



# The Art and Science of Writing a Scientific Paper

Writing a scientific paper is an essential skill for researchers, and also for the postgraduate students and teachers in medical institutions, though no structured training is provided for it in the medical curriculum. Indian Pediatrics has been conducting the highly successful 'The Art and Science of Writing a Scientific Paper' workshops throughout India for over a decade. This book contains chapters based on the presentations and deliberations in these workshops, written in a lucid manner for easy understanding.

The book would be an essential reading for the medical researchers, postgraduate medical students, and also for medical faculty in all specialties.

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Mishra  
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**Dheeraj Shah**



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**ISBN:** 978-93-89261-80-6

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**First Edition:** 2020

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Published by Satish Kumar Jain and produced by Varun Jain for

**CBS Publishers & Distributors Pvt Ltd**

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Printed at: Mudrak, Nodia, UP India

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## Foreword

This is a dream come true! Words are failing me to express my happiness in writing the Foreword for the compilation on “The Art and Science of Writing a Scientific Paper.” The concept was sown into my mind by my mentor and predecessor in Indian Pediatrics, Dr Panna Choudhury. And it took almost two years to bring it into a deliverable. *Indian Pediatrics* conducted the first workshop on “Art and Science of Paper-writing” in 2009 and since then there is no looking back. It stemmed from my firm belief that the editors' job is not only to accept/reject manuscripts; but training of researchers in the writing skills needed to get their papers published in reputed journals is also one of their mandatory duties.

Exposure to paper writing is almost non-existent in undergraduate medical curriculum in India; and limited to thesis writing in postgraduate courses. Little realizing that thesis and paper writing are different ball games altogether, most young researchers try to convert thesis into a paper by ‘cut-paste’ that usually results in rejection by the journals. Faculty selection and promotions are precariously hinged on the quantity and quality of their publications, but there are little avenues for structured training in paper-writing. *Indian Pediatrics* started this unique workshop and carried it to every corner of the country. As word of our workshop spread, we realized that we need to do beyond it, as the number of these workshop was probably too less to cover the target population. And thus the idea to translate the workshop sessions into written text and subsequently publish them as individual articles in *Indian Pediatrics*, emerged. This book compiles all these articles published in the Journal over a period of several months in single cover, thanks to the vision and effort of its editors.

This book not only provides useful tips to write the paper but also identifies the typical problems, including responding to reviewers, comments and how to deal with rejection. The content and writing style remain Simple, the key mantra of any educational endeavor.

I extend my best wishes to the editors of this book Prof. Devendra Mishra and Prof. Dheeraj Shah (also, the current Editor-in-Chief of



*Indian Pediatrics*), and all contributing authors for the success of this book. This is going to be a must-buy and must-read book for budding researchers, and serve the ultimate purpose of promoting publication of good research from the country.

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## Preface

**I**ndian Pediatrics has had the distinction of being one of the first journal to start the unique hands-on workshops on “The Art and Science of Writing a Scientific Paper” almost a decade ago, under the leadership of Prof. Piyush Gupta (Editor-in-Chief, *Indian Pediatrics*, 2008–2013). The core group of journal committee members of *Indian Pediatrics* have held many such workshops all over India since then, and benefited more than 600 participants. Further, for the benefit of millions of journal readers, the workshop facilitators were requested to write the core messages of their presentations in the form of articles for the journal. Given the continued popularity of these workshops, and the large number of web-hits on the articles, this book provides a compilation of these articles for the larger readership in an easily accessible form.

These book chapters reflect the experience gleaned from these flagship workshops of the journal, and would assist the novice medical researchers/authors in their publishing endeavors. We hope that even the experienced writer may be exposed to a few new tricks of the trade here. The annexures containing important information on critical aspects of the manuscript-preparation, would definitely add value to this book.

We hope this collection would also be of use as a reading material for workshops on scientific writing. Comments/suggestions are welcome at [jiap@nic.in](mailto:jiap@nic.in) (E-mail), [www.facebook.com/indianpediatrics](http://www.facebook.com/indianpediatrics) (Facebook) or @EditorIndPed (Twitter).

We are also thankful to CBS Publishers & Distributors. We would like to put on record the sincere efforts of Mr YN Arjuna (Senior Vice President Publishing, Editorial and Publicity), and his team comprising Ms Ritu Chawla (GM Production), Mr Parmod Kumar, Mr Kshirod Kumar and Mr Rohan Prasad, for bringing out the book in the present form.

**Devendra Mishra  
Dheeraj Shah**



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