

Entering a new editorial era in ACTA Orthopaedica et Traumatologica Hellenica

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Writing for ACTA Orthopaedica et Traumatologica Hellenica

Writing a scientific paper that will get published is one of the most rewarding achievements in a medical career. Once the privilege of few scholars, medical writing currently is feasible for anyone, and a must for career advancement and personal reputation. Writing a paper provides intellectual stimulation, generates discussion, advances discipline, and enhances authors' reputation. However, medical writing should include medical knowledge, expertise in writing, and special considerations and rules, including formal writing and easiness to understand.

Writing and publishing depends not only on the methodology used and quality of data analysis, but also on how the paper is written. A clear and concise language will help Editors and Reviewers concentrate on the scientific content of the paper and thus facilitate the peer review process. English language grammar and syntax is usually edited by the office and the assistant Editors. Occasionally, English language editing is extremely difficult, and substantial work may be required, mainly in cases where the authors' English proficiency is low. In those cases, we recommend manuscript editing by a professional or a native speaker prior to submission.

In the era of the internet, attractive scientific papers should be clear and well-illustrated; the readership enjoys illustrations and surgeons like graphic content, schemes, drawings and pictures. The illustrations should express important features of the methods and results. Importantly, illustrations should have adequate, meaningful and explanatory legends. Clinical photographs should be accurate and not allow the patient identification. Complex collections of data should be summarized in tables. The results of the most important published related studies are useful to allow the readers to make comparisons easily and should also be presented in tabular data. As Editor, I have the privilege to publish papers that I enjoy reading; an enjoyable article will help colleagues to learn and I am in favor of the old saying "a picture is worth a thousand words" for a surgical publication.

New Editorial Board

The backbone of any journal is an active, widely respected, diverse, and representative Editorial Board. Beginning from the present issue, the journal gains a new Editorial

Board. The Editorial Board is expected to assist in a variety of aspects of running the journal, mainly in providing scientific expertise, administering peer review and serving as a peer reviewer, helping the journal to attract high-quality manuscripts for example by promoting the journal at relevant conferences, and suggesting topics and authors for solicited reviews and commentaries. Importantly, the Editorial Board should bring the journal's attention to new audiences, particularly in new topics or countries, and should communicate the journal at conferences and talks.

A journal's Editorial Board is not static, but it is regularly reviewed in order to ensure the correct people are in place and the field is well represented. In this setting, new Editorial Board members will be frequently recruited; more active members will be receiving increased responsibility, and less active members will be given the chance to step down, creating vacancies for new members.

Quality online publishing

Today, the number of journals and papers published has increased dramatically, most of them with arguable clinical impact. The medical writing environment is becoming exhaustively competitive, yet no real standards have been established. Open access journals, predatory politics and effortless publishing often containing an almost satiric quality are major concerns that discourage writing. As the official journal of the Hellenic Association of Orthopaedic Surgery & Traumatology (HAOST) we publish articles mainly from Greek authors, mostly orthopaedic surgeons, as well as related disciplines and young scientists. The quality is not always the same but we presume that the authors will improve with each written paper. Our aim is to support the spirit of the HAOST where every surgeon could join to learn and improve. It is our enthusiastic wish to be indexed in PubMed and similar impact libraries. But for that purpose, a substantial number of yearly submissions of decent quality articles is necessary. Importantly, these articles should cite the journal aiming to increase the visibility of the journal and the impact of the published papers. Until then, our intention should be to improve the journal further; it is better to publish in a quality online journal than to not publish at all. We wish you to enjoy reading ACTA Orthopaedica et Traumatologica Hellenica and do hope that you will be publishing with us.