

Writing, publishing and reviewing a clinical scientific paper

Vincenzo Oliva, MD

Department of Medicine, Institute of Neurosciences (UBNeuro), University of Barcelona (UB), Barcelona, Spain.

Bipolar and Depressive Disorders Unit, Hospital Clinic de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.

Institut d'Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer (IDIBAPS), Barcelona, Spain.

Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red de Salud Mental (CIBERSAM), Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Madrid, Spain.





Conflicts of interest

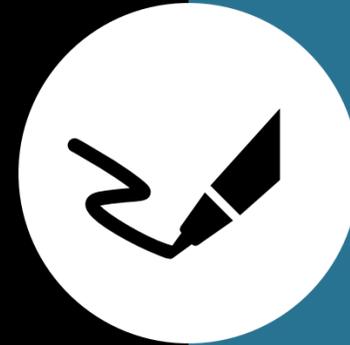
No conflicts to declare.

Acknowledgments

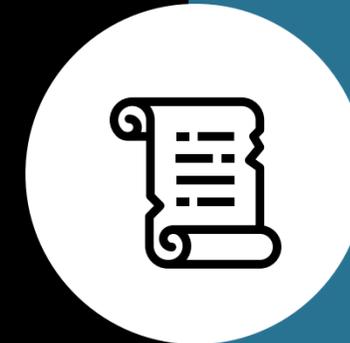
I am supported by a Rio Hortega 2024 grant (CM24/00143) from the Spanish Ministry of Health financed by the Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII) and co-financed by the Fondo Social Europeo Plus (FSE+).



