

# **Publishing the Write Stuff: Abstracts and Manuscripts**

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# What are you writing?

- Abstract for meeting
- Abstract for a paper
- Original Paper
- Review Paper or Chapter
- Oral Presentation- Don't read!!!!

# Abstract for a Meeting

- Trying to be selected for Oral vs. Poster
- How knowledgeable are reviewers?
- Need to inform reviewers about field
- Need to sound attractive but accurate
- Not too detailed

# Abstracts

- Concise
- Background
- Results
- Conclusion
- Significance

Wt1 heterozygous mice experience kidney disease when they are 10 months old. Wt1 is a zinc finger transcription factor. Chronic renal failure is a pervasive problem in the United States, and there is a great need for animal models for this disease. These models will allow us to study the molecular basis for chronic renal failure. We isolated glomeruli from kidneys of normal and diseased mice. Candidate target genes were examined for their expression levels in isolated glomeruli. It was found that genes X, Y, and Z were elevated, and genes A, B, and C were decreased in their expression levels. X and Y are known to be mediators of inflammation. Therefore, for the first time, these results demonstrate that Wt1 regulates inflammation in chronic kidney disease.

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# Writing papers

- Introduction
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Acknowledgments
- Figure legends
- References
- Figures

# Introduction

- Short, usually 2-4 paragraphs.
- Introduce area, only pertinent information, not a general review.
- May need to review more than one area.
- Summarize results, very briefly.
- Significance

# Methods

- Concise, especially if pushing limits
- Reference whatever possible
- Use to indicate changes from what is published
- But clear enough to explain what you did.
- Can put details online for many journals
- Don't always need complete sentences.

# Results

- Not too wordy.
- Break up into sections, so reader is reminded by headings of the experiment
- Refer to each figure
- Active, not passive
- Avoid We or I.
- Discuss briefly the significance, set stage for next experiment
- Make the results seem important, shouldn't be just a string of experiments.
- Should stand by itself, without discussion.

# Discussion

- Avoid being too long, shouldn't be longer than results, (about  $1/3$  to  $2/3$  as long), less if pushing limit.
- Start by summarizing results.
- Discuss broader implications, should not be rehash of results.
- Discuss possible models, may include figure.

# Acknowledgments

- Include all helpers in one sentence.
- Grant support
- I'd like to thank the Academy, my parents, Tom Cruise for being a wonderful person to work with....



# Figure legends

- Start with figure title.
- Concise. Avoid “And”, use commas and semicolons. No long (or complete) sentences.
- Stand alone, without text.
- Description of results?

# References

- Just the ones you need, but make sure you don't forget ones that should be there.
- **ENDNOTE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

# Figures

- Probably the most important part, so make them with care.
- The more they are self explanatory, the better. Labels instead of just A,B,C
- Faithfully represent data!!!!
- They will usually be very small, so account for size reduction.

# Review Chapters/Articles

- Can be very boring to write, especially chapters.
- Do a good job but don't spend months away from the bench.
- Start with outline.
- Use primary literature,
- Actually look at the papers.