

PREFACE

The development of this book had many complex motives but a single purpose. The motives include the improvement of scientific integrity in the field of addiction studies, the sharing of information with junior investigators, and the strengthening of addiction specialty journals. The main purpose of this volume, however, is to provide a practical guide to scientific publishing in the addiction field, one that is used often enough to have an impact on personal decisions, individual careers, institutional policies and the progress of science. We realize that this is an ambitious undertaking, but the need is great and the time is ripe for doing something constructive.

The field of addiction research has grown tremendously in recent years and has spread to new parts of the world. With that growth there has been a concomitant increase in competition between researchers, the addition of new bureaucratic regulations, and a growing industry interest in research. New professional societies have taken root and increased in size; research centres and university departments have provided an institutional home for addiction scientists; and regulatory responsibilities such as conflict of interest declarations, human and animal subjects assurances and the monitoring of scientific misconduct have been put into place. It is our contention that the journal publishing enterprise, the main organ of scientific communication in the field, has an important role to play in all of these developments, and a guide such as the present one will contribute to the further development of addiction science.

The inspiration for this volume came from the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE), which also provided financial and moral support at all stages of the project. ISAJE is not only the first society for addiction journal editors, it is also the first international organization specifically devoted to the improvement of scientific publishing in the addiction field. Formally constituted in 2001 as a non-profit organization, the establishment of ISAJE reflects a trend across the broader fields of biomedical and scientific publishing to coordinate efforts and develop a sense of professionalism in what had heretofore been a disparate collection of individual editors and independent journals. During the past 25 years, a number of professional societies have been created to improve the quality of scientific publishing, including the Council of Science Editors, the European Association of Science Editors, the Board of Editors in the Life Sciences, the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, and the World Association of Medical Editors. Although these organizations have supported the development of training materials and publication guides, none has addressed the special needs of publishing in the rapidly growing area of addiction science.

From its inception, ISAJE has recognized a need for ethical guidelines for member journals. There are several reasons why ethical issues are particularly important in the addiction science field. Strong industries, such as pharmaceutical manufacturers and alcohol producers, have important financial interests to protect, and they pay special attention to the work of addiction scientists. Further, many addiction-related issues are politically loaded, a situation that could affect the objectivity of researchers. In addition, many of the individuals who are the object of addiction research are vulnerable and in need of special protections. Finally, the field of science has become much more challenging from an ethical perspective because of its growing importance and complexity. Although ISAJE had drafted a set of ethical guidelines (see Appendix B), it was soon recognized that abstract policy statements and moral pronouncements are rarely read carefully, and even less often applied to the day to day business of conducting research and communicating ideas to the scientific community. This book is a practically-oriented effort to improve transparency in addiction publishing, and in the process show how young investigators can negotiate the complex and sometimes bewildering challenges to a successful career in the field.

There are many people and organizations that deserve credit for making this volume possible. In addition to ISAJE, the Society for the Study of Addiction provided financial support. We are grateful to the World Health Organization for their decision to co-sponsor the publication of this volume, as well as the research institutions that enabled the authors and editors to work on this collaborative effort: The University of Connecticut Alcohol Research Center, Farmington, USA; Centre for Social Research on Alcohol and Drugs, Stockholm University, Sweden; the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health, Helsinki, Finland; the Institute of Psychiatry, University of London, and University College, London, UK. A number of individuals provided key input throughout the process of reviewing manuscript drafts and developing the main themes of the book. In particular, we thank Betsy Thom, Griffith Edwards, Vladimir Poznyak, Isidore Obot, Hem Raj Pal, Jie Shi, Andreas Plüddemann, Evgeny Kruptisky, Florence Kerr-Corrêa, Andrea Mitchell, Klaus Mäkelä, John Noble, Gillian Tober and Holger Weiss. We also acknowledge the contribution of addiction editors and their staff members who have supplied information about their journals for Appendix A.

Rapid developments in the field of addiction publishing will no doubt necessitate rather frequent revisions of parts of this book. Financial support from the US National Institute on Drug Abuse will make it possible for the editors to use the Internet, not only for downloading free copies of the text, but also for the necessary updating of certain chapters and the appendices.

We hope that this book will be widely used around the world in the training of young researchers and the continuing education of seasoned addiction scientists. Given the rapidly changing nature of the field, it is our intention to learn from the training sessions and feedback we receive from colleagues in order to develop future versions of this guide.

The Editors