How to Publish Symposium
Thursday, November 6
3:00 pm–5:00 pm
Location: Marriott Marquis Treasury
Supported by The Publications Committee

Chair: Luigi Ferrucci, MD, PhD, Publications Committee chair

Podium Presentations:
Rachel Pruchno, PhD, editor of The Gerontologist
Stephen B. Kritchevsky, PhD, editor of The Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences

Breakout Sessions: Editors of The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences; The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences; The Gerontologist; Public Policy & Aging Report; Gerontology & Geriatrics Education

Program Overview (up to 250 words)
This session is designed for anyone who would like to learn more about how to get published in peer-reviewed journals in the field of aging. Emerging scholars and professionals will find this symposium especially useful. This session will be divided into two parts: 1. Podium presentations by the editors in chief of two GSA journals will provide advice and guidance on critical components of publishing in peer-reviewed journals; 2. Breakout sessions organized by editors from each journal will provide an opportunity to meet informally with editors from GSA and AGHE journals and ask specific questions about getting published. Participants will be encouraged to visit as many journal editors as they wish during this component of the session.

Session Objectives
After attending this session, participants will be able to do the following:
1. Select an appropriate journal and write to the specifications of that journal.
2. Explain what happens to a manuscript from submission to acceptance to publication.
3. Respond to reviewer comments when a manuscript is returned for revision and resubmission.

Agenda

10 minutes
Welcome and Introductions
Overview of the GSA and AGHE journals
Luigi Ferrucci, MD, PhD, Publications Committee chair

45 minutes
Podium Presentation and Q&A
Stephen B. Kritchevsky, PhD, Editor-in-Chief, The Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences

Getting Ready to Publish
The first part of the symposium will discuss manuscript development and journal targeting to optimize the chances for timely acceptance and the wide dissemination of your research results to an audience most likely to appreciate your work. Options for publication have increased tremendously over the previous decade, making the targeting of appropriate journals more difficult. The symposium will discuss the pros and cons of differing types of publication (i.e., open-access online only versus traditional print journals) to help authors make better selections.
Podium Presentation and Q&A (Cont’d)

Rachel Pruchno, PhD, Editor-in-Chief, The Gerontologist

Publishing From Two Perspectives
The second part of the symposium will examine publishing from the perspectives of both authors and editors. From the author’s perspective, the presenters will highlight the importance of writing for a specific journal and following the journal’s instructions to authors. The discussion will cover the importance of writing well and avoiding self-plagiarism. Authors will gain an understanding of how to make decisions about each aspect of an article, including its title, abstract, introduction, method section, results section, discussion section, and conclusion. Panelists will discuss how editorial decisions are made and what strategies authors can use to increase the likelihood of gaining acceptance for their work, and will outline commonly made errors. Authors will learn about the review process and the life course of peer-reviewed manuscripts.

10 minutes Editor Introductions
(name, journal, aim/scope of journal)
Luigi Ferrucci, MD, PhD, Publications Committee chair

50 minutes Journal Breakouts
Timekeeper: Luigi Ferrucci, MD, PhD, Publications Committee chair

➢ Gerontology & Geriatrics Education
  o Judith Howe, PhD, Editor-in-Chief
  o Kelly Niles-Yokum, PhD, MPA, Managing Editor of GGE
  o Mark Brennan-Ing, PhD, Consulting Editor for Statistics and Methods

➢ The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences
  o Rafael de Cabo, PhD, Editor-in-Chief
  o Placido Navas, PhD, Deputy Editor
  o David Le Couteur, MB, BS, Deputy Editor

➢ The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Medical Sciences
  o Stephen B. Kritchevsky, PhD, Editor-in-Chief

➢ The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Social Sciences
  o Deborah Carr, PhD, Incoming Editor-in-Chief

➢ The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences
  o Shevaun Neupert, PhD, Associate Editor

