

Welcome!

- Please stay muted unless specifically called on during the Q&A session
- To minimize echo when talking, please use headphones with microphone or turn your computer/device audio down as much as possible. Do not use speakerphone.
- If you are having technical problems, please use the chat/conversation feature to talk to “Moderator”
- Leave questions for the lecturer using the public chat feature. Address question to everyone. Do not use the private chat.
- Please identify yourself when using the chat/conversation feature.



UNIVERSITY *of* MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Tips for Writing Case Reports, Commentaries, and Review Articles: How to translate clinical expertise and mentorship into scholarship

Rose Marie Viscardi, M.D.
Department of Pediatrics and Medicine
rviscard@som.umaryland.edu
Scientific Writing Seminar Series
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Objectives

- To learn why to publish case reports, reviews, and commentaries
 - Hint: How to contribute to scholarship by maximizing impact of clinical expertise and teaching excellence for promotion
- To learn how to write effective case reports, reviews, and commentaries
- To learn about available resources to facilitate publishing your work
- To learn how to avoid potential publishing pitfalls

Benefits of Career Expertise

- Helps focus our efforts that contributes to
 - Career satisfaction
 - SOM, professional, and national recognition
 - Work-Life balance by saying yes to the opportunities that support expertise (interests) and saying no to opportunities that do not
- Future Benefits
 - Invitations as journal and grant reviewer in area of expertise
 - Invitations to nice locales for lectures
 - Promotion!

How to Demonstrate Career Expertise in SOM missions

- Scholarship

- Local and regional grand rounds talks
- Publications, including original research, case reports, review articles, commentaries
- Book chapters

- Teaching

- Medical student and resident lectures
- Co-authored case reports, reviews (mentoring outcome)
- Curriculum development on expertise topic

- Clinical

- Clinical expertise (patient referrals)
- Develop expertise focused clinic/practice
- Document with number of referrals per year, number of visits, procedures, impact
- Our patients: source for research subjects, quality improvement, case reports

Scholarship

- Aim for 1-2 publications per year
- Write about clinical experience, quality improvement projects, case reports, and projects with medical students, residents, and fellows
- Consider writing reviews for peer-reviewed journals
 - Reviews are frequently cited (contributes to H index)
 - A great way of establishing expertise and may lead to invitations to review manuscripts for journals, talk invitations
- Collaborative writing great way to increase #publications

Scholarship

- Prepare a grand rounds talk on your area of expertise
 - Keep updated
 - Volunteer to give grand rounds at SOM, regional hospitals
 - Be prepared to give talk to a lay person audience (e.g. community organization)
- Ask friends at other institutions to invite you to give a talk
- Ok to invite yourself to give a talk when visiting another city!
- Already reviewed literature on a topic: now write a literature review!

Case Reports

- While on clinical rounds with medical students and/or residents, discuss a patient with an interesting finding, rare diagnosis, complication, new therapy, etc.
 - Review the current literature confirms the novelty of observation
 - Student/resident enthusiastic about co-authoring a case report
 - Is it worth your time? Will it be valued?



Abstracts in the
advertising
section

The New England Journal of Medicine

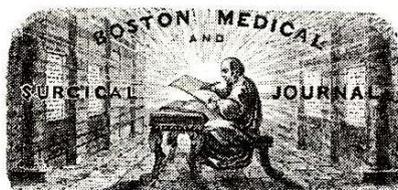
Established in 1812 as The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY

VOLUME 309

OCTOBER 13, 1983

NUMBER 15

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE



HYPERTHYROXINEMIA IN NEWBORNS DUE TO EXCESS THYROXINE-BINDING GLOBULIN

ROSE M. VISCARDI, M.D.,
MOIRA SHEA, M.D.,
KITIMA SRIWANTANAKUL, M.D.,
AND KENNETH McCORMICK, M.D.

