

**ASEAN+3 FETN**

**Scientific Writing Workshop**

**LECTURE 9 PREPARING FOR SUBMISSION**

**Presented by Dorothy L Southern, MPH**



# Objectives

- Ensure submission to the 'right' journal
- Respond to reviewer's comments
- Know authorship responsibilities

# Identifying the 'Right' journal

- Know who the audience is for that journal
  - Error G5 Choosing an inappropriate journal
- Explore journals by reviewing previous issues
- Look at the references from an up-to-date manuscript you have found during your literature search
- Know the acceptance/rejection rates of the journals you are considering

# Identifying the 'Right' journal

- Make a list of the advantages and disadvantages of each prospective journal
- Suggest a few journals to your primary reviewer and get feedback
- Look at the Impact Factor
  - A measure of the frequency with which the average article in a given scholarly journal has been cited in a particular year or period
  - Describes the importance of a journal to its field

# Criticism of Journal Impact Factors

- Limited subset of journals indexed by International Science Index (ISI)
- Biased toward English-language journals
- Short (two year) snapshot of journal
- Can be manipulated
  - Self citations
  - Research is pulled towards certain topics

# Use JANE to find a journal

- Appendix 9: JANE (Journal/Author Name Estimator)

<http://jane.biosemantics.org/>

Insert your title and/or abstract here: (or, click [here](#) to search using keywords)

avian influenza populations in bangladesh



Scramble

Clear

Show extra options

Find journals

Find authors

Find articles

## Welcome to Jane

Have you recently written a paper, but you're not sure to which journal you should submit it? Or maybe you want to find relevant articles to cite in your paper? Or are you an editor, and you need to find reviewers for a particular paper? Jane can help!

Just enter the title and/or abstract of the paper in the box, and click on 'Find journals', 'Find authors' or 'Find Articles'. Jane will then compare your document to millions of documents in *Medline* to find the best matching journals, authors or articles.

## Keyword search

Instead of using a title or abstract, you can also search using a keyword search, similar to popular web search engines. Click [here](#) to search using keywords.

[Additional information about Jane](#)



These articles are most similar to your input:

"avian influenza populations in bangladesh "

Showing results 1 - 20

### Similarity

### Citation

[Brooks WA, Alamgir AS, Sultana R, Islam MS, Rahman M, Fry AM, Shu B, Lindstrom S, Nahar K, Goswami D, Haider MS, Nahar S, Butler E, Hancock K, Donis RO, Davis CT, Zaman RU, Luby SP, Uyeki TM](#)

- Avian influenza virus A (H5N1), detected through routine surveillance, in child, Bangladesh.**  
Emerging infectious diseases. 2009

[Biswas PK, Christensen JP, Ahmed SS, Barua H, Das A, Rahman MH, Giasuddin M, Hannan AS, Habib MA, Ahad A, Rahman AS, Faruque R, Debnath NC](#)

- Avian influenza outbreaks in chickens, Bangladesh.**  
Emerging infectious diseases. 2008

[Reperant LA, Kuiken T, Osterhaus AD](#)

- Influenza viruses: from birds to humans.**  
Human vaccines & immunotherapeutics. 2012

[Islam MR, Haque ME, Giasuddin M, Chowdhury EH, Samad MA, Parvin R, Nooruzzaman M, Rahman MM, Monoura P](#)

- New introduction of clade 2.3.2.1 avian influenza virus (H5N1) into Bangladesh.**  
Transboundary and emerging diseases. 2012

[Lee C, Song D, Kang B, Kang D, Yoo J, Jung K, Na G, Lee K, Park B, Oh J](#)

- A serological survey of avian origin canine H3N2 influenza virus in dogs in Korea.**  
Veterinary microbiology. 2009

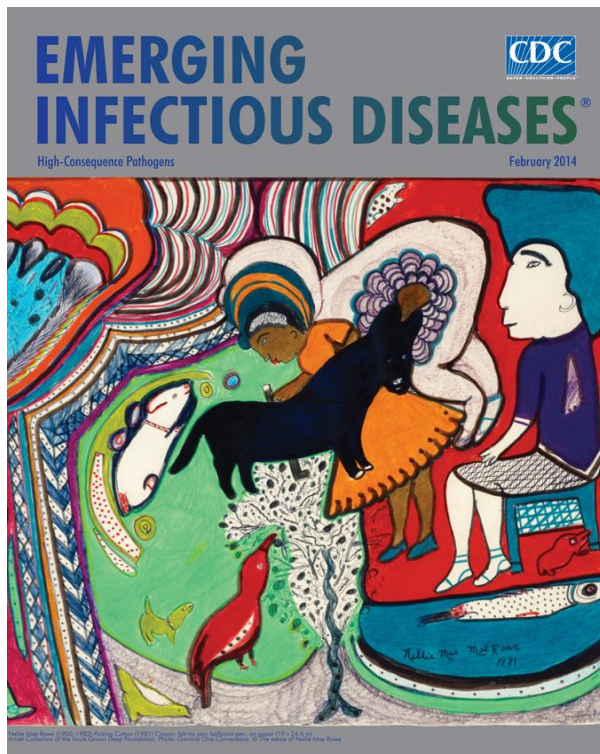
[Stephenson I, Democratis J](#)

