Surviving the transition from thesis to published manuscript: an editor's perspective of the review process

James L. Sartin
Editor, Domestic Animal Endocrinology (1983-2008)

Department of Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology College of Veterinary Medicine Auburn University Auburn, AL 36849 USA

#### First Consideration: Should you write a paper?

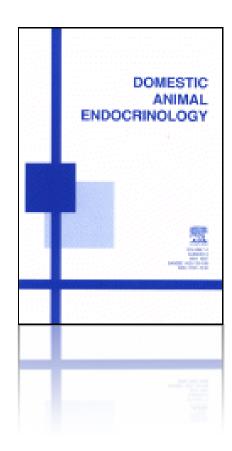
- Do you have a novel and innovative hypothesis?
- Does your data provide new information to the scientific literature?
- Is your paper descriptive or mechanistic?
- Is your experimental design adequate?
- Are your statistics appropriate?
- Are your conclusions consistent with your data and starting hypothesis?

## Choosing a Journal

What is the scope of your paper?

• Is the subject matter appropriate to the journal?

- Consider scientific impact factor -Anim Sci – 2003-high was 2.7 low was 0.01.
- Then follow the instructions to authors for this journal very closely.



## Submitting your manuscript

#### **Authors**

- Cover letter
- Indicate that you are not submitting to another journal.
- Make sure all authors have read and approved the papers submission.
- Some journals require that all authors sign a form indicating all have read and approved.
- Other journals say that submission indicates all authors have read and approved publication.

## Suggest reviewers

- Many journals offer the author the chance to suggest reviewers (provide complete contact information including phone, FAX and email).
- Most journals will allow authors to specify reviewers that they do not want to see their paper.

 Some editors look at your references list or search PubMed using your keywords for reviewer names. Others search their database using key words you provide. The editor may evaluate your reviewers.

#### Editor-in-Chief Main Menu

- Search
- <u>Search Submissions</u> <u>Search People</u>
- Editor 'To-Do' List
- My Pending Assignments (3)
- New Submissions Requiring Assignments (0)
- Revised Submissions Requiring Assignments (0)
- New Assignments (1)
- Submissions with Required Reviews Complete(0)
   Submissions Requiring Additional Reviewers (0)
- Submissions with One or More Late Reviews (2)
- Reviews in Progress (6)
- Reviewers Invited No Response (4)
- Submissions Under Review (5)

# Reviewer Selection Summary - Submission DAE-06-

- Manuscript Details
- This Submission will move to the 'Submissions with Required Reviews Complete' folder as soon as **2** [Change] review(s) have been completed.

Automatically un-invite Reviewers who do not respond within **O** [Change] day(s). Set this number to 0 to turn off the automatic un-invitation process for this submission.

- type your search here to find relevant articles
- Invited Reviewers
- Search My Journal Search for reviewers from All reviewers
  Suggest reviewers
  Search by classification matches

#### Evaluate unknown reviewers

- Thompson Scientific- Web of Knowledge
- http://portal.isiknowledge.com/portal.cgi/porta l.cgi?Init=Yes&SID=C29n4Dh6mac3hgfe9J5
- Entrez, Cross Database
- http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gquery/gquery.fcg
   i

## Web of Knowledge

- Cited Reference Search: Author
- Results <u>1,940</u> Cited Author = Sartin JL OR Sartin

DocType=All document types; Language=All languages; Database=SCI-EXPANDED; Timespan=1945-2009

# Search Results Page- Web of Knowledge, cited reference search

<ul> <li>SelectCited Author Cited Work</li> </ul>		
	• SelectCited Author Cited WorkSartin JBRAIN RES20061073325DOI 10.1016/j.brainres.2005.12.063	4
	SARTIN JFED P1980393162 1 SARTIN JFED PROC198039279	1
•	SARTIN JFED PROC1980393163	46
•	SARTIN JLACTA ENDOCRINOL-COP19891203	19
•	Sartin JLACTA ENDOCRINOL-COP1989120343	20
	Sartin JLACTA ENDOCRINOL-COP1986113471	41
	Sartin JLACTA ENDOCRINOL-COP198611212	27
•	SARTIN JLACTA ENDOCRINOL-COP1985109348	22
•	SARTIN JLACTA ENDOCRINOL-COP197991571	6
•	Sartin JLAM J PHYSIOL1993265R840	25
•	Sartin JLAM J PHYSIOL1991261R1003	5
•	SARTIN JLAM J PHYSIOL1985 284108	1
•	SARTIN JLAM J PHYSIOL1985 84E108	1
•	SARTIN JLAM J PHYSIOL1985 248108	3
•	SARTIN JLAM J PHYSIOL1985 48E103	1
•	SARTIN JLAM J PHYSIOL1985 248E108	<b>59</b>
•	SARTIN JLAM J PHYSIOL1985 1E108	1
•	Sartin JLAM J PHYSIOL 2005 289E650	10

