FROM THE EDITOR

Unmasking the Process: Perils and Facilitators of Successful Publishing in *Forum*

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We rely on authors' feedback to modify our processes as needed, helping us facilitate authors choosing Forum *as the preferred journal for their oncology nursing science manuscripts.*

One of the most common questions I receive as editor is how to get an article published in the *Oncology Nursing Forum* (*Forum*). Now in my fifth year as editor, I have gained insights into the publishing process that I was not fully aware of as an author. I would like to share some of these insights and suggestions for prospective authors considering submission to *Forum*. Our journal thrives on authors submitting their best work, and we aim to continue publishing dynamic and meaningful articles from oncology nurse scientists and their teams.

For authors, the first decision is determining whether *Forum* is the right journal for their submission. The *Forum* mission statement provides an overview of its purpose and focus: "to amplify oncology nursing science and support the translation of research evidence to practice and policy." The intent of *Forum* is to foster health equity for individuals, families, and communities affected by cancer through the dissemination of research that transforms cancer care in health systems and communities. Although broad, this statement offers a framework for understanding the scope of the journal and the types of articles that align with *Forum*'s current mission. Before submitting, authors can email the editor with an abstract to determine whether their manuscript might be a good fit for the journal. Although many authors are encouraged to submit at this stage, I can guide authors to other journals if their article is outside the scope of *Forum*, saving them time by directing them to a more suitable journal.

Once a manuscript is submitted to the Editorial Manager platform, it is checked and processed by the editorial staff and assigned to the editor for review. *Forum* has standard publishing guidelines posted online (www.ons.org/onf/authors) that most authors follow. However, more than 50% of submissions are not sent for peer review. In publishing vernacular, this is called a "desk reject," meaning that the manuscript is not considered for peer review and is returned to the author. The following issues may lead to a desk rejection:

- Readability and coherence: If a manuscript lacks readability and coherence, it will not be sent for peer review.
- Similarity Check score: A high Similarity Check score, indicating potential plagiarism, can lead to desk rejection. This often occurs with DNP projects and PhD dissertations that have not been embargoed after student graduation. An *embargo* is a restriction that allows only the title, abstract,