

## **Effective Publication Strategies: 12 Tips for Selecting the Right Journal for Your Research and Scholarship**

A presentation by Andrea Berry, MPA, PhDc, Pamela Herring, MLIS, D-AHIP, and Judy M. Spak, MLS on June 24, 2024

The AAMC Group on Educational Affairs (GEA) Medical Education Scholarship, Research, and Evaluation (MESRE) Section created the **Annotated Bibliography of Journals for Education Scholarship** in 2012. The Annotated Bibliography provides scholars and researchers with detailed information about the topics, types of manuscripts, and audiences for more than 60 journals that publish medical education scholarship. It is updated every 2 years. The [2022 version](#) is available now. The 2024 version will be released later this year.

The speakers shared the following **12 tips for selecting the right journal** for your scholarship:

1. Understand your audience.
2. Align with journal scope.
3. Consider the frequency of publication.
4. Check the types of articles accepted.
5. Assess open access options.
6. Consider the review times and acceptance rates.
7. Read recently published articles.
8. Ask your medical librarians or colleagues for recommendations.
9. Consider the journal's indexing.
10. Use journal finder tools.
11. Prepare for rejection and resubmission.
12. Investigate multiple options for scholarly dissemination.

### **Further Recommendations**

- If you're new to medical education scholarship, start with a case report, commentary, letter to the editor, or other short communication. These article types are often easier to prepare and publish than other more complex article types.
- [Key takeaways](#) from the December 2023 "ChatGPT: Transforming Scholarly Pursuits with Conversational AI" webinar include recommendations and guidelines for using AI tools as a scholar and author.
- If you have a conference workshop that you'd like to submit for publication, consider converting it into an article type that is focused on best practices (e.g., *Academic Medicine's* [AM Last Page](#) or *Medical Teacher's* [Twelve Tips](#)) or teaching and learning resources (e.g., [MedEdPORTAL](#)).
- When you're preparing a manuscript, be sure to use a citation management tool (e.g., EndNote, Zotero), which can format citations according to your target journal's style. If your

Key Takeaways and Helpful Resources from the Scholarly Publishing Webinar Series, co-sponsored by *Academic Medicine* and *MedEdPORTAL*

manuscript is rejected from that first journal, the citation management tool can reformat the citations to align with a new journal's style, making submission elsewhere easier. Keep in mind that you may need to update the text of your manuscript to fit the new journal's style, audience, etc.

### **Additional Resources**

- [The GEA MESRE Section](#). MESRE aims to enhance the quality of research in medical education and promote its application to educational practice. Learn more about the work of MESRE and how you can get involved.
- [Grants for Medical Educators](#). The GEA seeks to encourage and support research and innovation that address important problems, answer timely questions, and drive the practice of medical education forward. Learn more about the GEA's grants for medical educators, including how to apply.
- [Submit Your Education Scholarship to These AAMC Calls for Submissions](#). This page includes information about current and recurring calls for submissions from the AAMC. Information about submitting to the AAMC's 2 peer-reviewed journals is also included.
- [JANE \(Journal/Author Name Estimator\)](#). Enter the title and/or abstract of your paper in the box, and click on 'Find journals,' 'Find authors,' or 'Find articles.' JANE will then compare your paper to what's in PubMed to find the journals, authors, or articles that best match yours.
- [Think. Check. Submit](#). Are you submitting your scholarship to a trusted journal? Through a range of tools and practical resources, including an easy-to-follow checklist, this international, cross-sector initiative aims to educate researchers and build trust in credible research and publications.
- [Getting Published Guide](#). This guide, developed by the University of Central Florida College of Medicine, is for faculty, students, and staff who are looking to turn their manuscript into a fully published article. Part 2 discusses "Finding the Right Journal."
- [Directory of Open Access Journals \(DOAJ\)](#). DOAJ is a unique and extensive index of diverse open access journals from around the world.

*These key takeaways and helpful resources are from a webinar series hosted by the editorial teams of the AAMC's 2 peer-reviewed journals, Academic Medicine and MedEdPORTAL. Sessions cover the importance of publishing your education scholarship and practical suggestions for how to do so successfully. All are invited to attend. Learn more about upcoming sessions at <https://www.aamc.org/publishingwebinar>*