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## HOW NOT TO WRITE A MEDICAL PAPER

COMO NÃO ESCREVER UM ARTIGO MÉDICO

CÓMO NO ESCRIBIR UN ARTÍCULO MÉDICO

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<sup>1</sup>Jacqueline Messias dos Santos

<sup>1</sup>Gildenir Carolino Santos

Universidade Estadual de Campinas<sup>1</sup>

### *Correspondence to Author*

Jacqueline Messias dos Santos

Universidade Estadual de Campinas

Campinas – SP – Brazil

E-mail: [jacquelinemessiasds@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelinemessiasds@gmail.com)

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9036-3021>

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**JITA:** AC. Relationship of LIS with other fields



HEINEMANN, Markus K. **Como não escrever um artigo médico**: um guia prático. Rio de Janeiro: Thieme, 2016. 94 p. ISBN 978-85-67661-19-3.

The book written by Markus K. Heinemann, PhD and specialist in vascular, thoracic and cardiac surgery, by the Universitätsmedizin Mains, Germany, aims to point out the most common errors in writing a medical article, and thus guide the writing of publication of the area, detailing, from your point of view, the main topics and doubts that may arise during the creation process.

In his experience as editor-in-chief of the scientific journal The Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeon, he came into contact with various types of articles with recurring errors, and from there came the idea for a step-by-step guide on how to avoid them, all the details that scientific and academic writing demands. Taking into account that the language of a scientific article is often extremely complex and sometimes inaccessible, the author proposes to write something simple that is easy for the reader to understand and understand so that the reader can also write medical articles with language clear and accessible. The failures of the articles, according to the author, are of editorial orders and recurrently repeated, in that sense, the manual contributes significantly to the understanding of the entire process of elaborating a medical article, from writing to publication.

The work is divided in eight chapters, addressing the following topics:

1. Introduction
2. Why publishers accept / reject manuscripts
3. Types of scientific articles
4. Components of the manuscript
5. Review process and corrections
6. Publication Ethics
7. It's good to know (production chain, indexing, factors and the like, what publishers do, open access, glossary)

## 8. Final advice.

In this way, the eight chapters address 22 fundamental points related to the publication of a scientific paper of Medicine, containing 94 pages composed for a comfortable reading and good humor, illustrated with good and bad examples. The referent book was published in 2016 by the medical and scientific publishing company Thieme, based in Rio de Janeiro.

To begin thematic approaches, the author analyzes the main reasons why articles are rejected based on an article written by Georges Bordage of the Department of Medical Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago in the United States. This article was written by analyzing comments from reviewers of scientific articles and from that it was possible to compile a list of the main items that caused its rejection, which is partially presented to the reader. In this list, the main errors are related to statistical methods, inadequate, misinterpreted or insufficient sample. Another factor described that also contributes to the rejection of the article is the lack of relevance or coherence of the topics covered.

The author then summarizes the types of scientific articles that may be published in the area: original article, meta-analysis, review article, how-to-do, case report and letter to the editor. With this, it makes an approach that, although brief, is very instructive, about how the different types of article are given within the medical area and its main characteristics, as well as pertinent observations on what to do or not in each of them. It is important to emphasize that the author seeks to put good and bad examples to illustrate the topic he is addressing, contributing to a better understanding on the part of the reader, as well as using tables and graphs to make clear what is considered correct and wrong in the articles . In addition, the author also makes recommendations for consultation platforms, studies, websites and other materials in addition to the manual as suggestions that the reader can call and consult.

Continuing the theme of the book, the author devotes the entire chapter 4 to describing what to do and what not to do in detail. The interesting part of this chapter is the clear, objective language used to address everything that is commonly done that could be avoided. In this chapter, the entire content of an article, from the authors and the title to the references, is described in a succinct and practical way, through the good and bad examples as already mentioned above.

After this approach, the next chapter deals with the processes of correction and revision, a stage of great relevance and centrality in the elaboration of an article. Still working with positive and negative examples, the reader is presented with the best ways to respond to a return of work and signal the changes of the text. The author explains the role of the reviewer and editor in this process and the variables that may interfere with the review. This explanation is of utmost importance to the reader, who may not be aware of how the

correction works, and from the moment he comes into contact with this information that is left clearly in the book, he can certainly develop a better article.

Chapter 6, in turn, is devoted to publishing ethics. The author divides the ethics issue into two topics: the ethical background, which encompasses the processes that should have been done in the course of the research, such as in the case of research with people, who need approval from the ethics committee; and the authors' behavior in relation to the publication process, which has become commonplace in publications, but differs from what is known as plagiarism, auto-plastering and data-making, according to the author, who explains the difference between all and how they disrupt the publications.

Continuing, chapter 7, entitled "It's good to know", brings very interesting information about what happens to the article after approval, which is a fundamental step for the entire publishing process, but which many are unaware of. In this sense, the author explains how the production chain of an article works, the roles of the editor-in-chief and the production editor, the importance of layout and article publishing. It then explains the indexing, what is the DOI (Digital Object Identifier), the impact factors of magazines mainly factors of relevance to the medical field and also what the publishers do. In addition to all this relevant information, the author also addresses the issue of open access, a type of practice that allows free access to the article online, but which contains specific collection features that merit attention.

Finally, the author devotes the last chapter to final advice on planning and encouraging participation in scientific production in the medical field, as a way of tying the whole issue and generally concluding the guidelines already mentioned.

This work is very rich and valuable to all with any interest in scientific publication. It is aimed at medical students or scientists working in the field who wish to follow the path as authors, reviewers or even editors, who can consult this work as a practical guide for this purpose. Even librarians working in the medical field and publishing scientific journals, as well as researchers from related areas, could benefit from this well-crafted work written by Markus K. Heinemann.

