

The Peer Review Journal Publication Process I: From Conference Presentation to Peer Review Publication



Mike Godard, PhD, FACSM
CITR Faculty Research Associate

Background on Presentations

- ❖ Presentations are most often summarized in abstracts
- ❖ Available only in proceedings or journal supplements which may not be indexed by electronic databases
- ❖ Full publication is more common when the results are ‘positive’ or ‘significant’
- ❖ Difficultly in correctly identifying important aspects of methodology
- ❖ Reliability of results presented in abstract form is questionable – often times results are preliminary

Presentations that are Published?

- ❖ In a systematic review Scherer (1994) found that only 51% of all studies initially presented as abstracts were published in full
- ❖ The same report found evidence of publication bias for the abstracts in that full publication was associated with ‘significant’ or ‘positive’ results
- ❖ A more recent meta-analysis (Scherer, 2007) found that out of the 29,729 reported abstracts 12,987 subsequently resulted in full publication (44%)
- ❖ Mean time to full publication ranged from 12 to 32 months, with an overall mean of 18.4 months

Presentations that are Published?

- ❖ The annualized rate of publication is highest during the first three years following presentation at a meeting, and decreases during each subsequent year
- ❖ Abstracts presented orally rather than at poster sessions are more highly associated with full publication
- ❖ The rate of full publication was higher for abstracts with ‘peer-review’ funding compared with those without ‘peer-review’ funding (9/51 (18%) versus 7/94 (7%), respectively; Halpern 2002)
- ❖ The publication rate for abstracts with government support was 73% (93/128) and that for industry support was 66% (102/154) (Timmer 2002)

Strategic Planning for Publication

- ❖ If given the option give an oral presentation over a poster presentation (under most circumstances)
- ❖ Listen very carefully to the questions that you are asked by your audience (either oral or poster) and take notes on those questions immediately after the presentation
- ❖ Could you address those questions adequately? If not, what are the limitations?
- ❖ What changes could you have made to your presentation to effectively address concerns/questions?

What Needs to be Addressed

- ❖ Do you need to increase your sample size?
- ❖ Do you need to add a measurement to your research design?
- ❖ Do you need to perform a different statistical analysis?
- ❖ Are there any gray areas with the interpretation of your results? What can you do to address this?
- ❖ Do your conclusions fit with your original hypothesis?

What's Next?



- ❖ The Peer Review Journal Process II: The Do's and Don'ts of Submitting Your Manuscript to a Peer Reviewed Journal and How to Deal with Reviewer Comments
- ❖ Date: Wednesday February 23rd
- ❖ Time: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
- ❖ Location: Malpass Library, 3rd Floor Computer Classroom