Case Report

- McCormick, K, Viscardi, RM, et al. Partial pyruvate decarboxylase with profound lactic acidosis and hyperammonemia and response to dichloroacetate and benzoate. Am J. Medical Genetics 1985
 - Term newborn with lactic acidosis and hyperammonemia; involved in NICU care as resident
 - Novel finding: First description of partial deficiency of the E1 component of pyruvate dehydrogenase complex
 - Described response to therapeutic interventions

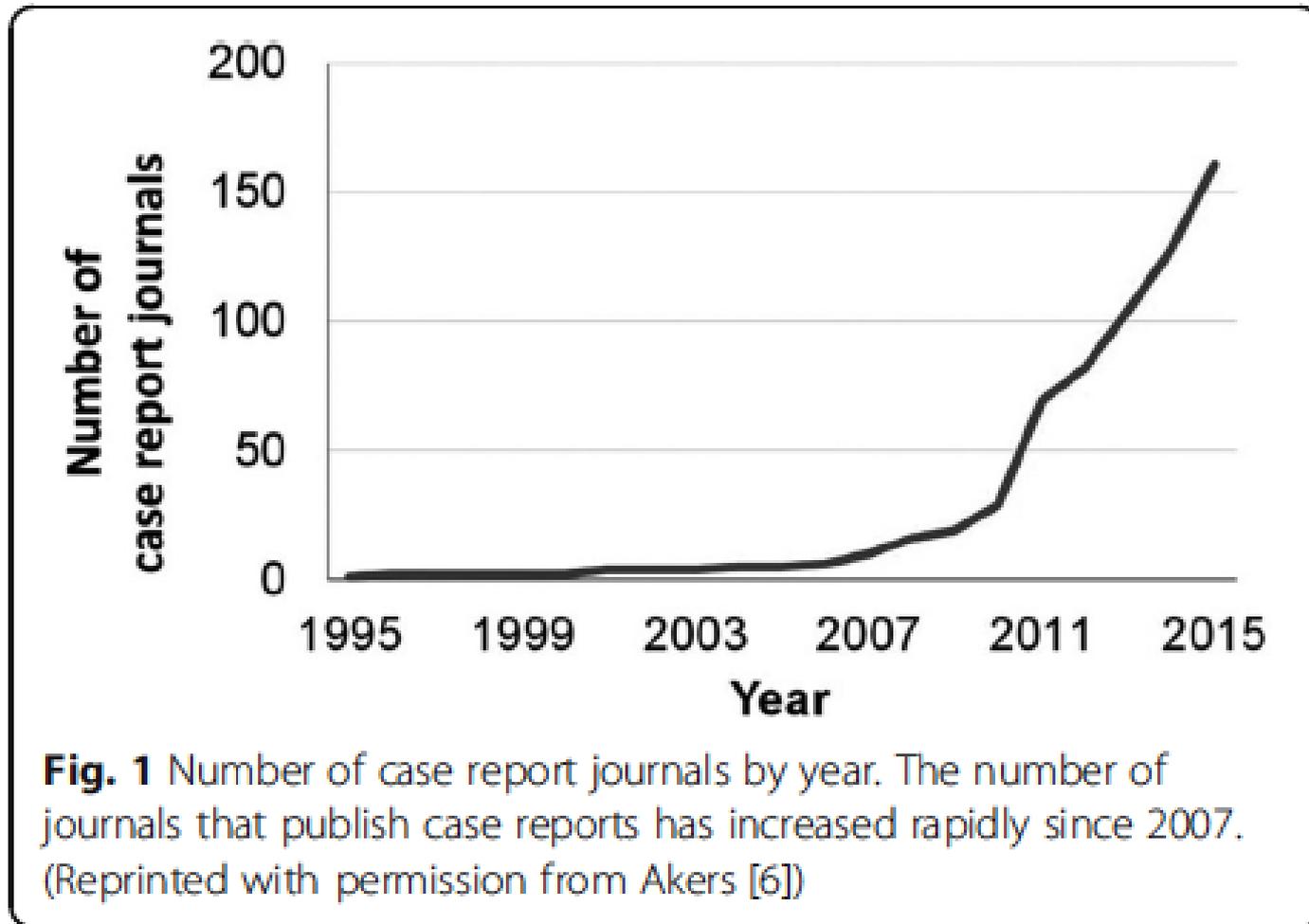
Impact on my career....

- Realized my passion for caring for sick newborns contributing to decision for career in neonatology
- Importance of mentoring
- Writing and publishing
 - Perseverance and patience with the process
 - Acceptance of criticism
 - Seeing your article in print is terrific!
- Citations: 8 for NEJM publication, but 30 for case report

Case Reports: Undervalued?

