

Faculty of Health and Wellbeing

PhD Students' Training

Session 7 Wednesday April 26 2017: Writing for publication

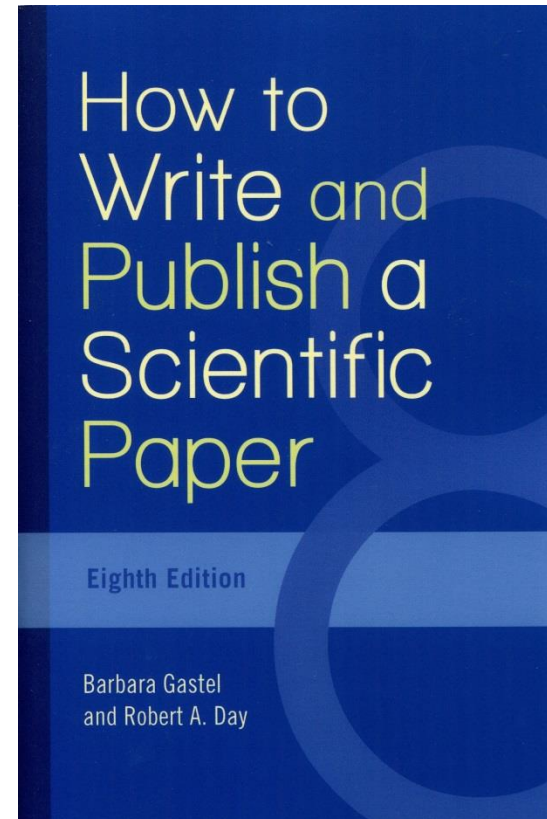
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Emeritus Professor of the Physiology of Exercise

What have I got to offer?

- ◆ 42 years of writing and publications
- ◆ Editorial board membership
- ◆ 150 peer-reviewed manuscripts, book chapters and books
- ◆ 100 conference presentations
- ◆ approximately 2,000 reviews
- ◆ 2 DSc exams
- ◆ 22 PhD, MPhil and MSc (research) examinations
- ◆ 15 PhD completions
- ◆ Opinions on 16 professorships and 13 readerships

Important . . .

Day and Gastel



Important . . .

Editorials



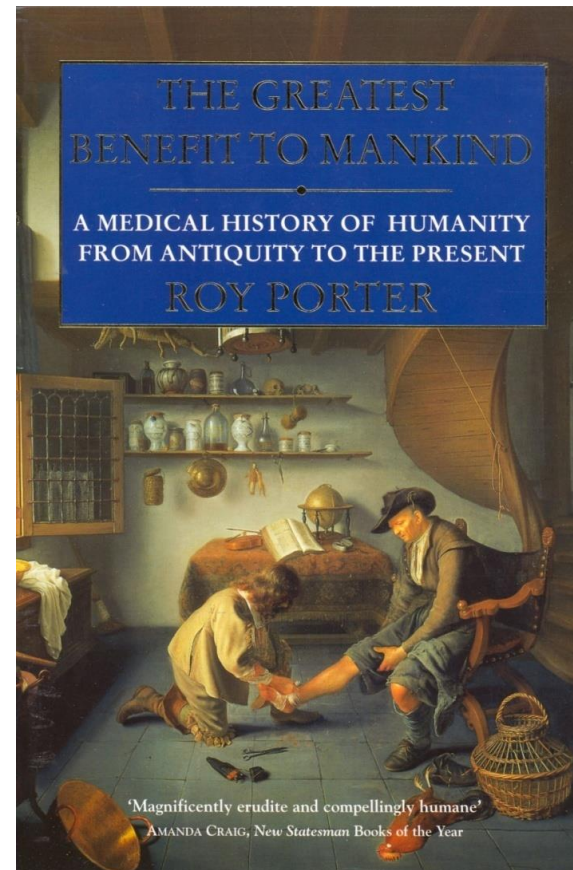
Important . . .

At every scientist's right hand . . .



Important . . .

Historical background



Science

A way of working characterised by:

- ◆ Observation
- ◆ Research question
- ◆ Hypotheses
- ◆ Experiment
- ◆ Analysis
- ◆ Outcome
- ◆ Broadcast

Forms of broadcast

- ◆ Formal (peer-reviewed)
- ◆ Professional
- ◆ Popular

Background

- ◆ Peer review
- ◆ 1665
- ◆ Henry Oldenburg
- ◆ Secretary of the Royal Society
- ◆ Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society
- ◆ Process
- ◆ The worst form of review . . .
- ◆ . . . apart from all the others

Background

- ◆ Choose the target journal carefully
- ◆ Follow *precisely* the guidelines for authors
- ◆ IMRAD(E)
- ◆ Start at the beginning
- ◆ Flow and cohesion
- ◆ Structure
- ◆ Minutiae

Minutiae (?)

- ◆ Centre around . . .
- ◆ Many different types
- ◆ Quite unique . . .
- ◆ Could potentially . . .
- ◆ New . . .
- ◆ "Very" . . .
- ◆ It was found/observed that *a* was significantly different compared to *b*.
- ◆ *a* was greater/smaller than *b* ($d = \dots$, $P = \dots$)
- ◆ *a* and *b* did not differ
- ◆ Excessive equivocation: "The results suggest that *a* might partly influence *b*"
- ◆ May
- ◆ In order
- ◆ Relatively . . .
- ◆ Significant vs meaningful . . . effect sizes and confidence intervals, MIC/PD
- ◆ Interesting/interestingly . . .
- ◆ Split infinitives
- ◆ Prepositions

Important to know . . .

- ◆ The process of peer review
- ◆ Electronic management systems
- ◆ Vagaries of reviewers
- ◆ Editors: gatekeepers and friends
- ◆ Acceptance rates
- ◆ cv's . . . yours should grow . . .
- ◆ Orders of importance
- ◆ Open-access

Thought-provoking quotes . . .

"Read over your compositions and wherever you meet with a passage which you think is particularly fine, strike it out."

Samuel Johnson 1773

Thought-provoking quotes . . .

"I expect the editor to accept all my papers, accept them as they are submitted, and publish them promptly. I also expect him to scrutinise all other papers with utmost care, especially those from my competitors."

Earl H. Wood

Thought-provoking quotes . . .

"I note what you say about your aspiration to edit a magazine. I am sending you by this mail a six-chambered revolver. Load it and fire every one into your head. You will thank me after you go to Hell and learn from other editors how dreadful their job was on earth."

H.L. Mencken, letter dated January 25 1936, to William Saroyan.

So . . .

- ◆ Make sure you are in the 20%
- ◆ Build your publication record
- ◆ Increase the number of reviews you undertake
- ◆ Involve yourself formally with Journals
- ◆ Reviewer
- ◆ Associate Editor
- ◆ Section Editor
- ◆ Editor-in-Chief