

The Road to Success for high impact writing in psychosocial research

Tips and Tricks

Interdem Academy Workshop



Program

Fania Dassen

Outline, Introduction Interdem Academy

Lieve Van den Block

“Writing for a top journal”

Frans Verhey en Marjolein de Vugt

“Grant writing”

Sebastian Koehler

“Thank you for your grant application,...”

Lieve Van den Block

“Writing towards a call”

Fania Dassen

Closure





PRIDE WP5: INTERDEM Academy



What?

Career development through training and networking



Who?

Junior researchers working on psychosocial interventions and early diagnosis





Call for new members

PhD students and post-docs working on psychosocial research projects are welcome to apply for INTERDEM Academy membership, to be held up-to-date regarding our seminars and fellowships.

Criteria

- Are you involved in psychosocial research about dementia?
- Do you consider yourself a junior researcher in the field?
- Are you affiliated with or supervised by an INTERDEM member?
 - We also welcome members who are not affiliated with INTERDEM; they are welcome to be informed about and attend our activities, though they are not eligible for the INTERDEM fellowship.

Send the completed application form (can be found on the interdem website) to Fania Dassen: f.dassen@maastrichtuniversity.nl



Getting to know the audience



Part 1. Writing for top journals

Why and how to publish in high impact journals

prof Lieve Van den Block



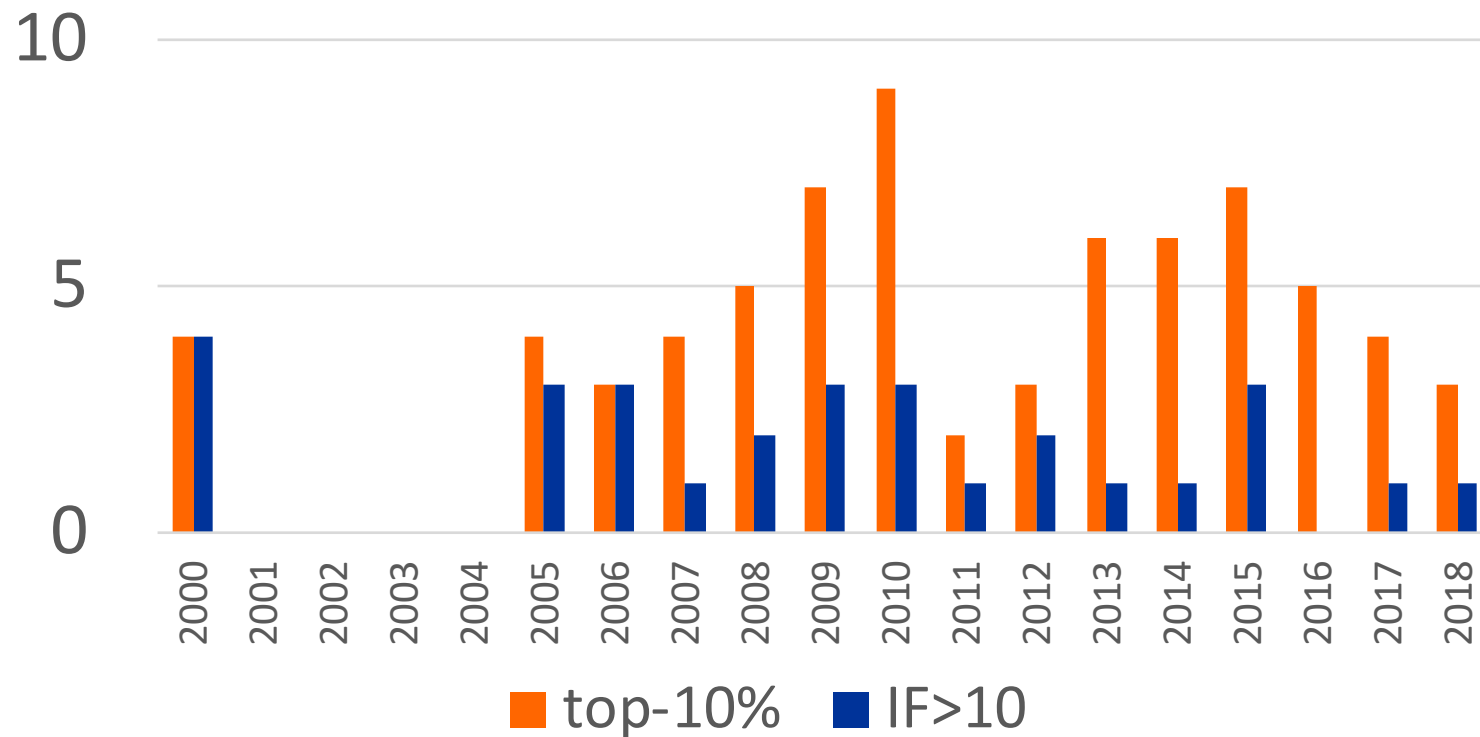


Aging and Palliative Care Research Programme



End-of-Life Care Research Group

N° papers in top-10% & journals >10IF



Keep in mind
This is only about journals
Impact is much more!



Focus

Dignity in death

Belgian euthanasia law created one of the most liberal end-of-life conditions in Europe

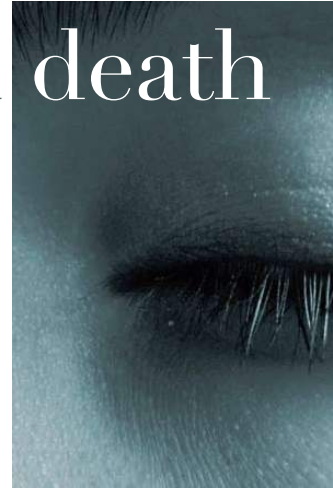
TANIA PABESANDRATANA

A Flemish network of researchers is busy investigating the crucial issues surrounding physician-assisted death and medical care at the end of life. Professor Luc Deliens is the chair of the End-Of-Life Care Research group of the Free University of Brussels (VUB). He splits his time between the VUB and his professorship in public health and palliative care in Amsterdam. In the 1990s, the famously

lems than solutions.”

The results of this initial study showed that euthanasia was a reality involving around 1,000 deaths every year in Belgium – so something needed to be done. The research group published its first findings in the prestigious medical journal *The Lancet* in 2000. “The impact was enormous,” Deliens recalls. “Even before publication, we were invited into the Belgian parliament to present the results of