- Case reports get bad rap due to lower number of citations than reports of randomized trials, meta-analyses
- Add important new medical knowledge by describing new diseases, disease mechanisms, new therapies, and/or describes new adverse drug effects/benefits
 - Generate hypotheses to be tested in RCT
- Do not include controls, limited sample size, unblinded, so requires caution in interpreting findings
- General medical journals publish few or no case reports since lower number of citations may negatively affect the journal's impact factor

Increase in number of case report journals



Rison, RA, et al. "How to choose the best journal for your case report" J. Medical Case Reports (2017) 11:198 doi 10.1186/s13256-017-1351-y

Case Report: Before Starting to Write

- Determine what is novel about the case
 - Literature search: UpToDate, PubMed, Cases Database (<http://www.casedatabase.com>)
 - Examples:
 - Previously unreported drug side effect/interaction
 - Unusual clinical presentation or new variation of disease process
 - Findings that provide new insight into pathogenesis of disease or adverse effect

Case Report: Selecting a Journal

- General medical journal (check whether accepts case reports and acceptance rate)
- Case report specific journal
 - Many are open access (>90%) and charge publishing fees (\$500-\$1500)
 - Need to differentiate legitimate open access journals from predatory journals (to be discussed later!)
 - Most do not advertise impact factor
 - Select journal based on target audience for best fit for case report
 - Consider acceptance rate, time to editorial decision
- Use automated search tools (e.g. Journal/Author/Name Estimator (JANE) to search Medline database)

Case Reports: Ethical Concerns

- Confidentiality for patient is responsibility of authors and publishers
- Provide de-identified demographic details on patient sex, age, race/ethnicity, occupation
- Patient consent may be required particularly if can be identified from pictures, geographic location, and rarity of disease or event
- If consent not obtained from patient or next of kin, explain why (e.g. patient/family untraceable then document efforts to trace them and who within the hospital is acting as a guarantor of the case report)

Case Report Format Guidelines

- CARE (CAse REport) Guidelines 2013: 13 item checklist of information to include when writing a case report <https://www.care-statement.org>
- SCARE (Surgical Case Report) guidelines 2018: 14 point checklist for writing surgical case reports <https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/the-scare-statement-consensus-based-surgical-case-report-guidelines/>
- Always check specific journal author instructions!

Case Report Format

- Format (usually 1000-2000 word limit)
 - Title of Case: Descriptive
 - Summary/Abstract: Summarize the case presentation and outcome
 - Background: Why do you think the case is important?
 - Case Presentation: Comprehensive account
 - Investigations (if relevant)
 - Differential Diagnosis (if relevant)
 - Treatment (if relevant)
 - Outcome and Follow-up (define follow-up period and whether patient died)

Case Report Format

- Discussion
 - Include brief review of similar published cases
 - Describe mechanisms of pathology/injury, management guidelines and their relevance, diagnostic pathways
- Learning Points/Take Home Messages
 - 3-5 bullet points
 - What do you want readers to remember?
 - Most important part of the case!
- References
- Patient's Perspective: Gives the patient/family member opportunity to comment on their experience
 - Check journal instructions whether this section is required/optional

Case Report Authorship

- All authors should meet criteria for authorship
 - Made substantial contributions to conception and design, or data acquisition, analysis or interpretation
 - Involved in writing/revising the manuscript
 - Given final approval or the submitted version
 - Agreeable to be accountable for the accuracy or integrity of the article
- Individuals only involved in the patient's care, or provided technical help only, should be listed in the acknowledgements section
 - Obtain permission to acknowledge individuals mentioned in Acknowledgement section

Case Report Writing/Submission Resources

- Journal of Medical Case reports guide:
<http://www.jmedicalcasereports.com/content/7/1/239>
- BMJ Case Report resources:
<http://www.casereports.bmj.com>
 - Includes case report template
 - Includes example of well-written case report

