The Art & Science of Writing A Good Paper

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The 4 R’s

◆ Relevance
◆ Rigor
◆ Reproducibility
◆ Readability
The Most Common Errors

1. Authorship issues
2. Title inaccurate, uninformative
3. The ‘so what’ factor
4. Content misplaced
5. Introduction too long
6. Do not take reviewer critiques personally
7. Abstract uninformative (no abstract)
8. Method section looks like law review (sub-sections)
9. Insufficient information to allow reproducibility
10. Failure to include detailed statistics section
The Most Common Errors

11. Text and graphics overlap
12. Selective data presentation
13. Correct numbering and call-outs for graphics
14. Avoid result interpretation in RESULTS section
15. Failure to cite literature – accurately – source data
16. Failure to compare and contrast your data to others’
17. Failure to interpret your data: postulate
18. Failure to discuss clinical implications/translatability
19. Failure to discuss strengths & limitations
20. Conclusion section absent
The Most Egregious Errors

21. Minimum unit fit for publication
22. Plagiarism
23. Double publishing
24. Failure to acknowledge a contributor
25. Failure to acknowledge source of funding
26. Failure to disclose conflicts of interest
Why Sexual Medicine Reviews?

Welcome to the first issue of the new journal Sexual Medicine Reviews (SMR). At their meeting in 1988, the International Society for Sexual Medicine (ISSM) and their Publications Committee supported the development of a new quarterly publication as a sister journal to their first highly successful publication, The Journal of Sexual Medicine, to supplement the works presented in that publication. The goal of Sexual Medicine Reviews is to publish thoughtful, systematic, and evidence-based reviews of topics in sexual medicine of the highest caliber by authors who have deep experience and expertise in the area that they are reporting on. SMR will deliver syntheses of clinical and translational research in the global field of sexual function and dysfunction in order to distill for the widest possible audience of healthcare providers the best available evidence in the field, with an emphasis on promoting knowledge translation in sexual health. These reviews are targeted at the sexual medicine investigator, practitioner, and student or residents; but also explicitly intended to appeal to and serve the needs of a broader audience of general and specialist healthcare providers that have an interest in sexual medicine or need an overview of a specific topic in sexual medicine.

Like The Journal of Sexual Medicine, and the newly launched open access publication, Sexual Medicine, Sexual Medicine Reviews is an official journal of the ISSM, its five regional affiliate societies, and the International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health; it is fully owned by the ISSM. As with ISSM's other publications, SMR's profits will be used by the Society to fund educational events, research grants, or other areas for the development and progress of sexual medicine around the globe. This unique organization ensures interest by sexual medicine specialists and investigators and benefits the authors, editors, and the societies together.

The initial editorial board members have committed to assist the Editor-in-Chief in commissioning and reviewing publications that represent the diversity of subjects that define sexual health and sexual medicine. Some of these areas include erectile dysfunction, andrology, behavioral therapy, female sexual health, men's health, and the basic science background for these areas of study. Initial journal issues will typically comprise a potpourri of subjects, but will be supplemented by dedicated subject-oriented issues that examine an area of sexual medicine in greater depth. The choices of topics will be driven by the editorial board with input from readers and investigators. We are always open to suggestions for areas of interest to our readership. The Editor-in-Chief can be contacted at sexualmedicinerviews@

The history of sexual medicine publications demonstrates that SMR is the next step in the study of and idea exchange in sexual medicine and sexual health. Early efforts in the study of sexual medicine were driven by the late Dr. A. J. Zorgniotti who organized the first meeting of the International Society for Sexual and Impotence Research (ISSR) in 1978. This congress to share information and to present the research and practice of sexual medicine inaugurated the specialty of sexual medicine that continues today. These early pioneers inaugurated a journal called the International Journal of Impotence Research (IJIR) with initial editors Gorm Wagner PhD and William Furlow MD. This journal continues today. In 2004, however, the ISSM (formerly ISSR) decided that a new, more diverse journal with direct oversight from the membership of the ISSM be established. That new journal, The Journal of Sexual Medicine, was inaugurated with its first editor, Irwin Goldstein, MD.

While the publications recording sexual medicine and health progress have grown in numbers, impact, and readership, so has the diversity of interests for those that investigate, treat, and study sexual health issues. The early organization and congresses of Adrian Zorgniotti and others focuses primarily on the problems of the “impotent” male in a time when erectile dysfunction was not an accepted term. At that era there were no medical treatments for men with erection
issues and the studies were largely basic science and surgery based. Since the initial 1978 congress, medical therapy begun with Giles Brindley in the early 1980s and progressing through intraurethral therapy, the introduction and revolution of the PDE 5 inhibitors, to our current diagnostic procedures, medications, surgery and many creative options for the man with sexual dysfunction. Psychological therapy has progressed from the early Kinsey report through the Masters and Johnson techniques, to a multidisciplinary approach to the man with erection problems. Similarly, the field of female sexual dysfunction has long been underestimated. The organization of International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health (ISSWSH), founded by members of the ISSM to focus on the unique issues of women with sexual health problems and to study women's sexual health, has endeavored to change this lack of focus. The ISSWSH now involves urologists, gynecologists, primary care providers, psychologists and basic scientists with interests in improving the sexual health of women throughout the world. The Journal of Sexual Medicine has long supported their causes and studies. Indeed, Irwin Goldstein has been a major force in this organization and the field of women's sexual health. ISSWSH is also represented in the Journal of Sexual Medicine and will be well represented in the reviews of SMR.

