“The Secrets to Publishing in Medical Education Online: Best Tips Revealed”

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Objectives

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Summarize features of Medical Education Online as a “go to” venue for publishing educational research
- Identify types of submissions well suited for Medical Education Online
- Recognize (and create) strategies for optimizing publication in Medical Education Online (do’s and don’ts)
Fully open-access since first published in 1996. (Vol 26)

**Founding Editor**
*David J Solomon, PhD*
Professor of Medicine/OMERAD
Michigan State University
Senior Medical Educator
Medical Education Online is an open access journal of health care education, publishing peer-reviewed research, perspectives, reviews, and early documentation of new ideas and trends.

*MEO* aims to disseminate information on the education and training of physicians and other health care professionals. Manuscripts may address any aspect of health care education and training, including, but not limited to:

- Basic science education
- Clinical science education
- Residency education
- Learning theory
- Problem-based learning (PBL)
- Curriculum development
- Research design and statistics
- Measurement and evaluation
- Faculty development
- Informatics/web
Types of submissions well suited for *MEO*

*Medical Education Online* accepts the following types of article:

- Research Articles
- Review Articles
- Short Communication
- Rapid Communications
- Book Reviews
- Feature and Trends articles are typically *invited by the Editors (please contact us if you have an idea)*

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IS *MEO* Right for Your Manuscript?

- Review the scope carefully.
- Read articles from the journal and check for similar articles (good fit).
  - Articles in the journal itself are the best guide.
- Use a similar article as a template.
- Read and follow instructions for authors (submission category)!
- Be familiar with the appropriate style guide.
DO: Follow the Principles of Good Science

- Build on what was done (do your homework).
- Use rigorous research designs and good outcome measures.
- Adequately describe what you have done.
- Understand and follow the rules of ethical scholarship.
Consider the Audience

- What will the journal’s readers need to know to understand what you did?
- Will you need to explain educational structures or terms?
  - MEO’s readers from other countries.
  - Readers specialize in many aspects of medical education.
- Acronyms and “local” jargon must be explained!
What will get a manuscript rejected

- Title – Does the title draw the reader’s attention? (to be continued)
- Abstract – Is it unclear? That is a flag.
- Problem – Is the description lacking or unconvincing (insufficient)?
  - Literature reviewed seems limited.
  - Theoretical/conceptual framework? Relevant?
- Authors do not make a compelling case for the study/project.
  - Real, ideal, consequences (bridge the gap)
What will get a manuscript rejected 2

- Methods – are inappropriate to address the problem.
  - Sampling, statistics, pre-post satisfaction, studies that lack comparison groups
  - BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE IRB STATEMENT!

- Results – There is insufficient evidence to support the conclusions or recommendations.

- Discussion – does not address the educational significance of the current study or how the outcomes/processes may be modified by other schools or educators (the “so what” is not convincing).
Authors do not follow the Instructions for Authors (word count, file format, figures, IRB statement).

Poor English language – caveat – it depends!

Relevance is limited to a specific local context*

The title draws the reader in but it does not reflect what the study was about.
T&F is a great place for early career authors to start. There are case studies, comments from experienced editors and step-by-step guides.

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We welcome new reviewers! Let me know if you are interested.

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