

*Daniel W. Byrne:*

## **Publishing Your Medical Research Paper. What they don't teach in Medical School**

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Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins; 1998.  
ISBN 0-683-30074-1. 42 Figures, 67 Tables.  
5 Appendices. 298 pages.

This is a book which has been needed for many years both for graduate and postgraduate students, as well as for university teachers, authors, editors, peer-reviewers and everybody dealing with scientific publications. It is an excellent and well-documented guide to accomplish a high quality manuscript. It is a modern guide that provides new and practical information on how to write a publishable paper. It also gives the author practical and invaluable advice needed for presenting the paper in a way which makes it acceptable for publication. The book is organized on a very high level and gives advice on methodology issues, on minimizing bias, collection of data, statistical analysis, interpretation of used data and many other problems while preparing encountered and writing a scientific paper aimed for publication. Practical advice is also offered, i.e. how to minimize or avoid criticism from peer reviewers, giving a good view of the most common criticism of manuscripts from both reviewers and editors. Different policies of scientific journals in connection with Citation indexes and impact factor are discussed.

The book gives guidelines for authors in choosing journals for publication of their manuscript, on planning its length, its structure, how to design illustrations, figures, tables, etc. The tables and figures used in the book are most useful and instructive. The Bibliography and the Index are excellent.

The book includes five appendices of great value to the reader. The first appendix is "The Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals" as developed by the National Library of Medicine, the Vancouver Group and the International Committee of Medical Journals Editors (ICMJE).

The separate Statements from the ICMJE are on editorial freedom and integrity, on conflict of interest, confidentiality, advertising, etc. The Peer Review Questionnaire and The Medical Journal Questionnaire are both very useful for authors, editors and peer-reviewers. The Medical Researcher's Directory contains a most useful selection of available resources for journals and their editors. The last appendix is the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki on ethical issues adopted by the 18th World Medical Assembly in Helsinki, Finland in 1964. This book is highly recommended to all authors, editors and peer-reviewers and indeed, as it says in its subtitle, what medical schools (and even postgraduate teachings) lack, this book provides.

The author, Daniel W. Byrne, is a freelance consultant who has been specializing in medical research since 1983. By way of the Internet, fax, e-mail, and express mail, he has helped research teams around the world create numerous medical research databases, presentations and publications. Over the past 14 years, he has earned a reputation as a highly experienced and effective consultant, and he has dedicated his unique combination of skills in research design, statistical analysis, graphics and technical writing to helping medical researchers avoid the common hazards and criticisms described in this book.

*Peter G. Fedor-Freybergh*