

Turning your History of Medicine Presentation into a Publication

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Question: “I presented a history of medicine research project at the History of Medicine Days in Calgary and/or the HoM Rounds at Western—where can I go from here?”

Answer: Turn it into a publication!

- The process might look like this: Identify topic; Write outline; Do research; Summarize research; Identify journal; Write rough draft; Edit and finalize manuscript; Submit for publication.

Next Steps:

1. This can seem overwhelming at first. But remember that our faculty in the HoM office are here to provide mentoring and support. Consider us a “second set of eyes” and resource as you develop your paper.
2. Do you have enough material for an article? Refer to your presentation, your notes, incorporate any questions or feedback you had from the audience (s) and set aside some time to do more research if needed. Again, we can help you find sources.
3. Finding time to write: Know yourself and your writing style; Compartmentalize; Prioritize; Set deadlines and keep them; Carve out time.
4. The writing process: you can set aside time on specific days to write. This serves as practice and will help you refine your research and writing. Or, you can spend large blocks of time writing—it comes down to what works for you.
5. Why is this a publishable paper? What is your contribution to the field? Ask yourself the following: Is the topic appropriate for an article? Did you find a gap in the literature? Is it an important topic for colleagues? A new approach? Combination of literature? New research available that you found? An innovative idea?
6. Getting started: To help with the above questions begin with a literature review (document any references, websites, etc. in your notes); What are the goals and objectives of your article?
7. Identifying your journal: You next need to decide where you would like to publish. This will dictate what you need to do in terms of expanding your paper. In choosing the most appropriate journal, consider the following questions:

- Where would this topic be appropriate?
- Who is your target audience?
- First, second, and third choices of journals
- Review similar articles
- Review instructions for authors

Some journal options to consider:

UWOMJ:

**The UWOMJ is the best place to start if you do not have a lot of time. The UWOMJ is a peer and faculty reviewed journal. It is a biannual publication available in print and online with interdisciplinary readership that includes medical students, graduate students, residents, and faculty members. The paper can be 1500-3000 words (so not too long) and the turn-around time is fairly quick. It also allows you the opportunity to share your work with the Western community.

<https://ojs.lib.uwo.ca/index.php/uwomj>

**The following journals, like our UWOMJ, specifically welcome submissions from medical students and residents. These journals are peer reviewed and are usually (at least partially) student run. They all publish a wide variety of multidisciplinary topics.

- [American Medical Student Research Journal](#)
- [Cooper Rowan Medical Journal](#)
- [DynaMed Resident Focus](#)
- [The Einstein Journal of Biology and Medicine](#)
- [Harvard Medical Student Review](#).
- [Harvard Public Health Review](#).
- [International Journal of Medical Students](#)
- [Journal of Graduate Medical Education](#)
- [PLOS ONE](#)
- [PRiMER](#)
- [The BMJ](#) (I have it listed below as well)—But there is a BMJ student journal section. So you could publish in that section (it's a very prestigious journal).
- <https://ijms.info/IJMS>
- See also: <https://www.csescienceeditor.org/article/canadian-medical-student-journals-an-overview/>
- <https://journalhosting.ucalgary.ca/index.php/cmej/about/submissions>

Academic History of Medicine Journals:

The advantage to publishing in an academic, peer reviewed journals is that they are very prestigious. Moreover, your work will be read by a wide and diverse audience. The submissions can be between 7000-9000 words (so robust) and the turnaround time from submission to seeing it in print can be as long as 18 months. We've had students

publish in these journals before (so completely doable if this is a goal). **See below student publications later in this document.

History of Medicine Journals:

<https://www.utpjournals.press/loi/cbmh>

[https://www.cmaj.ca/content/about-](https://www.cmaj.ca/content/about-cmaj#:~:text=CMAJ%20(Canadian%20Medical%20Association%20Journal,updates%20and%20thought%20provoking%20editorials.)

[cmaj#:~:text=CMAJ%20\(Canadian%20Medical%20Association%20Journal,updates%20and%20thought%20provoking%20editorials.](https://www.cmaj.ca/content/about-cmaj#:~:text=CMAJ%20(Canadian%20Medical%20Association%20Journal,updates%20and%20thought%20provoking%20editorials.)

