

**Surgical Research Society - 2021 April Meeting**  
**East and Greater Southern Sydney Surgical Skills Training Network**

**Date: 29th April 2021**

**Venue: Douglas Miller Lecture Theatre - St Vincent's Hospital**

Attendees:

- David Abi-Hanna
- Ben Xie
- Hayden Ly
- Vivian Li
- Sparsh Chawla
- Satoshi Nishitani
- Nick Skladnev
- Louise Waterhouse
- Andrew Zimmerman
- Louise Weber
- Niamh Ramsay
- Danjel Miladinovic
- Amy Weber
- Ben Wilcox
- Andrea Naim
- Ramandeep Kaur
- Anju Ramanayake
- Sarah McCormick
- Nikita Naidu
- Diana Serban

# How to Write a Case Report

- Dr Yashutosh Joshi (Cardiothoracics registrar)

## Key considerations

- CV points
- Good to write as a junior due to relatively lesser workload

## When to write a case report?

- Documentation of interesting pathology
- New, novel techniques
- Seniors may recognise these opportunities and present it to you.  
Ensure appropriate ethical considerations when accessing patient notes and operation reports

## How to approach potential supervisors?

- Show an interest and bring something to the table in terms of research ideas and stems
- Persist with supervisors you find worthwhile and wish to work with

## Other types of papers to consider

- Retrospective reviews of databases e.g. hip registries
- Systematic reviews
  - Can actually approach the Cochrane database, they have a section on their website for potential projects and need for future systematic reviews

## Before writing a case report

- Do a thorough literature review to investigate current and past research in this field
- Your topic may have already been published
- Pick the journal you wish to write to. Thoroughly read their requirements on a case report e.g. structure and details

## Writing the case report

- Use media to depict techniques, images, imaging etc.
- Try get photos from the actual operation
- Some journals appreciate it when you use references that they have published in the past

## Questions

- Dr Katib asked “have you ever been overwhelmed by feedback received by journals?”
  - Can be overwhelming, feedback can be very long and intensive
  - It is okay to disagree but the key is that reasoning and references to support your view should be included and rationalised

- The deadlines surrounding return of reviews can also be difficult as the manuscript may be returned anytime after a period of months. However, extensions to the deadlines can be requested and often approved

## My Research Experience

### Dr Nedal Katib - Vascular Surgeon POW/SVH

#### Key principles and aims of research

- 1) CV points
- 2) Clinical profession
- 3) Interests

#### CV points

- Planning your time in advance
- Approach mentors and supervisors to help plan your 3-5 year roadmap
- Writing groups can be incredibly helpful for those who work well together and can help each other to achieve publications

#### Clinical profession

- Focus on research projects which are achievable and those which will work in your favour. No one else will care as much about your career and progress as you will.
- Reading journals and reading research is very important to a committed career in surgery, to keep yourself competitive versus your peers but also ensure personal and professional development

#### Interests

- There will always be research projects that you find interesting but it is important to consider what will be positive for your career development as well.
- Your interests will always drive your progression in the other two domains.
- Interest in research is something that you should aim to cultivate and existing interest is a strength that should be acknowledged in your preparation for surgical application, training, future jobs etc.
- Reviews and feedback from peer-reviewed journals are incredibly important

#### Questions

- Sparsh asked "What should we be looking for in supervisors and projects?"
  - Find supervisors and mentors who are genuinely interested in research, not necessarily those who are just popular or accomplished

- Projects you adopt as a junior doctor should be something that genuinely interests you. Otherwise, you will likely burn-out and not follow through with it.
- Ensure that any projects you take on are time-appropriate and also appropriate to your respective college application process

### **Dr David Evans - Vascular Surgeon SVH**

#### Two models of research

- Something that is quick and effective for CV points
- Something that is long term and applicable to your clinical interests and future profession

#### Teamwork

- Importance of networks and surgical research groups to share the load of surgical projects
- Sharing research opportunities through authorship, presentations etc.

#### Other tips for research in general

- Explore research projects which have a crossover or applicability to other medical fields. Consider the role of infectious diseases or trauma for example
- Keep track of your time. Set your own deadlines and keep yourself accountable for when your research projects or case reports should be prepared and ready. Some case reports can be feasibly written up over a weekend.

#### Suggestions for future meetings

- Bring on reviewers, statisticians and other informed people who can help out and share knowledge to these meetings
- Good format for case presentations and presenting what projects are in progress at the moment

## Education Update

- David Abi-Hanna

#### Upcoming Education Sessions

- How to Write a Literature Review
- 3-minute-thesis style presentation sessions

#### Next meeting

- Thursday 27th May
- Venue TBA