Addressing ESL Authorship

- Real challenges to publication for authors with English as a second language
- Opportunity for journals and publishers to engage with these researchers to improve submission quality
- Publishers are not limited to copyediting, can provide guidance on content presentation and ethical reporting standards
- Outcomes of educational efforts: easier processing, international breadth, and better science!

NTDs Defined

A group of poverty-promoting chronic infectious diseases that primarily occur in rural and poor urban areas of low- and middle-income countries

Diseases include (but are not limited to) elephantiasis, river blindness, leprosy, hookworm, schistosomiasis, and African sleeping sickness
**PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases**

- **Mission of Capacity Building** to promote the activities and efforts of the scientists, health practitioners and public health experts working in disease endemic countries.

- **Gold Open Access** allows for far greater access to published content for researchers in disease endemic countries.

- **Target 50% Acceptance Rate** to reduce barriers to publication.

- **Community Journal** editorial board completely composed of volunteer researchers working in disease endemic countries.

**Editorial Board**

- **International Board of Editors**
  - One-third of Editorial Board based outside of North America and Europe.
  - Those editors represent over 30 different countries.
  - Active recruitment of editors from disease-endemic countries.
  - Full editorial board: plosntds.org/static/edboard

**Authors**

- **International Authorship**
  - Impetus to receive submissions from researchers from these regions where NTDs are endemic (our community).
  - Over half of new submissions are from outside North America and Europe.
  - Tend to have a lower success rate, partly attributable to ESL issues.
  - Incentive for involvement in capacity building – better quality submissions and more representative content.
“At PLOS NTDs, we are keen to publish high-quality research papers as well as level the playing field for all scientists in our global community. Particularly, we are keen to receive good papers from researchers in disease endemic countries, most affected by these diseases. I hope more of the publication enterprise will adopt the responsibility to expand and enhance the global scientific community.”

Serap Aksoy, co-Editor-in-Chief, PLOS NTDs, Yale School of Public Health

Writing Workshop Program

PLOS NTDs supports free writing workshops around the world.

- CC BY slide deck
- Multiple languages
- Small meetings
- Editor Conducted
- Financial support
- Emphasis on newer researchers
- Focus on disease endemic regions

Slides

Provides detailed guidance and tips on article writing, the journal submission process, editor and reviewer insights.
Content – General to Specific

• What? Where? How?
  • What is the message?
  • Where will the paper end up?
  • How will I write it?

• Cover Letter, Title

• Abstract and IMRAD

• General writing tips
  • Organization
  • Clarity
  • Other resources

Editorial Board: the real heroes!

• Workshops conducted by PLOS NTDs editors with experience working in DECs
• Editors suggest opportunities to journal office, volunteer to conduct, and organize meeting spaces
• Provide editors with slides, funding, giveaways, and our deep appreciation!

So far...

Workshops held around the globe including Turkey, the Peruvian Amazon and Lima, Nairobi and coastal Kenya, China, Texas, and Uganda

Excellent reception from authors, with many workshops being extended

Engagement with Editorial board five workshops on 3 continents with buy-in from just 3 Editors
Writing Workshop Program

On the horizon:

• Reviewer training
• Publication ethics resources
• More translated materials, in more languages
• More workshops, more places
• Language copy-editing before review

Image Credits

Slides 1, 2, 4, 9, 11, and 15

Slides 3 and 13
Biomphalaria glabrata snails. PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases. 2007. 1(1)

Slide 7
Image © 2007 Emma Burns. Mr. Hyun Jin Jeon. PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases. 2014. 8(2)

Slide 6 (right to left)
Walk through the field for vaccination. Ms. Hyun Jin Jeon. PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases. 2014. 8(2)

Members of the National Human African Trypanosomiasis Control Programme in Chad working in a village of the Bodo focus. Pere P. Simarro. PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases. 2011. 5(2)

Slide 13 (top to bottom)

A Sri Lankan man with lymphatic filariasis seen in his left lower extremity. Dr. Yahathugoda. Filariasis Research Training and Service Unit, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, Galle.