**Certificate Program in
Practice-Based Research Methods
(PBRMCert)**

Preparing a Research Paper
for Publication
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Preparing a Research Paper for Publication

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File   Edit   View   Tools   Window   Help

▼ AUDIO & VIDEO

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Audio Setup

Talk   Video

▼ PARTICIPANTS

Clinical Direc...
Moderator

MAIN ROOM (5)

● **Clinical Directors Network**
   Moderator (You)

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▼ CHAT - Supervised

You joined the Main Room. (11:00 AM)

· Your chat permission is off; however, you may send chat messages to moderators. (11:00 AM)

· Your chat permission has been enabled. (11:00 AM)
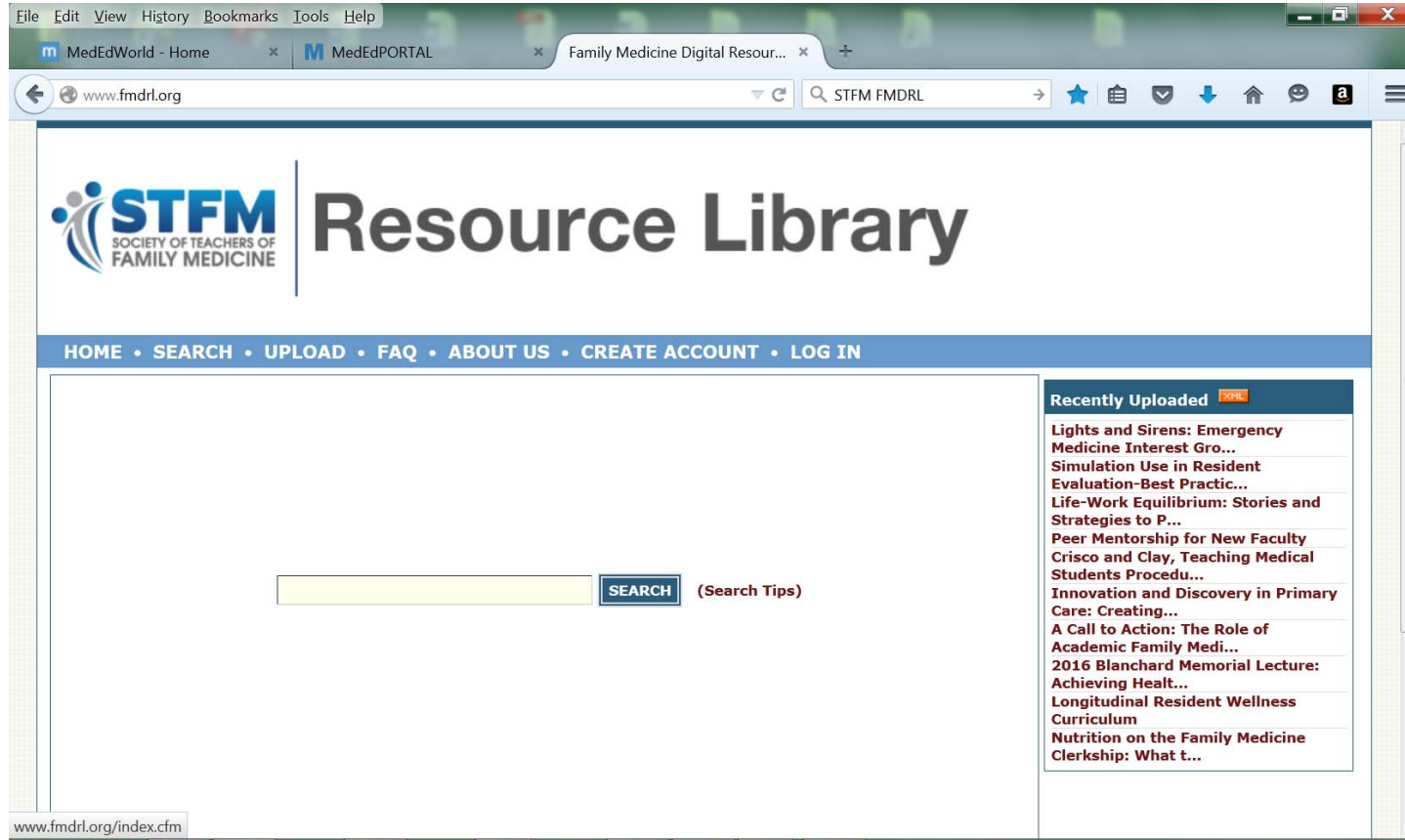
CHAT BOX