➢ The Gerontologist
  o Rachel Pruchno, PhD, Editor-in-Chief
  o Nicholas G. Castle, PhD, Editor: International Research
  o Barbara J. Bowers, PhD, RN, FAAN, Editor: Qualitative Research
  o Suzanne Meeks, PhD, Editor: Practice Concepts

➢ Public Policy & Aging Report
  o Robert B. Hudson, PhD, Editor-in-Chief
  o Greg O’Neill, PhD, Associate Editor

➢ GSA Editorial offices
  o Megan McCutcheon, Kathy Jackson, Amy Conradt

5 minutes Closing Remarks
Luigi Ferrucci, MD, PhD

Adjourn and enjoy GSA’s Annual Scientific Meeting!

Materials will be placed online after the annual meeting for member access.
The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences publishes articles on the biological aspects of aging in areas such as biochemistry, biodemography, cellular and molecular biology, comparative and evolutionary biology, endocrinology, exercise science, genetics, immunology, morphology, neuroscience, nutrition, pathology, pharmacology, physiology, vertebrate and invertebrate genetics and biological underpinnings of late life diseases.

The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Medical Sciences publishes articles representing the full range of medical sciences pertaining to aging. Appropriate areas include, but are not limited to, basic medical sciences, clinical epidemiology, clinical research, and health services research from professions such as medicine, dentistry, allied health sciences, and nursing.

- Instructions to Authors: oxford.ly/GA_ITAs

The Journal of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences publishes articles on development in adulthood and old age that advance the psychological science of aging processes and outcomes. Articles in JG: PS have clear implications for theoretical or methodological innovation in the psychology of aging or contribute significantly to the empirical understanding of psychological processes and aging. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to, attitudes, clinical applications, cognition, education, emotion, health, human factors, interpersonal relations, neuropsychology, perception, personality, physiological psychology, social psychology, and sensation. Applied research with theoretical significance is welcome. Manuscripts reporting work that relates behavioral aging to neighboring disciplines are also appropriate. The Journal publishes three types of articles: (a) reports of original research, (b) brief reports of original research, and (c) New Directions in Aging Research—reviews of cutting-edge topics with theoretical or methodological implications. All submissions are peer-reviewed, with final decisions made by the Editor.

The Journal of Gerontology: Series B: Social Sciences publishes articles using a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches encompassing quantitative, qualitative, experimental, and nonexperimental research. Authors are encouraged to submit papers in areas such as anthropology, demography, economics, epidemiology, geography, health services research, political science, public health, social history, social work, and sociology.

- Instructions to Authors: oxford.ly/GB_ITAs
The Gerontologist is a bimonthly journal of The Gerontological Society of America that provides a multidisciplinary perspective on human aging through the publication of research and analysis in gerontology, including social policy, program development, and service delivery. It reflects and informs the broad community of disciplines and professions involved in understanding the aging process and providing service to older people. Articles, including those in applied research, should report concepts and research findings, with implications for policy or practice. Contributions from social and psychological sciences, biomedical and health sciences, political science and public policy, economics, education, law, and the arts and humanities are welcome. Brief descriptions of innovative practices and programs are appropriate in the Practice Concepts section. Please refer below to the Types of Manuscripts Considered for additional information about sections and types of manuscripts.

- Instructions to Authors: [oxford.ly/TG_ITAs](oxford.ly/TG_ITAs)

Public Policy & Aging Report is a quarterly journal of The Gerontological Society of America that explores policy issues generated by the aging of society. Each thematic issue is designed to stimulate debate, highlight emerging concerns, and propose alternative policy options. Articles are informed and provocative. Authors are leaders in the policy, practice, and research communities.

- Instructions to Authors: [oxford.ly/PP_ITAs](oxford.ly/PP_ITAs)

Gerontology & Geriatrics Education, the official journal of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, is a peer-reviewed journal that focuses on the exchange of information related to research, curriculum development, course and program evaluation, classroom and practice innovation, and other topics with educational implications for gerontology and geriatrics. It is designed to appeal to a broad range of readers, including faculty, students, practitioners, administrators, and policy makers and is dedicated to disseminating cutting edge and evidence-based knowledge in the field of gerontology and geriatrics education.

