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Publishing Medical Research in Academic Journals

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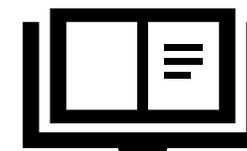


Photo: Henry Lo, Unsplash

Publishing landscape today



10000 publishers
5000 indexed in Scopus



33100 active English language,
peer reviewed journals



7-9 million researchers



Increase in
R&D investment



Over 3 million articles a year



Numbers are increasing

Choosing a journal

- Your current project
 - Original research
 - Review
 - Case studies
- Your intended audience
 - Specialists in the field
 - General public
 - Policy makers
 - Patients, caregivers, healthcare practitioners (non-specialists)



Remember, you are joining a conversation!

Choosing a journal - key considerations

Age
History
Affiliation
Scope
Audience
Impact
Editorial board
Publishing model
Peer review
Rejection rate



Journal Metrics

- Journal metrics are useful for helping you decide where to submit your manuscript.
- Each metric has its own limitations.
- It is best to look at multiple metrics.
- Impact Factor is the most well-known journal metric, but isn't necessarily the best.



21,329	Listen
Views	
14	Editorial
CrossRef citations to date	HPV vaccination in Japan: what is happening in Japan?
64	Sayaka Ikeda, Yutaka Ueda, Asami Yagi, Shinya Matsuzaki, Eiji Kobayashi, Tadashi Kimura, ...show all
	Pages 323-325 Received 06 Nov 2018, Accepted 13 Feb 2019, Accepted author version posted online: 15 Feb 2019, Published online: 22 Feb 2019

Journal suggester

The screenshot shows the Taylor & Francis Journal Suggester web interface. At the top, a dark navigation bar contains a home icon and several menu items: "Choosing a journal" (with a dropdown arrow), "Writing your paper", "Making your submission", "Peer review", "Production", and "You're published!". Below the navigation bar, a blue header section features the text "Helping you find the best home for your research article". A dark blue box contains the heading "There are two easy steps" followed by two instructions: "Step 1 – paste in the full abstract of your article" and "Step 2 – click on 'reveal suggested journals'". Below this is a large white text input field with the placeholder text "Paste your abstract here...". At the bottom left, there is a blue button labeled "Reveal suggested journals". To the right of this button are two links: "Questions about the suggester?" and "View our FAQ page". In the bottom right corner, there is a "Contact us" button with an envelope icon and an upward-pointing arrow icon. A vertical red "Feedback" button is positioned on the right side of the page.

Open Access

1. Making content **freely available** online to read. Meaning your manuscript can be read by anyone, anywhere.
2. Making content **reusable** by third parties with little or no restrictions.

For more details on open access see our author services page

<https://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/publishing-open-access/>



OA publishing models

Journals that publish all content Open Access.

