



Elite Study Program in Macromolecular Science

Module

From Research to Publication – Scientific Writing

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The teaching module “From research to publication – scientific writing” aims at providing support and training for scientific writing and publishing. Within several compact courses, we want to provide the soft skills necessary to

- Learn how scientific publications are structured and how “publication oriented research” works,
- Gain insight into the refereeing and publishing process,
- Learn how to use modern literature search tools,
- Understand impact factors and citation reports.

In addition, we want to provide support for students during the process of preparing their first paper(s).

The following units will be part of the module:

1) Workshop: “Write it Right”

Christopher Lowe (TU Delft)

Date/location: 23./24.8.07 / t.b.a.

This workshop is intended for PhD students, postdocs, and other research workers, who already have some results and wish to get the most impact from their work by writing it down clearly.

All participants must upload a two-page draft manuscript via the WiR website <http://write-it-right.org>, no later than Thursday August 16, 2007.

Emphasis will be on

- Clear and coherent presentation
- Structured writing
- Introductions, discussions and conclusions
- Graphics and data presentation
- Technical English

From the website of the workshop organizers:

“If you're having difficulties getting your work published and noticed, then this is your workshop. It covers structured writing, titles and abstracts, the use of graphics and technical English. You submit a two page manuscript that the supervisors pre-read, making written comments. These are then discussed with the participants in the context of the workshop material.

The format is a mixture of lectures and exercises, culminating in the participants re-writing a short version of their manuscript. These mini-manuscripts are then peer-reviewed. In the discussion the supervisors address the peer-review results and the publishing process. Finally, at the end of the workshop, someone walks away with the best manuscript prize. We guarantee it's worth winning!”

For more information see:

(<http://itsaio.chem.uva.nl/wir/wirdelft/>)

2) **Workshop: The other side – How referees and editors look at manuscripts**

Matthias Ballauff

Date/Location : 4.9.07 Hörsaal H11 , NW I ab 10 Uhr

The refereeing process is essential in publishing. In the end, it will be the referee-comments which decide on whether or not your manuscript submission will be successful. Thus, understanding the criteria with which editors and referees look at manuscripts will greatly improve success rate. At the same time, scientists are expected to be capable of providing referee reports on their colleagues' work. The aim of this workshop is to provide the basis for mastering both aspects of refereeing successfully. It consists of:

- Lecture "An editor's look at manuscripts" M. Ballauff
- Practical part, in which the participants will prepare referee reports for typical papers of the field
- Discussion of the participant's referee reports and comparison with "professional" reports

3) **Workshop: "What has been done before ? – Using literature second tools right"**

Andreas Fery

Date/location: 10.8. / tba

Nowadays the amount of literature published per year even on a rather narrow field has grown to enormous dimensions and achieving an overview on the status of the field has become a major challenge in itself. Luckily, modern tools for searching for literature have matched the pace and using them well is a prerequisite for publishing. This unit will introduce the participants into the effective use of existing literature recherche tools like *Scifinder(t)* or *ISI Web of Know-ledge*. As well, the impact of papers and ways to quantify it will be discussed. The workshop consists of:

- Lecture "Using literature recherche tools"
- Practical part in which groups will "dig into" a certain subfield of science and try to identify key papers / get an overview of the field.
- Participation in review article(s) possible

4) Tutorial “My first paper”

The first paper is doubtlessly the most difficult one for every scientist and the ENB aims at providing support for the students in the preparation of their first manuscripts (proofreading, discussions during manuscript preparation, choosing the journal with the right scope,...).