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**ICMJE member journals to begin requiring data sharing statements**

– **Stephanie Deming**

Beginning July 1, 2018, medical journals that are members of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) will begin requiring a data sharing statement in any manuscript that reports the findings of a clinical trial.

According to the ICMJE, a data sharing statement indicates whether deidentified patient data will be shared and, if they will be shared, which data will be shared, with whom, and during what time period; whether related documents (e.g., study protocol) will be available; for what purpose(s) the shared data can be used; and the method for accessing shared data.

An important point is that this new policy does not require authors to share data. A data sharing statement must be included in every manuscript, but the statement can indicate that no data will
be shared. However, ICMJE does caution authors that “editors may take into consideration data sharing statements when making editorial decisions” (1).

For more information about this policy change and examples of data sharing statements, see the related ICMJE editorial.

Among the ICMJE member journals are Annals of Internal Medicine, JAMA, New England Journal of Medicine, and The Lancet. Many medical journals that are not members of ICMJE nevertheless follow the ICMJE’s recommendations and may also adopt this new policy.

Reference


Online tools for researchers

– Sunita Patterson

At a recent Faculty Writing Retreat, Dawn Chalaire of the Department of Scientific Publications and Laurissa Gann of the Research Medical Library gave brief presentations at the lunchtime break. (These all-day retreats, offered several times a year by Faculty and Academic Development, give authors quiet “protected time” to work on manuscripts and grants in a conference room away from their offices and labs.) In her presentation, Ms. Gann described some online tools that researchers may find helpful. A few are summarized here.

Keep up with the literature with BrowZine: The BrowZine app enables easy access to the journals and periodicals that you like to keep up with and provides a way to collect journal articles that you want to read. You can create a “bookshelf” of your favorite publications, and it will automatically update when new content is published. You can save articles in folders to read later. The app is available for computers, tablets, and mobile devices so you can use it anywhere. It can be used to access all the journals that the Library subscribes to, as well as open-access journals. BrowZine is available through the Research Medical Library website (click on “Apps” near the bottom of the page); for more information, watch this brief video.

Find collaborations with Influuent: The Influuent database serves as an “experts network” of MD Anderson faculty researchers and is intended to promote collaboration and connection. For example, you could use it to find someone in another department who has expertise in a new type of imaging that you’re interested in or who is studying the same signaling pathway or immune mechanism that you are. As the Influuent site explains, the database is publicly available so that other institutions’ researchers, industry representatives, and the media can find MD Anderson faculty who are experts in particular areas of research. Investigators from other UT System institutions and some Sister Institutions are included as well.

Each researcher has a profile with information about subject interests, collaborations, and publications, compiled from the Scopus database of citations and abstracts in the research literature. You can search by keywords to find profiles of interest. From a researcher’s profile,
you can click “Similar Profiles” to find other researchers with similar interests according to the key terms used in their publications.

Influuent profiles are generated automatically through the Scopus database. They include citation statistics, including an \textit{h-index}, which roughly portrays the researcher’s number of publications and the number of citations of those publications by others. The intention is that researchers will eventually be able to supplement the algorithm-generated profiles by adding information such as conference proceedings, honors, patents, grants, and publications that aren’t in the Scopus database. However, the terms mined from publications serve as the key means of reflecting expertise and interest in particular research concepts, disease sites, or technologies. More information about the profiles is available in the \textit{FAQ}.

\textbf{Monitor online influence with Altmetrics:} Have you started to see colorful spirals containing numbers accompanying journal articles or citations? These are called \textit{Altmetric donuts}, and the numbers represent the publication’s \textit{attention score}. They provide a sense of the interest that others have had in the article. The score is generated by an algorithm that searches the web to find mentions of the publication other than traditional citations within other articles, such as, according to the Altmetric website, in “peer reviews on Faculty of 1000, citations on Wikipedia and in public policy documents, discussions on research blogs, mainstream media coverage, bookmarks on reference managers like Mendeley, and mentions on social networks such as Twitter.” The colors of the donut depict the sources of the attention, for example, red for news and light blue for Twitter. If you click on the spiral, you can see the Altmetric profile for the article, including tweets and Mendeley readership statistics. To learn more about Altmetrics, see this \textit{online primer} and an explanation of the \textit{colors and score calculation}.