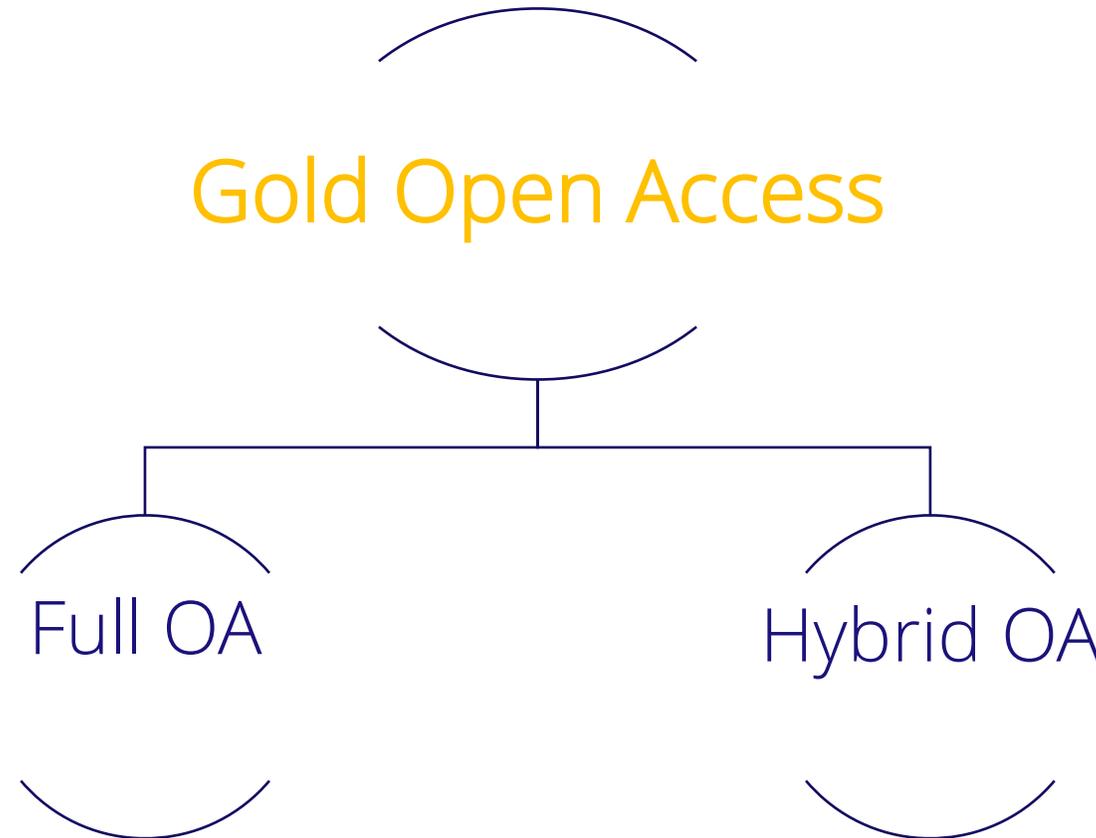
Funded by:

APC (article publishing charge)

Sponsorship

Institutional agreement

Gold Open Access