*HOW TO



WRITE



PUBLISH



REVIEW

How to WRITE a paper

- * 1. Select the JOURNAL!
Specific guidelines for authors

How to WRITE a paper



Products

Journal Citation Reports™



Journals

Categories

Publishers

Countries/



Compare

My favorites

Sign In

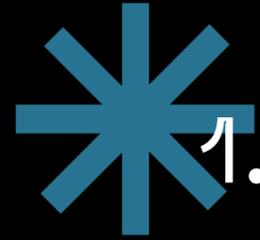
Register

The world's leading journals and
publisher-neutral data

Journal name/abbreviation, ISSN/eISSN, category, publisher, country/region



How to WRITE a paper



1. Title and abstract

2. Introduction

3. Methods

4. Results

5. Discussion

How to WRITE a paper



1. Methods

2. Results

3. Discussion

4. Introduction

5. Title and abstract

How to WRITE a paper



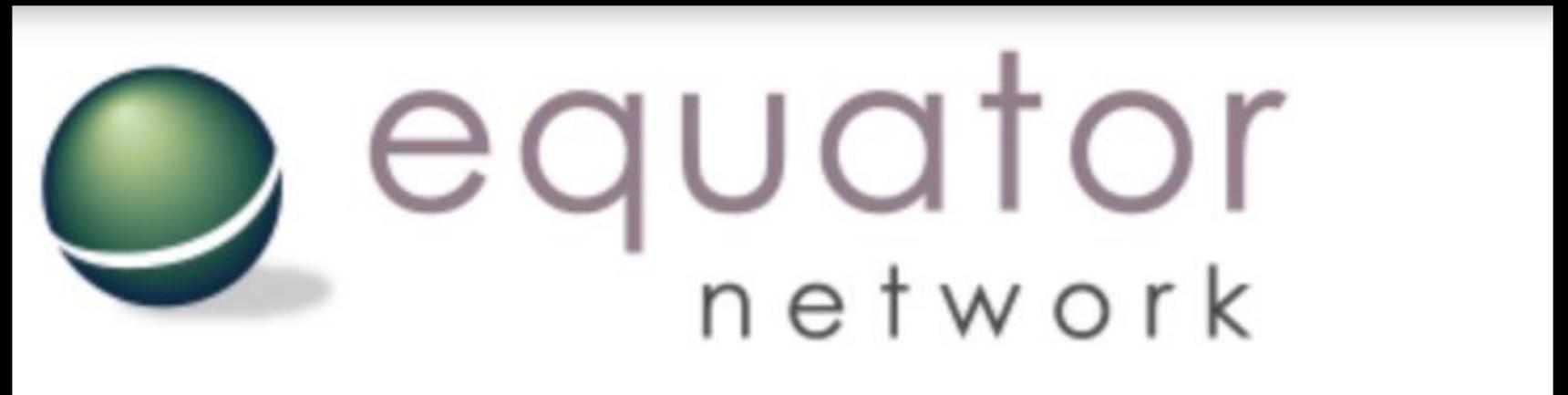
1. Methods

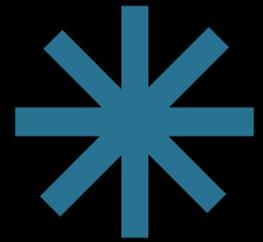
2. Results

3. Discussion

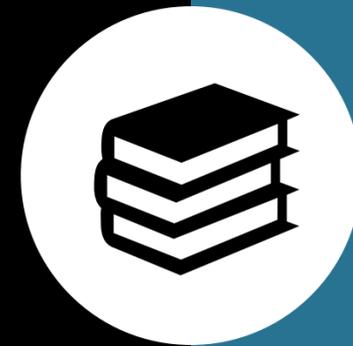
4. Introduction

5. Title and abstract

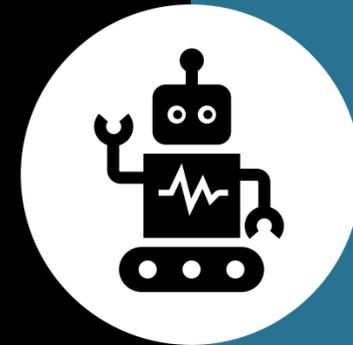




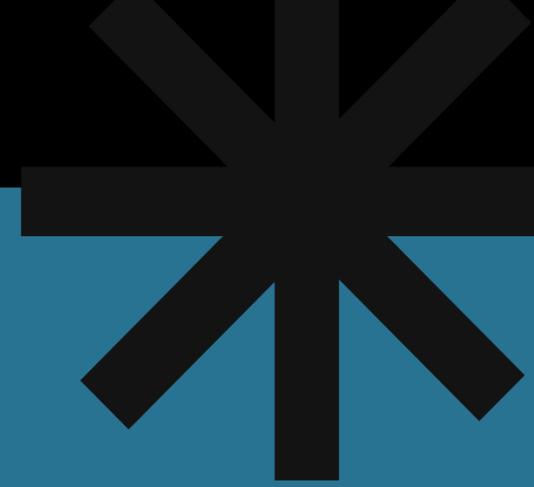
Tools to **WRITE** a paper



Reference managers



AI

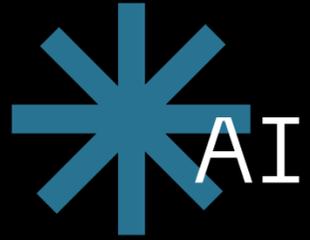


Tools to WRITE a paper

* Reference managers



Tools to WRITE a paper



OpenEvidence[®]

