

The Write Stuff

*Boosting your writing
into a higher orbit*



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Grant-writing workshop and mock study section now available to help grant applicants

-- Dawn Chalaire

The ability to acquire grant funding is critical to the success of researchers everywhere, and MD Anderson recently launched two educational opportunities designed to help researchers write strong and polished grant applications—a grant-writing workshop and a mock study section.

The grant-writing workshop, “Writing Persuasive R01 Proposals,” is being offered to clinical and basic science research faculty at MD Anderson. The workshop was developed by senior editors in the Department of Scientific Publications and is based on principles taught by Stephen W. Russell, DVM, PhD, and David C. Morrison, PhD, cofounders of Grant Writers’ Seminars and

Workshops, LLC, and on information found on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Extramural Research, [Grants and Funding](#) website.

The 1-day interactive workshop includes lectures, discussions, and guided grant outlining and development. It focuses on the content, organization, and structure of an R01 grant application and includes the following topics:

- How to maximize the impact of the Specific Aims page
- What to include in each section of an R01 proposal
- What the NIH review criteria are and how to address them
- How to highlight the significance and innovation of the grant proposal
- How to align the proposal with the goals of the NIH
- How to confidently and persuasively convey (1) the importance of the proposed work, (2) the investigator's ability to complete the work, and (3) the positive impact that completion of the proposed study will have.

The next "Writing Persuasive R01 Proposals" workshop will be held on June 22. Announcements and registration forms are sent to faculty approximately 6 weeks before each workshop. Class size is limited; interested faculty members are encouraged to apply early as the workshop fills up quickly.

In parallel with the grant-writing workshop, the INTEREST program began organizing mock study sections last spring to offer peer review of faculty grant applications. INTEREST is supported by the Division of Academic Affairs and led by Sanjay Shete, PhD, a professor in the departments of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at MD Anderson and a member of the NIH National Advisory Board. The mock study sections are offered three times a year, a few weeks before the major NIH deadlines. The following types of grant applications are reviewed: NIH K07, K08, K23, R01, R03, R21, and P01 awards; Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) grants; and American Cancer Society grants.

The goal of INTEREST is to leverage the expertise of experienced faculty in writing fundable research proposals, and the submitted proposals undergo a rigorous review. The format of the study sections (reviewer assignment, scoring range, and review criteria) is exactly the same as that of NIH study sections, and each applicant receives critiques from their assigned reviewers.

For more information about "Writing Persuasive R01 Proposals" or the INTEREST program, please contact Teasha Barker at tsbarker@mdanderson.org or interest@mdanderson.org.

Must authors highlight minor text changes in revised manuscripts?

-- *Stephanie Deming*

When a journal gives you the opportunity to revise and resubmit a manuscript, you should indicate most revisions by using change tracking or special formatting (e.g., highlighting).

However, two types of minor changes do not need to be indicated. First, if a reviewer asks you to have the manuscript edited by an English-language expert, you do not need to indicate minor editorial changes. Second, if a reviewer asks you either to reduce the number of words or to add new material but make compensatory omissions elsewhere to avoid increasing the overall word count, you do not need to indicate omissions of individual words or short phrases. You should, though, indicate any omissions of entire sentences or paragraphs.

When a revised manuscript contains minor revisions made solely to improve the language or reduce the word count, include a sentence in the cover letter to acknowledge that fact, as in the underlined examples below:

“We have made substantial revisions and highlighted all of these changes in the revised manuscript. We have also had the manuscript edited by an English-language expert as requested; we have not highlighted the editor’s changes.”

“We have made substantial revisions and highlighted all of these changes in the revised manuscript. We have also made several minor wording changes to keep the manuscript below the 3400-word limit; we have not highlighted these minor changes in wording.”

Using ORCID’s unique identifier to link your name with your publications

-- Amy Ninetto

Thousands of research articles are published every year, and it can be easy to get lost in the crowd. If you have a common name, you’ve probably already experienced being confused with someone else. Other circumstances can also make it hard for a colleague, an editor, a reviewer, or the head of a hiring or promotion committee to find your work in a sea of search results. Perhaps you’ve changed your name at some point in your career. Maybe you’ve been inconsistent in your use of a middle initial or a suffix such as “Jr.” Or you might publish in multiple languages in which your name is written differently. When colleagues search online databases, it’s important that they can quickly and accurately identify work that’s yours—and yours alone. How can you make sure that your research is accurately attributed to you?

