

# How to write a paper that journals will want to publish

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# Disclaimers

- The opinions expressed are my own
- They do not represent the views of the JPU or any other journal
- I have no disclosures



# It all starts with a good study...

- Appropriate study design for clinical question
  - Clinically relevant
- Well-defined Aims and end-points
- Adequate power and follow-up
- Appropriately eliminate or control for bias
- Correct analysis for type of data



# Let's be honest

- Not every pediatric urology study is a multicenter RCT with 3000 subjects per arm
- We realize that in pediatric urology, the conditions and patient populations may not lend themselves to high-level study designs



# How do you get your study out there?



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# Aren't journals obsolete?



# The circle of life...



# The circle of life (for manuscripts)





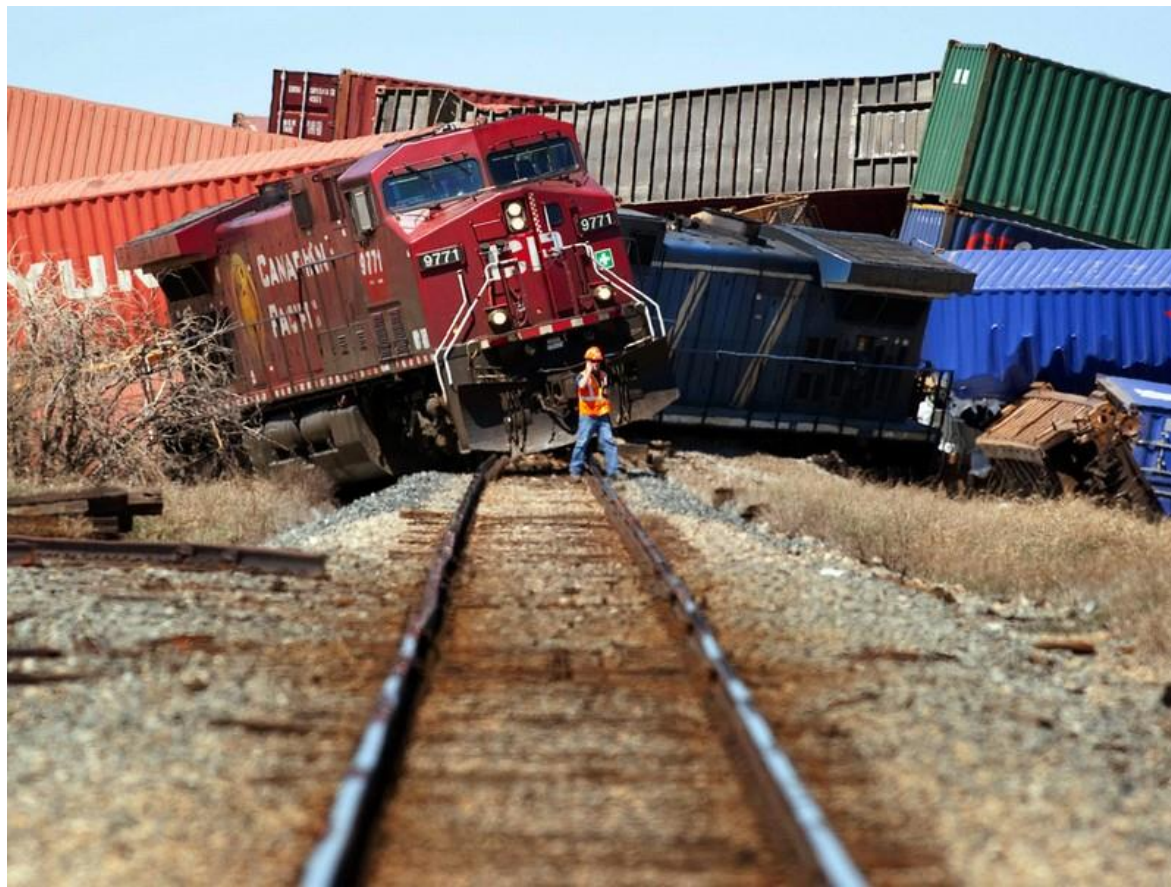
# What are we trying to avoid?



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# What makes a manuscript into a train wreck?

- Aims not clear/concise
- Methods incomplete
- Discussion does not honestly address limitations
- Conclusions not supported by data
- Poor writing, grammar, syntax, language



# Taking Aim

- Every study should be premised on a specific aim/hypothesis
  - Concise description of the question
- You should be able to describe this in one or two sentences
- Best place for this is at the end of the introduction



# Materials and Methods

- Data source/population
- Study sample selection method
- Primary and secondary outcome with definitions and measures
- Intervention and other exposures/independent variables



# Materials and Methods

- Analytic approach and statistical tests used
- Methods of handling confounding/effect modification
- IRB and ethical approval (including #'s)



@LateNightSeth



**NOT GOOD.**

# We all have our limits...

- All studies have limitations and weaknesses
- The authors should be the ones to identify and point these out
- Problems with power, follow-up, confounding, generalizability, etc.





# Jumping to Conclusions

- Conclusions should be supported by data
  - Avoid attributing causation
- Conclusions should restate the primary results
- Avoid speculation or making inferences outside the scope of the study



# Language Arts

- Proficient language and writing
  - Have others review the paper. Non-standard or unclear language frustrates reviewers, makes them discount the findings
- Good writing matters
  - It can make a mediocre study look decent and a good study look great



# A request.....

- Please\*Please\*Please\*Please\*Please
  - Accept review invitations from urology journals
  - WE NEED YOUR EXPERTISE
- This is a communal activity and the participation of everyone is essential





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# It is about them...



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