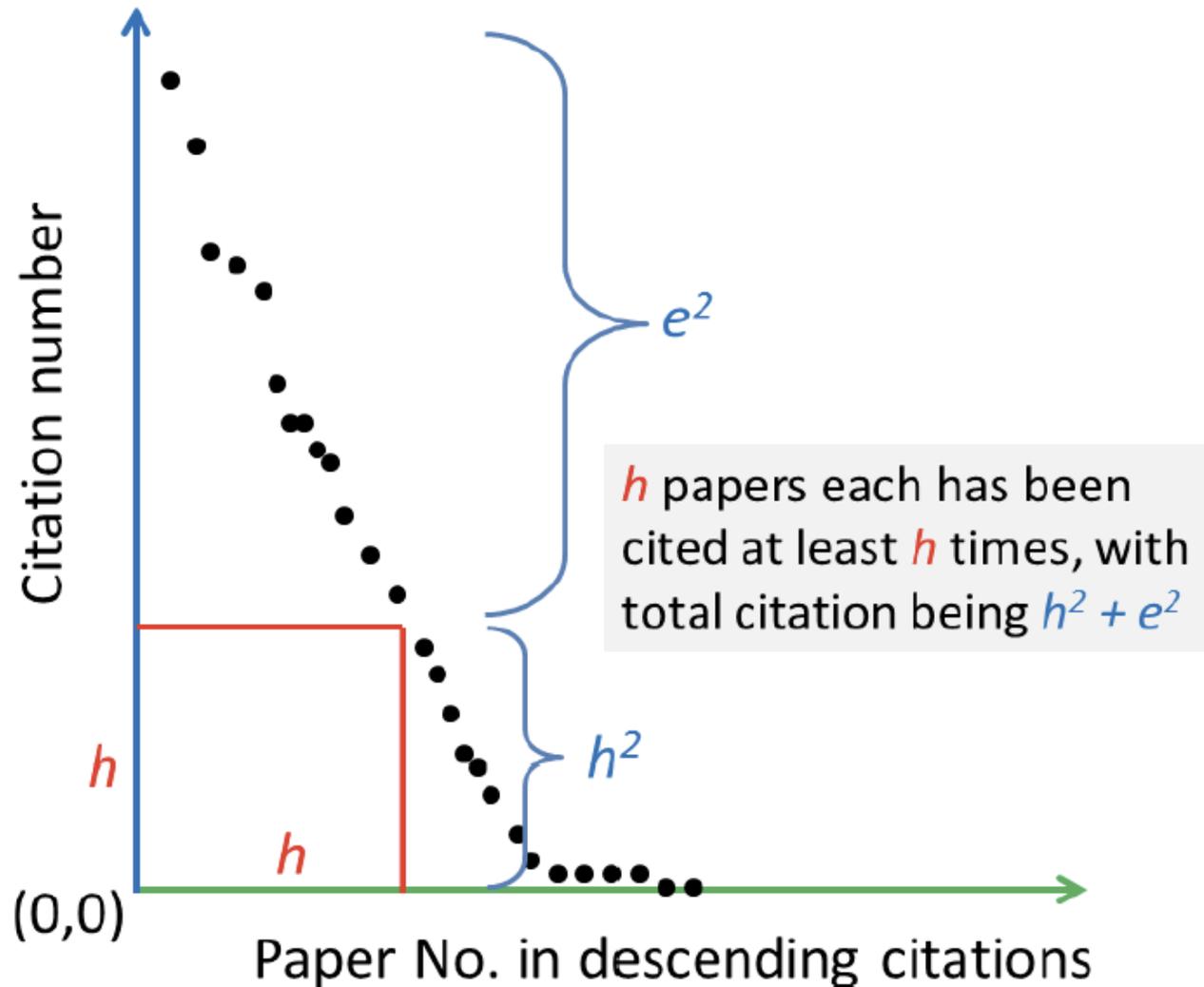
Why write a review article?

- Great way to establish your expertise in a field!
 - May lead to invitations for manuscript reviews by journal editors in area of review topic
 - May lead to invitations for invited lectures
 - Particularly beneficial for post-docs and early career faculty
- Reviews are highly cited (more than publications describing original research)
 - Helps build your scholarship metrics of number of citations and H-factor important for promotion
- Already did the literature review for grant application, grand rounds talk, course lecture

Why write a review article?