One tool you can use is ORCID, the Open Researcher and Contributor ID. Established in 2010, ORCID is an open-source, non-profit registry of unique author identifiers. Registering with ORCID allows you to link all your publications (and more) into a single research profile with a unique 16-digit identifier. It’s free, and it only takes about a minute to sign up—all you need is your name and e-mail address. Since *The Write Stuff* first reported on ORCID in 2013 (“[ORCID: Linking researchers to their papers, grants, and patents](#),”) ORCID has expanded its capabilities. In just a few minutes, you can import all of your publications automatically from Web of Science or Scopus or add them manually. You can expand your profile with a biographical statement and add information on your education, employment, funding, and other research products (for example, patents, trademarks, datasets, and even blog posts). You can also link your profile to other professional networks such as Google Scholar and LinkedIn. Like the popular social networks, ORCID lets you control which parts of your profile are visible to different audiences. And to save you time, when you publish new articles, ORCID syncs with Scopus and an ever-growing list of publication databases to update your profile automatically.

Increasingly, high-impact journals (for example, *Nature*) and funding agencies are using ORCID to ensure transparency in authorship, verify authors' credentials, and make sure credit is allocated where it's due. ORCID accounts can also be linked to the SciENcv system (Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae) used for National Institutes of Health biosketches. ORCID aims to make its author identification system even more widely used in the future.

ORCID isn't just for those who have ambiguous names. All researchers should consider actively managing their online presence to maximize their visibility in search results and to ensure that their work is clearly and correctly attributed.

Helpful links

To set up your ORCID account or get more information: orcid.org

The Research Medical Library offers an in-depth [webinar](#) on using ORCID and other online research profile tools.

Sources

"What is ORCID?" <http://orcid.org/content/about-orcid>. Accessed April 14, 2016.

Shillum, C and Taylor, M. "New ORCID ID aims to resolve authorship confusion." <https://www.elsevier.com/authors-update/story/innovation-in-publishing/new-orcid-id-aims-to-resolve-authorship-confusion>. Posted January 1, 2013. Accessed April 14, 2016.

Finding the information you need to navigate the recent NIH grant-application changes

-- *Tammy Locke*

As the National Institutes of Health (NIH) continues to implement changes to its grant-writing policies, forms, and guidelines, some grant writers at MD Anderson may be uncertain about the new requirements. To help provide clarification, the [Department of Scientific Publications](#) has assembled some useful information sources from the NIH and elsewhere.

A description of the changes and their underlying rationale can be found at several NIH websites:

- The main goal of the NIH's revised guidelines is "to enhance reproducibility of research findings through increased scientific rigor and transparency." These revisions are summarized in NIH notice [NOT-OD-15-103](#).
- The NIH has published answers to "[Frequently Asked Questions](#)" related to rigor and transparency and other recent changes to the grant-application process.
- An overview of the 2016 changes to grant-application policies, instructions, and forms as well as links to a series of other NIH announcements that provide additional details of these changes can be found in notice [NOT-OD-16-004](#).

- The training module “[NIH Policy: Enhancing Reproducibility through Rigor and Transparency](#)” explains the rationale behind and expectations for the new NIH requirements.

How the changes have been incorporated into NIH application materials is explained in these publications:

- The [SF424 \(R&R\) Application Guide](#) has been updated and is currently available in two forms:

The Forms Version C guide, called “[SF424 \(R&R\) Application Guide for NIH and Other PHS Agencies](#),” was updated November 25, 2015, and is for applications with due dates on and between January 25, 2016, and May 24, 2016. Changes are indicated with purple text throughout the guide.

The Forms Version D guide, called “[Research Instructions for NIH and Other PHS Agencies](#),” was updated March 25, 2016, and is for applications with due dates on or after May 25, 2016.

- All active Funding Opportunity Announcements will be reissued or updated and will include FORMS-D application packages. To see a preview of the actual FORMS-D series, the NIH has prepared an “[Annotated Form Set for NIH Grant Applications](#).” During the transition from the use of FORMS-C to FORMS-D, it’s possible that the incorrect form could be submitted. To help prevent this from happening, the NIH has prepared a guide: “[Do I Have The Right Forms For My Application?](#)”

Suggestions for writing grant proposals that meet the new NIH requirements can be found here:

- The NIH has posted [examples](#) showing how elements of rigor and transparency can be succinctly provided in applications (see the “Resources” section on the linked website).
- NIH’s “[Open Mike](#)” blog, posted by Mike Lauer, NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research, provides a series of excellent discussions about addressing the new NIH requirements.

The entry titled “[Learn More About Addressing Scientific Rigor and Transparency in Your NIH Grant Applications](#)” is especially useful because it contains links to discussions of four areas related to scientific rigor and transparency that the NIH says must be addressed: “[Scientific Premise in NIH Grant Applications](#),” “[Scientific Rigor in NIH Grant Applications](#),” “[Consideration of Relevant Biological Variables in NIH Grant Applications](#),” and “[Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources in NIH Grant Applications](#).”

