



## Dealing with Editors' and Reviewers' Comments




Philippine Council for Health Research and Development  
 Philippine Association of Medical Journal Editors  
 Asia Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors  
**National Medical Writing and Review Workshop**  
 Marriott Hotel, Cebu City, January 19-20, 2012

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## Dealing with Editors' and Reviewers' Comments



**At the end of this session, you will learn:**


- How to deal with editors' and reviewers' comments
- What to do when rejected
- What to do when accepted

**OBJECTIVES**



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## Dealing with Editors' and Reviewers' Comments




### Stepping in the Scholarly Stream

**What do editors want?**


- "excitement/wow"
- "Importance"
- "originality"
- "relevance to the audience"

Dr Graham Easton, Assistant editor, BMJ presentation Kyoto, Japan, May 2005 In: Clearihan Lyn. Writing for Publication. Monash University, Melbourne. Available from: <http://www.phcris.org.au/conference/2005/workshops/clearihan.pdf>



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## Dealing with Editors' and Reviewers' Comments




### Stepping in the Scholarly Stream

**What do reviewers want?**

What details/features are you looking for in a paper?


- Well-written;
- Excellent Literature Review;
- Excellent Up-to Date Methodology;
- Significant Contribution to the Literature;
- Concise.

*Elizabeth Cooperman, peer reviewer*



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## Dealing with Editors' and Reviewers' Comments




### Stepping in the Scholarly Stream

**Editorial Decisions**


Influenced, but NOT dictated by:

- Reviewer's reports
- Reviewer's confidential comments to editor



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### Stepping in the Scholarly Stream

**Editorial Decisions**

Selection of reviewers' comments are sent to author:

- Numbered
- Edited

**Aim is to help author improve manuscript - regardless of outcome**



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## Dealing with Editors' and Reviewers' Comments



### Stepping in the Scholarly Stream

#### Dealing with Editors

- The editor is the reader's advocate
- The editor wants to build the reputation of the journal
- An editor has multiple responsibilities
- An editor's life is governed by deadlines



Clearhan Lyn. Writing for Publication. Monash University, Melbourne. Available from: <http://www.phcris.org.au/conference/2005/workshops/clearhan.pdf>

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### Stepping in the Scholarly Stream

#### Dealing with Rejection

- Response may be a detailed critique or a short note of rejection, depending on the journal and how far your paper got through the process.
- Rejection is a common part of the scholarship process; some journals publish fewer than 10 percent of the submissions they receive.

Publish, Not Perish: The Art and Craft of Publishing in Scholarly Journals. University of Colorado 2006. Available from <http://www.publishnotperish.org>



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### Stepping in the Scholarly Stream

#### Dealing with Rejection

- Rejection can best be used as a learning process, helping you identify how to improve your work as well as what specific journals are *really* looking for

Publish, Not Perish: The Art and Craft of Publishing in Scholarly Journals. University of Colorado 2006. Available from <http://www.publishnotperish.org>



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Dear Sir, I have just read your rejection letter and I must say it is not up to the standard

I have come to expect



## Dealing with Editors' and Reviewers' Comments



### Stepping in the Scholarly Stream

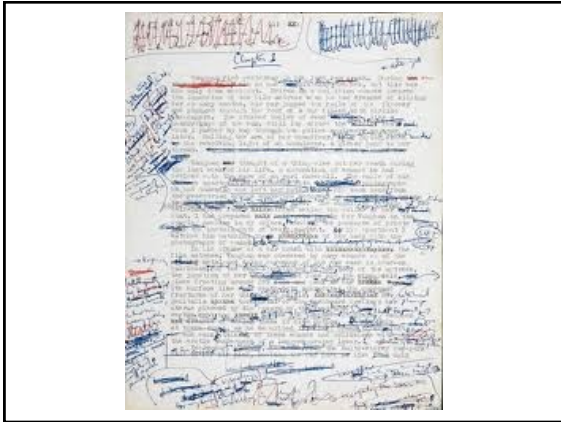
#### Revision, Revision, Revision

- A request for revision and resubmission means you're still in the running.
- Consider carefully the revisions you are willing to make as well as the revisions you are not willing to make.



