

**ASEAN+3 FETN**

**Scientific Writing Workshop**

**LECTURE 8 ANCILLARY SECTIONS**

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# Ancillary sections

- Refining your **Title**
- Choosing your **Keywords**
- Writing your **Acknowledgments**

# Purpose and importance of a good title

## **The purpose of the title is:**

- To draw the attention of a prospective reader to the paper
- To encourage the reader to read the abstract and perhaps the entire paper

## **Whys is a good title so important?**

- The title will be read by many, many people, but only a few people will read the entire paper.

# A good title...

- Is accurate and specific about paper's content
- Uses fewest possible words that adequately describe the contents (about 16 words)
- Might indicate the study design, independent/dependent variables, and species (if not human)
- Interesting and eye-catching

# Some tips on titles

- Write scientific names in full, for instance *Escherichia coli* rather than *E. coli*
- Refer to chemicals by their common or generic name instead of their formulas
- Refer to specific drug name rather than just the class of drug
- Avoid using abbreviations, acronyms and initials as they could have different meanings in different fields: for instance, "Ca" for calcium could be mistaken for "CA", which means cancer

- Avoid the use of Roman numerals in the title as they can be interpreted differently: for instance, part III could be mistaken for factor III
- Leave out unnecessary words such as *effects of*, *comparison of*, or *a case of*
- Don't use poor syntax (order of words)
- Avoid using exclamatory punctuation (!), but interrogative (?) may be OK
- Never use ALL CAPITALS
- Has key words suitable for indexing (MeSH)

# Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)

- An acronym for Medical Subject Headings
- The U.S. National Library of Medicine's controlled vocabulary (thesaurus) that is updated annually
- A feature of MEDLINE that contains journal citations and abstracts for global biomedical literature and PubMed that provides free access/links to MEDLINE articles
- A vocabulary that gives uniformity and consistency to the indexing and cataloging of biomedical literature

<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.html>

# MeSH Tools for finding Keywords

## **MeSH on Demand**

<https://meshb.nlm.nih.gov/MeSHonDemand>

Identifies MeSH Terms relevant to your text

# MeSH Tools for finding Keywords

## The MeSH Browser

<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/MBrowser.html>

An online vocabulary look-up aid it is designed to help quickly locate descriptors of possible interest and to show the hierarchy in which descriptors of interest appear.

# Keywords

**Don't let your keyword choices be an afterthought!**

- Keywords are scientific terms that present a perfect summary or key to your study
- Including appropriate keywords in your Title and your Abstract and listing them as Keywords helps indexers and search engines find your paper, allowing it to appear at the top in search results.

# Tips for identifying keywords

- Avoid overlapping keywords in your title and those in your keyword list
  - Don't waste keyword space: make sure title contains keywords that can supplement your keyword list
- Follow the journal guidelines when selecting keywords
  - Most recommend MeSH words, but other have different guidelines and requirements.
- Focus on the main topic of your research
  - Be specific enough to ensure your research is included

- Include your techniques and/or specific methodology
  - e.g., immunohistochemistry, Real-time PCR
- If possible, avoid keywords that are only one word
  - Use ‘long tailed keywords’, a marketing term meaning two or more words grouped together
- Perform keyword research before submitting your article:
  - Go to Google Scholar, Web of Science,

# Acknowledgement Section

- Links to Error G4 Missing acknowledgement section
- Two types of acknowledgments
  - Financial
  - Other contributors to the research activities

# Financial acknowledgement

- Know your institutional or program policy and template for acknowledging the financial or material help from government (s) and/or agencies who funded your research activities.
- You should confirm the donor's grant number by asking your supervisor.

# Example of financial acknowledgment

This activity was funded by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (grant no. 5U51C). The *(researcher(s) and/or institution)* acknowledges with gratitude the commitment of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to the disease reduction efforts.

# Other contributors to research activity

People who contributed to the activity should be listed in the acknowledgment section.

Examples:

- Local/regional government staff
- Community members
- Laboratory support
- Statistical support
- Writing assistance
- Department head

# Example of acknowledging other contributors

- We acknowledge the following institutes and persons who contributed to this activity: staff and patients at the surveillance hospital who we interviewed and who provided sputum samples; the National Health Laboratory Service data warehouse; and the Centre for Tropical, Hospital and Opportunistic Infections - Antimicrobial Resistance Reference Laboratory of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases. We thank Dorothy L. Southern for providing scientific writing advice and critically reviewing the manuscript.



# Writing Time



- Revise your draft manuscript's **Title**
- Identify your **Key Words** using the MeSH resources
- Who do you think should be acknowledged in your paper?
- Develop your draft manuscript's **Acknowledgment section**