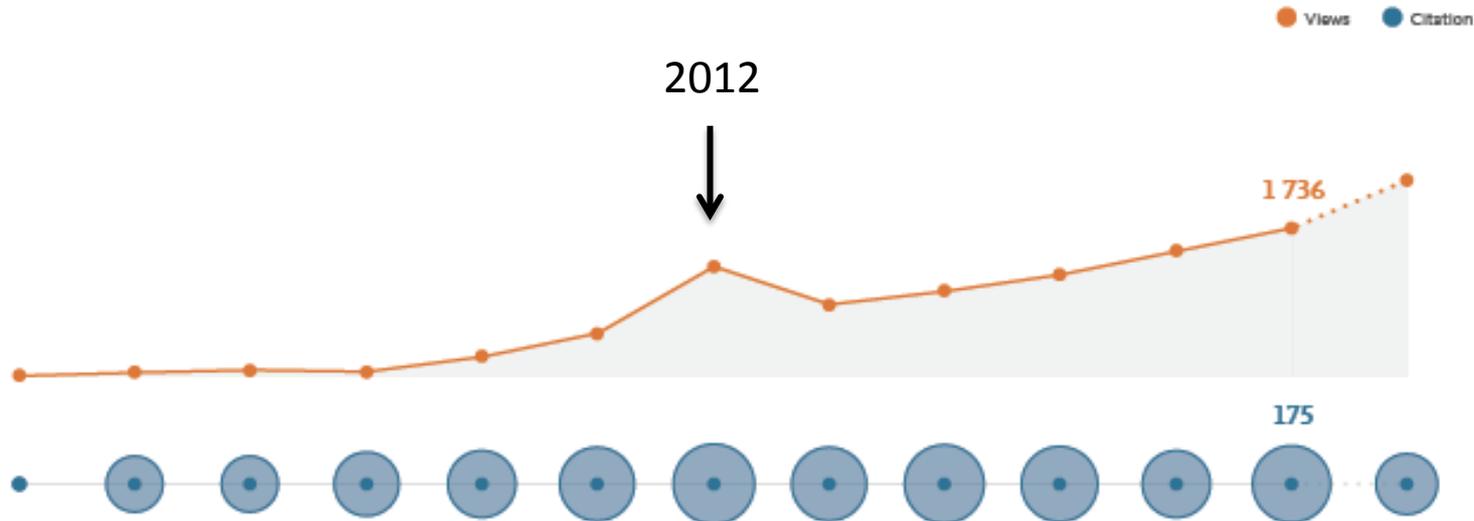


H index



Evidence for Benefit of Review publications: Personal Experience

- Personal H index 30
- Average citations for reviews: 49
- Average citations for original articles: 16



Literature Review: Define a Topic and Audience

- Choosing a topic
 - Should be interesting to you!
 - Is important aspect of the field, timely
 - Addresses a well-defined issue (focus of review)
- Selecting a Target Audience
 - Topic selected may define the target audience
 - Broaden potential audience to related fields

Types of literature reviews

- Mini review: short review focusing on last few years with limit on words and citations
- Full review: More comprehensive
- Descriptive vs Integrative
 - Descriptive focuses on methodology, findings, and interpretation of each reviewed study
 - Integrative reviews describe common ideas and concepts from reviewed material