Room   Moderators

Session Objectives

- Alternative Opportunities for Publishing

- Highlight what editors expect from authors

- Introduce useful resources

Alternative Publishing

+ Useful for mentoring residents/students

+ Some examples:
  + STFM FMDRL
  + MedEdPORTAL
  + MERLOT
  + MedEDWorld
    + iCollaborative

STFM Family Medicine Digital Resource Library
(FMDRL)

MedEdPORTAL Services

- *Publications*: **peer reviewed**
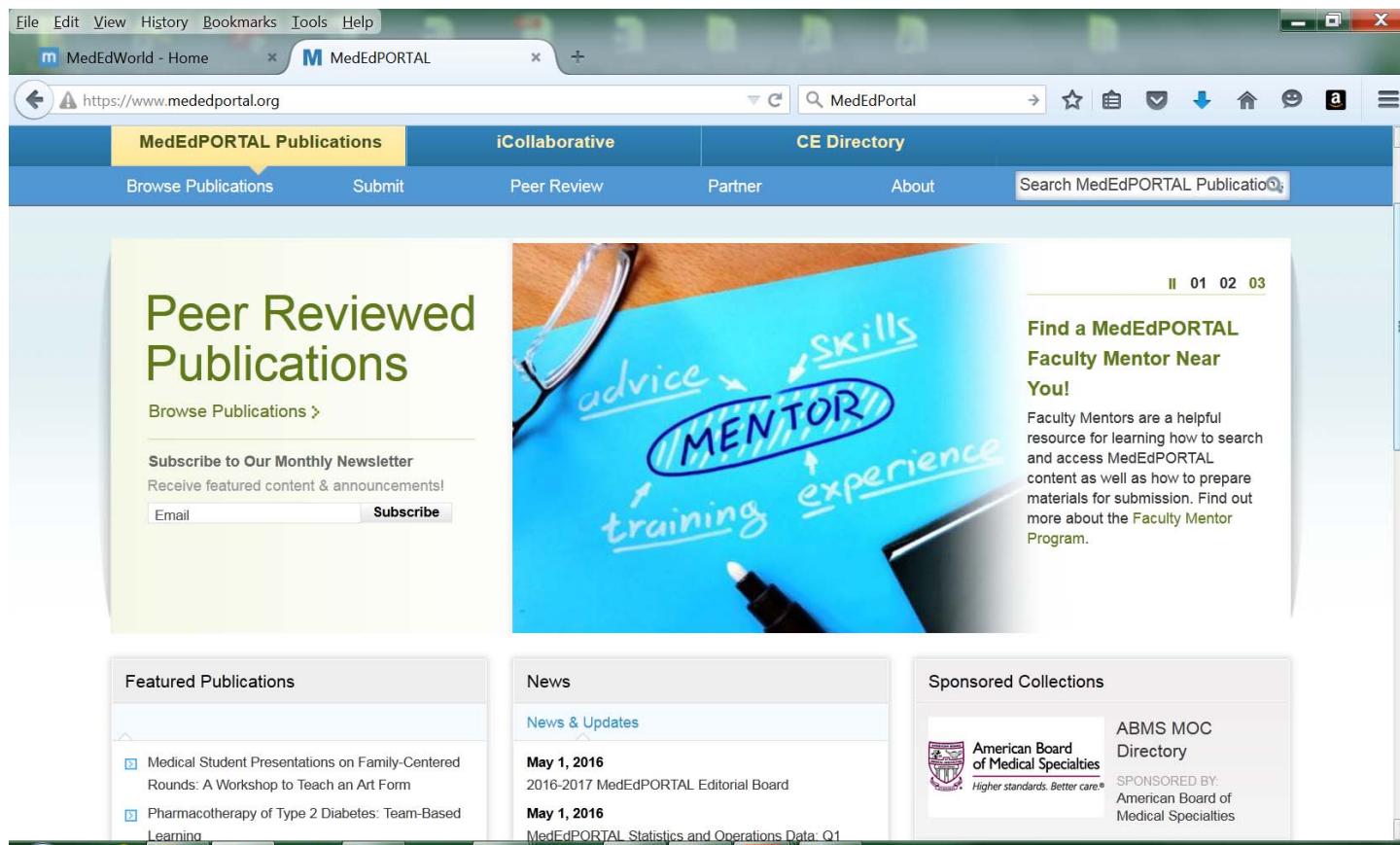 - health education and assessment tools

- *iCollaborative*: **non peer reviewed**
  - promotes exchange of Innovative approaches, practices, and strategies for transforming healthcare

- *CE Directory*: **peer reviewed**
  - directory of evidence-based online CE credited activities

MedEdPORTAL

Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT)

MedEdWorld

Peer-Reviewed Journals

- Journal Bootcamp Basics
  - Outlining your paper
  - Editor expectations
  - Resources
  - Authorship
  - Key elements of research reports
  - Submitting
  - Responding to peer review

Basics: Before Writing Paper

- Outline 2-3 papers per project
- Identify author teams
- Select a journal
    - Use references from your lit review
    - Peruse a few issues
        - Is it a good fit? Has the Jr. recently published something similar?

