

Gender Equity Project Colloquia and Workshops

Publishing: Handling rejection and corresponding with the editor Activities and Discussion

Read: Dealing with the rejected article (Guillou & Earnshaw, 2000)
Writing for professional journals (Henson, 1999)
How to read and respond to a journal rejection letter (Siegel & Werb, 2002)

Part of what distinguishes very successful people is their ability to respond to adversity, whether it is a paper or grant getting a less-than-favorable review or lack of initial support for a new idea. For every scientist there are setbacks, and this workshop is designed to help you learn how to deal with these setbacks quickly and effectively, which may include knowing when to drop one thing to move forward on another.

Presentation: Professors Barr and Filbin will share some of their experiences with setbacks concerning papers and grants and how they handled them.

Discussion: Recall the most recent paper or grant proposal that was rejected or received a revise-and-resubmit judgment; then consider the following:

1. What were your immediate reactions? How did those reactions change - if at all - over time?
2. What action(s) did you take? How long was it before you began the action?
3. Did you discuss the content of the rejection with anyone? If so, with whom?
4. Did you receive any constructive suggestions? If so, what were they? What made the suggestions constructive?
5. Did you receive any unhelpful suggestions? If so, what were they? What made the suggestions unhelpful?
6. In the materials that you read for the workshop, did you find any suggestions particularly useful? If so, what were they?
7. In the materials that you read for the workshop, did you find any suggestions irrelevant, inapplicable, or non-useful? If so, what were they?
8. Imagine that a respected colleague received the rejection or reviews that you did. What suggestions would you give him or her?

References

- Guillou, P. J. & Earnshaw, J. J. (2000). Dealing with the rejected article. *British Journal of Surgery*, 87, 1603-1604.
- Henson, K. T. (1999, June). Writing for professional journals. *Phi Delta Kappan*, 80(10), 780-783.
- Montgomery, M. (2003, September 5). Thank you for advertising, but your needs don't meet my interests [Electronic version]. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 50 (2), B15.
- Siegel, V. & Werb, Z. (2002, August). How to read and respond to a journal rejection letter [Electronic version]. *Women in Cell Biology*, 25(8), 5-7. Retrieved January 4, 2005 from <https://www.ascb.org/careers/wicb.html>.
- Uchiyama, K. & Simone, G. (1999). Criteria for judging manuscripts. *Publishing educational research: Guidelines and tips*. Retrieved 14 March 2005 from <http://35.8.171.42/era/epubs/howtopub/criteria.htm>.