

The Write Stuff

*Boosting your writing
into a higher orbit*



The Write Stuff Spring 2017 Vol. 14 No. 2

Published by the Department of Scientific Publications
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

In this issue...

- [GrantScoop helps researchers find funding opportunities](#)
- [New NIH guidance on citing interim research products in grant applications: a note of caution](#)
- [Update on Beall's list of suspected predatory journals and publishers](#)
- [Using double and single quotation marks](#)
- [Grant guidance and upcoming grant deadlines](#)
- [Unusual terms used in scientific writing and publishing: PMID and PMCID](#)

GrantScoop helps researchers find funding opportunities

-- *Joe Munch*

MD Anderson researchers have another tool at their disposal when searching for funding opportunities. GrantScoop (www.grantscoop.com), a regularly updated database of funding opportunities in the biomedical and life sciences, is available through a license maintained by the Research Medical Library.

"It's a funding search engine, essentially," said Allen Lopez, a librarian in the Research Medical Library. "It's a tool that can connect researchers with the funding they need for the different

things they are pursuing, whether that's research or career opportunities or fellowships. And it gives them the opportunity to search for not only government or public funding but also private funding that's available."

The database is updated weekly by academic scientists and funding experts. Researchers can use a step-by-step guided search or a more conventional advanced search to identify a broad range of funding opportunities. Additional filters can be applied to personalize the search results. Users can flag descriptions of promising grants for later download or e-mail; they can also choose to receive updates about individual grants.

"It's more like a website than an academic database that researchers might use to search for funding," Mr. Lopez said. "It's not as intimidating to use as other tools can be."

GrantScoop has been available to MD Anderson researchers since mid-2016. MD Anderson now has more than 160 registered users who have conducted nearly 2700 individual searches. Feedback about the tool has generally been positive, Mr. Lopez said. "Anyone at MD Anderson who is looking for funding opportunities could get something useful out of it," he said.

To get instant access to GrantScoop, go to www.grantscoop.com and select "Create A User Account." On the "Signup" page, enter your "@mdanderson.org" email address and select "Institutional Access" under "Plan."

For more information, view the Research Medical Library's ["GrantScoop" webinar](#) or e-mail the Research Medical Library at RML-help@mdanderson.org.

New NIH guidance on citing interim research products in grant applications: a note of caution

-- *Stephanie Deming*

In a notice (1) issued in March, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) "encourages investigators to use interim research products...to speed the dissemination and enhance the rigor of their work." NIH defines interim research products as "complete, public research products that are not final" (1). Examples include preprints, which are full scientific articles that have not yet been peer reviewed and published, and research protocols.

Although the NIH encourages the use of interim research products, it does not require their use; thus, individual researchers must decide whether or not to publicly share information about their work before it has been published in a journal. We urge authors who are considering depositing a preprint in a public repository (e.g., bioRxiv.org) to proceed with caution. Some journals will not consider a manuscript for publication if the information in that manuscript is already publicly available. Thus, before making a preprint public, authors should check the preprint policies of all journals to which they might submit their manuscript.

According to the NIH notice (1), citations of interim research products must include the following four elements: (i) the [digital object identifier](#); (ii) the product type—e.g., "[Preprint]"; (iii) "any information about the version of the document (e.g., most recent date modified)"; and (iv) "if relevant, the date the product was cited." The notice includes the following example:

Bar DZ, Atkatsch K, Tavarez U, Erdos MR, Gruenbaum Y, Collins FS. Biotinylation by antibody recognition--A novel method for proximity labeling. *BioRxiv* 069187 [Preprint]. August 11, 2016 [cited 2017 Jan 12]. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1101/069187>.

In addition to providing guidelines for *citing* interim research products in grant proposals and progress reports, the NIH notice provides guidelines for *communicating* interim research products—in other words, for depositing interim products from NIH-funded research in public repositories. For details, see the notice and the NIH's related [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document.

This notice from NIH comes at a time when use of preprints, which has long been common in physics and mathematics, is starting to increase among biologists (2). Furthermore, the Wellcome Trust (3) and the Medical Research Council (4), both in the United Kingdom, recently announced that they, like NIH, will allow investigators to cite their own preprints in grant applications.

