



iJOBS Career Panel Series: Publishing

Wednesday February 17, 2016

4:30-6:00pm

Medical Science Building, Rosemary Gellene Room B515

185 South Orange Avenue

New Jersey Medical School

Newark, NJ 07103

Managing Editor

Goal of editor is to improve the quality and scope of what is coming out of the journal. Pay attention to reproducibility and rigor of publications. Also concerned with plagiarism and copyright.

Managing Editor is usually in support of Editor in Chief who is an academic. However at Nature, Science and Cell there are professional editors.

If you enjoy plowing through data and reading papers this is a good job for you.

One function is to manage workflow:

Decide whether to send for review: How much of an advance is the study? Is there a mechanism proposed?

70-75% of papers get rejected without review. Acceptance rate at Nature Neuro is 8-10% but at J. Neurosci Research it is 30%. Have to get used to saying "no".

Which experts will review it?

Referee wrangling to get them to review and submit reviews on time.

Look at referee responses and decide what to do with paper. Most times you can confer with colleagues to decide whether to reject or accept paper.

For reviews, you get to decide on a topic that is ripe for review. Have to get commissioned writers to submit reviews and articles on time.

Attend conferences (mostly small ones) to see what area is hot and build a relationship with people in the field.

If you see a talk that is really good you can solicit a paper from them so they submit to your journal.

Can also organize a forum at a conference based on an area that you think crosses several journals.

Have to craft emails carefully and have good writing skills. Most of the communication is electronic but there are some in person team meetings especially when there is an ethical concern.

There are a lot of publishers in NYC but also around the world so you could be based in another country.

Work life balance is good. You do not have to work on the weekends but you might spend a few hours processing manuscripts by choice. Also just monitor emails to see if

there is a crisis.

Also, you can work from home if needed during the week.

Advice for editor position:

Get experience by helping review papers of your PI in grad school and postdoc.

It is rare to get hired right out of PhD. Most do at least some postdoc.

Good to have customer friendly and business skills.

Read lots of papers and read about many different fields.

Get a feel for high impact topics

Publish yourself in high profile journals so you demonstrate that you know what quality papers are.

Learn to be a good writer in English and can speak to high profile people without being nervous.

To get experience you can do freelance editing especially for Current Protocols. Find if protocol makes sense and why this procedure is important. You may need to become and LLC to prove that you are paying taxes.

Become a Wiley Advisors – provide feedback on journals. Example, which protocols need to be added which would be helpful to the scientific community and do surveys.

<http://exchanges.wiley.com/advsiors>

Look for vacancies write cover letters that are compelling. Mention skills in lab but also extracurriculars, reviewing and editing experience, journal clubs, managing undergrads etc...

You could get a publishing certification through workshops at Columbia, NYU etc...

[http://sps.nyu.edu/academics/departments/publishing.html?utm_source=adv-](http://sps.nyu.edu/academics/departments/publishing.html?utm_source=adv-interactive&utm_medium=ppc&utm_campaign=adv-ms-mspub-fa16-2-search-se-ctrpub)

[interactive&utm_medium=ppc&utm_campaign=adv-ms-mspub-fa16-2-search-se-ctrpub](http://sps.nyu.edu/academics/departments/publishing.html?utm_source=adv-interactive&utm_medium=ppc&utm_campaign=adv-ms-mspub-fa16-2-search-se-ctrpub)

<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/english/pcpcourses>

<http://www.journalism.columbia.edu/publishing>

The interview will consist of a take home test where you answer a set of questions.

Go through last 5 issues of journal and pick best and least best papers and evaluate them.

Pick 5 topics that are appropriate for review article. Who would you ask to write the review?

Evaluate the journal

Write a press release for a specific article

Evaluate current state of the field and suggest 10 topics for high impact reviews. Who would you invite to write the reviews and why.

Design a special issue with 15 articles on the same topic (e.g. epilepsy from genetics to systems).

Then in-person interview you may be put in a room with 3 manuscripts and be given 1 hr to read them and then be grilled on all the papers. Ask them if they would send it out for review.

If you detect some interest in hiring you then ask your advisor to send recommendation letters on your behalf to get them more interested in you.

