

White, W. (2006) *Publishing Addiction Science: A new and valuable resource*. *Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly*. 24(4), 157-158.

This past year has brought an important new resource for researchers and clinicians who wish to publish their work in the peer-reviewed, scientific journals that focus on addiction, addiction treatment or addiction-related social policy. The World Health Organization and the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors have given the addictions field the first definitive guide to addictions-focused scientific journals. *Publishing Addiction Science: A Guide for the Perplexed*, edited by Thomas Babor, Kertsin Stenius and Susan Savva (2004), provides clear guidance on writing, submitting and revising articles as well as a directory of the major journals, the scope of their interests and submission guidelines. For those who have long wished for a Bible of addiction publishing, it has arrived.

Until now, formal guidance on addiction publishing has been limited. Historically, one pursued this venture through a process of professional osmosis—absorbing the nuances of such writing either by imitation or working as an apprentice under the tutelage of more experienced researchers. Some were also coaxed through the publishing process, sometimes painfully, by the critiques that referees levied upon their submitted articles. As a whole, this process was perplexing, even to those with many publications to their credit.

*Publishing Addiction Science* makes two significant contributions to the addictions field. First, it provides detailed instructions on how scientific articles should be prepared for publication in the best addiction journals. Second, it offers a comprehensive catalogue of the peer-reviewed journals in which such articles can be published. The chapters in this guide are well written and extremely practical. They address such questions as how to choose the best journal to submit your work, how to make authorship decisions (an important discussion given the trend toward multiple authorship), how to properly handle and avoid mishandling citations and how to respond to referee comments and suggestions. Particularly insightful and helpful are a chapter on “the seven deadly sins in scientific publishing” and a chapter on the ethics of writing addiction science.

I suspect *Publishing Addiction Science* will trigger two reactions among most of its readers: gratitude and guilt. The former will come from the comprehensiveness and usefulness of the guidance offered. The latter will come from the self-evaluation that the book inevitably stirs. It is hard to read this book without reflecting on one’s own past publishing miscues

(from giving or receiving “gift authorship” through unnecessary self-citation to more serious breaches of scientific etiquette and ethics). I finished this book pondering how much my own writing would have been elevated if this resource had arrived at the beginning of my career rather than near its end. I envy the young researchers who will have this work as a foundation upon which to build their publishing careers. I suspect this guide will be integrated into all addiction studies programs and fill a special spot on the desk of most addiction scientists.

This new book, by its very existence, will elevate the quality and integrity of addiction publishing and make the process less perplexing and painful. The field owes a deep debt of gratitude to the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors and to the editors and authors of *Publishing Addiction Science*.