Publishing in Veterinary Surgery

Dominique J Griffon
DVM, DECVS, DACVS, MS, PhD
Editor-in-Chief
Content

• Scope
• Life Cycle of a manuscript
• Journal’s performance data
• Residents’ manuscripts
• Tips to get published
• New initiatives /Future directions
Scope of the journal

• "clinical and research topics that contribute new knowledge to, and impact the broad field of, veterinary surgery."

• Clinical studies

• Basic Science / experimental studies

• Veterinary Education

Evidence-Based Medicine Hierarchy

- Meta-Analyses, Systematic Reviews
- Controlled Trials (RCTs)
- Observational Studies (cohort, case-control, cross-sectional)
- Case Reports and Case Series
- Historic Use, Expert Opinion

Most common in Vet Surg

Preferred

About 50% more clinical than research manuscripts/ year
Case Reports

• “case reports describing observations in a single or a few animals will not be considered unless the report makes a substantial contribution to veterinary surgical knowledge and is not merely additive to the existing literature.”

• Description of a condition / procedure in a new species is generally NOT sufficient

• Must describe a novel, original surgical management

• Must be well documented, including follow-up

• Must state the unique aspect of the case and impact on the field
Meta-analyses and Systematic Reviews

• Must include a message (conclusions) supported by a critical appraisal of the literature and:
  – Provide a unique perspective
  – Address a new question
  – Gather evidence in a novel way
  – Address recent shifts in the field
Meta-analyses and Systematic Reviews

• In addition to printed publication, may be included in a “Virtual Issue”:
  – Combined with relevant articles published in Veterinary Surgery
  – Free online access for 12 months

• If interested, send an abstract / summary prior to submission
Special Issue on Minimally Invasive Surgery

- Includes abstracts of VES annual scientific meeting
- Manuscripts related to all aspects of MIS in orthopedics / soft tissue surgery in Small and Large animals
  - Including Interventional Radiology
- Online publication only
- Free online access for a limited time

Actively seeking articles in this field. Feel free to contact EIC or MIS Associate Editors

NEW!
Life Cycle of a Manuscript

Submission to Publication
Life-Cycle of a Manuscript

1. Submission
2. Administrative Check
3. Editor-in-Chief Triage, assign AE
4. Associate-Editor, EIC Review Process
5. Accepted Manuscript EIC edits
6. PRODUCTION
Administrative Check

Managing Editor: Meaghan McDonnell
- Email: vsueditorial@wiley.com

- Format
  - Quality of images
  - Word count

- Check for plagiarism
  - %>15-20% overlap with published texts trigger a “note to the EIC”
  - Includes self-plagiarism
Initial assessment by Editor-in-Chief

- Plagiarism
- “Fragmentary publication” defined as:
  - Overlap in scope, populations, and/or methods
  - Separate publications affect the impact
- Impact
  - Case reports
  - Fatal flaws
- Animal use
- Scientific writing

Triage or Assign Associate Editor
Double-blind peer review

- Associate Editors invite reviewers until 3 agree:
  - At least 1 from Editorial Board
  - Experts
  - Up to 1 reviewer recommended by the authors
  - AE include their editorial reviews and comments
**Associate Editor**

**Recommendation to EIC**

- **Acceptance**
  - No further change required

- **Minor Revision**
  - Manuscript will only be returned to AE

- **Major Revision**
  - Manuscript will undergo further scientific review by Reviewer(s)

- **Reject**
  - Fatal flaws
  - Will not review again
Timeline

7 Days
- Administrative Check
  - Editor In Chief (EIC)
    - Reject

7 Days
- Associate Editor (AE)
  - Reject

6 Days
- Scientific Review
  - AE

14 Days
- Acceptance
  - EIC
    - Reject

15-150 Days
- Minor Revision
  - EIC
- Major Revision

- Authors

- Export to Production

7 Days
- Proofs

45-50 Days
- Early view publication

14 Days
- In-print
Performance Data

Volume, rejection rate, actual timelines
Volume

- Average of 23 new submissions/month (Range: 19-29)
- Average of 52 manuscripts processed/month (Range: 41-66)
- Workload per Associate Editor:
  - Large Animal: 4-7 manuscripts
  - SA Orthopedics: 6-9 manuscripts
  - SA Soft Tissue: 7-11 manuscripts
Impact Factor