References

(1) National Institutes of Health. NOT-OD-17-050: Reporting Preprints and Other Interim Research Products. <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-17-050.html>. Accessed April 7, 2017.

(2) ASAPbio. Biology preprints over time. <http://asapbio.org/preprint-info/biology-preprints-over-time>. Accessed April 21, 2017.

(3) Wellcome Trust. We now accept preprints in grant applications. <https://wellcome.ac.uk/news/we-now-accept-preprints-grant-applications>. Accessed April 21, 2017.

(4) Medical Research Council. The MRC supports preprints. <https://www.mrc.ac.uk/news/browse/the-mrc-supports-preprints/>. Accessed April 21, 2017.

Update on Beall's list of suspected predatory journals and publishers

-- Amy Ninetto

In the last issue of [The Write Stuff](#), we reported that "Beall's list," a widely used catalog of suspected or confirmed predatory journals and publishers, had been taken off-line for unknown reasons.

The list, maintained by Jeffrey Beall, an academic librarian at the University of Colorado Denver, identified open-access journals and publishers that use unscrupulous practices such as faking peer review, evading transparency about fees, and publishing plagiarized material. Although Beall's list provoked some controversy, many scholars came to rely on it to help them recognize journals that are best avoided.

Beall had been running his site, [Scholarly Open Access](#), since 2008, but in January 2017, internet users noticed that the site had been [wiped clean of all content](#) and was displaying the message "This service is no longer available." Beall's once-active Twitter account also went

silent, and his faculty web page at the University of Colorado Denver was removed, although he remains an employee of the university. Speculation and rumors about the reasons for the takedown circulated online, but Beall himself said nothing.

In March, Beall finally spoke with the media, but he did not provide much information about what happened to his list. As perhaps the most visible expert on predatory publishing, Beall was interviewed for stories in [The New York Times](#) and [The New Yorker](#) about a “sting” operation conducted by Polish researchers against several predatory publishers. Asked by *The New Yorker* about the sudden disappearance of his list, Beall said only that he had been pressured by his university to stop working on it and that he is “basically done with it.”

Cached versions of Beall’s website are available online, but they are not up-to-date and therefore may contain inaccurate information.

Fortunately, several other initiatives to help authors identify predatory publishers are still available. The [Think. Check. Submit.](#) website, for example, which we reported on in the [Winter 2017](#) issue of *The Write Stuff*, offers authors a toolkit for assessing the quality of journals they are considering.

While Beall’s list was a “blacklist”—it listed known or suspected predatory publishers—other organizations are building “whitelists” of confirmed legitimate open-access publishers.

Membership in the [Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association](#), which includes large traditional publishers that sometimes use the open-access model as well as all–open-access publishers such as Public Library of Science (PLOS), requires publishers to adhere to standards of transparency regarding ownership, peer review, misconduct, conflicts of interest, and fees. Similarly, membership in the [Committee on Publication Ethics](#), which is made up of editors of traditional and open-access journals, requires adherence to a code of ethical conduct and best practice guidelines.

The [Directory of Open Access Journals \(DOAJ\)](#) aims to be a comprehensive list of open-access journals that adhere to certain quality standards. The DOAJ also gives a “seal of approval” to open-access journals that adhere to the highest standards of openness, although the seal does not itself indicate quality.

Because no list is perfect, we recommend submitting only to journals that you and your colleagues know and trust.

Using double and single quotation marks

-- *Stephanie Deming*

Quotation marks have many uses. Among the most common are to indicate a direct quotation of speech or text and to indicate that a word or phrase is being used in an unusual way. When quotation marks are required, double quotation marks (“...”), not single quotation marks (‘...’), should generally be used.

Incorrect: ‘After years of effort, we have finally identified a clear path forward for rational development of effective new drugs,’ she said.

Correct: “After years of effort, we have finally identified a clear path forward for rational development of effective new drugs,” she said.

Incorrect: Employees ‘adopted’ more than 500 families through the 2016 Adopt-A-Patient/Family Program.