<https://muse.jhu.edu/journal/699>

<https://academic.oup.com/shm>

<https://jmehm.tums.ac.ir/index.php/jmehm>

<https://academic.oup.com/jhmas>

<https://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/bulletin-history-medicine>

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/medical-history>

<https://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/perspectives-biology-and-medicine>

<https://www.jstor.org/journal/americanj nursing>

Academic Specialty Journals (Small sampling—we can help guide you to the correct one if this is of interest):

<https://www.smh-hq.org/jmh.html>

<https://vivo.weill.cornell.edu/display/journal7fd0111253a06f673dcd2c00739aaa9c>

<https://scholars.wlu.ca/cmh/>

<https://www.societycivilwarsurgeons.org/read-our-journal.html>

<https://www.kentstateuniversitypress.com/journals/civil-war-history/>

<https://www.jstor.org/journal/americanj nursing>

Medical Specialty Journals (Small sampling—we can help guide you to the correct one if this is of interest):

<https://www.ajo.com/>

<https://www.springer.com/journal/415>

<https://www.jacc.org/>

<https://www.jpeds.com/>

8. How do I begin the process of turning my ten-minute presentation into a paper? See:

- “Finding time to publish as a medical student” at: <https://www.wiley.com/en-us/network/publishing/research-publishing/writing-and-conducting-research/finding-time-to-publish-as-a-medical-student-6-tips-for-success>
- “How to Convert an Oral Presentation into a Manuscript” at: <https://www.mlanet.org/page/how-to-convert-an-oral-presentation-to-a-manuscript>
- “Transforming Your Conference Presentation into a Journal Article” at: <https://journal.lib.uoguelph.ca/index.php/perj/article/view/6382>

9. My article was not accepted for publication, what do I do next? Don't get discouraged; Revise and resubmit; Go to the next journal on your list; Ask a colleague to read your paper—are you missing something? Are you getting your message across?
10. This is a lot of work—why publish? See here for some great suggestions:
- “How to get published in medical school and boost your CV” at: <https://www.ama-assn.org/medical-residents/research-during-residency/how-get-published-medical-school-and-boost-your-cv>
 - “Where to publish: Top journals for physicians in training” at: <https://www.ama-assn.org/medical-residents/research-during-residency/where-publish-top-journals-physicians-training>
11. Why is history of medicine important in my medical education?
- Read “Making Medical History Relevant to Medical Students” by Frank Stahnisch *JHMAS* 78,1 (Jan 2023): 83-100 (*Note: Stahnisch hosts the annual Calgary conference, and discusses the first 50 years of the Calgary conference*). <https://academic.oup.com/jhmas/article/78/1/83/6969121>
 - Read “Making the Case for History in Medical Education” by David S. Jones, Jeremy A. Greene, Jacalyn Duffin, John Harley Warner *JHMAS* 70,4 (Oct 2015): 623-652. <https://academic.oup.com/jhmas/article-abstract/70/4/623/807232?redirectedFrom=fulltext>
12. Have any Western Medical Students published at this juncture of their medical school training? Yes, see a select few publications here:
- K.Johnson, “A Scientific Method to the Madness of Unit 731’s Human Experimentation and Biological Warfare Program,” *JHMAS* 77,1 (Jan 2022): 24-47. <https://academic.oup.com/jhmas/article-abstract/77/1/24/6460153>
 - A.Gershon and E.Shorter, “How amytal changed psychopharmacy: off-label uses of sodium amytal (1920-40) *History of Psychiatry* 30,3 (2019) <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0957154X19847605>
 - R.Bobotsis and L.Guenther, “How Mohs Surgery Transformed Into a First-Line Treatment of Skin-Cancer,” *Journal of Cutaneous Medicine and Surgery* 21,1 (2016) <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1203475416658289>
 - A.Istl and V.McAlister, “Medical response to the declaration of the First World War: The case of Edwin Seaborn,” *Journal of Medical Biography* (2018) <https://web.archive.org/web/20190223102425/http://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/45e8/6bdb9c8be2cba5a60be65b4a99db7c7d770f.pdf>
13. Numerous students published their HoM projects in the **UWOMJ**. Citations are below and can found by searching: <https://ojs.lib.uwo.ca/index.php/uwomj>
- Ali, A and Puvanenthirajah, N. “From screams to dreams,” *UWOMJ* (2017)
 - Botros, S. “The legacy of Dr Earl Russell,” *UWOMJ* (2018)

- Denomme, J and Chan, J. "Helicobacter pylori," *UWOMJ* (2012)
- dePencier, N et al., "She is very illusive," *UWOMJ* (2018)
- dePencier, N et al., "You feel you don't actually belong," *UWOMJ* (2018)
- dePencier, N et al., "Our people are felling there's no hope," *UWOMJ* (2019)
- Li, H and Cui, W. "Patients without borders," *UWOMJ* (2014)
- Li, H and Mokrycke, S. "End-of-life care," *UWOMJ* (2015)
- Lund, M. "Taking down statues," *UWOMJ* (2019)
- Mokrycke, S and Li, H. "Separation and reunion," *UWOMJ* (2015)
- Puvanenthirarajah, N and Ali, A., "ECT," *UWOMJ* (2017)
- Zhu, C and Ali, A., "Radical to routine," *UWOMJ* (2016)
- Zhu, C and Ali, A., "Pain, prejudice, and prohibition," *UWOMJ* (2016)

14. Questions? Please reach out: Dr. Shelley McKellar, smckell@uwo.ca; Dr. Shauna Devine, sdevine7@uwo.ca We're happy to serve as faculty mentors as you develop your projects!!