Subscription-funded journals that offer the option of choosing Open Access.

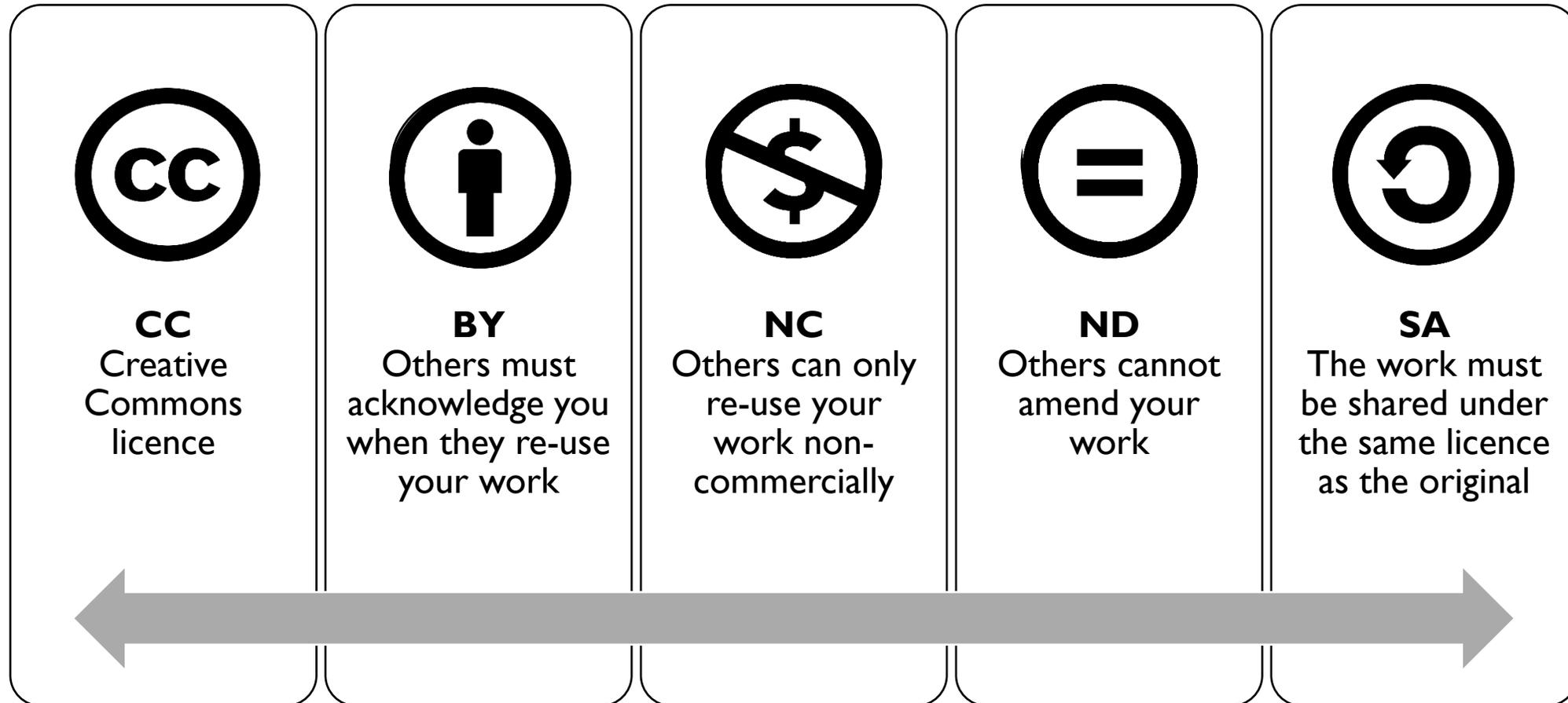
Open Access cost is funded by:

APC

Under an existing agreement with your institution

- ● Open Access offers greater visibility, transparency and impact.
Articles published Open Access with Taylor & Francis typically receive 32% more citations and over 6 times as many downloads.
Your funder or institution may encourage, or mandate Open Access and funds might be available to cover charges

How to read a licence



Challenges

Predatory journals pose a serious threat both to researchers publishing the results of their work and to the peer-reviewed medical literature itself. These publications differ from legitimate open-access journals in that predatory journals subvert the peer-review publication system for the sole purpose of financial gain with little evident concern for ethical behavior.

AMWA, EMWA & ISMPP joint statement on predatory publishing



Making informed choices



www.thinkchecksubmit.org



www.doaj.org



www.oaspa.org

Preparing your manuscript

Think like an editor!

“...I think authors need to think ‘what is it like to be an editor of a journal? How many papers is the Editor receiving per day, per week? What is going to actually make the journal pay attention to my paper?’”

Monica Taylor, former editor of the
Journal of Moral Education

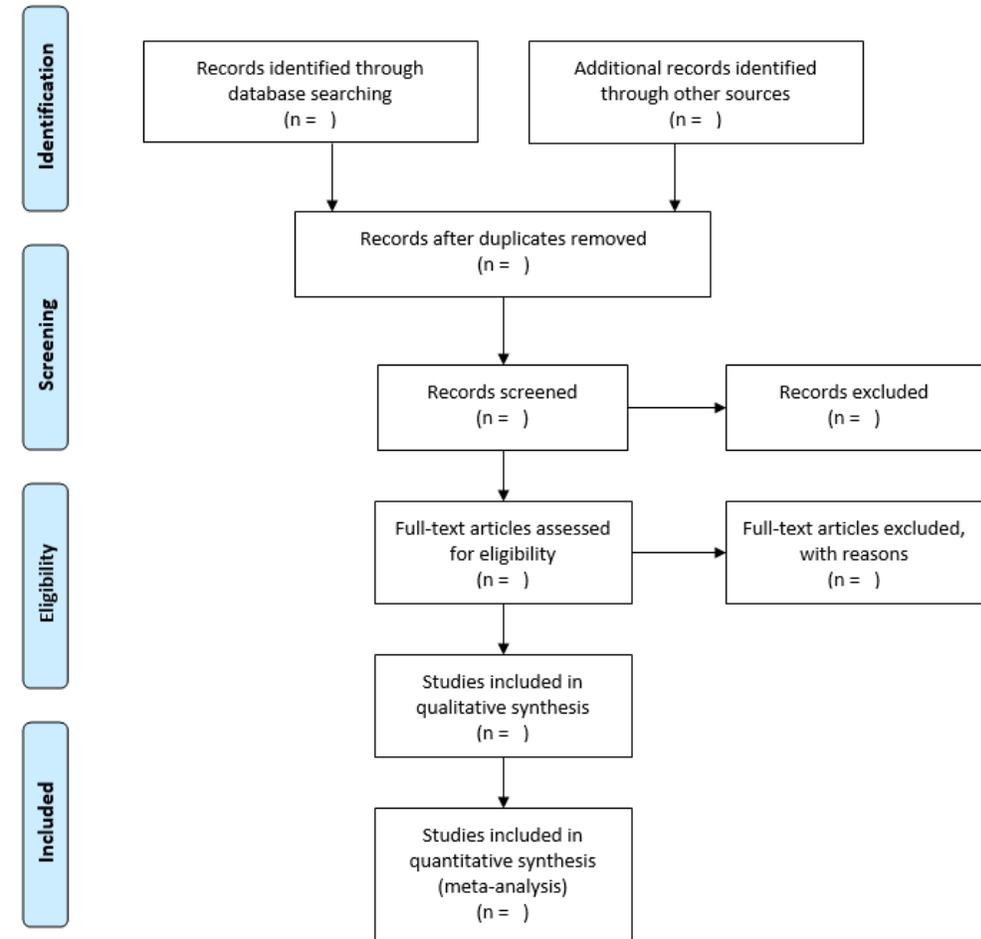
Ethical approval and reporting guidelines

- Before starting the study, ethical approval must be obtained for all protocols from the local institutional review board or other appropriate ethics committee.
- We recommend authors use study-design specific consensus-based reporting guidelines as guidance where possible.
- Some examples of these guidelines are:
 - **PRISMA**: systematic reviews and meta-analyses
 - **CONSORT**: clinical trials
 - **CHEERS**: HEOR articles

<https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/>



PRISMA 2009 Flow Diagram



Writing your manuscript

- Write first, edit later
- Keep it simple, complicated ideas expressed plainly
- The paper structure (IMRaD)
 - Introduction
 - Question/problem
 - Thesis/hypothesis/argument
 - Roadmap
 - Methods/theory
 - Results
 - Discussion
 - Conclusion
- You are telling a story-make sure it is consistent and easy to follow



What makes a good title?

- Simple advice: keep it short and to the point.
- Avoid redundant or cliché word/phrases.
- Highlight your findings, not your process.
- Make sure it stands out-creatively or in terms of clarity.
- Make sure to include specific keywords that capture the subject of your article.

Writing an abstract

- Write the paper first-it is a review, or map of the entire paper
- Check the IFAs for the journal you are submitting to-there will likely be requirements.
- Who is your intended audience-frame it for them
- About those words....keywords/phrases, naturally
- 'This paper'...focus on the essential information. Word counts!
- Revise everytime you revise the paper.
- Language-difficult to read?

Background/ Introduction

Scientific background and explanation of rationale

'Osteoporosis is associated with a substantial socioeconomic burden. Therapeutic options that prevent fracture incidence have greatly increased over the past few decades, although decision-making data available for drug selection based on the different requirements of each patient are inadequate. For instance, there are three different drug treatment options for reducing bone resorption: bisphosphonates, selective estrogen receptor modulators (SERMs).....'

Specific objectives or hypotheses

'...to obtain clinical evidence to support the relative efficacy and safety of bisphosphonates and SERMs as treatment options in clinical practice and information about their adequate use, we conducted a head-to-head randomized controlled trial (RCT) of minodronate and raloxifene with incidences of vertebral and non-vertebral fractures as the primary co-endpoint in postmenopausal, elderly women with osteoporosis....'