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### Stepping in the Scholarly Stream

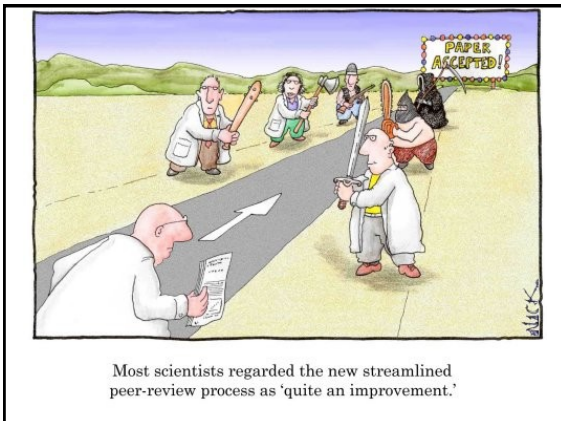
#### Revision, Revision, Revision

- Contradictory comments can be difficult to reconcile. Use a revision process to help you identify the foundational issues with your paper and address them.



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Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as 'quite an improvement.'

Ref.: Ms. No. 10241  
Bilateral Second Branchial Fistulas in a Child with Branchiootic Syndrome (BOS)  
Ear, Nose & Throat Journal

Dear Dr. Lapeña,

I am pleased to inform you that your manuscript has been ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION in Ear, Nose & Throat Journal. Editorial changes may be made to conform with the style and format of the journal and to correct errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling. You will be contacted by an editor when editing is about to begin, and you will receive galley proofs for your approval prior to publication. It is therefore essential that you inform us of any changes in your contact information.

Only limited corrections to rectify typesetting errors or misstatement of fact caused by editorial alterations may be made on the galley proofs without incurring costs.

Your manuscript may be published both in the print and online versions of ENT Journal, or exclusively online (with an abstract except in the print version). Final determination of publication format will be made during the production process.

We apologize in advance for any delays experienced during the editorial process. Recently, we have received an unusually large number of excellent manuscripts that have been accepted for publication. Hence, we are experiencing delays somewhat longer than usual (currently approaching 2.5 years). We appreciate your patience and look forward to providing you with a high-quality, widely circulated final product.

Comments from the Editor and Reviewers can be found below.

Sincerely,

## Dealing with Editors' and Reviewers' Comments



### Stepping in the Scholarly Stream

#### Acceptance and Publication

- Following acceptance, an author needs to assist during the production process of publication.
- Your editor may provide you with a tentative publication schedule, outlining your role.
- Publication generally involves revision, copyediting, layout, and proofreading.

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### Stepping in the Scholarly Stream


#### Acceptance and Publication

- Typesetting
- Proofs
- Author check of proof
- Final proofs
- Printing



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### Stepping in the Scholarly Stream

#### Acceptance and Publication


Galley Proofs

- Author indicates changes if any
- Only minor amendments allowed
- Copy editor proofreads, collates and incorporates changes
- Sends to printer for type-setting of final page proofs



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## Dealing with Editors' and Reviewers' Comments




### Stepping in the Scholarly Stream

#### Acceptance and Publication


- Following publication, maximize your accomplishment by sharing the news with others and adding the title to your CV.

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## Dealing with Editors' and Reviewers' Comments




### Be Inspired

#### Get Yourself a Mentor and a Friend

Deliberately cultivate professional relationships with people who spark your creativity and intellectual curiosity.


Find mentors who can guide you through the tricky waters of publishing and other elements of professional life.

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### Be Inspired

#### Get Yourself a Mentor and a Friend


At the same time, peer-to-peer relationships can help keep you on balance, work out ideas, and provide mutual support.

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## Dealing with Editors' and Reviewers' Comments



### Be Inspired


#### Get Yourself a Mentor and a Friend

Where do you find these people?

Start with your current department, institution, organization.


Then network further, at conferences and events.

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### Be Inspired

#### Get Yourself a Mentor and a Friend

Where do you find these people?

Make yourself available to peers and senior colleagues to answer questions, brainstorm ideas, proofread manuscripts, and provide feedback. They'll start to do the same for you.

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APAME  
ASSOCIATION OF PHILIPPINE  
ACADEMIC MEDICAL EDITORS

**Keeping Perspective**  
**Scholarly Publishing is a Long-distance Run**

If you are used to measuring your accomplishments in semester-length periods, scholarly publishing will be a new challenge. If a semester is a sprint, then scholarly publishing is a marathon. It takes a long time to build up a real track record of achievement.

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**Keeping Perspective**  
**Scholarly Publishing is a Long-distance Run**

Scholarly publishing takes time, persistence and a thick skin. It can also be extremely rewarding, both professionally and personally. If you keep the perspective of the long-distance run – painful at times, but what an accomplishment! – you'll enjoy the journey as well as the destination.

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**Keeping Perspective**  
**Scholarly Publishing is a Long-distance Run**

It may take years to get an article published -some articles six years, so perseverance is the hardest and most important part. Different editors and reviewers like different topics, and many good articles are rejected by one journal but accepted by another.


-- [Elizabeth Cooperman, peer reviewer and author](#)

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**Maraming Salamat Po**

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