Author Tutorial

International Journal of Gynecological Cancer

Pedro T. Ramirez, M.D.
Professor
Editor-in-Chief, International Journal of Gynecological Cancer
David M. Gershenson Distinguished Professor in Ovarian Cancer Research
Director of Minimally Invasive Research & Education
Department of Gynecologic Oncology & Reproductive Medicine
Criteria for Publication

High Priority

• New and original research
• Prospective randomized trials
• Largest retrospective series on a topic of interest
• Data that contradicts previously established results
• Reviews of relevant and current topics
• High-quality educational videos of novel techniques

Low Priority

• Commentaries
Finding A Topic of Interest

• Do a literature search to assure it is not published already

• Review current literature

• Discuss with an expert in the field

• Attempt to capture the missing element

• Go to Abstracts/Posters in meetings

• Discuss in group conference
Writing the Manuscript

• Be concise and to the point
  - A lot of words does not equal a good story

• A manuscript should tell a story
  - Beginning/Middle/End

• Do not use non-scientific language
  Examples:
  - We perform this approach in the easiest manner
  - The blood loss was less than expected
  - The approach was done as routine
Writing the Manuscript

• Do not use language that can be misinterpreted
  Example:
  - The length of stay was very short
  - The rate of sentinel node detection was outstanding
  - Complication rates were minimal

• Do not place Tables or Figures in middle of manuscript

• Use English-speaking editors (non-native speakers)
  - DO NOT use Google translate!
Writing the Manuscript

• Title of manuscript
  - Should represent the overall message of the paper

• Authors
  - First: Person who wrote it and did most work in data gathering
  - Second: Next person providing substantial contribution
  - Last: Developed idea, responsible for data generation, analysis, and interpretation

  * Avoid leaving important individuals out as authors or including others who have not contributed anything to the manuscript

• Abstract
  - Tells the whole story
  - Often the only thing people read of your work!
Writing the Manuscript
Introduction

• Do not exceed 3-4 paragraphs

• 1st Paragraph
  - Background information

• 2nd Paragraph
  - Relevance of the subject of interest

• 3rd Paragraph
  - Gaps in knowledge
  - Goals of your study
Writing the Manuscript
Methods

- IRB approval statement
- What data were collected
- Who was the study group
- Provide details for ease of replication
- Provide Inclusion or Exclusion Criteria
- Method of statistical analysis (meet with statistician)
- Method of assessment of primary and secondary endpoints
- Therapy details (type of drug, doses, regimen)
- Consent process if subjects alive or prospective
- Process of randomization
- DO NOT say it was a prospective study if it WAS NOT!!
Writing the Manuscript
Results

• Should reflect all that you were collecting in Methods
• Always begin with the number of patients included
• Provide chronological sequence of data
• Make sure numbers match Abstract and Tables
• Make sure all numbers add up
• Provide data that will be of interest to the reader
• Do not interpret the data

JUST THE FACTS!!
Writing the Manuscript - Discussion

- Begin with a single statement of your overall findings
- Do not repeat your Results
- Place in context of previously published literature
- Be sure to include comparisons to major articles
- Outline external validity of your findings
- Include Strengths and Weaknesses
- Provide future directions
- Provide details as to why this is contributing to literature
- Do not make editorial statements or make personal judgment of the value of the findings to the gynecologic oncology community
- BE CONCISE!!
Writing the Manuscript References

• Review the Guide for Authors for format
• Double check spelling and “specifics” of citation
• Keep references to only relevant ones
• Do not be repetitive in your references
• Site original or primary reference
• Think about including references of potential reviewers
Cover Letter

• Include title of the manuscript

• Statement that all authors have provided substantial contribution and are in agreement will all aspects of the final manuscript

• Provide a brief statement as to why this research will contribute novel data to the literature (should not exceed 2-3 sentences)

• Statement that the manuscript has not been concurrently submitted to other journals

• Suggested Reviewers with contact information

• Undesired Reviewers
Manuscript Review Process
Editor’s Perspective

- Submitted to Associate Editors
- First Assessment by Associate Editor
- Proceed for formal review by Reviewer
- Decisions:
  - Accept
  - Minor revisions
  - Major revisions
  - Reject
Thank you!

**Contact Information:**

Pedro T Ramirez, MD  
Editor-in-Chief  
peramire@mdanderson.org

Lindsey Struckmeyer  
Managing Editor  
ijgc@jjeditorial.com