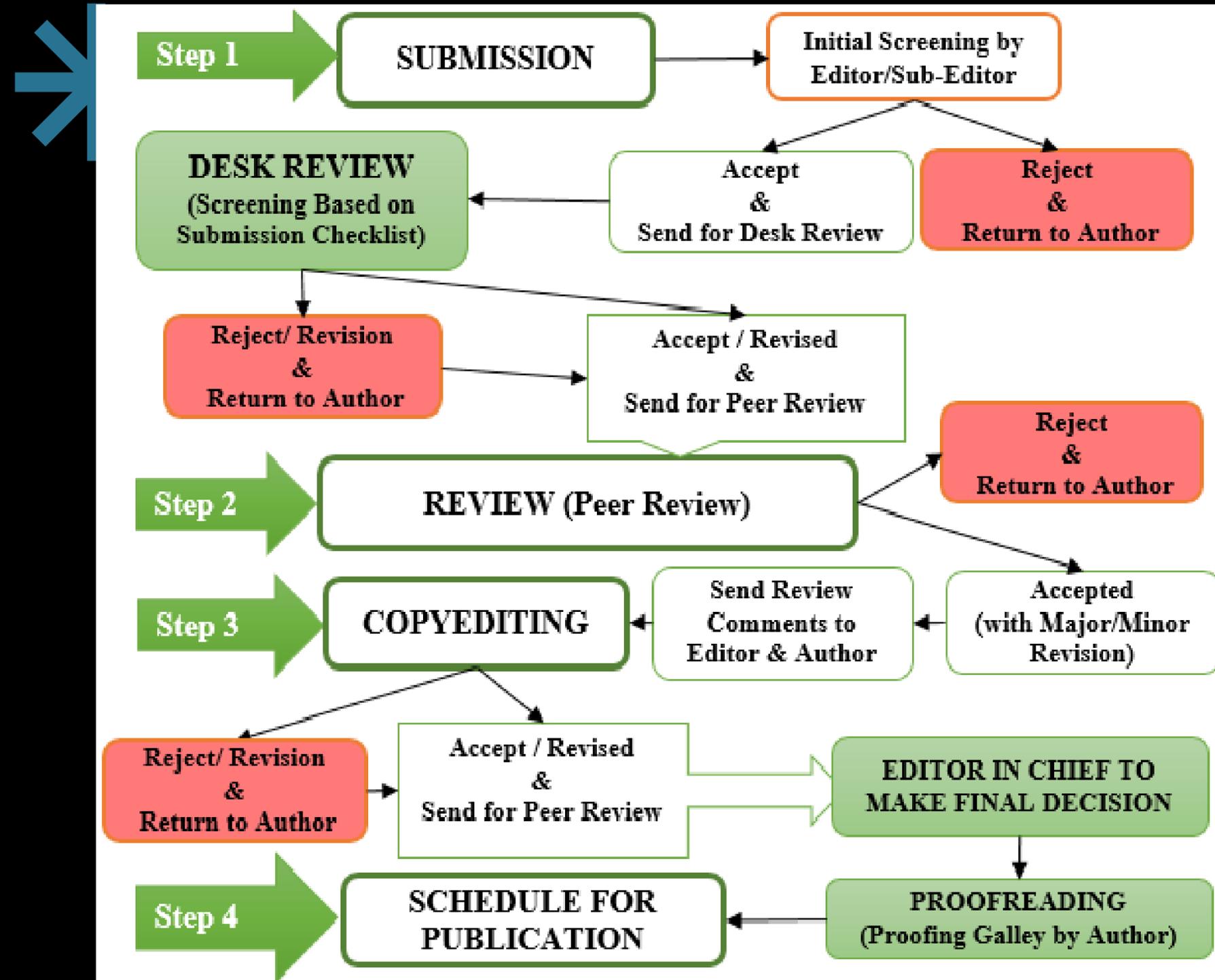
 ChatGPT

 Claude

 perplexity

 grammarly

How to PUBLISH a paper



How to PUBLISH a paper

STEP 1 -> COVER LETTER

Purpose: Convince the editor your paper is worth sending to review.

Start strong: One clear sentence on what the paper does and why it matters.

Position the contribution: State the gap in the literature and how you fill it.

Highlight rigor: Briefly note design quality, sample, methods, preregistration.

Explain journal fit: 1–2 lines showing alignment with the journal's scope.

Disclose essentials: Ethics approval, funding, conflicts, preregistration.

Keep it tight: 1 page max. Editors skim.

End with confidence: A simple statement inviting consideration and review.

How to PUBLISH a paper

STEP 3 -> RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Mindset: It's negotiation!

Rule: Show you listened, understood, and acted

Address every point separately: Split comments and respond item by item.

Never refuse outright: If you can't do something, offer an alternative and explain briefly.

Short responses, substantial revisions: Letter concise, manuscript clearly improved.

Close strong: Emphasize how the reviewers' input improved the manuscript.

How to REVIEW a paper

 Why PEER REVIEWING matters

Core to scientific integrity

A professional duty

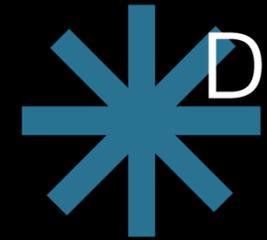
Free but not worthless

Improves your own papers

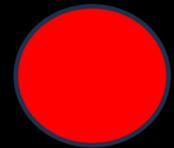
Strengthens the community

Personal benefit

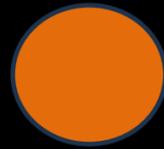
How to REVIEW a paper



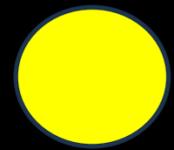
Decisions: understanding the four outcomes



Reject



Major Revision



Minor Revision



Accept

How to REVIEW a paper

 Decisions: understanding the four outcomes

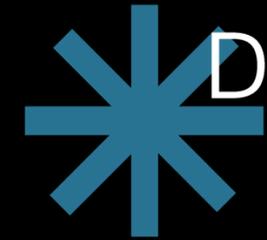
REJECT

Paper not suitable for the journal or major flaws in rationale, methods, or novelty.

No realistic path to acceptance.

Rewrite for another journal.

How to REVIEW a paper



Decisions: understanding the four outcomes

MAJOR REVISION

Promising paper with substantial issues
(methods, analyses, clarity, structure).

Requires significant changes.

Acceptance possible but not guaranteed.

How to REVIEW a paper

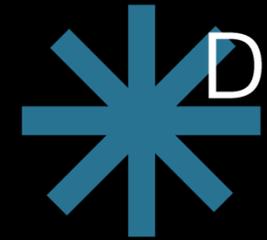
 Decisions: understanding the four outcomes

MINOR REVISION

Solid manuscript needing limited clarifications, small edits, or minor methodological details.

Acceptance highly likely if addressed properly.

How to REVIEW a paper



Decisions: understanding the four outcomes

ACCEPT

Manuscript meets the journal's standards in scope, rigor, and clarity.

Only editorial polishing or formatting before publication.

(Very rare in the first round of revision)

Q&A

violiva@recerca.clinic.cat