**How to find a journal to publish your research**

Congratulations on reaching this stage of your research where you are ready to submit your work to a journal for publication. There are thousands of journals out there and it can be a challenge to select the right journal to publish your research. Moreover, as a research student you are pressed for time to get your study published quickly so that it helps with your research experience and goals, residency applications, etc.

The following is a list of factors to consider when choosing a journal to publish your work:

* First, discuss with your PI or research faculty member, whose input you value. Tap their experience and expertise.
* A good first place to search for potential journals is your own bibliography. What journals did you cite in your paper?
* The journal has a peer-review process for selecting papers for publication.
* The journal is indexed in databases; Pubmed (MEDLINE), EMBASE, Scopus. However, journals indexed in Pubmed (MEDLINE) should be preferred, since it is the largest, has a rigorous journal evaluation and is the most widely used database.
* Your paper fits the scope of the journal which can be found in the sections ‘About the Journal’ and ‘Aims and Scope,’ on the journal’s website.
* The journal has previously published papers that are similar to your manuscript. Type your paper’s key words on the journal’s website and relevant articles will come up that you can compare.
* See if your paper meets the journal’s acceptance criteria. For example, some journals do not accept case reports and case series.
* The journal’s Impact Factor. Although the Impact Factor is controversial, it is still the most widely used metric for used for journal ranking and quality. It might be important to be realistic and submit to journals with Impact Factors that are more likely to accept your manuscript.
* Identify predatory or pseudo journals and avoid submitting your paper to such journals. Such journals charge a fee for paper submission and acceptance and do not have a rigorous peer-review process, etc. Please see the link below on hot to identify such journals.

<http://www.wame.org/identifying-predatory-or-pseudo-journals>

* Journals that have publication fees or article processing charges. Some journals have very high publication fees or article processing charges. It is better to select these journals carefully given the scarce funds at this stage of your career.

The following are some resources that can be used to select a suitable journal for your work:

* Journal/Author Name Estimator (JANE)

<http://jane.biosemantics.org/>

* Elsevier Journal Finder

<https://journalfinder.elsevier.com/>

* Think. Check. Submit

<https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>

* Publish & Flourish Open Access

<http://flourishoa.org/>

* Springer Journal Suggester

[https://journalsuggester.springer.com/#](https://journalsuggester.springer.com/)

* EndNote Manuscript Matcher

<https://endnote.com/product-details/manuscript-matcher/>

There are thousands of journals out there and selecting a journal according to the specialty (e.g. Cardiology, Orthopedic Surgery) might be difficult. The Scimago Journal & Country Rank website is a good place to see journal rankings according to a particular specialty.

<https://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php>

Select Medicine (there is also Neuroscience) in ‘All Subject areas,’ and the subject category in the second tab ‘All Subject categories,’ ranging from Anatomy to Rheumatology. The journals for the chosen specialty will appear in descending order of rankings based on metrics like H index (similar to impact factor).

P.S., if you are submitting your research for the first time it might be better to choose a journal lower in the rankings so that it has a decent chance of getting accepted.

Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine‘s Spartan Medical Research Journal accepts student research including case reports.

Spartan Medical Research Journal (PubMed Central status: Pubmed application submitted May 2019. SMRJ editorial board anticipates review later in 2019 pursuant to Pubmed workload)

<https://scs.msu.edu/smrj/>

There are many journals that accept student research but very few are indexed in Pubmed (MEDLINE). The following are a few journals that accept student research and are Pubmed (MEDLINE) indexed

American Medical Student Research Journal

<https://amsrj.org/index.php?journal=amsrj>

Journal of Graduate Medical Education

<https://www.jgme.org/loi/jgme>

International Journal of Medical Students

<https://www.ijms.info/IJMS>

International Journal of Medical Education

<https://www.ijme.net/>

Student BMJ

<https://www.bmj.com/student>

Postgraduate Medical Journal

<https://pmj.bmj.com/>

Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine

<https://medicine.yale.edu/yjbm/>