If you have questions about these tools, contact the Research Medical Library at 713-792-2282 or \texttt{rml-help@mdanderson.org}. For more information about Faculty Writing Retreats, contact Janice Simon at \texttt{jsimon@mdanderson.org}.

\textbf{Changes to NIH forms for studies involving human subjects}

– \textit{Amy Ninetto}

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has announced changes to its grant application forms. For applications with due dates on or after January 25, 2018, applicants are required to use a new form package, called FORMS-E. The FORMS-E package, which has replaced FORMS-D, was posted on the relevant Funding Opportunity Announcement web pages beginning on October 25, 2017. FORMS-E should now be used for new applications as well as resubmissions, renewals, and revisions.

One of the biggest changes with FORMS-E involves the way information about clinical trials and human subjects research is collected. FORMS-E consolidates information on human subjects protection, inclusion enrollment reporting, and clinical trial protocols into a single form. In previous application form packages, this information was collected on multiple forms.

The new \textbf{PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information Form} also uses discrete form fields, which is a change from the more open-ended format of the previous forms.
According to Dr. Michael Lauer, NIH's Deputy Director for Extramural Research, these changes are part of an initiative to improve the quality and transparency of the research supported by the NIH. With these revisions to the application forms, the NIH aims to standardize the information available to staff and reviewers, ensure that all necessary information is provided, and move toward future systems interoperability with ClinicalTrials.gov.

Details about the new FORMS-E application form package are provided in NIH notice NOT-OD-17-062. A video walkthrough of the new PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information Form is available here, and annotated versions of FORMS-E can be found here.

Unusual terms used in scientific writing and publishing: Text recycling

– Bryan Tutt

“Text recycling” in medical and scientific publishing refers to the reuse of substantial portions of text (i.e., one or more sentences) from your own previously published work. Whether text recycling is permissible depends on the type of text that is being reused, the amount of repeated text, whether you make it clear that the text is being reused, and the journal editor's judgment.

In most situations, repeating your own work verbatim is considered self-plagiarism, which is unethical and may violate copyright law. However, there are some instances in which text recycling is acceptable and still others in which some journal editors allow text recycling and some do not.

Recycling materials from conference posters and grants
You can recycle text, tables, or figures from an abstract or poster presented at a conference. By convention, such material is not considered “published” even if it appears online or in a special issue of a journal. There is no need to ask permission from the organization that hosted the conference; however, you should note on the title page and/or cover letter of your manuscript which conference the material was presented at.

If you previously wrote a grant application, you can reuse as much of this text as you wish in a journal manuscript; this practice is allowed because grant applications are not published.

Recycling materials from published journal articles
Republishing an entire manuscript that has already been published—a practice known as duplicate, dual, redundant, or repetitive publication—is unethical in most situations. Exceptions are translations to another language and a review article republished as a book chapter after obtaining permission from the copyright holder (which, in most cases, would be the journal in which the manuscript was originally published) and the editor of the new publication. When a manuscript is republished, the new article should clearly state when and where the original article was published.

Recycled passages from a published work should not be used in the Introduction and Discussion sections of a journal manuscript. These are expected to be original work.

Recycled passages from a published work are usually not allowed in the Results section because the results should contain original data; in rare instances, however, some text recycling is permitted in the Results section if there is a compelling reason (e.g., the new article is an
update of an earlier report) and the author clearly states that some results were previously published and cites the original manuscript.

Some text recycling may be permitted in the Methods section because experiments or interventions must be described in detail, and changing the language could affect readers’ ability to replicate the experiment. The original text must be cited, and you should inform the journal editor that you recycled a portion of text from the methods of your previous manuscript to preserve clarity.

Rules for recycling published material

- Recycle only your own work (reusing text from a paper on which you are not an author is plagiarism).
- Recycle only a few sentences, not an entire section of the paper.
- Cite the original paper before the recycled text is used (e.g., We performed the experiment using a novel technique developed for our preliminary study [ref]. First, we…).
- Do not place quotation marks around the recycled text.
- State in your cover letter that you recycled some text, why doing so was necessary, and where the recycled text appears in your manuscript. You can highlight the recycled text to make it easy for the editor to locate.

If you think you need to recycle a portion of text from one of your previous papers, remember that not all journal editors agree that the practice is acceptable. So it’s a good idea to contact the managing editor of the journal to which you plan to submit your paper, ask about the journal’s policy, and explain why you plan to include a recycled passage of text. Also, plagiarism detection programs such as iThenticate will flag recycled text, so you want to make sure the editor knows why the text was reused. If you tell the editor this up front, he or she will know that you are not trying to do anything unethical. (For more information, please see “Reusing your own previously published material: When is it okay?” in the Winter 2017 issue of The Write Stuff.)

