Mayo Health System Conference:
“Practice-Based Research Networks (PBRNs) at the Intersection of Quality and Research,” Rochester, Minnesota, October 28-29, 2010

SOME USEFUL BOOKS FOR PHYSICIAN-WRITERS

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Day, Robert A., and Barbara Gastel. How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper. 6th ed. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2006. Paperback, 320 pages. Contains 41 chapters on methods-results-discussion papers, review articles, book chapters, book reviews, oral presentations, and more. Also includes chapters on jargon, manuscript submission, and other miscellaneous other topics. Has examples from medicine but is not specific to medicine.

Gerin, William. Writing the NIH Grant Proposal: A Step-by-Step Guide. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2006. NIH requirements evolve, so always check the NIH application guide most appropriate for your proposal, such as the correct SF424 (R&R). That said, Gerin provides good basic information about the grant-preparation process and includes excellent advice on grant writing.


[see next page]

Lang, Thomas A. *How to Write, Publish, and Present in the Health Sciences: A Guide for Clinicians and Laboratory Researchers*. Philadelphia: American College of Physicians, 2009. Paperback, 389 pages. Covers a wide range of matters, including the writing process, effective text (diction, sentences, paragraphs), various writing products (e.g., meeting abstracts, posters, slides, reports of original research, grant proposals), and publication ethics.


Taylor, Robert B. *The Clinician’s Guide to Medical Writing*. New York: Springer Science + Business Media, 2005. Paperback, 266 pages. Wide range of topics briefly discussed, including the writing process, style and clarity, various types of publications, submission to the journal, and other topics. Dr. Taylor is a Family Medicine physician and writes based on his publication experience, and in a down-to-earth way.

**Another Useful Source**

[www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org). This is the website of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). Many journals specify that manuscripts be prepared in accordance with the “Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals,” which are given at this website. Originally (1970s) designed to reduce journal-to-journal variation in such areas as reference style, the ICMJE has extended the Requirements beyond the details of manuscript preparation; the Requirements now include discussions of authorship criteria, conflict-of-interest disclosure, and other matters touching on responsible conduct in publication. The Requirements can be downloaded from [http://www.icmje.org/urm_full.pdf](http://www.icmje.org/urm_full.pdf). The current (April 2010) Requirements state that “Users may print, copy, and distribute this document without charge for not-for-profit educational purpose.”