Correct: Employees “adopted” more than 500 families through the 2016 Adopt-A-Patient/Family Program.

Single quotation marks should be used only when quotation marks are required within a passage that itself appears in quotation marks. Single quotation marks in scientific writing are very rare.

Example: Jim said, “My mentor would always tell me, ‘If you want to be a scientist, you’ve got to know how to write.’” [Here, a quotation from Jim’s mentor is part of a quotation from Jim.]

Grant guidance and upcoming grant deadlines

-- Kathryn Carnes

If you are planning to submit an application for funding soon (see the list of some approaching dates below), please remember that MD Anderson is now using Click Grants to build applications for external funding. Information about Click Grants is available through the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) [intranet site](#) or through [eResearch](#), an integrated and still-growing collection of system components that support the institution’s research infrastructure.

The OSP will need your application 7 business days before the agency deadline in order to complete an internal review and request any corrections; please refer to the OSP’s [checklist](#) for materials needed and submission dates. You may also find helpful information about building your application in the OSP’s Click Grants [user guides](#).

If you would like the narrative portions of your application describing your research plan and objectives to be edited before you submit the application to the agency, please send the Word document to the Department of Scientific Publications at least 4 weeks before the agency deadline; this will give us sufficient time to do a full edit and you sufficient time to incorporate changes and corrections. Our e-mail address is scientificpublications@mdanderson.org.

Upcoming State and Federal Grant Application Deadlines*

Agency and Grant Name(s)	Agency Deadline
NIH R01 and U01 (new) [†]	June 5
CPRIT Individual Investigator Research Awards	June 8
NIH K series (new) [†]	June 12
NIH other R and U series research grants and cooperative agreements (new) [†]	June 16
NIH R15 (all) [†]	June 25
NSF Faculty Early Career Development Program	July 19

*For links to these and other agencies and to non-government funding groups, visit the [OSP Funding Opportunities](#) page.

†Deadlines for NIH renewal, resubmission, and revision applications are typically 1 month after those for new applications.

Unusual terms used in scientific writing and publishing: PMID and PMCID

-- Bryan Tutt

PMID and *PMCID* are initialisms meaning PubMed identifier and PubMed Central identifier, respectively. Like the digital object identifier (DOI), which was described in the [Winter 2015](#) issue of *The Write Stuff*, the PMID and PMCID are strings of characters that help readers find a specific article online, even if its URL (web location) has changed.

To understand the difference between the PMID and the PMCID, one must first appreciate the distinction between PubMed and PubMed Central. Both of these are biomedical literature databases maintained by the U.S. National Library of Medicine at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), but the two databases have different purposes.

[PubMed](#) serves as a comprehensive index of more than 26 million citations from biomedical journals. Most of these citations include abstracts and links to the full journal article, but many journals require a subscription or charge a fee to view the full article. Every article indexed in PubMed is assigned a unique PMID, which allows for a quick PubMed search.

[PubMed Central](#) is an archive of full-text journal articles reporting NIH-funded research. Researchers who receive NIH funds must make their published findings available to the public free of charge on PubMed Central to comply with the [NIH Public Access Policy](#). Each article archived in PubMed Central receives a PMCID, which begins with the letters PMC and facilitates searches in the PubMed Central database. This PMCID must be included in your grant reference list when you apply for an NIH grant and cite an article covered by the Public Access Policy that you authored or co-authored (see the [Spring 2010](#) issue of *The Write Stuff*).

An article listed in both PubMed and PubMed Central will have both a PMID and a PMCID—and usually a DOI as well. For example, an article in *Academic Radiology* by Candelaria et al. (1) has a PMID of 27955877, a PMCID of PMC5237415, and a DOI of 10.1016/j.acra.2016.11.015.

Reference

(1) Candelaria RP, Huang ML, Adrada BE, Bassett R, Hunt KK, Kuerer HM, et al. Incremental cancer detection of locoregional restaging with diagnostic mammography combined with whole-breast and regional nodal ultrasound in women with newly diagnosed breast cancer. *Acad Radiol.* 2017;24(2):191-199.

