

Hello,

Happy New Year! We are thrilled to be entering our 5th year with the Journal of Acute Care Occupational Therapy. We know the success of this journal is directly related to the reviewers, authors, and readers that continue to support us by accessing, reading, and submitting articles. As we enter 2023, we remain committed to offering a platform for occupational therapy practitioners to be actively involved in evidence-based practice related to acute care.

While there are many ways to participate in evidence-based practice, in this new year we challenge acute care practitioners to consider conducting research and writing for publication. In the current landscape of healthcare, there is a need for clinician-researchers, to bridge the gap between research and patient care. Clinician-researchers are particularly valuable in identifying current issues, addressing clinically relevant research questions, and translating research findings into clinical practice (Kuijtmans et al., 2017).

Many acute care clinicians are already involved in producing clinical practice guidelines, providing evaluation and intervention in unique and novel cases, creating innovative programs, and designing educational materials. These are all valuable initiatives that should be shared with colleagues through publication. Writing for publication in academic journals plays an important role in the moving the profession forward and it is an opportunity to share examples of best practice and research results with others (Ali & Watson, 2016). While it may be an intimidating process, we want to encourage novice researchers to consider several key factors on the road to publication:

1. **Identify your resources:** Research is rarely done alone. Harvey et al. (2016) suggests key enablers in the publication process include support from colleagues and managers and links to universities and mentors to supervise research. Find a mentor and lean into resources from your institution and/or academic libraries, such as IRB resources, research librarians, accessible databases and search engines, and possible funding sources.
2. **Do your research:** Read research to become a better researcher. Do an exhaustive literature on your topic or problem. Find out what has been completed on your topic and what still needs to be done. Formulate your approach and methodology based on other studies.
3. **Carefully choose your journal:** As you are writing your manuscript consider what journal might be most appropriate for your topic, the rigor of your study, and your skillset as a researcher. Review the mission and vision of the journal to make sure it aligns with your research. Spend time reading articles from prospective journals to get a feel for what types of manuscripts they publish. Beware of journals with no stated peer review process or a pay for publishing component.
4. **Read the author guidelines:** Once you have selected a prospective journal, carefully read the author guidelines. Understanding the guidelines will help you to assemble your manuscript and include all relevant sections and information. Review of author guidelines can also help in avoiding automatic rejection based on incorrect format, style or length.

5. **Expect revisions:** The road to publication is often bumpy. For a novice clinician, expect quite a bit of feedback from reviewers and the need for multiple rounds of revisions and edits to the manuscript. Use the feedback to improve your manuscript and to develop as a writer and researcher. Revisions take time and effort, but the final product will be worth it!
6. **Don't give up:** There will be challenges. Harvey et al. (2016) suggested clinicians that were resilient, tenacious, and resourceful were able to manage the challenges that arose during the publication process. We are confident acute care clinicians possess these qualities and we look forward to seeing what can be accomplished if we do not give up.

Best regards,

Hannah Oldenburg, EdD, OTR/L, BCPR

Jennifer Bergstrom, EdD, OTR/L, BCPR

References

Ali, P. A., & Watson, R. (2016). Peer review and the publication process. *Nursing Open*, 3(4), 193-202. <https://doi.org/10.1002/nop2.51>

Harvey, D., Plummer, D., Nielsen, I., Adams, R., & Pain, T. (2016). Becoming a clinician researcher in allied health. *Australian Health Review*, 40(5), 562-569. <https://doi.org/10.1071/AH15174>

Kluijtmans, M., De Haan, E., Akkerman, S., & Van Tartwijk, J. (2017). Professional identity in clinician-scientists: brokers between care and science. *Medical Education*, 51(6), 645-655. <https://doi.org/10.1111/medu.13241>