Editors' Expectations for Authors

- Do your homework.
  - Read instructions to authors
  - Be familiar with ICMJE Authorship guidance
- Submit your best work!
- Publishing ethics:
  - IRB approval
  - Patient consent
  - Permissions for figures

Resources

- Bordage paper: Preparing a paper for publication
  - Outline of key elements
- Roberts paper:
  - Checklist for authors and reviewers
- ICMJE: the editors' handbook

Bordage paper

- Great checklist of elements to consider addressing in your study/paper
- Brief narratives on each of the major sections in a scientific paper
  - IMRAD

Resources: *Roberts* checklist
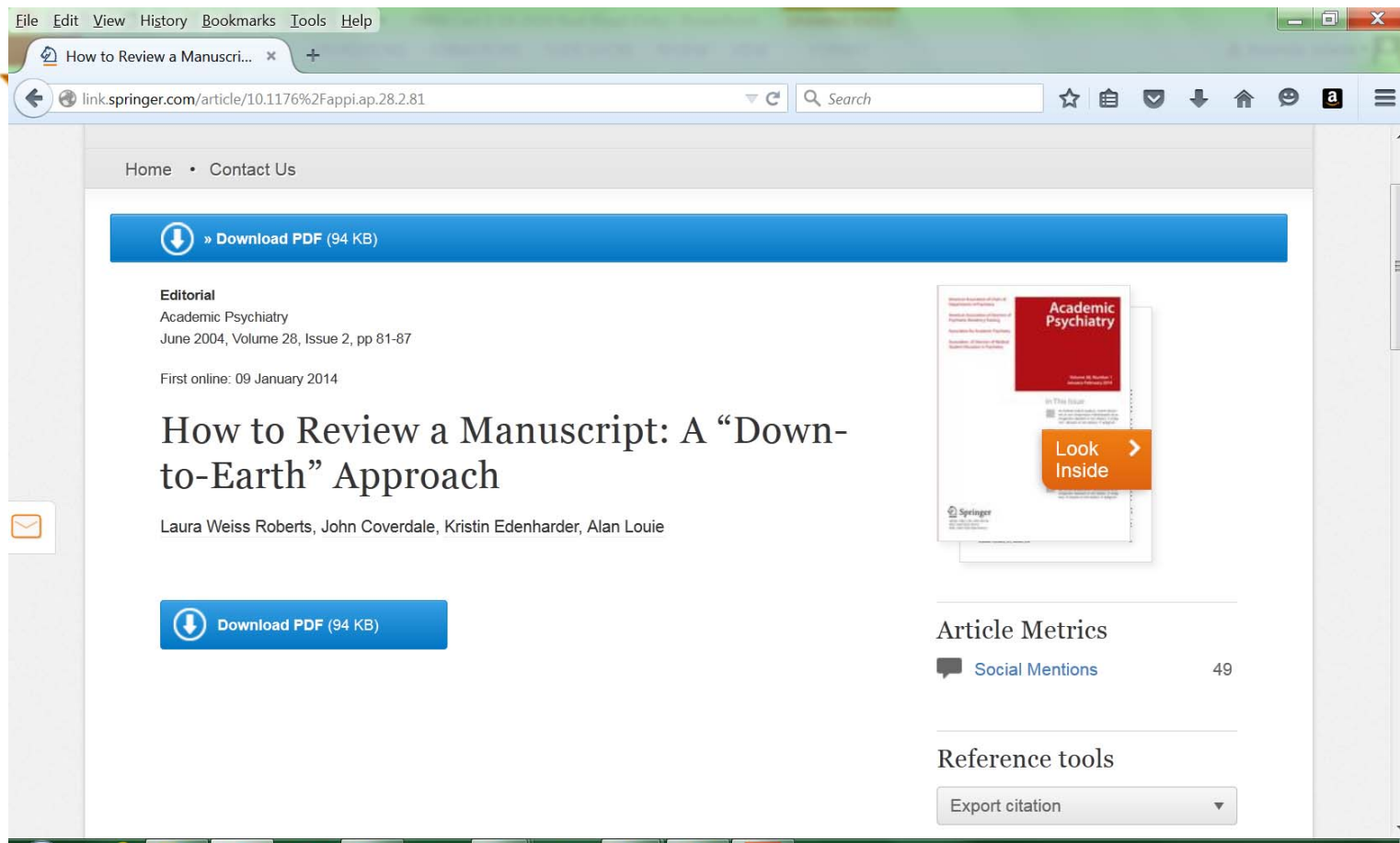
Resources: *"ICMJE Recommendations"*

