

Why publish a scientific paper?



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Writing an article and having it published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal is a rewarding experience. Despite no direct financial benefit or contractual obligation of article publication in scientific journals, thousands of articles are written every year and sent to countless journals of different fields of study. Hence, authors experience a feeling of pride and accomplishment for every article they have published. I fondly remember my first publication (Odonto Ciência Journal, PUCRS, during my first year as a postgraduate student) and the joy I felt when I saw my name as one of the authors.

Even though having a scientific article published is a difficult task, the publisher, editor and editorial board's job is equally difficult, as they have to review all submitted manuscripts and decide whether to accept them or not, in addition to suggesting improvements or refusing a given manuscript.

If a higher number of colleagues were willing to have their work published, more high-quality articles would reach the journals and the importance of such articles would be even greater.

Scientific publication is motivated, among other factors, by professional development, especially within the academic world. Writing articles is also part of the basic educational and training needs of postgraduate students, from specialization to Masters' and PhD degrees. By disclosing the clinical and/or research activities of a given department or institution, scientific publishing also attracts research funds or community interest. Last but not least, everybody feels proud of having their name printed in a scientific journal as one of the authors.

Once we feel motivated, what should we publish? Despite their low level of scientific evidence, case reports and technical notes remain quite popular. In addition, retrospective analyses provide better evidence and are also frequently published. Nevertheless, should we aspire to studies at the very top of the scientific evidence pyramid, we need randomized controlled or non-controlled trials.

The type of manuscripts produced will strongly rely on the activities of a given institution of which course coordinators are largely responsible not only for encouraging their academic staff to publish, but also for determining the amount and the quality of material to be published. All the above relies on funds and activity management. In Brazil, a significant number of postgraduate programs require their students to write monographs by the end of the course. However, because they are not original studies with the highest level of scientific evidence, monographs are rarely published. Several studies are

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not read because they do not leave the shelves where they were placed once the course was concluded. Undoubtedly, a postgraduate course in Implantodontics would receive wider recognition if it had a higher number of studies published by professors and/or former students, or if student's monographs quality would meet the publication standards of peer-reviewed journals.

Masters and Doctorate programs of renowned institutions, with better research facilities and funds, tend to send the best manuscripts to international journals. There is strong competition for international publication, and refused articles are often put away and forgotten rather than used to contribute to raise the quality of national journals which tend to experience difficulty in making progress and being cited, particularly because minor studies are not submitted and major ones are published by renowned international journals.

There is also a trend towards clinicians buying books instead of subscribing scientific journals. However, although books are important, easily commercialized and responsible for turning their authors into celebrities; in peer-reviewed scientific journals, publications are critically reviewed and only accepted if they meet the journal requirements and mention results reproducible by other colleagues but the author. Moreover, books require a longer period of time to be written and published; for this reason, they are less prone to reporting new ideas and results. By the time they are printed, most information is likely to be already outdated. Thus, the most practical and respectable way of spreading new information is by means of scientific articles published in journals that count on an editorial review board.

How can we decide which journal we send articles to? And which journals we should read? An important means of assessing the quality of a journal is by its impact factor. The impact factor of a given scientific journal measures the frequency with which the articles published by this journal have been cited within a given year. Unfortunately, even for the best journals, the impact factor might be deceiving, since citation rates do not differentiate high-quality articles from the poor ones. Therefore, we cannot solely rely on this requirement as a means of measuring the quality of a journal.

Another way to assess it is by evaluating the level of expertise of specialists included in the editorial

board. Most of them are at the highest point of their careers. In Implantology, the editorial board comprises an editor-in-chief, associate editors and an editorial review board. The members of an editorial board usually have their names published on the inside cover or the first pages of a journal, their specialty or field of expertise and interest is also listed. This immediately reflects the power and reputation of a journal and attracts the best studies for publication. The tradition of reviewing, analyzing and evaluating the manuscripts ensures the reliability and originality of each new contribution; thus, maintaining the high standards expected for academic purposes.

Our goal as editors of Implantology was mainly to boost the impact factor of the journal, rendering it the most popular and cited journal among readers, offering significant contribution to Brazilian as well as international Implantodontics. The goal of having a qualified editorial board composed of 30% international members was achieved. Nevertheless, an editor's greatest goal is to have more articles than necessary to comprise an issue, so that manuscript selection is as qualified as possible. To this end, we need to encourage clinicians, professors and postgraduate students to share their knowledge by publishing high-quality studies.

The doors are open to receive more and better researches!

The next issues will list and explain several factors that should be taken into account for a manuscript to have higher chances of being accepted and published in Implantology journal. See you then! Enjoy the articles of the present issue!



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