Upcoming events for authors

Please see the [Scientific Publications](#) website for more information on our educational courses.

Scientific Publications to Begin Charging No-Show Fees. Scientific Publications' popular full-day courses—Writing and Publishing Scientific Articles, Writing Scientific Articles, and Writing Persuasive R01 Proposals—are available to MD Anderson faculty and trainees free of charge. For many courses, we have more applicants than spaces available; and sometimes those accepted do not show up for the courses. Therefore, to ensure that as many faculty and trainees as possible can participate in our courses, we are implementing a new cancellation/no-show policy beginning in June 2017. Registrants will be able to drop a course without penalty until a specified date and time (typically 2 work days before the course begins), but those who do not withdraw from the course by that deadline and who do not show up for the course will be charged \$95 to the chart string provided at the time of registration.

Write Winning Grants. On October 9 and 10, 2017, the Department of Scientific Publications is bringing back to MD Anderson the widely acclaimed “Write Winning Grant Proposals” and “Write Winning NIH Career Development Award Proposals” series of seminars, presented by John D. Robertson, PhD, of Grant Writers' Seminars and Workshops, LLC. The two seminars address both practical and conceptual aspects of the proposal-writing process. Registration will open in August, and more information will be forthcoming.

Improving Your PowerPoint Presentations. On July 19, 2017, from 12 to 1 pm, Dr. Mark Picus will discuss how to create memorable PowerPoint slides and how to present them in a way that engages and informs your audience (FCT3.5001).

Third Thursday Writing Retreat. The Department of Scientific Publications and the Research Medical Library are sponsoring afternoon writing retreats for faculty and trainees. These retreats, offered the third Thursday of every month from 12 to 4 pm in the Research Medical Library conference room (FCT21.6040), will allow 4 hours of protected time for researchers to work on their grants and manuscripts. A scientific editor will be present the entire time to answer questions, offer advice, and provide consultations on early drafts. (A separate room will be available for lengthy consultations.) A librarian will also be present to help with literature searches, reference formatting, EndNote issues, etc.

May 18, 2017

June 15, 2017

July 20, 2017

August 17, 2017

Short Courses in Scientific English for Non-Native Speakers of English. Courses last 7 weeks and meet twice a week for 1 or 1.5 hours each day. Classes are held early in the morning, during the lunch hour, or late in the afternoon. Classes are free of charge. Participants must speak English at the intermediate or higher level and be familiar with research and general biomedical terminology.

Dates are subject to change. Registration is required through the Department of Scientific Publications and ends April 28. Details: Mark Picus (mapicus@mdanderson.org), 713-792-7251, or John McCool (jhmccool@mdanderson.org), 713-792-3174.

Session 3 – May 15 through June 29, 2017

Pronunciation 2, Conversation 1, Conversation 2, Writing 2

Friday Conversation Group. The Friday Conversation Group provides an informal atmosphere for non-native speakers of English to practice their conversational abilities, learn more about American culture, and meet new friends. The class meets every Friday in the Mitchell Building (BSRB), room S3.8003, from 12:00 to 1:00 pm.

No registration is required. Details: Mark Picus (mapicus@mdanderson.org), 713-792-7251, or John McCool (jhmccool@mdanderson.org), 713-792-3174.

Writing Persuasive R01 Proposals. This newly developed grant-writing workshop for clinical and basic science research faculty at MD Anderson focuses on the content, organization, and structure of an R01 grant application. Taught by senior editors in the Department of Scientific Publications, this 1-day workshop includes lecture, discussion, and guided grant outlining and development.

Locations and times to be announced. Registration is required through the Department of Scientific Publications. Details: John McCool (jhmccool@mdanderson.org), 713-792-3174.

June 20, 2017

November 9, 2017

Writing and Publishing Scientific Articles (WAPSA). WAPSA is a structured, practical, in-depth writing-education program for postdoctoral fellows and clinical trainees of MD Anderson taught by the Department of Scientific Publications. This 16-contact-hour course provides an excellent opportunity for advancing participants' skills in writing and publishing research articles while developing their in-progress manuscripts under the guidance of scientific editors.

