

# Scientific Articles for Medical Journals

Consider the type of article that will best represent your findings as different types of articles have different formats. Choose an appropriate journal which will present your research to the correct audience. Editors look for brevity, clarity and validity when reviewing manuscripts. Use the following guidelines to facilitate preparing a paper for publication:

- 1. Title:** Should correctly represent the content and breadth of the study reported and should not be misleading. It should be clear, concise and informative. It should contain keywords that capture the attention of the reader. No abbreviations should be used. The decision to read an article often rests on the appeal of the title.
- 2. Author:** Designation, degree, affiliation and address of authors are to be clearly indicated with additional information such as the telephone number and email address of the corresponding author.
- 3. Abstract & keywords:** Should cover each and every component of the study in 150 – 200 words.
- 4. Introduction & Review of Literature:** The goal/purpose of the study should be clearly stated with detailed information about the problem being studied and the specific research questions. No data should be reported. Do not review the literature extensively unless it is a review article. The existing gaps in the literature must be highlighted and a general overview of the study must be presented.
- 5. Materials & Methods:** The selection of the subjects for the study must be described clearly and must include inclusion and exclusion criteria. The research design must be described in detail, including apparatus used, data collection, study setting and statistical analyses so that another scientist can replicate the study.
- 6. Results:** Present your results in a logical sequence using text, tables and figures. Do not repeat ALL the data in the text. Emphasize and summarize important observations without offering any opinions or interpretation.
- 7. Discussion & Conclusion:** Should cover all debatable aspects of the study. Relate the observations to other relevant studies by bringing out similarities and conflicts. Emphasize the new and important aspects of the study and the conclusions drawn. Also discuss the implications of these findings and the limitations of the study. Include the scope and need for future additional research. Link conclusions with the goals of the study and state whether your hypothesis was accepted or not, or make new recommendations. The conclusions and practical outcomes of the study should commensurate with the design used and results obtained.
- 8. References:** Present your references according to the format stipulated by the journal. Ensure the details are correct so that other scientists can look them up.

**GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:** Ensure the sections of the paper are clearly identifiable and appropriate. Ensure there is cohesion between paragraphs and sections. Be uniform in the terminology that is used. Be consistent with abbreviations. The writing style should be clear and concise with no spelling errors. Text is generally written using the passive voice. Lastly, have fun sharing your findings with the science community.

**Adapted from:** Trinity College Dublin, 2015. Submitting an original research article to the TSMJ. [Online] Available at: <http://www.tcd.ie/tsmj/bin/original.pdf> (Accessed 6 March 2015).

**Compiled by:** Taahira Moola, March 2014.