- Instructions to Authors: [tandfonline.com/toc/wgge20/current#VEarJkpX-uY](tandfonline.com/toc/wgge20/current#VEarJkpX-uY)
GSA 2014 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

NOVEMBER 5–9, 2014
WASHINGTON, DC

Walter E. Washington Convention Center
Washington Marriott Marquis

Making Connections: From Cells to Societies
How to Publish Symposium

In partnership with the Publications Committee
Thursday, November 6, 2014
Luigi Ferrucci, MD, PhD
Publications Committee Chair

WELCOME
AGENDA

• Introductions
• Editor Presentations and Q&A
• Journal Breakouts
• Summary and Closing
Advancing Innovation in Aging Through Our GSA Journals

- The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Social Sciences
- The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences
- The Gerontologist
- Public Policy & Aging Report
- The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences
- The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Medical Sciences
- Gerontology & Geriatrics Education
Stephen B. Kritchevsky, PhD
Editor-in-Chief, The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Medical Sciences

GETTING READY TO PUBLISH
AGENDA

• Why Publish?
• Before You Write the Paper
• Choosing a Journal
• Writing the Paper
• View From the Other Side: Increasing the Odds that your Manuscript will be Published
WHY PUBLISH?
Why Publish?

• The Livelihood of Academicians
  – Getting the first job
  – Building careers
  – Getting grants

• Building Knowledge
  – Communicating with other scientists
  – Testing theory
  – Improving practice
BEFORE YOU WRITE THE PAPER
Questions

• Does this paper advance an important conversation in the literature?

• Does it:
  – Test an important hypothesis for the first time?
  – Replicate a finding in a way that extends the conversation?
  – Address an understudied problem?
  – Move knowledge forward?
Useful Replications

• Conflicts in the literature
• Extend findings in important ways
  • Bigger sample sizes
  • Better methods
  • New groups of interest (e.g., Hispanic caregiving)
  • Different geography (but explain why)
• Introduction must make it clear why replication is important
Types of Articles

• Empirical studies*
• Literature reviews
• Theoretical articles
• Methodological articles
• Case studies
CHOOSING A JOURNAL
Choosing a Journal

• Does it matter where you publish?
Types of Journals

• Review Journals
• Society Journals
• Generalist Journals
• Regional Journals
• Subspecialty Journals
• Online Journals
Choosing a Journal: Content Issues

– What conversation are you joining?
– Who is your audience?
– Will your methods be appreciated?
– What is the culture of the journal:
  • What types of articles do they publish? Theory? Empirical articles?
  • Disciplinary or multidisciplinary focus?

DO YOUR HOMEWORK: READ THE JOURNALS!
Geriatrics and Gerontology Journals visualized by scope and IF (Review Journals omitted)
Geriatrics and Gerontology Journals visualized by scope and IF (Review Journals omitted)

- **JG: Series A**
  - Biology

- **JG: Series B**
  - Clinical/Social Science

- **Gerontologist**
  - Clinical Practice Policy
Geriatrics and Gerontology Journals visualized by scope and IF (Review Journals omitted): Journals with IF > 2

J Am Med Dir Assoc
Gerontologist
Gerontology
Geriatr Gerontol Int
J Am Geriatr Soc
JG: Series A
Age Ageing
JG: Series B
J Am Med Dir Assoc

High Specialization

Biology Clinical/Social Science Clinical Practice Policy

Low
Geriatrics and Gerontology Journals visualized by scope and IF (Review Journals omitted): Journals with IF > 2
Geriatrics and Gerontology Journals visualized by scope and IF (Review Journals omitted): Journals with IF > 2
Geriatrics and Gerontology Journals visualized by scope and IF (Review Journals omitted): Journals with IF > 2

