“How do I publish my first research paper?” – Soft skills necessary for successful publication

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Abstract
Publishing research work in peer-reviewed journals is one of the most important ways to communicate your work to scientific community, especially for graduate students if they are interested in career in research and academia. Many universities also have a publishing requirement for students to graduate either with Masters or PhD. However, it can be intimidating for students to publish their first paper. In this presentation, following key points necessary for successful publications will be discussed: (1) Why it is important to publish? (2) Where to publish? Should impact factor be a consideration? Publish in open access? (3) How to start writing? What to write first? Introduction? Results? Etc. (4) How to make professional quality images with simple software? (5) Authorship and how to decide who to include, acknowledge people who helps or include them as authors? (6) Ethics of presenting data (7) How to respond to reviewers’ comments? (8) How to ask help from faculty mentors and other mentors? In summary, writing research paper for publication should be a fun and rewarding process. Quality of the work published should be of great importance for advancement of scientific field and student’s professional success.

Biography
Dr. Ketul C. Popat is an Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering/School of Biomedical Engineering at Colorado State University. Prior to that, he was working as a Research Specialist in the Department of Physiology at University of California, San Francisco. He has authored 100+ peer-reviewed publications in journals such as Materials Science and Engineering, Nanomaterials, Langmuir, Biomaterials, Journal of Orthopedic Research, Journal of Biomedical Materials Research, etc. and has an h-index of 38. He has also presented his work at numerous national and international level conferences. He received his Ph.D. in Bioengineering from University of Illinois at Chicago in 2003, M.S. in Chemical Engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago in 2000 and B.E. in Chemical Engineering from M. S. University in India in 1998.