Associate Publisher

Goal of publisher is to manage and expand the portfolio (e.g. start new journals).
Appoint Academic Editor at universities globally and interact with editorial boards
Academic Editor is a lab head and journal duties are lower priority than running lab.
Convey the mission of the journal to the editors through write up.
Work on improving the impact factor of the journal.
Work with marketing manager and manage budget.
Travel to conferences and have editorial board meetings there.
In house editorial office is a new concept where they brainstorm on ideas for journals and special issues as a group and it is very interactive.

Advice for Publisher position

Interview with managers, HR and hiring manager.
Do not have to do writing sample
May be asked how would you launch a new journal?
How would you recruit an editor and board.

Other positions:

Copy editing - at Current Protocols, only PhD level people do copy editing. At other journals, it may be MS or BS.
Acquisitions editors – acquire books and talk to scientists
Marketing – need science background and push publication to different communities
Author services – generate a profile of who tends to publish in that journal and work with them to make the process better.

Virginia Benson Chanda, Ph.D.

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I earned a joint Ph.D. degree in Biochemistry at Rutgers University Graduate School and the UMDNJ—Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, New Brunswick. A molecular biologist by training, my graduate work was on the elucidation and study of Types I, II, and III collagen genes. I held postdoctoral (2 years) and senior scientist (1 year) positions at the Schering Plough Corporation (now Merck) in their Department of Molecular Biology, studying atherosclerosis.

While at Schering Plough, I became involved in editing protocols for *Current Protocols* lab manuals. I also taught genetics, molecular biology, and microbiology classes at Drew and Farleigh Dickinson Universities. I made the choice to become a full time editor at Wiley for *Current Protocols*, and eventually became the editorial manager of the *Current*

Protocols staff editors. Last year I was appointed as Publisher for our Internal Editorial Offices and I supervise a staff of Ph.D scientists who perform varying levels of peer review and content development for over 20 life and physical science journals, in addition to the *Current Protocols* program.

Eric Prager, PhD

Editor-in-Chief

Journal of Neuroscience Research

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Eric obtained his PhD in Neuroscience from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in 2014, with a thesis entitled “Nerve Agent Induced Status Epilepticus: From Seizure Onset to Long Lasting Pathology.” Eric joined Wiley in 2014 as an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Neuroscience Research*. In 2015, he became the Developmental Editor for *Current Protocols in Neuroscience* and in January, 2016 he was named the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Neuroscience Research*.

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Dr. Paul-André Genest is an Associate Publisher for Elsevier, the leading provider of scientific, technical and medical information products and services, where he is responsible for the management of a portfolio of ten journals in Life Sciences. He co-organized in 2015 a conference on the Impact of Environmental Changes on Infectious Diseases (IECID 2015) in Sitges, Spain, and launched the journals *Contemporary Clinical Trials Communications* and *Current Opinion in Systems Biology*. He is also the project manager of Elsevier’s Atlas award. Prior to this function, he held the position of Managing Editor at Elsevier for the *International Journal for Parasitology: Drugs and Drug Resistance* (IJP:DDR), the *International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife* (IJP:PAW) and the *Malaria Nexus* web portal. Dr. Genest has a BSc (Biology) degree and a MSc (Microbiology-Immunology) degree from the Université Laval in Québec City, Canada, and a PhD (Molecular Parasitology) from the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. He held two postdoc research positions at the Netherlands Cancer Institute in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, prior to joining Elsevier in 2012.

Tim Spencer, PhD

Senior Editor, Nature Neuroscience

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Tim Spencer received his PhD from the City University of New York. Working in the laboratory of Marie Filbin, he investigated the signaling mechanisms which underlie the promotion of axonal growth and regeneration after spinal cord injury. He then moved to the laboratory of Chris Henderson at Columbia University for his post-doctoral research, where he examined molecular markers of postnatal spinal motor neuron maturation and mechanisms of neurodegeneration in motor-specific diseases such as ALS and SMA.

His research interests include neuronal development and maturation, axonal guidance and models of neuronal disease and dysfunction.

Upon completing his post-doctoral work, Tim joined the editorial team of Nature Neuroscience in March of 2011. Tim evaluates papers from across the entire spectrum of neuroscience, but provides the team with expertise on aspects of molecular, cellular and developmental neurobiology as well as neurodegeneration, neuroimmune interactions, and mechanisms of myelination/demyelination.