towns. Also, the group is stud-



Take home messages

Every researcher with a good level of ambition, good research skills and good research can publish in high impact journals



Level of ambition also determines level of effort

What are high impact journals?

Why publish in them?

How to invest in or prepare your paper?

WHAT are high impact journals?



The NEW ENGLAND
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

THE LANCET

Volume 376 - Number 9734 - Pages 1-69 - July 3-9, 2010

www.thelancet.com

JAMA[®]
The Journal of the
American Medical
Association

BMJ

THE LANCET
Oncology

The best science for better lives

The **impact factor** (IF) or journal impact factor (JIF) of an academic journal is a measure reflecting the **yearly average number of citations** to recent articles published in that journal.



In any given year, the impact factor of a journal is the number of **citations**, received in that year, **of articles published in that journal during the two preceding years**, divided by the total number of articles published in that journal during the two preceding years

Impact factors are in WoS

But also look at the ranking in your domain

- Go to Web of Science WoS
- Go to Journal Citation Reports JCR (top)
- Go to 'Journal Categories' for selection of the domain
e.g. Medicine, general and internal

Note: 25 domains publishing palliative care (oncology, geriatrics & gerontology, health care sciences & services, public environmental & occupational health...)

- Rank journals according to IF
- Determine **D1, Q1**, Q2, Q3, Q4 journals

What is a high impact journal?

Papers in:

- Journals with hoge IF (> 10 IF) cfr WoS
 - NEJM, IF 72.406
 - Lancet, IF 47.931
 - JAMA, IF 44.405
 - BMJ, IF 20.785

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- Journals with hoge IF (> 10 IF) cfr WoS
 - NEJM, IF 72.406
 - Lancet, IF 47.931
 - JAMA, IF 44.405
 - BMJ, IF 20.785
- Journals in highest decile (D1) in a domain, e.g. HEALTH POLICY & SERVICES
 - Health Affairs, IF 5.230, ranking 2/77
 - Health Services Research, IF 3.089, ranking 6/77
 - Medical Care, IF 2.897, ranking 7/77

What are high impact journals?

Why publish in them?

How to invest in or prepare your paper?

Why submit in a high impact journal?

- Fast review procedure
 - Professional editors
 - Incl fast rejection
 - Fast track options
- Thorough review procedure
 - Many reviews (average > 5)
 - Incl inhouse professional reviewers
 - Incl statistical review
 - External referees, top scientists in your domain

Why publish in high IF j?

