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

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Editor, Domestic Animal Endocrinology (1983-2008)

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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

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  - 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 0 [Change] day(s). Set this number to 0 to turn off the automatic un-invitation process for this submission.

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- Thompson Scientific- Web of Knowledge
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Web of Knowledge

- Cited Reference Search: Author
- Results 1,940 Cited Author =Sartin JL OR Sartin J

DocType=All document types; Language=All languages; Database=SCI-EXPANDED; Timespan=1945-2009
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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.
   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.
   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.
   PMID: 18502874 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

   Elsasser TH, Caperna TJ, Li CJ, Kahl S, Sartin JL.
   PMID: 18344314 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

5. Pharmacological analyses of two naturally occurring porcine melanocortin-4 receptor mutations in domestic pigs.
   Fan ZC, Sartin JL, Tao YX.
   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) Publish with Revision
- (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 the 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