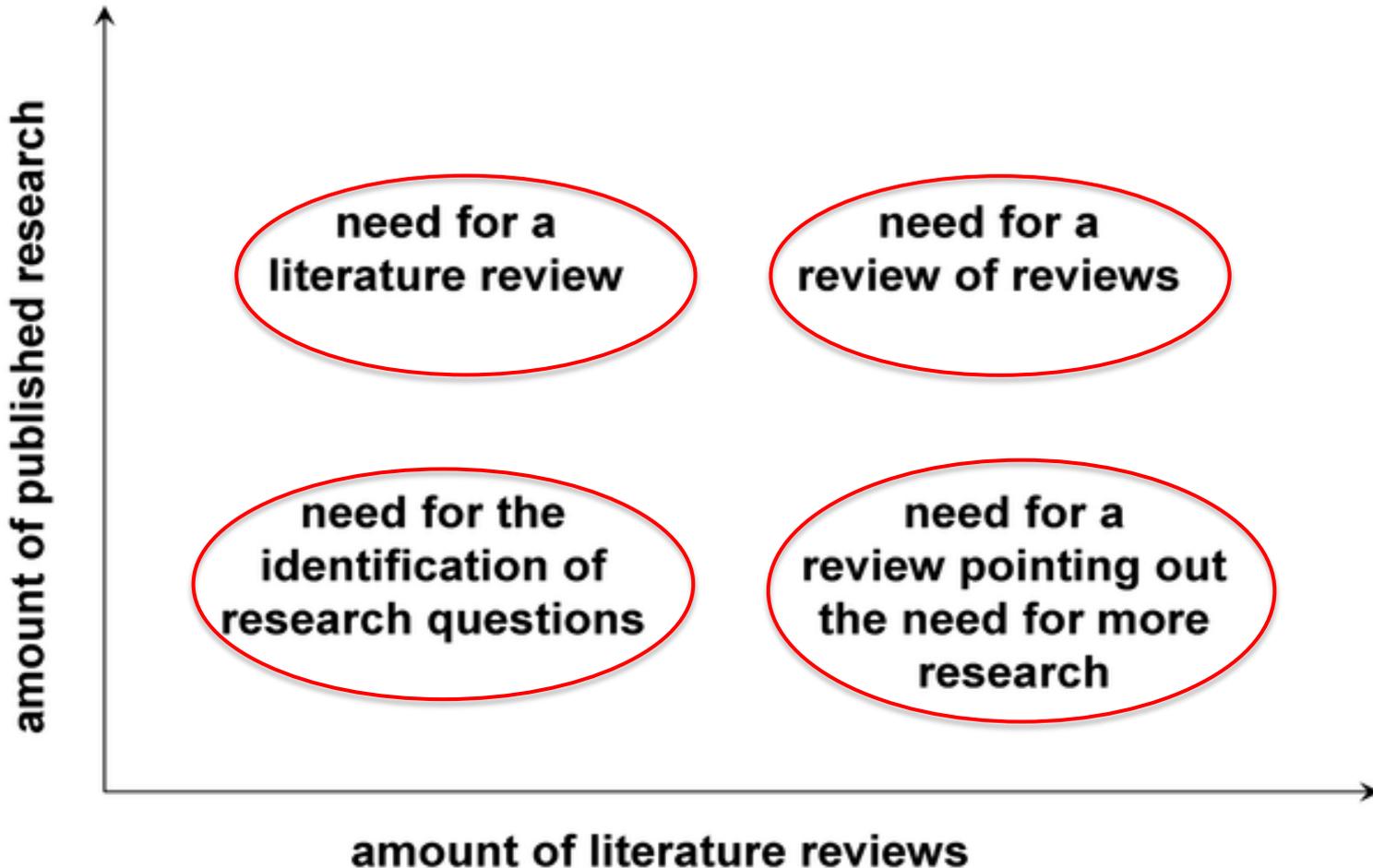
Types of literature reviews

- Narrative vs Systematic Reviews
 - Narrative reviews are qualitative
 - Systematic Reviews test a hypothesis based on published evidence using a predefined protocol to reduce bias
- Meta-analysis
 - A systematic review that analyzes quantitative results in a quantitative way

Types of literature reviews

- Review of reviews
 - discuss the approaches, limitations, and conclusions of past reviews
 - Find a new angle not previously addressed in previous reviews
 - Incorporate new material that has accumulated since last review

A conceptual diagram of the need for different types of literature reviews depending on the amount of published research papers and literature reviews.



Pautasso M (2013) Ten Simple Rules for Writing a Literature Review. PLOS Computational Biology 9(7): e1003149.

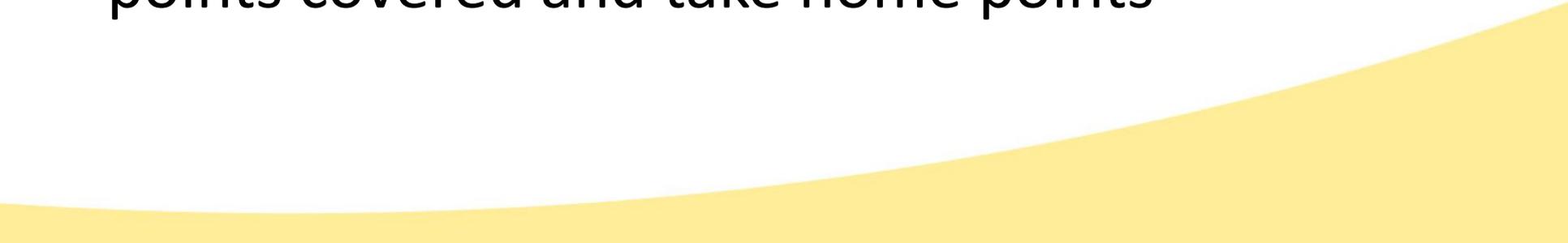
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1003149>

<https://journals.plos.org/ploscompbiol/article?id=10.1371/journal.pcbi.1003149>

Literature Reviews: Getting Started

- Stay organized and be thorough!
- Use a reference Manager such as Endnote or Mendeley
- Use different key words and database sources:
 - Librarian assistance available for publication search strategies
- Take notes while reading including any quotes with attribution and references: source for first draft!
- Choose type of review you wish to write
- Keep the review focused (don't include everything!)
- Be critical: Identify major achievements, main areas of debate, and outstanding research question
- Be consistent: (e.g. Choice of passive vs active voice and present vs past tense)
- Be up to date, but include important older studies