Locations and times to be announced. Registration is required through the Department of Scientific Publications. Details: John McCool (jhmccool@mdanderson.org), 713-792-3174.

September 12 & 19, 2017

November 7 & 14, 2017

Writing Scientific Articles (WSA): A Workshop for Faculty. WSA is a structured, practical, in-depth writing-education program for clinical and basic science research faculty of MD Anderson taught by the Department of Scientific Publications. This 1-day, 8-contact-hour course provides an excellent opportunity to advance your skills in writing research articles with focus and clarity.

Locations and times to be announced. Registration is required through the Department of Scientific Publications. Details: John McCool (jhmccool@mdanderson.org), 713-792-3174.

September 21, 2017

Webinars Presented by the Department of Scientific Publications

Creating Effective Tables (presented January 19, 2017)

In this webinar, Joe Munch, a scientific editor in the Department of Scientific Publications, discusses when to use a table, the elements of a table, some basic principles of effective table design, and how to use Microsoft Word to design a clear and useful table. A [recording of the webinar](#) and the [webinar slides](#) are available.

Avoiding Plagiarism and Self-Plagiarism (presented April 19, 2017)

In this webinar, two scientific editors from the Department of Scientific Publications discuss the pitfalls of plagiarism, how plagiarism is detected, and how authors can avoid plagiarizing. The concept of “self-plagiarism” is also discussed. A [recording of the webinar](#) and the [webinar slides](#) are available.

Grant Writing Advice. The Department of Scientific Publications now offers grant writing suggestions ([Writing R01 Grant Proposals](#)) in the [Writing Advice](#) section of our website. This information, stemming from the Grant Writers’ Seminars and Workshops (developed by Drs. Stephen Russell and David Morrison and presented annually at MD Anderson) and from the NIH’s SF424 (R&R) Application Guide, focuses on R01 grants but can be applied to other types of NIH grants as well.

Writing the Specific Aims Section of a Grant Application. In this video, Scientific Editor Sunita Patterson presents a summary of the National Institutes of Health’s grant-review process and how it affects the grant proposal, an overview of the structure of an R01 grant proposal, and a model for writing the Specific Aims section. The [video](#) is available on the Scientific Publications website.

Writing Abstracts Online Tutorial. [Writing Abstracts](#), an interactive, Web-based tutorial, covers the most important aspects of writing good abstracts. The lesson includes many examples and an optional self-assessment.

Improve Your Chances for IRG Funding. This [PDF presentation](#) by Walter Pagel, the former Director of the Department of Scientific Publications, guides researchers through the process of applying for institutional research grants.

Anatomy of a Research Article Video Presentation. In this [video](#), Senior Scientific Editor Stephanie Deming presents advice on writing the parts of a research article: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, title, and abstract. The [slides shown in the presentation](#) and the [presentation handout](#) can be downloaded as well.

Classes and Webinars Presented by the Research Medical Library. More classes will be posted on the [Research Medical Library](#) website once they have been finalized.

Classes are located in the Research Medical Library classroom in the Pickens Academic Tower (FCT21.6008). Details: Laurissa Gann (lgann@mdanderson.org), 713-794-1111.

May 23, 11:00 am, webinar: The Educator's Guide to Copyright and Fair Use

May 26, 10:30 am, class: Introduction to Systematic Reviews

June 7, 11:00 am, webinar: Managing Systematic Review Results with EndNote

July 11, 11:30 am, webinar: Editing a Citation Style in EndNote

To register for a Research Medical Library webinar or class, please visit the library's [Class Calendar](#). Webinars are highlighted red, and classes are in blue. When you click on a webinar or class link on the calendar, you will be directed to a registration screen. Also at this site are class and webinar descriptions and printable handouts.

The Write Stuff is intended for but not restricted to participants in the Writing and Publishing Scientific Articles program conducted by the Department of Scientific Publications. The material included in this newsletter may be freely distributed, as long as proper credit is given. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please e-mail scientificpublications@mdanderson.org or phone (713) 792-3305. Copyright 2017 The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.