- **Gerontology**
- **JG: Series A**
  - Exp Gerontol
  - AGE
  - Mech Ageing Dev
  - Aging Cell
  - Neurobiol Aging
  - JG: Series B
    - Rej uv Res
    - J Aging Phys Activ
    - Dement Geriatr Cogn
    - Am J Geriat Pharmac
- **Geriatr Gerontol Int**
  - Biogerontology
  - J Am Geriatr Soc
  - Age Ageing
  - J Am Med Dir Assoc
  - Maturitas
  - Am J Geriat Psychiat
  - J Aging Phys Activ
  - Int J Geriat Psych
  - J Nutr Health Aging
  - Drug Aging
  - Int Psychogeriatr
  - Psychol Aging
  - J Am Geriatr Soc
  - J Nutr Health Aging
  - Drug Aging

**Specialization**
- **Biology**
- **Clinical/Social Science**
- **Clinical Practice Policy**
Choosing a Journal: Author Costs

- Free to Authors – All GSA journals
- Charge submission fee – covers handling
- Publication fees:
  - PLOS Biology US$2900
  - PLOS Medicine US$2900
  - PLOS Computational Biology US$2250
  - PLOS Genetics US$2250
  - PLOS Pathogens US$2250
  - PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases US$2250
  - PLOS ONE US$1350
Peer Review Process

The Peer Review Process: “Critical assessment of manuscripts submitted to journals by experts who are not part of the editorial staff.”

- Prevents publication of substandard work
- No flaws in design or methods
- Ensures growth of the knowledge base
- Select work that will be of greatest value to readership
- Helps editors make judgments:
  - Reviewers advise and make recommendations, editors make decisions
Choosing a Journal: Open or Closed Peer Review

CLOSED PEER REVIEW

– Single Blinding:
  • Authors do not know who the reviewers are
  • Reviewers know who the authors are

– Double Blinding:
  • Authors do not know who the reviewers are
  • Reviewers do not know who the authors are
  • Reviewers do not know who the other reviewers are.
Peer Review

OPEN PEER REVIEW - more transparent

- Authors know identity of reviewers
- Greater accountability
- Reviewers given public credit for their work
Choosing a Journal: More Practical Issues

- The Impact Factor
- Theory – the more influential an article is, the more times it will be cited by others
- Equation:
  - A journal’s impact factor for 2013 is:

\[
\text{Impact Factor} = \frac{\text{# of times articles published 2011 and 2012 were cited in 2013}}{\text{# of articles published in 2011 and 2012}}
\]
Interpreting the Impact Factor

• Number of citations is related to:
  – Size and pace of the field
  – Kinds of research (epidemiology tends to get cited more)

• A journal’s IF can be manipulated:
  – Review articles
  – Self-citation: In 2012, 90% of citations of articles from *Energy Education Science and Technology* (IF: 31.7) were self-citations. The IF with these removed would have been: 2.9
  – One very highly cited article can cause large swings in the IF: *Acta Crystallographica Section A* went from 2.05 to 49.9 in 1 year when 1 article was cited 6,600 times
Gerontology Journal Impact Factors

- Journal of Gerontology: Series A, Medical and Biological Sciences = 4.984
- Psychology & Aging = 2.913
- Journal of Gerontology: Series B, Psychological and Social Sciences = 2.852
- The Gerontologist = 2.772
- Journal of Aging & Health = 1.832
- Research on Aging = 1.111
- International Journal of Aging & Human Development = .62
Choosing a Journal: More Practical Issues

• Journal’s acceptance rate?
• Time to make decisions?
Rachel Pruchno, PhD
Editor-in-Chief, The Gerontologist