Results & Discussion

Results

- Present results in a logical sequence, using figures and/or tables to supplement your description where appropriate
- Provide data on all outcomes stated in the Methods section
- Provide numeric results as both absolute numbers and derivatives such as percentages

Discussion

- Summarize the main findings of your study and explore explanations for these
- Emphasize the new and important aspects of your study and put these in context
- Discuss study limitations
- Link conclusions with aims of the study, where data supports this

Publication ethics - issues that can arise

- Authorship
- Duplicate submissions
- Competing interests
- Data or image fabrication/falsification
- Plagiarism/ text recycling
- Peer review manipulation
- Breaches of copyright

www.icmje.org/

www.publicationethics.org

Originality

Plagiarism

- The appropriation of another person's/groups ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit
- Includes content from books and websites (blogs)

Text recycling/self-plagiarism

- The excessive repeated use of own work (text, figures, data, ideas, etc)
- Leads to redundant publication
- Distorts the scientific record

Submitting a manuscript to a journal

Before you start, make sure that you have the following:

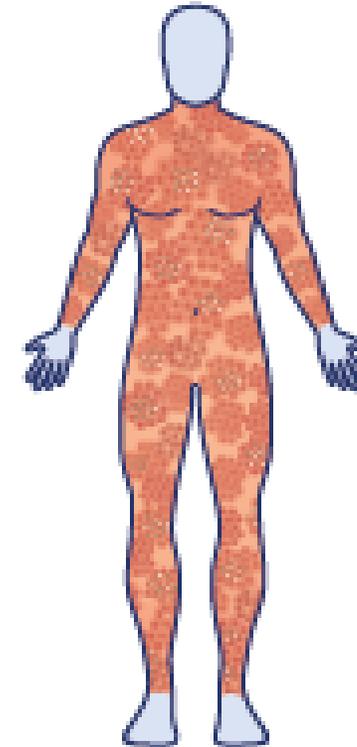
- All the manuscript files, figures, tables and any other data files which may make up your submission
- Permission to use images and data
- Email addresses for all your co-authors and their names (check spelling!) as they would want them to appear in the final citation of a published paper
- Agreement with co-authors on publishing choices and responsibilities
- The correct, anonymized version of your paper

Top reasons for rejection

1. Choosing the wrong journal
2. Not a true journal article
3. Not following the journal's author guidelines with regards to formatting
4. Poor style, grammar, punctuation or English
5. Manuscript lacks structure and is difficult to follow
6. No contribution to the subject
7. Not properly contextualised
8. Libellous, unethical, rude or lacks objectivity

Enhancing Your Article Content: What We Offer at Taylor & Francis

- Text and graphical plain language summaries
- Graphical abstracts
- Video abstracts



In addition to skin problems, people with GPP often have other symptoms:

					
Fever	Chills	Severe pain	Loss of appetite (not feeling hungry)	Feeling sick	Feeling tired and generally unwell

Enhancing Your Article

Text PLS (250 words max and no bullet points)

- Plain language summaries (PLS) communicate the significance of scientific research to a broad audience, in jargon-free and clear language.
- **Text PLS** appear directly below the abstract on both the journal website and PubMed, making it **freely available to read**, and is included in the printed article.

Graphical PLS

- Similar to the text PLS but it can include one image or graphic
- Published in front of the paywall on the journal website, below the abstract and text PLS.
- Included in online and print version of the article but not published on PubMed.

Graphical abstracts

- Provides a concise visual summary of the main conclusions of your article.
- Published in front of the paywall on the journal website, below the abstract and text PLS.
- Included in online and print version of the article but not published on PubMed.

Video abstracts

- Short video that provides a concise summary of your article and can include visuals and animations.
- Published in front of the paywall

Click the links for more information on writing [PLS](#) and [graphical abstracts](#)

ABSTRACT

Introduction

The World Health Organization recommends vaccination against hepatitis A virus (HAV) for children aged 1 year and older in areas where endemicity has shifted from high to intermediate. There are no recent comprehensive reviews of the epidemiology of HAV infection in Latin America, but seroprevalence and socioeconomic data suggest that, with improved clean water and sanitation systems, countries are transitioning to intermediate endemicity.

Areas covered

We conducted a systematic literature review of the epidemiology of HAV infection in 25 countries in the Latin American region, which included gray literature. We compiled data on HAV incidence and prevalence, including the identification of epidemiological changes observed in countries that established pediatric HAV vaccination programs.

