

# Health Research Titles and Guidelines Improve Impact and Article Acceptance Rates



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**Abstract:** The peer-reviewed publication of *Arthroscopy*, *Arthroscopy Techniques*, and *Arthroscopy, Sports Medicine, and Rehabilitation* is the result of a team effort. Our assistant editors-in-chief are a notable part of this team who are specifically credited for, among other contributions, leadership in organizing, creating, and publishing a series of pearls, templates, and checklists for health research authors as well as reviewers, editors, and readers. These articles and tools are available under drop-down menus on the *Arthroscopy* journal home page. Our series of research pearls concludes with 2 articles on the weighty impact of journal article titles and on instruments to improve research publication quality.

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Like the clinicians and scientists who read our journal, as Editor-in-Chief of *Arthroscopy*, *Arthroscopy Techniques*, and *Arthroscopy, Sports Medicine, and Rehabilitation*, I function as part of a team. I am ever grateful, and cannot give enough credit to the authors, reviewers, editors, publisher, Journal Board of Trustees, and Arthroscopy Association of North America leaders and staff who contribute to our journals. In addition, today, I need to acknowledge and credit two editors and authors whose commitment to and passion for our journals result in an enormous contribution to the quality of our articles and the integrity of our peer-review process. With great appreciation, I recognize Assistant Editors-in-Chief Jefferson C. Brand and Michael J. Rossi. Jeff and Michael have unique personalities and backgrounds, and both are smart, funny, sensible, ethical, reliable, grounded, thoughtful, and kind. How fortunate are we who work with them.

Among their many contributions, Assistant Editors-in-Chief Rossi and Brand, in collaboration with a number of editors and co-authors, led and organized a project resulting in the publication of a series of research pearls and related articles. These can be conveniently found on the home page of our primary journal, *Arthroscopy*, under the “Collections” drop-down menu. (Of interest, meeting abstracts and prize-winning papers can also be found under this menu.)

Michael and Jeff, in collaboration with our team of associate editors, were also instrumental in organizing and leading the development of 2 sets of highly

instructive templates to guide authors: one for original (scientific) articles and the other related to systematic reviews and meta-analyses. Moreover, as the templates are densely packed with tips and pearls designed to lead to success for authors who endeavor to have their research efforts result in publication, each template is amended by a stand-alone checklist to which authors can refer as they prepare their submission. Journal reviewers, editors, trainees, and educators may also find the checklists and templates of high value. The checklists and templates are conveniently located, by the way, on the *Arthroscopy* home page under the “Authors” drop-down menu.

As we published in a previous editorial summarizing our research pearls project, our goal from the outset has been to allow “our cadre of editors, reviewers, authors, and readers to strive to improve in our ability to create and critically analyze medical literature of the greatest merit. Our ultimate ambition is to publish more perfect articles with conclusions on which readers can rely.”<sup>1</sup>

In the current issue of *Arthroscopy*, Drs. Rossi and Brand are at it again, and conclude the research pearls project with 2 additional articles. First, “Research Pearls: Journal Article Titles Impact Their Citation Rates” by Rossi and Brand<sup>2</sup> reminds us not to overlook the fact that “A journal article’s title gives authors one chance to make a first impression and communicate succinctly the findings from their important research.” Authors should find this article an essential read because, in this day and age of search engines, the importance of a journal article title has great weight with regard to drawing the attention of their intended audience. In addition, while as editor I may be biased, I believe that general readers will find the article of high, scholarly

interest. As it turns out, an effective article title, like a successfully performed operation, entails not only expertise but a great deal of strategy.

Also in the current issue, Drs. Brand, Hardy, and Monroe<sup>3</sup> publish “Research Pearls: Checklists and Flowcharts to Improve Research Quality.” These pearls are definitely directed toward authors and highlight guidelines, scores, and scales that will result in research of higher quality, with a lower risk of bias, and with the best chance of acceptance for publication. From PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses) to CONSORT (Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials) to MOOSE (Meta-analysis of Observational Studies in Epidemiology) to MINORS (Methodological Index for Non-randomized Studies), Brand et al. well summarize a veritable “alphabet soup” of instruments to improve health research and provide a guide to researchers attempting

to select the most useful of these instruments relative to the type of research being conducted.

The level of commitment of our assistant editors-in-chief and our entire team to our authors, to the benefit of readers, is a mission of service. Patients are the ultimate beneficiary of the dedicated scholarship of our authors, reviewers, editors, and readers.

James H. Lubowitz, M.D.  
*Editor-in-Chief*

## References

1. Rossi MJ, Brand JC, Lubowitz JH. The tools to improve scientific research. *Arthroscopy* 2018;34:3113-3114.
2. Rossi MJ, Brand JC. Research pearls: Journal article titles impact their citation rates. *Arthroscopy* 2020;36:2025-2029.
3. Brand JC, Hardy R, Monroe E. Research pearls: Checklists and flowcharts to improve research quality. *Arthroscopy* 2020;36:2030-2038.

## From the Editor



**A**s a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the AANA 2020 Annual Meeting, scheduled for May 7-9, 2020 at the Gaylord Texan resort in Grapevine, Texas, was cancelled. This address represents an amended version of the Presidential Address that Larry D. Field, M.D., AANA’s 2019-2020 President, would have delivered to AANA members during that meeting. It is published here to update readers on AANA’s current activities, to inform them of the many successes that our association has recently enjoyed, and to communicate

potential future challenges that AANA may face. Dr. Field’s service to AANA, including but not limited to his immeasurable contribution last year in the role of President, has been both broad and deep, and I join Larry in looking forward to our next face-to-face meeting. Finally, on behalf of all AANA members, I thank Larry for his dedication, volunteerism, and service. He is one of our great leaders.

James H. Lubowitz, M.D.  
*Editor-in-Chief*