I look forward to helping launch this new endeavor for the ISSM and its members and affiliate societies. I think Sexual Medicine Reviews, the gold journal of sexual medicine, has a place in international publications and will fill a void for those looking for excellent, evidence-based reviews of the diverse topics of sexual health from basic science to practical approaches to clinical dilemmas. It will be an invaluable resource for students, investigators, and practitioners in the field of sexual health, as well as the non-specialist reader (without a specific focus in sexual medicine) looking to access the latest information on a topic of interest to them from an outstanding author that gives them an objective examination of a timely topic in sexual health. I hope that members of the ISSM, authors, and readers will suggest topics of interest, read the reviews published, and use these reviews as references in their publications. The success of Sexual Medicine Reviews depends on all of us and benefits everyone in the ISSM and in the field of sexual medicine.

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Irwin Goldstein
Published in issue: March 2015

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EDITORIAL

Sexual Medicine Reviews—The Premiere Review Journal for the Field of Sexual Medicine

The inaugural issue of your awesome Sexual Medicine Reviews (SMR), the premiere solicited review journal in all of sexual medicine, was published in May 2013 with Dr. Calley Carson as editor-in-chief (EIC). Including the six reviews in this January 2015 issue of SMR, there have been a grand total of 35 diverse and fabulous SMR manuscripts published thus far. SMR review topics have been unique and widely varied including such vital sexual medicine areas as animal models of female sexual dysfunction, pregnancy and female sexual dysfunction, bicycle-related erectile dysfunction, five alpha reductase inhibitors and sexual dysfunction, sexual side effects of treatments for lower urinary tract syndromes, prostate cancer treatments and erectile dysfunction, sexual dysfunction in wounded warriors, and testosterone treatment for hypogonadism [1–11]. In August 2014, Dr. Carson resigned for personal reasons, and I was named Interim SMR Editor. At the International Society for Sexual Medicine (ISSM) biennial meeting in Brazil this past October, the Publications Committee selected me as the new EIC of SMR.

Volume 3, Issue 1 is my first issue as official EIC and I look forward to working with many, many, many of you as authors, reviewers, and members of our awesome SMR editorial team. Like many of you, when we take on a new project, we enter with our eyes sparkling with excitement, brains bursting with new ideas, and hearts expanding with hope. Over time, we expect to make many of our ideas into reality, but this can only be accomplished with hard work, dedication, passion, and commitment on behalf of the entire SMR, ISSM, and the International Society for the Study of Women’s Sexual Health sexual medicine team.

Serving as EIC, I have multiple new ideas and hopes and goals for SMR. For example, the number of SMR associate editors has been expanded substantially to encompass a wide and comprehensive geographic representation as well as broad female and male sexual medicine expertise. One key duty of each associate editor is to solicit several highest quality, state-of-the-art, sexual medicine reviews. We hope to have each regional society nominate an SMR associate editor and then to diligently seek to solicit relevant, regional highest quality, state-of-the-art sexual medicine reviews. Feel free to share any additional interesting or new strategies, creative thoughts, or inventive ideas to make SMR more awesome as the premiere review journal in the field of sexual medicine.

The primary goal of SMR remains steadfast: to have solicited, state-of-the-art, highest quality, sexual medicine reviews from multiple sexual medicine disciplines in each issue. Sexual medicine reviews can be reports that keep health care professionals up-to-date with what is current in the field. For scholars, the complexity and extensive ness of a sexual medicine review emphasizes the credibility of the author in his or her area within sexual medicine. Today, I would like to discuss with you, the future author of a sexual medicine review...

A solicited review for SMR should ideally be focused on a specific and carefully defined research question in the field of sexual medicine, trying to identify, assess, choose, and integrate all high-quality, evidence-based research and arguments relevant to that research question. A sexual medicine review might give a new explanation of older material or combine new concepts with old interpretations. Or a review might trace the intellectual and scholarly progression of research studies on a particular sexual medicine topic, including key controversies and arguments. Depending on the circumstances, the sexual medicine review may evaluate the sources and recommend to the reader pertinent or relevant facts that are most clinically meaningful. The focus of a sexual medicine review is to synthesize and hypothesize the arguments, ideas, and findings of others who have published.

The following steps may be utilized to write a literature review. First, collect the relevant literature. During this stage, relevant journals (such as The Journal of Sexual Medicine or Sexual Medicine), books (such as International Consultation on Sexual...
Reviewers draw upon the articles in the review to develop novel concepts to publication.

I hope that when I reach out to all future authors to write a review for SMR, you accept the invitation and look at it as a challenge to develop something new out of some things that are old.

The Publications Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Board of Directors of the ISSM all believe that your SMR is an important opportunity for the field of sexual medicine. We, as sexual medicine health care professionals and as sexual medicine clinical and basic science researchers, all need to be kept up to date with what is current in our ever-changing sexual medicine field. The SMR is the premiere review journal in the field of sexual medicine.

Please communicate with me at sexualmedicine@medstarmed.com if you have any thoughts or ideas about ways to make your SMR more relevant and meaningful to our incredible sexual medicine community. Please, continue to read your SMR, review manuscripts whenever asked, and cite relevant SMR publications when you write your sexual medicine papers.

Irwin Goldstein, MD
Editor-in-Chief

References