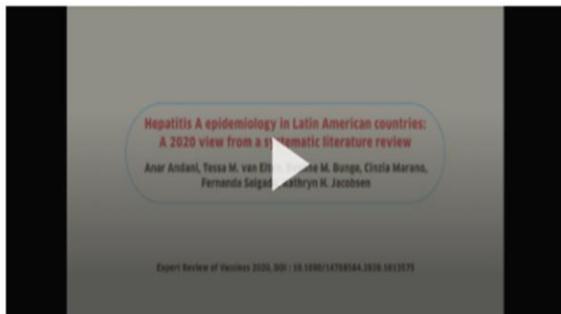
Expert opinion

We identified 59 relevant articles, including 34 peer-reviewed seroprevalence studies (12 recent studies from Brazil), three incidence studies, and six vaccine impact studies (three from Argentina). Based on the estimated age at midpoint of population immunity in each country, most have a high-intermediate, intermediate, or low-intermediate level of HAV endemicity, suggesting that national childhood immunization may be an appropriate disease prevention strategy. However, recent data were lacking for most countries. Improved data quality and continued epidemiological surveillance are required for this region.

Video Abstract

Read the transcript:

Watch the video on Vimeo



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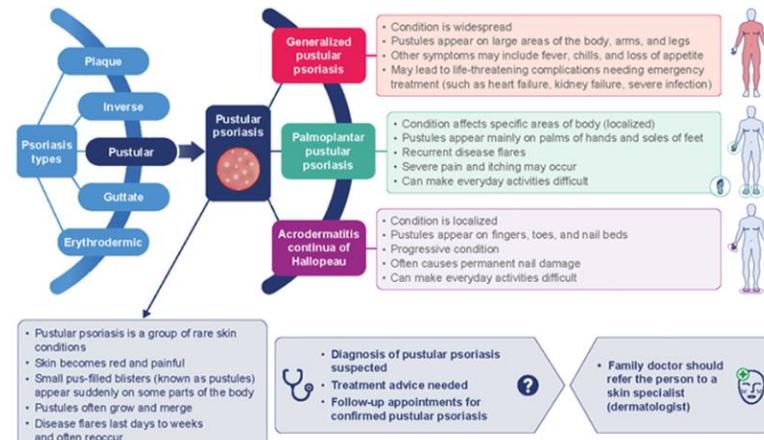
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Abstract

Pustular psoriasis refers to a heterogeneous group of chronic inflammatory skin disorders that are clinically, histologically, and genetically distinct from plaque psoriasis. Pustular psoriasis may present as a recurrent systemic illness (generalized pustular psoriasis [GPP]), or as localized disease affecting the palms and/or soles (palmoplantar pustulosis [PPP], also known as palmoplantar pustular psoriasis), or the digits/nail beds (acrodermatitis continua of Hallopeau [ACH]). These conditions are rare, but their possible severity and consequences should not be underestimated. GPP, especially an acute episode (flare), may be a medical emergency, with potentially life-threatening complications. PPP and ACH are often debilitating conditions. PPP is associated with impaired health-related quality of life and psychiatric morbidity, while ACH threatens irreversible nail and/or bone damage. These conditions can be difficult to diagnose; thus, primary care providers should not hesitate to contact a dermatologist for advice and/or patient referral. The role of corticosteroids in triggering and leading to flares of GPP should also be noted, and physicians should avoid the use of systemic corticosteroids in the management of any form of psoriasis.

Keywords: Acrodermatitis continua of Hallopeau; generalized pustular psoriasis; palmoplantar pustulosis; primary care; psoriasis; von Zumbusch.