Finally, the Department of Scientific Publications offers several resources to help authors meet the new NIH requirements:

- To help clarify the NIH grant-application changes, Scientific Publications has updated its grant-writing workshop, “[Writing Persuasive R01 Proposals](#)” (next offered June 22, 2016), and its online grant-writing recommendations in “[Writing R01 Grant Proposals](#).”

- Scientific Publications sponsors two seminars annually at MD Anderson, presented by [Grant Writers' Seminars and Workshops, LLC](#)—"Write Winning Grant Proposals" and "Write Winning NIH Career Development Award Proposals"—which focus on the "principles and fundamentals of good grantsmanship," including strategies for implementing the new grant requirements. In addition, the Grant Writers' Seminars and Workshops website includes a very helpful link called "[Ask the Experts](#)," where you can ask your grant-related questions.
- Some grant-application changes were also discussed in the Winter 2016 issue of *The Write Stuff*: "[Changes to NIH grant policies, grant application forms and instructions, and SF424 guidelines](#)."

ICMJE updates its influential Recommendations for scientific publishing

-- Kathryn Hale

When reviewing a journal's editorial policies or instructions for authors, you may notice a reference to the ICMJE (International Committee of Medical Journal Editors) or the "ICMJE Recommendations." The ICMJE Recommendations, which at one time were known as the "Uniform Requirements" and are sometimes referred to as the "Vancouver style," are a comprehensive list of guidelines concerning every conceivable aspect of publishing a biomedical paper, from author responsibilities and ethics to table formats and reference styles. The Recommendations, whose full title is *Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals*, are intended for authors who plan to submit a manuscript to one of the member journals, but many nonmember journals have voluntarily adopted the Recommendations as their standard.

Members of the ICMJE include *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *JAMA*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, and *PLOS Medicine* in the United States, *British Medical Journal* and *Lancet* in the United Kingdom, and several other journals and organizations worldwide. Considering the powerful influence of ICMJE members on biomedical journal publishing and on the biomedical sciences themselves, authors who want to publish in high-quality, high-impact biomedical journals should be familiar with these recommendations.

The ICMJE recently updated the Recommendations to reflect the evolution of biomedical publishing. Although the changes are not extensive, they address important trends that authors should be aware of.

- *Authorship*: A previous recommendation that journals have a policy requiring identification of one author for each published article "who is responsible for the integrity of the work as a whole" has been removed.
- *Predatory journals*: A new recommendation has been added warning authors that not all medical journals are transparent about their practices and to be aware of a medical journal's "integrity, history, practices and reputation" before submitting a paper.
- *Prior publication and public health emergencies*: A new passage has been added stating that, while release of information with "immediate implications for public health" into the

public domain does constitute prior publication, such a release should not preclude subsequent publication of the information in a journal.

- *ORCID identifiers:* The ICMJE encourages the use of authors' ORCID identifiers in published papers along with their institutional and contact information. (See article in this issue, "[Using ORCID's unique identifier to link your name with your publications.](#)")
- *Discussion section:* A paragraph addressing the content and structure of the Discussion section of scientific papers has been revised extensively. Because the new recommendation might be very helpful to our readers, we are reproducing it here:

It is useful to begin the discussion by briefly summarizing the main findings, and explore possible mechanisms or explanations for these findings. Emphasize the new and important aspects of your study and put your findings in the context of the totality of the relevant evidence. State the limitations of your study, and explore the implications of your findings for future research and for clinical practice or policy. Do not repeat in detail data or other information given in other parts of the manuscript, such as in the Introduction or the Results section.

The current version of the official ICMJE Recommendations is available in PDF form for download at www.ICMJE.org.

For more information about predatory journals, please refer to *The Write Stuff* article, "[Open-access journals--legitimate or predatory?](#)"

Summer schedule for the Research Medical Library webinar program

--Jill Delsigne-Russell

Beat the summer doldrums by watching a webinar sponsored by the Research Medical Library. The library's informative webinars can help you regain your research momentum and help you cultivate good research habits. You can participate in the live webinars or access past webinars in the library's [archives](#).

Recent and upcoming webinars:

Design Tips for Posters

April 28, 2016, 11:00 am-11:30 am

Are you submitting a research poster for a professional conference? This webinar will cover tips and tools to help you plan and design your poster.