Sources


Upcoming events for authors

Please see the Scientific Publications website for more information on our educational courses.

Third Thursday Writing Retreat. The Department of Scientific Publications and the Research Medical Library are sponsoring afternoon writing retreats for faculty and trainees. These retreats, offered the third Thursday of every month from 12 to 4 pm in the Research Medical Library conference room (FCT21.6040), allow 4 hours of protected time for researchers to work on their grants and manuscripts. A scientific editor is present the entire time to answer questions, offer advice, and provide consultations on early drafts. (A separate room is available for lengthy consultations.) A librarian is also present to help with literature searches, reference formatting, EndNote issues, etc. Details: John McCool (scipubseducation@mdanderson.org), 713-792-3174.

November 16, 2017
December 21, 2017
January 18, 2018

Writing Scientific Articles (WSA): A Workshop for Faculty. WSA is a structured, practical, in-depth writing-education program for clinical and basic science research faculty of MD Anderson taught by the Department of Scientific Publications. This 1-day, 8-contact-hour course provides an excellent opportunity to advance your skills in writing research articles with focus and clarity.

Locations and times to be announced. Registration is required through the Department of Scientific Publications. Details: John McCool (scipubseducation@mdanderson.org), 713-792-3174.

January 30, 2018

Writing Persuasive R01 Proposals. This grant-writing workshop for clinical and basic science research faculty at MD Anderson focuses on the content, organization, and structure of an R01 grant application. Taught by senior editors in the Department of Scientific Publications, this 1-day workshop includes lecture, discussion, and guided grant outlining and development.

Locations and times to be announced. Registration is required through the Department of Scientific Publications. Details: John McCool (scipubseducation@mdanderson.org), 713-792-3174.

February 1, 2018
Writing and Publishing Scientific Articles (WAPSA). WAPSA is a structured, practical, in-depth writing-education program for postdoctoral fellows and clinical trainees of MD Anderson taught by the Department of Scientific Publications. This 16-contact-hour course provides an excellent opportunity for advancing participants' skills in writing and publishing research articles while developing their in-progress manuscripts under the guidance of scientific editors.

Locations and times to be announced. Registration is required through the Department of Scientific Publications. Details: John McCool (scipubseducation@mdanderson.org), 713-792-3174.

February 20 and 27, 2018

Scientific Publications Now Charging No-Show Fees. Scientific Publications’ popular full-day courses—Writing and Publishing Scientific Articles, Writing Scientific Articles, and Writing Persuasive R01 Proposals—are available to MD Anderson faculty and trainees free of charge. For many courses, we have more applicants than spaces available; and sometimes those accepted do not show up for the courses. Therefore, to ensure that as many faculty and trainees as possible can participate in our courses, we implemented a new cancellation/no-show policy in June 2017. Registrants are able to drop a course without penalty until a specified date and time (typically 2 work days before the course begins), but those who do not withdraw from the course by that deadline and who do not show up for the course will be charged $95 to the chart string provided at the time of registration.

Short Courses in Scientific English for Non-Native Speakers of English. Courses last 7 weeks and meet twice a week for 1 or 1.5 hours each day. Classes are held early in the morning, during the lunch hour, or late in the afternoon. Classes are free of charge. Participants must speak English at the intermediate or higher level and be familiar with research and general biomedical terminology.

Dates are subject to change. Registration is required through the Department of Scientific Publications and ends December 8. Details: Mark Picus (mapicus@mdanderson.org), 713-792-7251, or John McCool (scipubseducation@mdanderson.org), 713-792-3174.

Session 1 – January 18 through February 22, 2018

Pronunciation 1, Pronunciation 2, Making Presentations, Conversation 1, Writing 2

Friday Conversation Group. The Friday Conversation Group provides an informal atmosphere for non-native speakers of English to practice their conversational abilities, learn more about American culture, and meet new friends. The class meets every Friday in the Mitchell Building (BSRB), room S3.8003, from 12:00 to 1:00 pm.