- IF = 2016 Citations to articles
  Number of citable items in 2014-2015

- 2 Year IF:
  - 2016: 1.215
  - 2011-2016: 1-1.3

- 5 Year IF (2015): 1.462
Comparison with peer journals

This report, provided in July 2017, covers the 2016 Journal Citation Report (JCR), released by Thomson Reuters in June 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>2Yr IF Ranking*</th>
<th>2 Yr IF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Am J Vet Res</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equine Vet J</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J Small Anim Pract</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J Am Vet Med Assoc</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1.497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J Vet Int Med</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2.016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vet Clin North Am- SA</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>1.045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vet Comp Orthop Traumatol</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>0.917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vet Surg</strong></td>
<td><strong>43</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.215</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Out of 136 Journals in Veterinary Sciences
Citation distribution

- About 40% of articles in Vet Surg are uncited
- Small number of highly cited articles shift the IF

- Progression tends to be favorable

Journal Citation Report 2017
## Articles with > 5 citations in 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Document Type</th>
<th>Publication Year</th>
<th>Times Cited 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLINICAL OUTCOME AFTER INTRA-ARTICULAR ADMINISTRATION OF BONE MARROW DERIVED MESENCHYMAL STEM CELLS IN 33 HORSES WITH STIFLE INJURY</td>
<td>VETERINARY SURGERY</td>
<td>Frisbie, DD</td>
<td>Article</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN VITRO COMPARISON OF V-LOC (TM) VERSUS BIOSYN (TM) IN A ONE-LAYER END-TO-END ANASTOMOSIS OF EQUINE JEJUNUM</td>
<td>VETERINARY SURGERY</td>
<td>Hassel, DM</td>
<td>Article</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TIBIAL PLATEAU LEVELING OSTEOTOMY SURGICAL SITE INFECTION IN DOGS</td>
<td>VETERINARY SURGERY</td>
<td>Weese, JS</td>
<td>Article</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVALUATION OF IN VIVO BEHAVIOR OF AMEROID RING CONSTRUCTORS IN DOGS WITH CONGENITAL EXTRAHEPATIC PORTOSYSTEMIC SHUNTS USING COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY</td>
<td>VETERINARY SURGERY</td>
<td>Hunt, GB</td>
<td>Article</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KNOT SECURITY AND TENSILE STRENGTH OF SUTURE MATERIALS</td>
<td>VETERINARY SURGERY</td>
<td>Marturello, DM</td>
<td>Article</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEARNING CONFOUNDS ALGOMETRIC ASSESSMENT OF MECHANICAL THRESHOLDS IN NORMAL DOGS</td>
<td>VETERINARY SURGERY</td>
<td>Lascelles, BDX</td>
<td>Article</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Types of articles published

- About 95% of material published in Vet Surg consists of articles
- Few reviews

- Slight decline over the years?
- Contact Dr Lopez with ideas for review articles!
# Rejection / Acceptance Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>09/01/2016-08/30/2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rejection</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptance</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- About ½ are triaged without scientific review
- Rare beyond second round of revisions
- Manuscripts must be endorsed by at least 2 reviewers before acceptance
Timelines for decision and publication

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submission to</th>
<th>1st decision</th>
<th>Rejection</th>
<th>Acceptance*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>70 Days</td>
<td>70 Days</td>
<td>230 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last 12 months</td>
<td>47 Days</td>
<td>30 Days</td>
<td>206 Days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• * Includes time for revisions by authors (Deadline 30 days)
  – Includes extensions

• Time between (re-)submission to decision: 25-70 days

• Time between acceptance and:
  – Early view: 120 days
  – Online publication in an issue: 5 months
  – In print publication: 6 months
Challenges and delays

• Getting reviewers to agree to review:
  – Average of 5 reviewers invited to get at least 2 reviews

• Reviewers agree to review but do not meet the deadline
  – Time between invitation and review: 0-242 days

• Variability in review content and level of scrutiny

• Divergent reviews

• Statistical Review
  – Based on request / concerns from reviewers and/or Editors
Residents’ manuscripts

Special considerations
What we can do

- Manuscripts are tagged in Scholar One
  - Identified in Editors’ queues
  - Processed in priority
  - EIC may contact senior author for manuscripts that are on the fence of rejection
  - Personally contact late reviewers

What we cannot do

- Publish manuscripts that have not been vetted through the review process
- Compromise the anonymous review process
- Guarantee acceptance or timeline

Submit 1 year in advance (minimum 9 months)
Tips to get published

And accelerate the review process
Aim for Impact

“Intentional Studies”

• Identify a RELEVANT gap in knowledge / limitation in current standard-of-care
• Formulate a hypothesis
• Select a methodology to test the hypothesis

“Convenience Studies”

• Driven by the NEED TO PUBLISH
• Design based on Feasibility
  – Availability of data
  – Availability of diagnostic tool
• Objectives and hypotheses
Emphasize Impact in your manuscript

