How to write a good paper: Highlighting the importance of the Introduction section

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When you find your name on a journal article or bibliographic database, you may feel a sense of pride and relief after hard work. Today, publications are necessary to survive in academia and to promote your academic career. However, papers will be useless to society and science unless they are of good quality. Quality can be improved using rigorous study design, sampling, measurement, data collection, and analysis. Here, I would like to emphasise the importance of justifying studies, which we do in the Introduction section of papers. Ask yourself: will answering your research question benefit population health or advance science? If yes, how? If no, reconsider. In my talk, based on my paper entitled 'Trend in alcohol-related crashes before and after the introduction of mandatory breath testing among commercial truck drivers' and published in the Journal of Epidemiology (doi: 10.2188/jea.JE20220054), I will answer pre-prepared questions from the symposium organisers. 1. What was the key to success in your paper? 2. What was the toughest thing in writing your paper? 3. What advice do you give to early-career researchers?

Biography

Masao Ichikawa PhD, MPH, is an injury prevention researcher and a professor of global public health in the Institute of Medicine at the University of Tsukuba in Japan. His current research focuses on the evaluation and promotion of evidence-based/informed traffic safety policies and injury prevention in Japan and other Asian countries, and child burn prevention in Mongolia.

Immeasurable time bias in pharmacoepidemiology

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Impact of immeasurable time bias (IMTB) has not been examined in self-controlled designs. We conducted case-crossover, case-time-control, and case-case-time-control analyses using Korea's healthcare database in elderly patients, using two examples: benzodiazepines–hip fracture and benzodiazepines–mortality. The index date was defined as the date of hip fracture diagnosis or death for cases and inherited from matched cases for controls or future cases. Exposure was assessed in 1–30 day (hazard) and 61–90 day (control) windows before the index date. Two exposure settings were compared: a non-missing exposure setting including in- and outpatient prescriptions and a pseudo-outpatient setting including only outpatients. Conditional logistic regression estimated odds ratios (ORs) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs), and IMTB was quantified as the relative difference in ORs between settings. IMTB had negligible impacts in the hip fracture example across designs, including the case-crossover (non-missing exposure setting OR 1.27; 95% CI, 1.12–1.44; pseudo-outpatient setting OR 1.21; 95% CI, 1.06–1.39; magnitude 0.05), case-time-control (OR 1.18; 95% CI, 0.98–1.44; OR 1.13; 95% CI, 0.92–1.38; 0.04, respectively), and case-case-time-control analyses (OR 0.99; 95% CI, 0.80–1.23; OR 0.94; 95% CI, 0.75–1.18; 0.05, respectively). In contrast, IMTB substantially affected the mortality example in the case-crossover (non-missing exposure setting OR 1.44; 95% CI, 1.36–1.52; pseudo-outpatient setting OR 0.72; 95% CI, 0.67–0.78; magnitude 1.00), case-time-control (OR 1.38; 95% CI, 1.26–1.51; OR 0.68; 95% CI, 0.61–0.76; 1.03, respectively), and case-case-time-control analyses (OR 1.27; 95% CI, 1.15–1.40; OR 0.62; 95% CI, 0.55–0.69; 1.05, respectively). Overall, IMTB had minimal impact on acute events but negatively biased mortality estimates, an outcome with prodromal phases, across all three self-controlled designs.

Biography

Dr. Ju-Young Shin is a Chair Professor in the Department of Biohealth Regulatory Science at the School of Pharmacy, Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU). She serves as an Associate Editor of SCIE-indexed journals, including Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety, Vaccines, and Epidemiology and Health. She received her BS in Pharmacy from Seoul National University and her MPH and PhD from Seoul National University College of Medicine. She has published over 300 peer-reviewed articles and previously served as a Director at the Korea Institute of Drug Safety and Risk Management (KIDS).

Writing and Publishing: Urban–Rural Disparities in Mild Cognitive Impairment and Dementia in Taiwan

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The World Health Organization has identified dementia as a global public health priority. Enhancing research capacity is essential for generating high-quality, evidence-based information that supports equitable and effective care for individuals living with dementia. The early stages of a researcher's career represent a critical period for developing and strengthening these competencies. In this presentation, I will introduce a case study entitled "Urban-Rural Disparities in the Prevalence of Mild Cognitive Impairment and Dementia." Key factors contributing to the successful publication of this research—including the novelty of the topic, its practical implications, and the strategic selection of a target journal—will be discussed. I will also highlight major challenges encountered during the manuscript preparation process, particularly those related to time management in academic writing. Drawing on prior writing experience, I offer practical suggestions for early-career researchers, including strategies to avoid common reasons for manuscript rejection and approaches to enhancing research productivity and capacity. This effort aims to strengthen support for researchers in the field and to promote sustained scholarly attention to this pressing public health issue.

Biography

Dr. Chih-Ching Liu is an Assistant Professor of Health Care Management at National Taipei University of Nursing and Health Sciences, Taiwan. She previously served as an official at Taiwan's Ministry of Health and Welfare and is a certified Public Health Professional and board member of the Public Health Professionals Association. Her research focuses on healthcare services and risk assessment and has been supported by multiple grants from Taiwan's National Science and Technology Council. She has published over 33 SCI/SSCI-indexed articles, including in JAMA Network Open, serves on the editorial board of BMC Public Health, and is a two-time recipient of academic research awards from the National Science and Technology Council.