

TIPS FOR AUTHORS

Parting Words

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Last Words

First, here are some suggestions about what to do when the manuscript you submitted to a journal is rejected.

1. Do not give up, do not pitch your work into the wastebasket. Instead, first, give yourself some time to recover. Remind yourself that even the greatest writers of all time suffered rejection now and then. You have invested a lot of time and energy into this project. Do not let it go to waste.
2. Carefully consider the reviewers' criticisms and suggestions. (It is even possible that not all of them are justified!) Focus especially on what seems to have been the principal reason or reasons the manuscript was turned down. Make notes on how you can respond to those comments and improve the organization and content of your report.
3. Get some help with the writing. Everybody needs an editor.
4. Consider whether submitting to a different journal makes sense.
5. After a little time has passed and you have recovered your equanimity, rewrite and resubmit. Scholarly criticism is how we grow.

This will be my last "Tips for Authors." I have been a Manuscript Editor for the *Journal of Prosthodontics (JP)* since

the Fall of 1997. Besides penning the occasional "Tips," my primary responsibility has been to suggest revisions to manuscripts that the Editor-in-Chief and the section editors judge to be potentially worthy of publication but that are not quite as smooth as they could be. Often, the authors of these manuscripts have been individuals for whom English is a second language.

My first editorial assignments, back in 1997, came from the *JP*'s first editor, Patrick M. Lloyd, then Chair of the Department of Prosthodontics at the University of Iowa, College of Dentistry, where I worked as librarian/information scientist in the research unit for 23 years. A few years later, Patrick (who is now Dean of the Minnesota School of Dentistry), introduced me to his successor at the *JP*, David Felton, DDS, MS, Professor, Department of Prosthodontics, University of North Carolina, School of Dentistry, now our genial Editor-in-Chief.

During my years on the *JP* staff, I have worked with several managing editors. In recent years that position has been filled by Alethea Gerding. The technological wonders of Internet connectivity have facilitated my working relationship with this excellent person as well as our friendship.

Now the time has come for me to hang up my red pen (as Editor Felton poetically puts it) and move on to other projects. I wish all my friends and acquaintances in the discipline the best. Thanks to all for an interesting 13 years.

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