



TIPS FOR AUTHORS

Writing the Academics and Education Report

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Clinical and laboratory studies relating to patient care are clearly vital to the specialty. Of at least equal importance are strategies for and studies of prosthodontics education at both the predoctoral and the graduate level.

Graduate programs prepare the next generations of prosthodontists for private practice in a rapidly evolving technological environment and for a population that is living longer and retaining more of their natural teeth into old age. Complex prosthodontics treatment can be described as an important prerequisite to a healthy and comfortable life for many elderly people.

Predoctoral prosthodontics education is equally important. Educating the general dentist in the successful implementation of prosthodontic procedures appropriate to general practice has implications both for general dentistry and for the specialty. Finally, identifying and encouraging predoctoral students who have the aptitude and interest to pursue a postdoctoral program in prosthodontics is crucial to the forward movement of the specialty. For these reasons, articles written for the Academics and Education section of the *Journal of Prosthodontics* will find a ready readership.

In general, two types of articles are accepted for publication in this section: (1) educational research and (2) descriptions of new or innovative teaching methods.

Educational research. Educational research may involve hypothesis testing or a survey approach. In either case, the report follows the standard research paper structural format for the *JP*: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion. A Structured Abstract precedes the body of the article. (See online Instructions to Contributors for details.) Please remember that all appropriate statistical methods must be applied to the interpretation of results.

Description of a new or innovative teaching method. This report should follow a traditional essay format with an introductory paragraph providing some background for the new description of the method; i.e., answering such questions as: What needs does the new method fill? What other approaches to the particular educational need or problem have been described in the literature?

The body of the report describes the new method, its advantages and shortcomings in comparison with more traditional educational approaches. The more specifics one can provide about the program, the more relevant the published article will be to other educators.

Finally, concluding paragraphs sum up the changes supported by the new method and any future plans for modification. Throughout, the writer should strive for an objective point of view, avoiding any suggestion of school promotion or boosterism.

Reports written for the Academics and Education section of the *Journal* offer a useful forum for communication between prosthodontists in academics and their colleagues in private practice.

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