- Influenza: current threat from avian influenza.**  
British medical bulletin. 2005

[Chen J, Chen SC, Stern P, Scott BB, Lois C](#)

- Genetic strategy to prevent influenza virus infections in animals.**  
The Journal of infectious diseases. 2008

# Advice from Dr. Sharon Bloom



# Narrow down to 3 potential journals

Identify three journals that have published similar papers

- 1st choice = Great (the “reach”)
  - Only if truly novel finding and interesting lab work.
- 2nd choice = Good (the “back up”)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> choice = Acceptable (the “fallback”)

# Follow the 'Instructions to Authors'

- Read each journal's 'Instructions for Authors' instructions carefully! (**Error G 6**)
- Look at recent issues for same article type/topic
  - Find a 'model' paper from each and copy style.
- Respect word count within 5%, but less is better! (**Error G 8**)
- Add line numbering to your manuscript - even if not required.

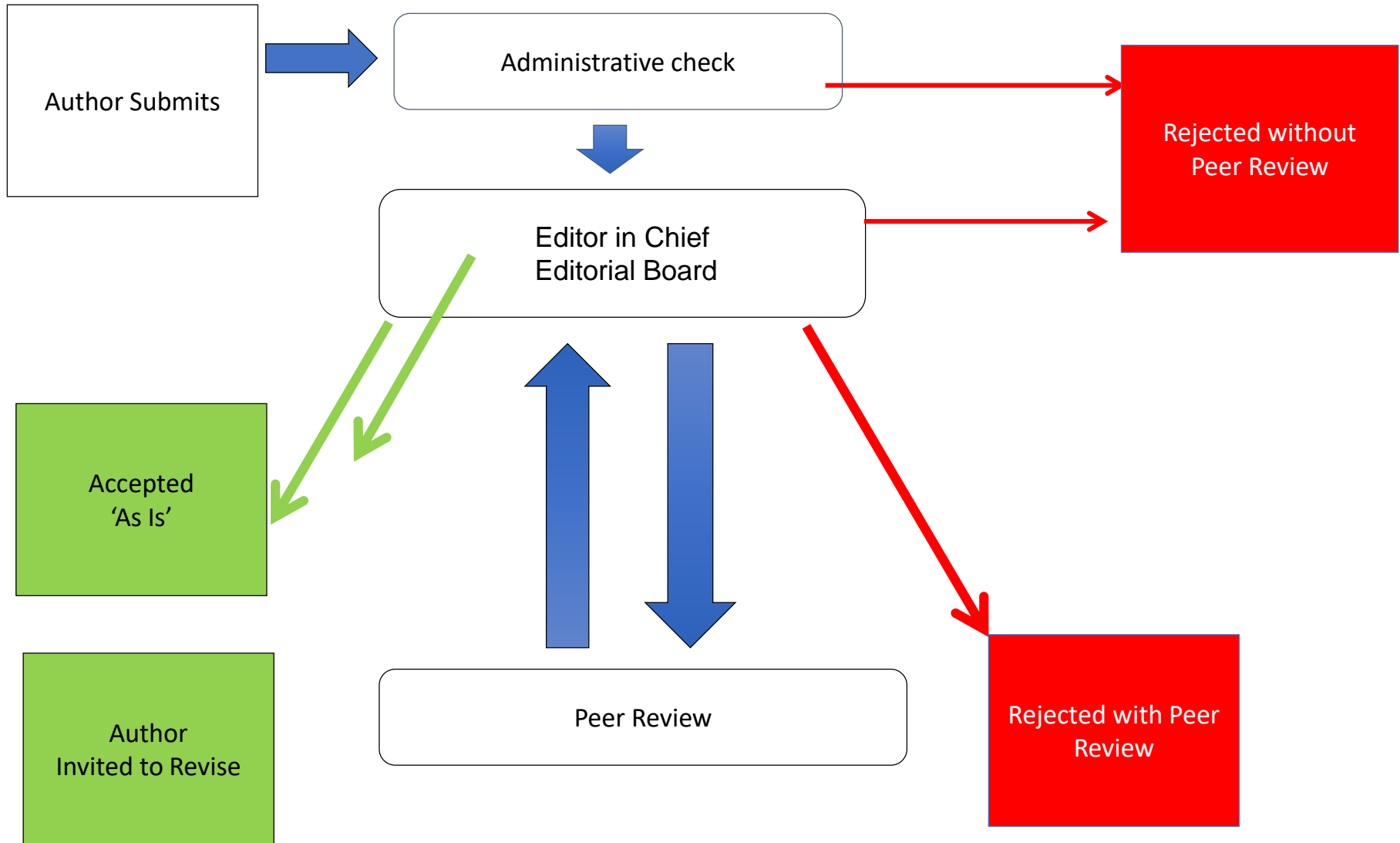
# Understand importance of a strong abstract