Big investment, but bigger return on investment:

- Visibility of your research, nationally and internationally
- Increased number of citations
- Increased number of invited lectures, scientific awards
- Meeting other top scientists
- Improved CV and career prospects e.g. fellowships, research projects, professorships

What are high impact journals?

Why publish in them?

How to invest in or prepare your paper?

How to prepare a paper for a high IF J?

- Original research
- Good and preferably robust research

Main key points for good research

Study protocol

- original research
- robust research design and methods

Data analyses

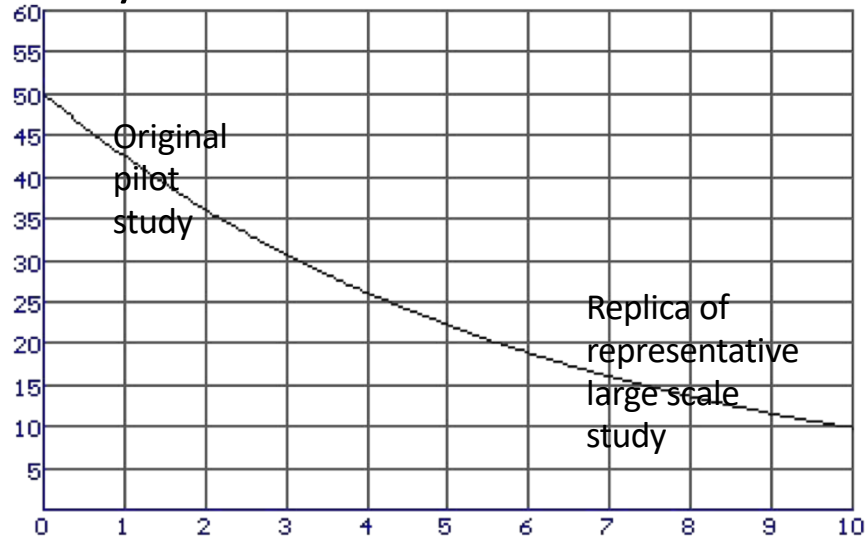
- unbiased data
- valid and reliable data
- excellent data analyses and presenting of results

Reporting quality

- clearly straight forward writing
- very structured paper, no overlap between sections IMRaD
- relevant discussion, very close to empirical data

Quality criteria for originality and robustness of method

Originality



Robustness
of method

How to prepare a paper for a high IF J?

- Original research
- Good and preferably robust research
- Take your time to develop the paper
 - Multiple internal reviews of different steps in preparing the paper (research questions, tables etc)

How to prepare a paper for a high IF J?

- Original research
- Good and preferably robust research
- Take your time to develop the paper
- Strictly follow guidelines of target journal (word count, structure, tables, figures, additional 'what this paper adds' paragraphs etc)
- Use international reporting guidelines

Reporting guidelines/checklists

www.equator-network.org

- CONSORT + extensions: RCTs
- STROBE + extensions: observational studies
- PRISMA + extensions: systematic reviews
- TIDieR: clinical interventions
- SRQR & COREQ: qualitative research
- SPIRIT @ PRISMA-P: study protocols

How to prepare a paper for a high IF J?

- Original research
- Good and preferably robust research
- Take your time to develop the paper
- Strictly follow guidelines of target journal
- Use international reporting guidelines
- Thorough and long enough period of revision
- Often multiple rounds of revision with supervisors/co-authors

When/how to select high impact journals?

Step 1 Start early (before making tables of results)

Step 2 WoS and JCR to rank journals in your domain(s) - of use list made by the research group !

Step 3 Find out which journals have published the most important papers in your state of the art

When/how to select high impact journals?

Step 4 Study aim and scope of these journals (relevance, target audience, number of publications per year, international focus or US only etc)

Step 5 Study recent issues for style and content: match with your research?

Step 6 Consult co-authors and other colleagues: which journals are fast/slow, what are your chances?

When/how to select high impact journals?

Step 7 Choose domain and prioritize journals within domain; list some characteristics e.g. number of tables/figures, word count, format and style etc

This will make it easier to submit to another journal (introduction and discussion can vary substantially depending on journal domain)

Take home messages

Every researcher with a good level of ambition, good research skills and good research can publish in high impact journals



Level of ambition also determines level of effort

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Acknowledgement Prof. Luc Deliens

