	ELSEVIER SCIENCE	1472-6485	4776	2.675	2.525
18	CURR OPIN OBSTET GYN	LIPPINCOTT WILLIAMS & WILKINS	1040-872X	1809	2.637	2.508
19	CLIN PERINATOL	W B SAUNDERS CO-ELSEVIER INC	0095-5108	3568	2.582	2.629
20	OBSTET GYNECOL SURV	LIPPINCOTT WILLIAMS & WILKINS	0029-7828	3855	2.514	2.889
22	INT UROGYNECOL J	SPRINGER	0937-3462	3856	2.109	2.048

## Editorial office

### Verifying eligibility

- Number of Authors
- Authorship form
- Conflict of Interest/Disclosure Statement?
- Copyright release form
- Informed consent (if applicable)/Ethics considerations

## Editorial office

### Verifying eligibility

- Structured abstract
- Correct article format (Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, Refs)
- Reference style (not standard)

## Editorial office

### Verifying eligibility

Word count

# Tables

# Figures (format)

legends



## Manuscript format

- Title page
- Abstract
- Text (Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion)
- Acknowledgements
- References
- Figure legends
- Tables
- Appendices
- Brief summary
- Keywords



## Corresponding author

Responsible for ALL communications  
related to manuscript submission.



phone number. address. email

# Peer-review Process

- It all starts with the Editor:
  - Why does your manuscript deserve consideration?
  - What made you choose this Journal
  - May suggest reviewers

*Cover letter :Dear Editor-in-Chief!*

EUROPEAN UROLOGY 51 (2007) 1364–1375

available at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)  
journal homepage: [www.europeanurology.com](http://www.europeanurology.com)

  
European Association of Urology



Female Urology – Incontinence

## Polypropylene Midurethral Tapes Do Not Have Similar Biologic and Biomechanical Performance in the Rat

Tony M. Bazi<sup>a,\*</sup>, Ramsey F. Hamade<sup>b</sup>, Inaya Abdallah Hajj Hussein<sup>c</sup>,  
Khalil Abi Nader<sup>a</sup>, Abdo Jurjus<sup>c</sup>

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## Peer-review Process

Manuscript makes it through editorial office!

!!! Editor reviews manuscript herself/himself

## Peer-review Process

What to look for

Appropriateness for the journal

- Is the topic of interest to the journal readers?
- Is the topic timely?
- Is the topic “significant”?

# Peer-review Process

Manuscript makes it through editorial office!

!!! Editor reviews manuscript herself/himself

Editor assigns to Associate Editor

Editor or Associate assigns to Peer Reviewers



## Peer Review

- Performed by editors or editorial committees until early 20th century
- Role of “external reviewers” in the middle of 20th century

# “external reviewers”

WHY?

workload

Diversity of opinion

Expertise

## Reviewers



May have different interests and “expertise”

Epidemiology

stress incontinence surgery

Sexual dysfunction

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## Now what?

The editor will select a small number (usually < four) of scholars in the same field to evaluate the manuscript

Pool of  
Reviewers

almost always anonymous: the author does not know the identity of the reviewer.

## double blind Review

the reviewers do not know who the author is and the author does not know who the reviewers are.

## Single blinded peer review



## You've got email!

- Rejected
- Major revisions needed
- Minor revisions needed
- Accepted as is

# You've got email!

## Rejected

No strong relevance *to the journal*

No space (really?)

Incomprehensible language

Shortcomings: methods, interpretation, conclusion

5 Impact

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20	OBSTET GYNECOL SURV	LIPPINCOTT WILLIAMS & WILKINS	0029-7828	1653	2.514	2.989
22	INT UROGYNECOL J	SPRINGER	0937-3462	3956	2.169	2.649



## Rejected

Letter of appeal

Submit to another journal : *AND* profit  
from Reviewers comments!

## Rejected?

1937. Krebs & Johnson' the role of citric acid on  
metabolism: rejected by [Nature](#) as being of  
"insufficient importance".

Eventually published in the Dutch journal  
Enzymologia.

*known as the Krebs Cycle:1953 Nobel prize*

# Major revisions needed

## Reviewers comments

– To Authors

– Blind comments to Editor:



## Response to Reviewers

- Treat the reviews seriously (and respectfully) ! even if you disagree.
- Do not get intimidated : defend your views
- Improve the “communication process”
- Correct, Fine-tune, and send it out again!
- Meanwhile: Do NOT send the manuscript to another Journal

## You've got *(another)* email

- Issues addressed satisfactorily: Congrats!
- Major issues remaining
- “Minor” issues
- Take all issues seriously

## Re-submission

W

A

I

T



last email....



Prouf reeding

*Oops! I meant : Proof reading!*

**A final handout will be provided to participants at the end of the workshop.**