- Title and abstract may be all the Editor in Chief (EIC) reads
  - First step to getting peer reviewed
  - Message should be within journal scope
- Can use abstract for pre-submission queries
  - Whenever possible, ask an editorial board member or general inquiries mailbox if the topic is of interest before formatting for target journal.

# Know what an EIC looks for...

- Screens all submissions – looking at abstract, figures, +/- cover letter.
- Asks :
  - Is this within our journal's scope?
  - Would our readers like this story?
- Shares with editorial staff who will:
  - Read the whole paper
  - Ask, “What does this paper add to the literature?”

# Understand the submission process



# Understand the Peer Review process

## **Pros:**

- Provide editors with an expert opinion
- Provide authors feedback to improve paper
- Detects fraud

## **Cons:**

- Slow
- Biased
- Doesn't detect errors



# Know how EICs select peer reviewers

- Higher prestige journal, tougher reviewers
- Could be authors who published in same journal
- PubMed-indexed authors on same topic

**TIP:** Suggest 1-3 possible reviewers (*not* former advisor or friend) who have published on similar topic.

(Links to **Error G 9**)

# How to respond to reviewer's comments

- Errors
  - G 1
  - G 2
  - G 10



# Handout

Tips on responding to reviewers



# Know your authorship criteria

Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals' Highlights

<http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/>

- All those designated as authors should meet all four criteria for authorship, and all who meet the four criteris should be identified as authors.
- All authors have to 'sign-off' (concurrence) before you can submit (**Error G 3**)

# The ICMJE recommends that authorship be based on four criteria:

1. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; **AND**
2. Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; **AND**
3. Final approval of the version to be published; **AND**
4. Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

# Use the authorship ranking tool

- Appendix 8: Authorship scorecard
- Worksheet for determining the contributions of participants in a research study

# **The outcome of workshop: draft manuscript ready to be submitted**

Quality writing is hard work and extremely time consuming!!

High-quality practice, with regular input from your supervisors and co-authors will increase your chances of long-term success!

# "FINAL".doc



FINAL.doc!



FINAL\_rev.2.doc



FINAL\_rev.6.COMMENTS.doc



FINAL\_rev.8.comments5.  
CORRECTIONS.doc



FINAL\_rev.18.comments7.  
corrections9.MORE.30.doc



FINAL\_rev.22.comments49.  
corrections.10.#@\$%WHYDID  
ICOMETOGRADSCHOOL?????.doc





# CRITICAL REVIEW OF A SCIENTIFIC PAPER

- Links to Error G 7 - Not using a checklist to review your paper before submission
- Use checklist as an author, or as a reviewer
- STROBE = STrengthening the Reporting of OBservational studies in Epidemiology. Provides guidance to improve the reporting of cohort, case-control, and cross-sectional studies. Appendix 10
- CONSORT= CONSolidated Standards of Reporting Trials Appendix 11

# CRITICAL REVIEW OF A SCIENTIFIC PAPER

Many other checklists to facilitate review of different types of papers...find one that fits. Available at

[www.equator-network.org/resource-centre/library-of-health-research-reporting](http://www.equator-network.org/resource-centre/library-of-health-research-reporting)

# Handout

Checklists for review of draft manuscripts





# Writing time



- Review your complete draft manuscript
- Use a checklist identified in this session
- Revise your draft manuscript as needed
- Be ready to submit for coaches' signature by 14:30 today