- *"Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals"* Authored by the 'International Committee of Medical Journal Editors' (ICMJE)
- Followed by hundreds of journals
- URL: www.icmje.org

ICMJE website
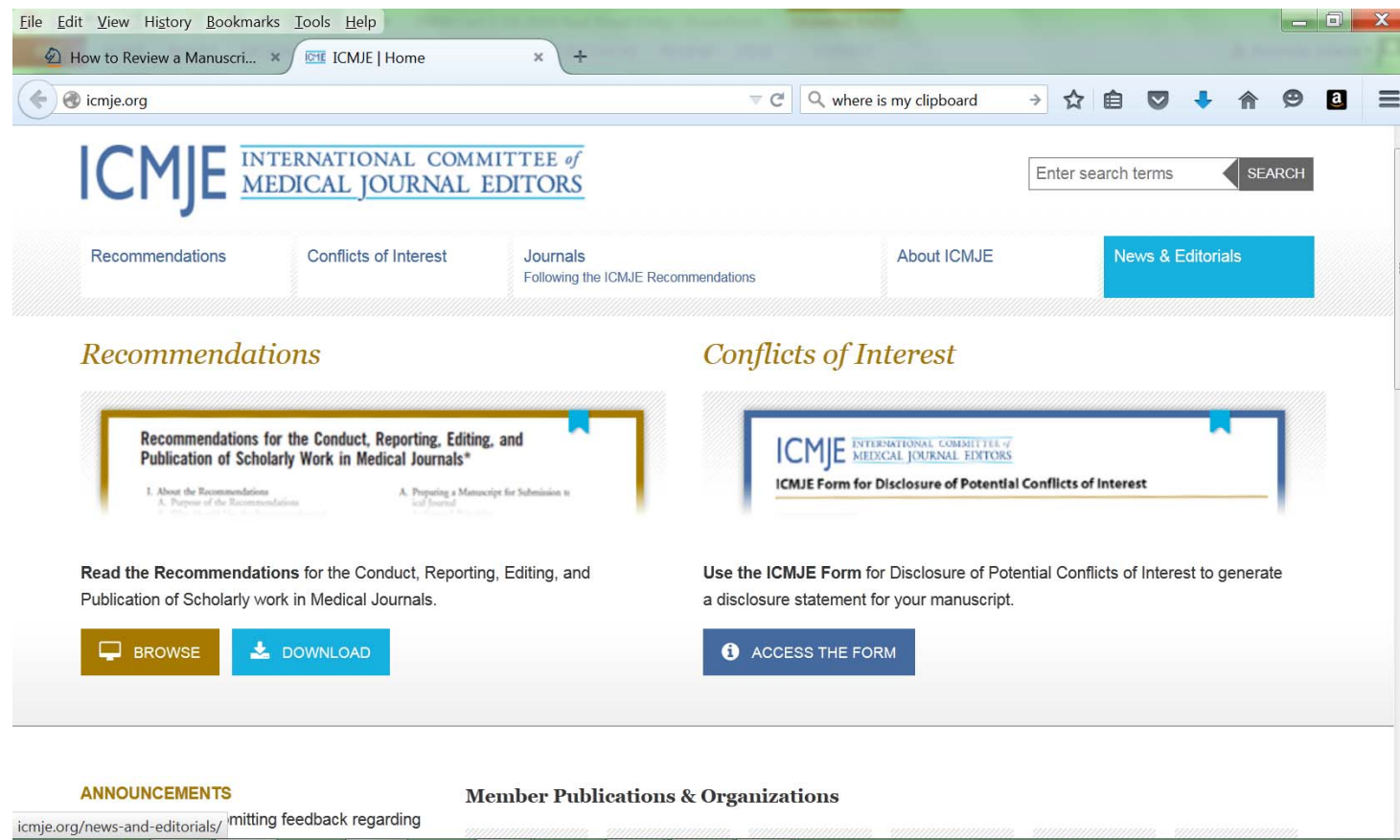
"*ICMJE Recommendations (2)*"

- Tells what editors expect from authors
- Instructions for submitting manuscript for publication
  - Manuscript components (**IMRAD** format)
  - AMA reference format
- Provides editorial policy statements
  - Conflict of Interest
  - Corrections & Retractions
  - Confidentiality
  - Redundant Publication
  - Authorship

Authorship Criteria

- 3 Authorship criteria (per the ICMJE)
  - Substantial contributions to conception & design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data *AND*
  - Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content *AND*
  - Final approval of the version to be published.

