



ommendations. I will try to provide updates a minimum of every couple weeks and keep messages as efficient and effective as possible. There are monthly Surgeon General leadership calls and PAC Chairs calls. If you have an item that you feel needs to be addressed or shared, please let me know so I can forward the appropriate information to others.

If you every have any questions about the engineer category and what the EPAC roles are, please visit the following page for by-laws and charter information: <https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/engineer/charter-by-laws.aspx>

Thank you again for trusting in me to serve as the 2017 EPAC Chair. I hope that we can continue to lead our nation in engineering and public health! Please do not hesitate to contact me at kurt_kesteloot@nps.gov with any questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions. If I fail to respond within a couple days and you have not received an out of office message, please send another friendly reminder. *Machinatores Vitae!* [Return to Top](#)

Getting your Work Published: Peer Reviewed Articles

LCDR Deborah V.L. Hirst and CDR Tanya Davis

In the Fall 2016 newsletter article, "How to Get Your Work Published: Non-Peer Reviewed Articles," we covered why non-peer reviewed articles are a good first step for engineers who are not in research-based jobs. Engineers in research-based positions may frequently publish in peer-reviewed journals. However, with guidance and the right topic, a USPHS engineer regardless of the position can publish in a peer-reviewed journal. USPHS engineers' roles are endless, ranging from deployments to plant inspections to conducting laboratory experiments to designing potable drinking water systems. All of these duties can make a great article in a peer-reviewed journal.

Peer Reviewed Journals

A peer-reviewed article is one that has been examined by people with credentials in the article's field of study before it is published.¹ The advantage of publishing your work in a peer-reviewed journal is earning notability in your field of work. Your manuscript will be read by people with similar jobs and if you publish quite a bit in a particular area, you may be deemed an expert.^{2,3} The disadvantage is the process is not as expedient as publishing in a non-peer reviewed journal. The submission and publishing processes can vary depend-

(Continued on page 5)



ing on the journal.³ Your article may have to undergo several revisions and reviews before a journal will agree to publish it. This process could take a couple of months.

Process

Once you decide what to write about, the next step is finding a journal that will publish your manuscript. There are several publishing databases, such as Web of Knowledge™ (or Web of Science) and OMICS International,^{4,5} that will allow you to search by category, subject, or journal title. The majority of the databases also allow you to search by impact factor in a particular category. The impact factor measures the rate an article in a journal has been cited.⁶ A high impact factor may give an indication of how popular the journal is in a particular field of study.⁷

If you have identified a journal and are still unsure if the editor will accept your manuscript's subject matter, it is perfectly acceptable to ask the editor if your paper is suitable for their journal. Next, you can begin writing your manuscript. It is very important to follow the journal's guide for authors. This guide will tell you the word limit of the document, the sections required, table and figure formats, and how to cite references. If you are still unsure about formatting, especially with reference citations, reviewing a recent publication in the journal may help you.

When you have finished writing your manuscript, ask your peers (or co-authors) and supervisor to review it. Depending on your Agency, the manuscript may have to undergo another layer of review before submission to the journal and include a disclaimer. Pay close attention to the instructions for journal submission, which should be outlined in the author's guide, so you only have to do it once. Once you have submitted the manuscript to the journal, it will go to the editor for review. If the editor likes the content, it will then be peer-reviewed by subject matter experts. Some journals allow you to choose the reviewers and even identify people who you do not wish to review your paper because of conflicts of interest or other reasons.

Next Step

Your manuscript has been written, reviewed, and submitted to the journal. Now what? Be patient. The review process can take months but remember every journal is different and some may be more expedient than others. You may also have to revise the paper's content, change a figure/table, or answer questions

(Continued on page 6)



the reviewers may have. You may even receive a rejection notice from the journal. If this happens, review why the journal rejected your manuscript and make the necessary changes to submit to another journal. Whatever the delay may be, remain patient knowing your manuscript will eventually be published.

Helpful Tips

As stated in the Fall 2016 article, give credit where credit is due. Cite ideas, phrases, figures, tables, and conversations. A civil engineering professor at Virginia Tech published a manuscript on scientific misconduct, such as fabrication or plagiarism.⁸ Scientific misconduct can cost your agency thousands of dollars plus ruin your reputation as an officer and author.

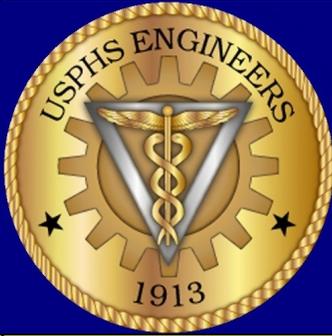
Make an outline featuring the journal's required sections. Outlines are helpful when writing because they keep you from drifting away from the topic.

Take a writing class. There are even classes specifically for engineers! There are in-person and online classes. One misconception about the field of engineering is we do not write as much as other professions. However, engineers write a lot! It is mostly technical but learning to write effectively is important to the success of your engineering career.^{9,10}

Do not hesitate to ask for help from co-workers, supervisors, or other subject matter experts.

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- 1 <http://hsl.lib.umn.edu/biomed/help/identifying-peer-review-journals>
 - 2 <http://genomesunzipped.org/2011/07/why-publish-science-in-peer-reviewed-journals.php>
 - 3 <http://www.cc.gatech.edu/~ellendo/peerreview.pdf>
 - 4 <https://access.webofknowledge.com/>
 - 5 <https://www.omicsonline.org/>
 - 6 <http://www.sciencegateway.org/impact/>
 - 7 <http://jifactor.com/about.asp>
 - 8 Edwards and Roy [2016]. Academic Research in the 21st Century: Maintaining Scientific Integrity in a Climate of Perverse Incentives and Hypercompetition. *Environ Eng Sci* 00(00): 1-11.
 - 9 <http://writing.colostate.edu/collections/engineering/writers.cfm>
 - 10 <https://www.asme.org/career-education/articles/business-writing/how-engineers-can-improve-technical-writing>

[Return to Top](#)



United States Public Health Service

MACHINATORES VITAE

Engineer Community Newsletter

From the Chief Engineer Officer



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Rear Admiral, US Public Health Service
Assistant Surgeon General

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<u>2017 EPAC Chair Update</u>	3
<u>Getting Your Work Published: Peer Reviewed Articles</u>	4
<u>2017 Engineer Category Awards Ceremony</u>	7
<u>Engineers Week Celebration - US EPA and NPS</u>	9
<u>Hard Work: Reflections by CDR Kurt Kesteloot</u>	11
<u>SAME & USPHS at George Washington University</u>	13
<u>SAME Golden Eagle Dinner</u>	14
<u>NIOSH Celebrates National Engineers Week 2017</u>	15
<u>New Engineer Officers</u>	17
<u>Recent Retirements</u>	18

Commitment, Curiosity, Confidence

We have all made a commitment to meeting the mission of the Public Health Service to promote and protect the health and safety of the people of our Nation. Some of us by our commitment in uniform and others as a commitment to our jobs and profession. We sometimes waver in commitment as we experience new managers, supervisors, and leaders or as other non-work related commitments compete for our time and efforts. It's important for us to understand how the daily level of commitment we have impacts our missions. Commitment can also be applied to the three public health initiatives of the Surgeon General: addiction, emotional well-being, and nutrition which may affect the public's ability to commit and stay engaged with work and relationships. We must be aware of what we are asked to commit to and the impact we can have in our profession. As I reflect on my career, the level of commitment has made a difference on whatever I was doing even when it didn't produce the fully desired outcome I wanted. We should help each other to understand and develop levels of commitment that produces efforts and results of which we can be proud.

(Continued on page 2)