Plain Language Summary

PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY a brief guide to pustular psoriasis for primary care providers Pustular psoriasis consists of a group of rare conditions that cause the skin to become red and painful. In these conditions, small blisters filled with pus (called pustules) appear suddenly. The pustules are not infectious. Pustular psoriasis is different from plaque psoriasis, in which people develop scaly patches of skin. People can have pustular psoriasis and plaque psoriasis at the same time. Pustular psoriasis can be widespread, affecting large areas of the body, arms, and legs. This is called generalized pustular psoriasis (GPP). GPP can cause life-threatening complications that may require emergency medical treatment. Pustular psoriasis can be more localized, occurring on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet. This is called palmoplantar pustulosis (PPP). It can also occur on the fingers, toes, and nail beds, called acrodermatitis continua of Hallopeau (ACH). PPP and ACH can make walking and other everyday activities difficult. Because GPP, PPP, and ACH are rare, primary care providers are unlikely to meet many people with pustular psoriasis, so they may not recognize these conditions immediately. This article aims to help primary care providers assess and diagnose people who may have GPP, PPP, or ACH, and advise when they should get help from a skin specialist (dermatologist). See Figure 1 for a full infographic version of this summary.

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Abstract

Plain Language Summary

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How Researchers Changed the World



Consider the publishing process before your study begins

It's useful to understand the process of publishing your work in a scholarly journal before you start your research. This is for a few reasons:

- 1. **The timeline of your study**
Some journals only call for papers around specific topics for special issues. You may therefore want to see if any of the journals you're particularly interested in publishing in will cover a topic in your subject area. If they do, and you'd like to submit your work, you'll then need to work this deadline into your study.
- 2. **Research paper vs review paper**
There are a few different ways that you can present your research in scholarly writing. For a start, you may be considering whether you want to publish your research in a journal or as a book. If you decide to publish in a journal, you might be writing up your original research and findings as a research paper. Alternatively, you may be conducting a review of existing research in a feature review paper. Which route you choose will impact the timeline, expectations, and writing up of your work.

3. **Ethical guidance**
Every subject area has ethical guidance (we'll be covering this in more detail in chapter 2), especially when it comes to clinical or medical research.

4. **Funding stipulations**
If you have funding or a grant for your research, then there may be stipulations around how you publish your research. For example, you may need to make your final published article open access at the point of publication or at a certain point after publication.

5. **Is this the right time to publish?**
Publishing is an important part of your career as a researcher, and so there can be pressure to publish your work early on. But getting your research published can, as well as submitting your PhD thesis to a journal, provide a valuable opportunity to get your research published if it's a high-quality piece of work, presenting original or innovative evidence or focused an impact within (or beyond) your field.

So, if you're looking to publish, approach your study design and write up with this in mind.

The process for publishing research in a journal

Submitting your research to a journal can be a lengthy process, involving a series of steps that ensure published research is as robust as it can be. To review, always, you need to invest time up front to ensure it is the very best reflection of your study.

You also need to be prepared for your work to be scrutinized and the process of peer review often includes an element of 'back and forth' rounds of review and revisions (more common) than you might expect. This can be a frustrating time as you've been working on your paper for a long time and are eager to see it published. It is, however, an integral part of the process.

Peer review is designed to assess the validity, quality, and often the originality of papers for publication. Its ultimate purpose is to maintain the integrity of research by filtering out lower-quality papers. For publishers, peer review functions as a filter for content. It ensures the papers published in journals are high-quality and match the needs and standards of the researchers who read those titles.

It's therefore important to be aware of, and prepared for, the process from the start. That way you can build in the timeline of your work and ensure that you stay motivated throughout.

