

# How to be a 5-star Author: An Editor's Perspective

**Richard T. Scheife, Pharm.D., FCCP**  
**Editor-in-Chief, *Pharmacotherapy***  
**Associate Clinical Professor of Neurology**  
**Tufts University School of Medicine**

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1. Edward Huth's dictums on "where to send your paper" and "whether to send your paper."

"So what?"

"Who cares?"

-Scientific "Rigor" vs. "Clinical Impact"

2. How to maximize the chance that your paper will make it to the reviewers:

- Follow instructions for authors
- Got questions? Call the journal
- Have a clever medical scientist who is not involved with you paper proof your submission before submitting it.
- Use your spell checker for the manuscript AND the cover letter
- Get the names of the editor and the journal correct

3. "Kiss of Death" maneuvers

- Simultaneous submission to more than one journal
- "Salami science" submissions
- Plagiarism or "creative lifts" from other publications

4. When do I have to obtain permission to use tables or figures from another publication?

- Basically, "data" are not protected by copyright. As a result, most tables (which are classified as "data") do not require permission. You must, however, give credit to the original source.
- Figures that can only be portrayed in one or a very few formats (e.g., the diagram of the dermatomes, the Krebs's cycle, a porin structure, chemical structures) do not require permission
- Truly unique figures (works of art) require permission

5. What is the ISI Impact Factor and what does it mean?

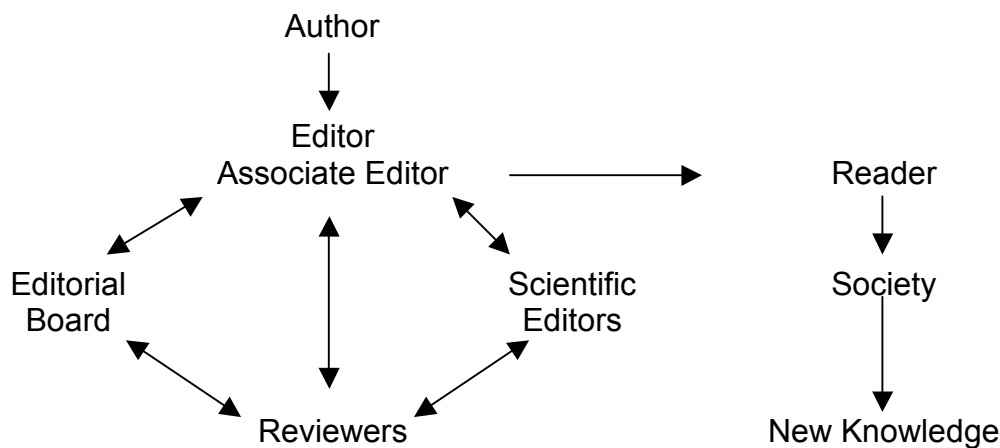
The Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) impact factor (IF) reported each year reflects data from the previous 2 years. For example, the most recent IF available in 2005 is the 2003 IF. The 2003 impact factor is calculated as follows:

Number of cites in 2003 to articles published in 2001 and 2002  
Number of articles published in 2001 and 2002

- The IF is an objective measure of how important a journal is to medical scientists.
- The IF does not, however, measure how often an article is actually used in clinical practice
- Breakpoint IF milestones for a journal are 1.0, 2.0, 5.0, and 10.0
- Example 2003 IFs for key journals are as follows:

Pharmacotherapy: 2.002  
 AJHP: 1.440  
 Annals of Pharmacotherapy: 1.822  
 AAC: 4.246  
 JID: 4.481  
 CID: 5.393  
 CP&T: 6.141

## 6. The Editorial Process



7. Authorship vs. Acknowledgements vs. Paid Subcontractor

8. Who will be the “first author?”

9. How much wiggle room do you have to “fence” with an editor about revision issues or a reject?