PUBLISHING FROM TWO PERSPECTIVES
Writing the Paper

- Write for a Specific Journal:
  - Follow Instructions to Authors:
    - Format
    - Length
    - Type of manuscript
    - Reference style
  - Read articles published in the journal
  - Cite articles published in the journal
  - Find a model paper and follow its structure
The Importance of Writing Well

• Reviewers take the quality of writing as a sign of the quality of science
  – Have someone else edit
  – Professional translator if needed
Plagiarism and Self-Plagiarism

- Credit the source
- Slicing the salami
Title

• Summarize the main idea of the manuscript simply (e.g., The effects of X on Y)
• Be concise, avoid useless words
• Identify key variables
• Don’t be cutesy
• Title should stand alone
• Don’t use abbreviations
• No more than 12 words
Abstract

• Brief, concise summary
• Adhere to journal standards for format & word limit
• Most important single paragraph of an article
• Accurate
• Clear, active language: Use verbs not nouns
• Present tense
• Empirical study abstract:
  – Problem
  – Participants
  – Method
  – Results
  – Conclusions
Introduction

• Introduce the Problem
  – Why is this problem important?
  – How does your study relate to previous work?
  – Last sentence of first paragraph: State the purpose of your paper
• Discuss relevant scholarship briefly
  – Summarize state of the art
  – Cite relevant work
  – Avoid nonessential details
• Identify a gap that your work will fill
• Put your work in the context of theory/model
• End with research questions or hypotheses
• No more than 5 pages
Method

• How was the study conducted?
• How were variables defined?
• Reader should be able to evaluate the appropriateness of your methods and replicate
• Describe:
  – Sampling, recruitment, and participants
  – Psychometrics of all measures
  – Methods of data collection
  – Experimental manipulations or interventions
Results

• Sufficient detail to justify your conclusions
• Report all findings, even those counter to hypotheses
• Present findings in clear tables
Discussion

- Clearly state your findings
- Make sense of them for the reader
- If hypotheses not supported, offer post hoc explanations
- Highlight similarities and differences between your results and work of others
- Acknowledge study limitations
- Discuss generalizability of findings
- Suggest directions for future research
- End with a comment on the importance of your findings
Authorship

• Defining authorship: take credit for work performed (writing, formulating hypothesis, designing experiment, analysis)

• Determining authorship:
  – Tasks
  – How work divided
  – Be open to renegotiation

• Order of authorship:
  – Principal contributor first; others in order of decreasing contribution
  – If equal roles, indicate in author note
  – Relative status should not determine order of authorship
Optimizing Success

- Adhere to journal style and standards
  - Word limits
  - Reference style
- Write clearly and concisely
- Make it clear how your work advances the field
- Avoid overuse of acronyms
- Don’t do too much!
- Cite articles from the journal
- Be critical of your own work
- Rely on your mentors as well as your peers
- Proofread, proofread, proofread. . .
VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDE: INCREASING THE ODDS THAT YOUR MANUSCRIPT WILL BE PUBLISHED
Submitted Manuscript Characteristics (N = 459)

- Brief Report: 78.2%
- Forum: 4.1%
- International Spotlight: 9.2%
- Policy Studies: 2.8%
- Practice Concepts: 4.8%
- Research Article: 0.4%
Original Submission Decisions (N=459)

**Initial Editor Decision**

- Immediate Reject: 45.3%
- Peer Review*: 50.8%

* = 16 pending; 2 immediate major revision

**Average Time to Make Decision:** 4 days
“You’re Only Human”

• Truisms:
  – Anyone who has ever published has been rejected.
  – Rejection hurts.
  – Rejection is part of the scientific process.
“How Could This Happen To Me?”