#### NCBI: PUBMED-www.pubmed.gov

- Items 1 20 of 116
- 1: Comparative aspects of the endotoxin- and cytokine-induced endocrine cascade influencing neuroendocrine control of growth and reproduction in farm animals.
- Whitlock BK, Daniel JA, Wilborn RR, Elsasser TH, Carroll JA, Sartin JL.
- Reprod Domest Anim. 2008 Jul;43 Suppl 2:317-23. Review.
- PMID: 18638141 [PubMed indexed for MEDLINE]
- **2:** Interaction of estrogen and progesterone on kisspeptin-10-stimulated luteinizing hormone and growth hormone in ovariectomized cows.
- Whitlock BK, Daniel JA, Wilborn RR, Rodning SP, Maxwell HS, Steele BP, Sartin JL.
- Neuroendocrinology. 2008;88(3):212-5. Epub 2008 Jul 17.
- PMID: 18635924 [PubMed indexed for MEDLINE]
- 3: Central role of the melanocortin-4 receptors in appetite regulation after endotoxin.
- Sartin JL, Marks DL, McMahon CD, Daniel JA, Levasseur P, Wagner CG, Whitlock BK, Steele BP.
- J Anim Sci. 2008 Oct;86(10):2557-67. Epub 2008 May 23. Erratum in: J Anim Sci. 2008 Nov;86(11):3275.
- PMID: 18502874 [PubMed indexed for MEDLINE]
- 4: <u>Critical control points in the impact of the proinflammatory immune response on growth and metabolism.</u>
- Elsasser TH, Caperna TJ, Li CJ, Kahl S, Sartin JL.
- J Anim Sci. 2008 Apr;86(14 Suppl):E105-25. Epub 2008 Mar 14. Review.
- PMID: 18344314 [PubMed indexed for MEDLINE]
- **5:** <u>Pharmacological analyses of two naturally occurring porcine melanocortin-4 receptor mutations in domestic pigs.</u>
- Fan ZC, Sartin JL, Tao YX.
- Domest Anim Endocrinol. 2008 May;34(4):383-90. Epub 2007 Dec 18.
- PMID: 18262384 [PubMed indexed for MEDLINE]

#### Reviews Back

- View Reviewer and Editor Comments for DAE-06-R1 "title"
- Click the recommendation term to view the comments for the submission.
- View Manuscript Rating Card
- Original Submission
- (Reviewer 1) <u>Publish with Revision</u>
- (Reviewer 2) Reject
- J.L. Sartin, Editor-in-Chief Reconsider with Revision
- Author Decision Letter Reconsider with Revision

## Common reviewer complaints

- Paper doesn't add anything new to the scientific literature.
- This paper is fine but is just descriptive.
- For some journals—this has already been done in the rat.
- Results don't prove the stated hypothesis.
- Did not follow instructions to authors.
- Did not follow animal welfare regulations or concerns.

- No hypothesis
- Figure legends do not provide sufficient information
- Statistics are not appropriate for the experimental design.
- Methods are not adequate.
- Poor quality illustrations.
- Disorganized progression of the paper.
- Authors overstate significance of work.

## Responding to the reviewers

- Do not respond antagonistically.
- Carefully consider and respond completely to all reviewer comments.
- Identify by line numbers and page numbers where all changes have been made in the manuscript.
- Do not send a paper back with no changes.
- Failure to follow a reviewers advice can damage your chance of publishing. Don't make them angry.

## Rejection

- Most choose another journal and try again. A rejection may only mean the reviewers didn't like your paper or you chose a wrong journal.
- Endocrinology only accepts the top 25% of papers.
- Lower scientific impact journals may publish the paper.

• If you feel your paper was rejected unfairly: contact the editor and explain the situation. If the editor agrees, you may be given a second review by another set of reviewers.

## questions