- Abstract
- Introduction
  - Importance of the Disease / Issue
  - Current Standard
  - Gap in knowledge / Current limitations
  - JUSTIFICATION RATIONALE
  - OBJECTIVES
  - Hypothesis (es)

- End of discussion

VALID CONCLUSIONS
Statistical Assistance

• Before starting the study:
  – Justification of sample size

• Data Analyses
  – Selection of methods and writing the data analysis section
  – Presentation of Results

• Disclose the assistance
  – Co-authorship / Acknowledgments
  – Cover Letter
  – Response to reviewers
Editing Assistance

• Content: Logical Flow
  – Especially relevant for introduction and discussion
  – Instructions to authors provide guidance on relative length and content of sections

• Style: Concise and direct
  – Seek assistance from an established writer in English scientific (Biomedical) literature
  – Hire professional services (http://wileyeditingservices.com/en/)

• Disclose the assistance
  – Co-authorship / acknowledgments
  – Cover Letter and Supplemental File
  – Manuscripts that are professionally edited are flagged in Scholar One
Avoid preliminary triage

**Format Requirements**
- Word limit
- Quality of images

**Animal Use**
- IACUC approval
- Owner’s consent
Receiving a decision letter

• **1. Shock & denial** – Did they even read my brilliant manuscript? I’m seriously doubting the collective mental capacity of my critique group.

• **2. Pain & guilt** – How could I have given them this drivel? ...I just don’t know how to write.

• **3. Anger & bargaining** – You know what? FINE.


Do not write your response to reviewers at these stages!

https://bethhull.com
Preparing your resubmission

5. The upward turn – The only person who's going to fix the (obvious, gaping) plot holes in this story is ME. So I better just cowgirl up and do it.

6. Reconstruction & working through – So if I can revisit these comments without slitting my throat, maybe I'll find the very useful suggestions my esteemed critique group gave me.

7. Acceptance & hope – They're right. But I can fix it. This happens with every manuscript – I think it's unfixable, and then, I work through it. I can do this, and I will, and it's going to be smashing.

https://bethhull.com
New initiatives
and Future directions
Recent Initiatives

• Algorithm for the review process (Fall 2016)
• New format and updated instructions to authors (January 2017)
• Special issues:
  – Regenerative medicine (Early 2018)
    – Virtual Issue
    – Free online access for 12 months
  – Minimally Invasive Special Issue 2017
    – Virtual Issue
    – Manuscripts in print
    – Free online access for 12 months
    – No extra cost
Future Directions

Streamline the review process

Attract strong submissions

Adjust to publishing trends and audience’s needs
Strategies to improve the review process

• Development of a “rubric for reviewers”

• Track performance

• Reviewer Recognition
Rubric for reviewers

• Goals:
  – Guide and facilitate reviews to improve consistency
  – Accelerate reviews

• Derived from STROBE statement for observational studies by the EQUATOR network (Enhancing the QUALity and Transparency Of health Research)

Under review - Implementation in January 2018
Performance tracking

• Track performance of the Editorial Board
  – Re-invite top achievers for a second term
  – Check commitment of members prior to continuation

• List of reviewers with multiple, severely delayed reviews
  – Communicated to Associate Editors
Recognition

- Recognition in Veterinary Surgery, and personal email of appreciation

- Publons:
  - Free service provided by Wiley
  - https://publons.com

- Selection criteria for Associate Editors’ positions
  - Apply for our open AE SA soft tissue surgery!
Attracting strong submissions: VSU Focused Campaigns

Dedicated campaign for top VSU authors – incentivizing them to submit again

Highlighted top cited articles from VSU in the Sept. Veterinary Medicine Newsletter

36% Open Rate
7% Click through rate
Incentive Programs

• Incentive for loyal authors:
  – Top authors (number of articles) published in *Veterinary Surgery* over the last 2 years
  – 1 year Free Access publication

• Wiley’s programs specifically targeted for articles in *Veterinary Surgery*:
  – Articles in the “Spotlight”
  – Recognition of the most cited articles in *Veterinary Surgery*
Future Directions

Online dissemination

New article formats

Continuing education

NEVER STOP LEARNING

Marketing public relations
Acknowledgements

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

• **European**: Bernard Bouvy

• **Invited Reviews and Themed Issues**: Mandi J. Lopez

• **Large Animal**: Amelia Munsterman, Ben Ahern

• **Small Animal**: Christopher A. Adin, Kyle G. Mathews, Matthew Palmisano

• **MIS**: Janet McClaran, Stanley Kim

MANAGING EDITOR: Meaghan McDonnell

Questions?

https://www.pinterest.com
Questions?

DGriffonEditor@acvs.org

Review process/ScholarOne: vsueditorial@Wiley.com

Invited Reviews: mlopez@lsu.edu