- “Thank you for submitting your manuscript TG-2012-999 entitled “This is the Most Important Finding EVER" to The Gerontologist. While the manuscript addresses an important topic, I am sorry to tell you that I am unable to send this out to peer review.”
REJECT WITHOUT PEER REVIEW: FIXABLE PROBLEMS
The primary reason for my decision is your manuscript:

**Problem:**
- Lacks a conceptual framework and set of testable hypotheses

**Solution:**
- Find one
The primary reason for my decision is your manuscript:

Problem: Does not follow APA format
The primary reason for my decision is your manuscript:

Problem: Is not consistent with the mission of our journal
The primary reason for my decision is your manuscript:

**Problem:**
- Is poorly written and confusing/includes numerous grammatical problems
- Includes inappropriate use of the English language (foreign speakers)

**Solution:**
- Engage an editor or colleague
- Consider hiring a translator
  - Can be expensive
  - No guarantees
MORE SERIOUS PROBLEMS
The primary reason for my decision is your manuscript:

• Is based on a small, volunteer sample
• Uses non-validated measurers or measures with low reliability
• Adds little to the literature
• Uses an inappropriate/flawed research design
Initial Peer Review Decision (N=208)

Average Time to Make Decision: 38 days

Editor Decision:
- Reject: 9.6%
- Conditional Accept: 38.0%
- Revise & Resubmit: 47.1%
- Pending: 5.3%
Revise and Resubmit

• Manuscript ID TG-2012-999 entitled “Really Important Science" which you submitted to The Gerontologist, has been reviewed. I invite you to revise and resubmit your manuscript. The comments of the reviewer(s) are included at the bottom of this letter.

The reviewers agree that your manuscript has the potential to make an important contribution to the literature but...
Revise and Resubmit

• Clarify conceptual framework
• Add details regarding methods
• Problems with analysis
Revise and Resubmit

• Carefully attend to each issue identified by reviewers and editor
• If you disagree (and this is not usually a good idea), respectfully explain why
• Follow editor’s letter re: instructions for communicating changes to manuscript
• Don’t add length
Revise & Resubmit

• Writing your Letter to the Editor
  – Explain how you addressed each editor and reviewer concern
  – If you don’t agree, explain why.
  – Thank the editor and reviewers for their comments and for the opportunity to resubmit your work
  – Note that comments were helpful and improved the manuscript (even if you don’t believe this!)
Life Course of Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts (N=210)

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October 31, 2014
Rejected After Review

• Thank you for submitting your manuscript TG-2012-999 entitled “Looked Good, But Not" to The Gerontologist. The paper addresses an important topic; however, based on my review and the recommendations of the reviewers, I am unable to accept it for publication.

The reviewers identified a host of conceptual and methodological problems with your manuscript. I'm certain you'll find their comments, found at the bottom of this letter, to be an excellent guide for the revision of your manuscript should you choose to submit it to another journal.
What to Do?

• Do nothing but simmer for a few days
• Read the manuscript with a critical eye
• Consider alternative journals – don’t be afraid to try one with a higher impact factor
• Re-write the manuscript for the new journal:
  – Follow their instructions to authors
  – Make sure to restructure all, including references
• Take advantage of the reviews you received as you revise the manuscript.
SUMMARY, CLOSING REMARKS, QUESTIONS
Journal Breakouts

• The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Social Sciences
  – Deborah Carr, PhD, Incoming Editor-in-Chief

• The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences
  – Shevaun Neupert, PhD, Associate Editor

• The Gerontologist
  – Rachel Pruchno, PhD, Editor-in-Chief
  – Nicholas G. Castle, PhD, Editor: International Research
  – Barbara J. Bowers, PhD, RN, FAAN, Editor: Qualitative Research
  – Suzanne Meeks, PhD, Editor: Practice Concepts

• Public Policy & Aging Report
  – Robert B. Hudson, PhD, Editor-in-Chief
  – Greg O’Neill, PhD, Associate Editor

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  – Mark Brennan-Ing, PhD, Consulting Editor for Statistics and Methods

• GSA Editorial Offices
  – Megan McCutcheon, Kathy Jackson, Amy Conradt
Luigi Ferrucci, MD, PhD
Publications Committee Chair

SUMMARY AND CLOSING REMARKS