

# Getting Published: Perspectives from the Editor of the Journal of Aging and Health

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January 8, 2020

# The Journal of Aging and Health (JAH), SAGE Publications

- ▶ Launched in 1989 with primary impetus being the rapid aging of Western societies (social science, epidemiology, public health)
- ▶ Today, things are different with rapid aging of the population of developing countries as well as rising number of submissions to JAH from developing countries.
- ▶ First 3 years (1989-1991), JAH averaged 90 new submissions per year, 30% acceptance, 4 issues X 7 manuscripts.
- ▶ Last 3 years (2017-2019), average of 880 new submissions, 951 in 2019. Ten issues per year X 10 manuscripts, 10% acceptance.
- ▶ Going monthly in 2020/continuous

# Origin of Submissions

- ▶ 1989-1991, Vast majority of submissions from the US with just a handful originating from Canada, Sweden and Denmark
- ▶ Topics:
  - 1) Health Services/ Medical Care
  - 2) Institutionalization/ Nursing Homes
  - 3) Social Factors/ Social Supports
  - 4) Mental Health/ Well-Being

# Origin of Submissions (Continued)

- ▶ 2017-2019 Well over half from outside the US. Leading countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan and United Kingdom (Highest from developing countries: Brazil, China, Iran, India)
- ▶ Topics:
  - 1) Disability/Physical Function/Health expectancy
  - 2) Mental Health/Well-Being
  - 3) Social Factors/Social Supports
  - 4) Cognitive Function (increasing rapidly)
- ▶ New Areas: Neighborhoods/Built Environment, Religion/Spirituality, Social Isolation/Loneliness, Sensory Impairment, Obesity/Weight, Same Sex Couples/Gay Men, Elder Abuse/Neglect, End of Life, Resilience, Frailty.

# Tips, Do's, and Don'ts

- 1) Language, especially from developing countries. Get help from colleagues. Journals provide translation help.
- 2) The importance of the abstract. High rate of “desk rejections”
- 3) Open Access Journals - Expensive
- 4) Journal style (Medical vs. Psychosocial)
- 5) Small Samples/Qualitative Studies/Number of Authors
- 6) Importance of examining recent issues of the journal you are targeting
- 7) Limitations of cross-sectional studies (causal statements)
- 8) Purely descriptive studies (regional significance). Need to have conceptual significance
- 9) Proposals of new measures have a tough time
- 10) Self-ratings of health/objective measures
- 11) Well-known co-authors might help with editors
- 12) Editorial board membership is important to publishing and reviewing for a journal