Literature Review: Structure

- Read published reviews to study how review was organized
 - General introduction should provide rationale for the review
 - Providing a conceptual schematic as a figure can help organize the logical flow of the review
 - End should include a summary of the main points covered and take home points
- 

Literature Review: Submission Preparation

- Request and incorporate feedback on draft from co-authors and other colleagues
- Review carefully for typos, grammatical errors
- Check journal website author instructions whether submissions of reviews are allowed
- May need to contact editor ahead of submission for permission to submit a review
- Reviews are peer-reviewed, so revisions may be requested

Commentaries

- Commentary is a comment on newly published article
- Are usually be invitation from journal editor
 - May or may not be peer-reviewed
 - Request to provide new/unique viewpoint
- Since are invited to write a commentary based on your recognized expertise in a field, is additional evidence of your expertise
 - Best to annotate entry in CV to indicate commentary was by journal invitation

Commentaries

- May provide a critical challenge to some aspect of focal article
- May draw attention to current advances and speculate on future directions
- Writing Commentary
 - No need to summarize the focus article; identify key issues raised
 - Use only citations essential to support your point
 - Use a short title that emphasizes key message
 - Include clear take home message

Letter to Editor

- Form of commentary
- Main Purpose of letter to editor
 - Post-publication peer review
 - Sharing experiences with fellow readers
- Benefit: Editor has your name, contact info, and area of expertise– May invite official commentary or ask you to be a reviewer
- Should be brief, concise (usually <500 words)
- Should be timely (usually within 6 months of focus article publication)
- Avoid personal attack on authors of focus article

HS/HSL Research Services

Doing Research?

Help With Your
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Publish &
Present Your
Research

Increase the
Impact of Your
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Innovative
Technologies

HS/HSL help with Research/Publishing

- **Research Consultation:** Literature search strategies
- **Systematic Reviews:** Librarian design and manage comprehensive database searches and assist in writing search methodology
- **Expert Literature search** in multiple databases
- **Decide Where to Publish:** consultation in selecting journal for manuscript submission
 - Avoid predatory journals
- **NIH Public Access Policy:** help with compliance with the policy

Get to know the HS/HSL Librarians!

- Check out the resources at
 - <http://www.hshsl.umaryland.edu/services/researchservices.cfm#Assistance>
- Submit completed consultation request form for any of the offered services
- Services are free!

Beware of Predatory Publishing

- You received manuscript solicitations from journals you have never heard of
 - excessive or opaque fee structures
 - Spurious editorial boards
 - Publication without approval
 - Lack of peer review
- Check out the publisher's website. Is complete, verifiable contact information listed? If only a web contact form is provided, be cautious
- Check the editorial board member names & affiliations, can contact them
- Does the journal prominently display its policies on author fees and peer review?
- Predatory journals may try to feign a reputation by posting a false Journal Impact Factor or claiming to be included in important databases such as PubMed or Scopus.
- Directory or Open Access Journals <https://doaj.org/>

13 Common Characteristics Predatory Journals

1. Scope of interest includes non-biomedical subjects alongside biomedical topics
2. Website contains spelling and grammar errors
3. Images are distorted/fuzzy, intended to look like something they are not, or which are unauthorized
4. Homepage language targets authors
5. The Index Copernicus Value is promoted on the website
6. Lacks description of manuscript handling process
7. Manuscripts are requested to be submitted by email
8. Promises rapid publication

13 Common Characteristics Predatory Journals

9. No retraction policy
10. Information on whether and how journal content will be digitally preserved is absent
11. The article processing/publication charge (APC) is very low (e.g., <\$150 USD)
12. Journals claiming to be open access either retain copyright of published research or fail to mention copyright
13. The contact email address is non-professional and non-journal affiliated (e.g., @gmail.com or @yahoo.com)

Additional Resources

- Rison, RA, et al. “How to choose the best journal for your case report” J. Medical Case Reports (2017) 11:198 doi 10.1186/s13256-017-1351-y list of case report journals
- Pautasso M (2013) Ten Simple Rules for Writing a Literature Review. PLoS Comput Biol 9(7): e1003149. doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.1003149