The Sticky Issue of Authorship

- Negotiate with Co-Authors:
  - Division of labor
  - Deadlines & expected time commitments
  - Order of authorship
- Discuss at study inception and periodically
  - Authors and order of authors may change

MS Key Elements

+ Title page
  + All authors; Corresponding author;
  + Funding; Conflict of Interest declarations
+ Abstract
+ IMRAD
+ Acknowledgements
+ References
+ Figures and Tables

IMRAD Format

+ Organize your thoughts with IMRAD outline
+ Keep a balance in length of each section
    + **I**ntroduction (2-3 pages)
    + **M**ethods (3-4)
    + **R**esults (3-4)
    + **A**nd **D**iscussion (2-4)
    + Figures/Tables (< 6)
+ 10-15 double-spaced pages for most papers
    + Qualitative papers may be a bit longer

Introduction

+ Background/Literature Review

+ How will your study contribute?

+ Keep it short and direct

Hypotheses

+ State an explicit hypothesis or research question

+ This provides a focus for the paper
  + Methods, Results and Discussion should all relate to the research question
  + Tells reader what the paper is about

Methods

- Often write this section first
- Write in logical or chronological order
- Provide enough detail for replication
- Describe in detail:
  - Sample
  - Materials
  - Research Design
  - Variables
  - Procedures/Interventions
  - Data collection
  - Data analysis plan

Results

- Focus paper by developing tables
- Describe the most important findings
- Organize data in logical manner

Tables & Figures

- Tables are the heart of the paper
- Title/legend
  - Comprehensive description of sample and time/context of data collection
- Clearly label columns & rows/coordinates

Discussion

- Summarize/interpret key findings
- Integrate findings with literature
- Describe study limitations
- What is the take-home message?

References

- Include complete citation information
- Use style specified by journal, or use the AMA style "punctuation lite"
- Be meticulous about accuracy and uniform format
- Don't cite articles you haven't read

Penultimate Draft

+ Take 2 tests: "So What?" and "Who Cares?"

+ When you are ready to submit your paper, do a final review and shorten

Proof Read!

→ Proof read again and again.

→ Have a good "editor" review grammar and writing style.

Submitting for Publication

- Appearance Counts!

- Make it look professional to increase editor's confidence in your ability to produce a quality final draft

Peer Reviewed Journals

- Submit most of its published articles for external review and critique by experts (peers) not part of the editorial staff.

- Avoid non-peer reviewed journals

- Avoid predatory journals
  - Kolata NYT 04/07/2013

Common Reasons for Rejection

- Low interest, originality or importance
- Validity concerns
- Not likely to be cited
- Not well written or focused
- Author failed to inspire confidence that a resubmission will be suitably revised

Responding to Peer Review

- Don't get upset

- Make a list of each comment, and ask co-authors to assist in addressing each one

- When resubmitting, write a cover letter/rebuttal explaining how each comment was handled

Author Rebuttal Example

Reviewer	Comment	Response
R1.2	Authors indicate a bias against DFM proposals. Other contributing factors were not considered.	Excellent point. We added sentences in the Limitations section to address this.
R2.5	The figure could be improved if the proportions were visualized across years.	See response to R2.4
R3.1	Paper needs editing for clarity & to eliminate errors	We performed a closer copy edit and apologize for the errors.

Good Luck!

- Rejection is common

- Improvement is possible!

- Stick with Peer-Reviewed publication opportunities!

References

- Bordage G. "Considerations on Preparing a Paper for Publication". Teaching and Learning in Medicine. 1989; 1 (1): 47-52.

- Huth EJ. *Writing and Publishing in Medicine*, rev. 1998

- International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. *Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in medical Journals*. www.icmje.org.

- Roberts L et al. "How to review a manuscript: a "down-to-earth" approach". Academic Psychiatry 2004; summer,28(2):81-7

- Family Medicine Digital Resource Library - FMDRL: url: http://www.fmdrl.org/

- AAMC – MedEdPORTAL: https://www.mededportal.org/