Digital Tools for Educators

May 24, 2016, 1:00 pm-2:00 pm

This webinar will demonstrate some practical technologies that can be used to enhance your classes or training sessions. The focus will be on tools for modifying digital images and creating screen captures and videos, as well as copyright and fair use of online materials. The webinar will also review tools for asynchronous presentations and training sessions, polling and quizzing tools, and a plagiarism detection tool.

Quality Health Information Resources for Your Patients

May 25, 2016, 10:00 am-11:00 am

Millions of patients search the web daily for health information. Sometimes the information they find is just what they needed. At other times, however, their searches result in the retrieval of inaccurate, even dangerous, information. Join us to learn about quality health information resources available for your patients.

Open Access Journals and Choosing a Journal for Publication

June 21, 2016, 11:00 am-11:30 am

This online class will cover publishing in open access journals. We'll talk about the benefits and costs, open access mandates, and free tools that can be used to find the best open access journals for your research.

To register for a webinar, please visit the library's [Class Calendar](#). Webinars are color-coded red. When you click on the link for the webinar, you will be directed to the registration screen.

Unusual terms used in scientific writing and publishing: IMRAD

--*Bryan Tutt*

The acronym IMRAD (Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion) describes the structure and subheadings preferred by most medical and scientific journals for original research articles.

The IMRAD format makes it easy for readers to find information and provides authors with a framework for their writing. Tips on how to write the Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion sections can be found on our website in the [Writing Advice](#) section.

Variations of the IMRAD structure include the [IRDAM](#) format, in which the Methods section appears last. Some basic science journals prefer the IRDAM format. Another variation of the IMRAD format is to combine the Results and Discussion sections.

The IMRAD and IRDAM formats are used only for original research papers, as these structures do not lend themselves to other types of journal articles such as case reports or review articles. It's a good idea to check your target journal's instructions to authors so that you use the appropriate structure and subheadings.

Source

AMA Manual of Style, 10th ed. New York, NY: Oxford University Press; 2007:25-26.

Upcoming events for authors

Please see the [Scientific Publications](#) website for more information on our educational courses.

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. Details: Mark Picus (mapicus@mdanderson.org), 713-792-7251, or John McCool (jhmccool@mdanderson.org), 713-792-3174.

Session 3 – May 11 through June 29, 2016
Pronunciation 1, Pronunciation 2, Making Presentations, Writing 3

Session 4 – July 25 through September 8, 2016
Pronunciation 2, Pronunciation Workshop, Conversation 1, Conversation 2, Writing 1

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 (jhmccool@mdanderson.org), 713-792-3174.

Writing Persuasive R01 Proposals. This newly developed 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 required through the Department of Scientific Publications. Details: Teasha Barker (tsbarker@mdanderson.org), 713-792-6019.

June 22, 2016

Grant Writing Advice. The Department of Scientific Publications now offers grant writing suggestions ([Writing R01 Grant Proposals](#)) 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 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 (FCT21.6008). Details: Laurissa Gann (lgann@mdanderson.org), 713-794-1111.

- May 9**, 11:00 am, EndNote Advanced (Pickens, Floor 21)
- May 20**, 10:00 am, Systematic Reviews: Planning the Literature Search (Pickens, Floor 21)
- May 24**, 1:00 pm, Webinar: Digital Tools for Educators
- May 25**, 10:00 am, Webinar: Quality Health Information Resources for Your Patients
- June 1**, 12:00 pm, Library Essentials for Administrative Assistants (Pickens, Floor 21)
- June 2**, 9:00 am, PubMed Basics (Pickens, Floor 21)
- June 7**, 9:00 am, EndNote Basics (Pickens, Floor 21)
- June 14**, 9:00 am, EndNote Advanced (Pickens, Floor 21)
- June 21**, 11:00 am, Webinar: Open Access Journals and Choosing a Journal for Publication
- July 6**, 12:00 pm, Library Essentials for Administrative Assistants (Pickens, Floor 21)
- July 12**, 10:00 am, EndNote Basics (Pickens, Floor 21)
- July 19**, 10:00 am, EndNote Advanced (Pickens, Floor 21)
- July 21**, 10:00 am, PubMed Basics (Pickens, Floor 21)

All Research Medical Library classes require preregistration through the “Classes & Webinars” section of the Library’s [website](#). MD Anderson employees should register through the Education Center. For class descriptions and printable handouts or calendars, go to the Research Medical Library’s Library Classes page.

The Write Stuff is intended for but not restricted to participants in the Writing and Publishing Scientific Articles program conducted by the Department of Scientific Publications. The material included in this newsletter may be freely distributed, as long as proper credit is given. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please e-mail scientificpublications@mdanderson.org or phone (713) 792-3305. Copyright 2016 The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.