



#NeedHerScience

Tips for Publishing in Medical Journals

Getting Started

Ask a mentor about [CITI](#) (research ethics/compliance) training and the institutional review board (IRB) process at your institution.

Read [Measuring the Impact of Research Using Conventional and Alternative Metrics](#) (good for journal club) and learn about [Hirsch-index \(H-index\)](#), [social media](#) and [online dissemination](#).

Team up with a mentor to write a letter to the editor (easy way to get started) or a perspective article. Google the journal's name and "author guidelines" for instructions.

Invite others to invite you to collaborate. State that your goal is to receive authorship credit and [follow ethical practices](#). Reciprocate and support each other.

Join for free (students, too):

[ResearchGate](#) (network; find/share studies)

[Social Media](#) (especially Twitter for research dissemination)

[Google Scholar Citations](#) (tracks your H-index/citations)

[ORCID](#) (unique identifier tracks your publications)

During the Publishing Process

Find recommendations for where to submit your article from [Journal/Author Name Estimator \(JANE\)](#).

Select a journal based on relevance to your work, impact factor, and other considerations.

Check the diversity of editors. Ideally, women should be represented at about the same level as they are [in the specialty](#). Many journals—including prestigious ones with high impact factors—are focused on gender equity. Before submitting your work consider whether the journal "walks the talk" from the top down.

Cite yourself—but only if your prior publication is relevant. Regardless of whether it counts as a citation in a promotions process, [readers will learn about your work](#). Also, consider citing research by other women (#CiteHer).

Avoid plagiarism. Before submitting, run the article through plagiarism detection software just as the journals will. Free resources may have smaller databases, so check whether your institution has access to larger databases such as [iThenticate](#).

Avoid [self-plagiarism](#). Authors cannot recycle previously published content without clear acknowledgement (i.e., cited with appropriate use of quotation marks). Read this example from the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#).

Review [the Conflicts of Interest \(COI\) form](#) used by many journals from the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). Be thorough in your disclosures to avoid research misconduct.



52% Women
Entering US Medical Schools

Source: [Association of American Medical Colleges \[AAMC\] \(2018\)](#)

After Publishing Your Article

Download the [Altmetrics Bookmarklet](#). Alternative metrics provide real time information about online dissemination.

Track your H-index and citations automatically with [Google Scholar Citations](#). Ask whether you have access to Scopus and Web of Science through your institution.

Check your ResearchGate and Google Scholar profiles to ensure your article is archived.

Announce the article on social media. Include the link and highlight key points.

Create a [visual abstract](#) (if the journal or your institution has not done this for you). Post it on social media with a link to the article.



18% Women
Permanent Department Chairs
(US Medical Schools)

Source: [AAMC \(2018\)](#)

Addressing Journal Level Gender Bias and Discrimination

Gender bias and discrimination are unethical and incompatible with a position of trust.

[Journal level inequities](#) have profound financial consequences and harm scientific discovery.

Studies show women physicians and scientists often are not equitably included as editors—especially in senior roles—and face more barriers to publishing than men. This has been called "[publishing while female](#)."

Journal owners (e.g., medical societies) have an ethical obligation to ensure women are treated fairly. According to the ICMJE, owners have an obligation to ensure editors' behavior is compatible with "[a position of trust](#)."

Journal owners should determine whether documented disparities (e.g., inequitable inclusion of qualified women as editors) are incompatible with a position of trust and then act in an ethical manner.

The [Be Ethical Campaign white paper](#) calls on leaders of journals, medical societies, grant funders, and medical schools/hospitals to step up their efforts at addressing gender-related bias and discrimination in academic publishing.

References

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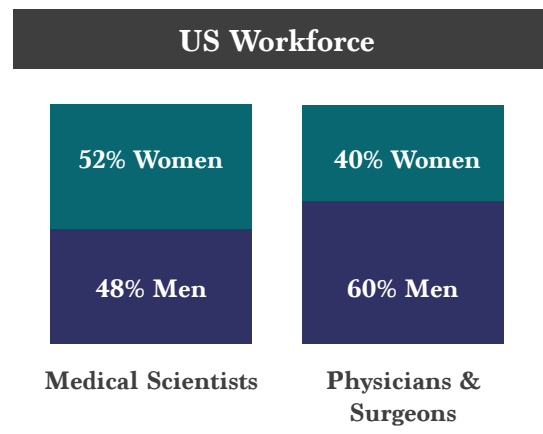
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Acknowledgement: Visual icons made by dDara from www.flaticon.com

Cite this document as: Silver JK. Tips for publishing in medical journals. Available at <http://sheleadshealthcare.com/>. Published Sept 26, 2019.



Source: [US Bureau of Labor Statistics \(2018\)](#)