No registration is required. Details: Mark Picus (mapicus@mdanderson.org), 713-792-7251, or John McCool (scipubseducation@mdanderson.org), 713-792-3174.
**Webinars Presented by the Department of Scientific Publications**

The Department of Scientific Publications continues to host a series of webinars on various topics, including the following, which will be presented in November:

- **Addressing ESL Issues in Scientific Writing** – November 9, 2017, 10:30 am
  
  In this webinar, Mark Picus, PhD, a training specialist in the Department of Scientific Publications, will discuss some of the challenges in scientific writing that scientists who trained at institutions outside the United States are likely to encounter as they transition to working at a U.S.-based institution.

Dates and times, as well as links to upcoming webinars, will be posted as they become available on the [Department of Scientific Publications](http://www.departmentwebsite.com) website and in the department’s “Educational Events” newsletter.

The following webinars have already been presented and recorded:

- **Avoiding Wordiness** (presented October 4, 2017)
  
  In this webinar, Don Norwood, an editor from the Department of Scientific Publications, explains how to identify wordiness—the use of too many words to express an idea—and shares strategies for eliminating it from scientific writing. A [recording of the webinar](http://www.recordinglink.com) is available.

- **Ask the Editors** (presented July 26, 2017)
  
  In this webinar, two editors from the Department of Scientific Publications field questions about writing, editing, and publishing. A [recording of the webinar](http://www.recordinglink.com) is available.

- **Avoiding Plagiarism and Self-Plagiarism** (presented April 19, 2017)
  
  In this webinar, two scientific editors from the Department of Scientific Publications discuss the pitfalls of plagiarism, how plagiarism is detected, and how authors can avoid plagiarizing. The concept of “self-plagiarism” is also discussed. A [recording of the webinar](http://www.recordinglink.com) and the [webinar slides](http://www.slideslink.com) are available.

- **Creating Effective Tables** (presented January 19, 2017)
  
  In this webinar, Joe Munch, a scientific editor in the Department of Scientific Publications, discusses when to use a table, the elements of a table, some basic principles of effective table design, and how to use Microsoft Word to design a clear and useful table. A [recording of the webinar](http://www.recordinglink.com) and the [webinar slides](http://www.slideslink.com) are available.

**Grant Writing Advice.** The Department of Scientific Publications now offers grant writing suggestions ([Writing R01 Grant Proposals](http://www.writingadvice.com)) in the Writing Advice section of our website. This information, stemming from the Grant Writers’ Seminars and Workshops (developed by Drs. Stephen Russell and David Morrison and presented annually at MD Anderson) and from the NIH’s SF424 (R&R) Application Guide, focuses on R01 grants but can be applied to other types of NIH grants as well.
Writing the Specific Aims Section of a Grant Application. In this video, Scientific Editor Sunita Patterson presents a summary of the National Institutes of Health’s grant-review process and how it affects the grant proposal, an overview of the structure of an R01 grant proposal, and a model for writing the Specific Aims section. The video is available on the Scientific Publications website.

Writing Abstracts Online Tutorial. Writing Abstracts, an interactive, Web-based tutorial, covers the most important aspects of writing good abstracts. The lesson includes many examples and an optional self-assessment.

Improve Your Chances for IRG Funding. This PDF presentation by Walter Pagel, the former Director of the Department of Scientific Publications, guides researchers through the process of applying for institutional research grants.

Anatomy of a Research Article Video Presentation. In this video, Senior Scientific Editor Stephanie Deming presents advice on writing the parts of a research article: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, title, and abstract. The slides shown in the presentation and the presentation handout can be downloaded as well.

Classes and Webinars Presented by the Research Medical Library. More classes will be posted on the Research Medical Library website once they have been finalized.

Classes are located in the Research Medical Library classroom in the Pickens Academic Tower (in either FCT21.6008 or FCT21.6040). Details: Laurissa Gann (lgann@mdanderson.org), 713-794-1111.

November 2, 10:00 am, class: PubMed Basics
November 8, 9:00 am, class: EndNote Basics
November 15, 9:00 am, class: EndNote Advanced
December 5, 10:00 am, class: EndNote Basics
December 7, 10:00 am, class: Systematic Reviews: Searching for Studies in Medline and PubMed
December 12, 10:00 am, class: EndNote Advanced

To register for a Research Medical Library webinar or class, please visit the library’s Class Calendar. When you click on a webinar or class link on the calendar, you will be directed to a registration screen. Also at this site are class and webinar descriptions and printable handouts.

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