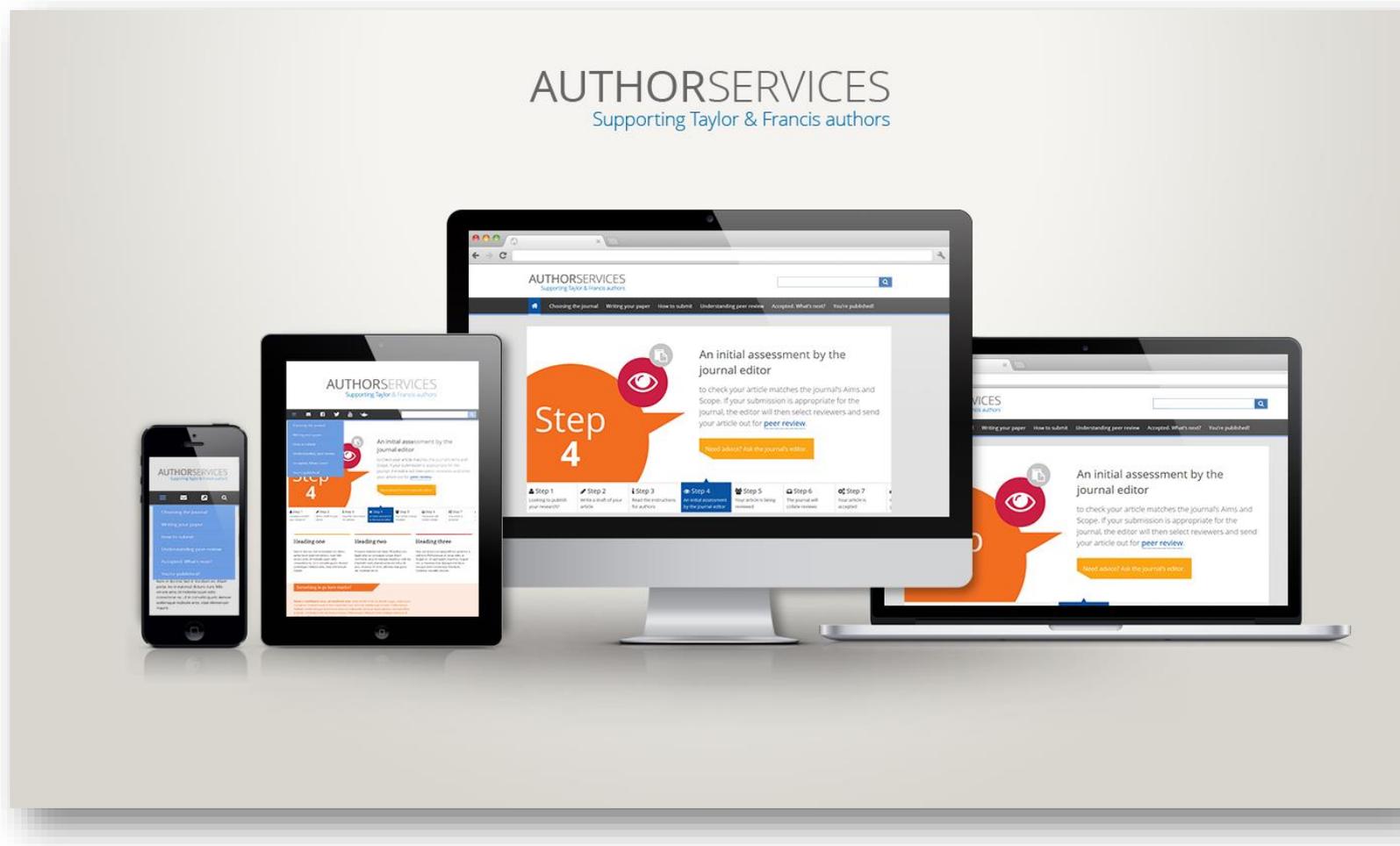
The graphic on the following page gives an overview of the full process of publishing an article in an academic journal.



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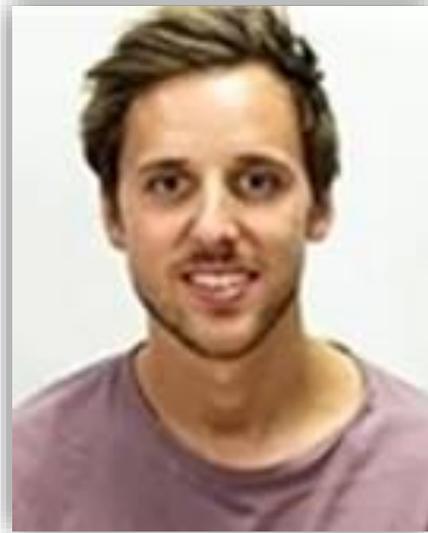
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Guidance, news and ideas for authors



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Questions?



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