

Sharing experiences and challenges faced by Junior scientists during publication

Hudson ONEN Dip (Educ), B.Sc Hons,
M.Sc, PhD fellow

THRiVE/UVRI Mentorship Training in Scientific Writing, 4th
November 2020

First impression

Journal of Disease and Global Health

12(1): 12–20, 2019 ISSN: 2454-1842, NLM ID: 101664146

Biotic and a biotic factors in *Anopheles gambiae*

breeding habitats as a potential tool to fight malaria in Central Uganda.

Hudson Onen*, Robinson Odong, Moses Chemurot and Jonathan Kayondo. [\(THRiVE funded publication\)](#)

2 years at UVRI, data from M.Sc

- ✓ Self drive
- ✓ Had no clue in health related publication
- ✓ Received a lot of support & mentorship
- ✓ Ignition came high with THRiVE funding

Challenge with the first publication

- ✓ Did not know what to tell the world → shared drafts with colleagues
- ✓ Wasn't sure of my target audience → consulted mentors
- ✓ How to choose words and maintain coherency → supervisor, reading
- ✓ Thought software entered references are gospel truth → Taught editing
- ✓ Choice of the journal to publish and cost → worked with supervisors

Challenge with the first publication

- ✓ Lack of belief in myself → Learnt to incubate drafts
- ✓ Fear to be the corresponding and first author and questions from the experts → realized I was a junior expert
- ✓ Fear to be hated based on co-authors sequences → seek permission before submission

Experiences from first publication

- ✓ Had to learn that my values rest on senior co-authors' view
- ✓ It pays in a long run the "God's way"
- ✓ I learnt that with good "character" and resiliency, one can shoot high
- ✓ Understood the dynamics of working with co-authors
- ✓ Long process to figure out the story, and to write it up
- ✓ A lot of work together with AOB

Being a co-author !

- ✓ Less tedious
- ✓ Enable learning
- ✓ Don't personalize rejection of contribution but think why and make good positive adjustments
- ✓ Earns you less credit compared to first, corresponding and senior authors
- ✓ Contribute and have a grip of what the main findings and recommendations are

Why it is hard for junior scientists to be first authors ?

- ✓ Restricted access to data
- ✓ Lack of data analysis and interpretation skills
- ✓ Lack of support from supervisors
- ✓ Time constraints (side hustles)
- ✓ Lack of funds

What to do ?

- ✓ Don't sleep on your potential (Learn from colleagues, read, attend workshops & trainings)
- ✓ Be “one or two host tick” (carry your mentors' bags)
- ✓ Learn how to use referencing software such as Mendeley etc.
- ✓ Practice data analysis using the most friendly software
- ✓ Read and learn writing skills in your area of interest

Benefits of publishing

- ✓ Share knowledge, advance research & improve health
- ✓ Illuminate your career
- ✓ Attend conferences and network
- ✓ Increase your knowledge in a subject matter
- ✓ Get rewarded for the good work (I got rewarded by THRiVE: £ 500 after the publication)

Let's think and ask aloud!

- ✓ The problem of Africa will only be solved by African scientists!
- ✓ How do we juggle through modern slavery in scientific research and publications?
- ✓ Africa continent is mainly composed of young blood who can drive research that they can live to follow its impacts
- ✓ Are the African young scientist lazy or their ideas are politically jeopardized?
- ✓ Who is communicating your research findings to the government or it's shelved?
- ✓ Do we want more problems to solve our problems?

Thank you for listening!

Acknowledgement

