Maximizing the Value of Noncommissioned Review Articles

Robert Kasprzewicz,1 Mark Edmondson2
1Director, Client Services, PAREXEL MMS Europe, Worthing, UK
2Director, Client Services, PAREXEL MMS Europe, Worthing, UK

ABSTRACT
Review articles are invaluable as an education and research tool but are very time-consuming to develop, especially in the context of noncommissioned reviews. This article describes the methodology used for a recent review article on noncommissioned review articles, including a shortlist of journals, search strategy, selection process, and key considerations for the author. The authors provide tips on how to maximize the value of noncommissioned review articles, including tips on how to maximize impact and credibility as well as considerations for searching and selecting journals.

OBJECTIVES
• To describe the methodology used for a recent review article on noncommissioned review articles
• To provide tips on how to maximize the value of noncommissioned review articles

INTRODUCTION
Noncommissioned review articles offer a unique opportunity to highlight new findings and guide the direction of research and practice. The following criteria, initially proposed by Mulrow 4 and Oxman et al,7,8

1. Review articles are comprehensive reviews of existing evidence on a specific topic. These reviews often provide an overview of the current state of knowledge and identify gaps in the literature.
2. Review articles may be systematic reviews, which are rigorous and objective evaluations of the literature, or they may be narrative reviews, which are more flexible and incorporate the author's own opinions and conclusions.
3. Review articles are typically written by experts in the field and may be sponsored by various organizations.
4. Review articles are often published in high-impact journals and may influence the direction of future research.

The following are key considerations for developing a review article:

• Timing relates to arranging publication to coincide with some other event, for example, a conference.
• Speed and timing of publication are 2 independent, although linked, entities. This can distort the impact factor of a research-based journal to be higher than the journal's perception of the article's value and impact.

JOURNAL SELECTION
• A survey of top general medicine and oncology journals (based on high impact factor and/or circulation extent). Note: Journals were selected based on high impact factor and/or circulation extent.

JOURNAL SELECTION CRITERIA
• Journal Impact Factor (IF): The journal impact factor (IF) is one measure of quantitatively assessing the journal's prestige and impact. It is defined as the number of citations made in 2005 to articles published in 2003 and 2004 divided by the number of articles published in 2004 and 2005.

JOURNAL SELECTION CRITERIA:
• Journal Impact Factor (IF): 11 or greater
• Journal Impact Factor (IF): 11 or greater
• Journal Impact Factor (IF): 18.725
• Journal Impact Factor (IF): 49.794
• Journal Impact Factor (IF): 9.052
• Journal Impact Factor (IF): 49.794
• Journal Impact Factor (IF): 12.143
• Journal Impact Factor (IF): 18.725
• Journal Impact Factor (IF): 11.810
• Journal Impact Factor (IF): 49.794

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS WHEN PREPARING A REVIEW
• Use standard structure where appropriate (for example, a comprehensive results section should be added) if following standard structures
• The disease area
• The patient population
• The data
• The outcomes
• The best clinical practices

REFERENCES
• Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication

CONCLUSIONS
• Develop high-quality journal articles for your research to be published by a high-impact journal.
• Consider the potential of noncommissioned review articles to contribute to the development of new clinical guidelines or to influence the direction of future research.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
The authors acknowledge the support of PAREXEL MMS Europe, Worthing, UK.

COMMUNICATIONS AGENCIES
Robert Kasprzewicz,1 Mark Edmondson2
1Director, Client Services, PAREXEL MMS Europe, Worthing, UK
2Director, Client Services, PAREXEL MMS Europe, Worthing, UK


Figure 1. Percentage of medical journals in selected therapy areas that published unsolicited, invited, or both solicited and unsolicited reviews

Figure 2. Timing of publication

Table 1. Journal selection criteria for unsolicited reviews in general medicine and oncology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal Name</th>
<th>Impact Factor</th>
<th>Circulation (n)</th>
<th>Rejection Rate (%)</th>
<th>Reviews</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Lancet</td>
<td>9.052</td>
<td>108,500</td>
<td>88-93</td>
<td>Both</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annals of Internal Medicine</td>
<td>4.952</td>
<td>94,500</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Both</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of the National Cancer Institute</td>
<td>11.810</td>
<td>26,362</td>
<td>70-77</td>
<td>Both</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Clinical Oncology</td>
<td>18.725</td>
<td>1524</td>
<td>WND</td>
<td>Both</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochimica et Biophysica Acta (BBA) - Reviews on Cancer</td>
<td>12.143</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Both</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3. General criteria for review articles

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS WHEN PREPARING A REVIEW
• Use standard structure where appropriate (for example, a comprehensive results section should be added) if following standard structures
• The disease area
• The patient population
• The data
• The outcomes
• The best clinical practices

REFERENCES
• Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication

CONCLUSIONS
• Develop high-quality journal articles for your research to be published by a high-impact journal.
• Consider the potential of noncommissioned review articles to contribute to the development of new clinical guidelines or to influence the direction of future research.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
The authors acknowledge the support of PAREXEL MMS Europe, Worthing, UK.

COMMUNICATIONS AGENCIES
Robert Kasprzewicz,1 Mark Edmondson2
1Director, Client Services, PAREXEL MMS Europe, Worthing, UK
2Director, Client Services, PAREXEL MMS Europe, Worthing, UK