



### W15 So You Want to Publish? A Basic Primer and Introduction to Forensic Publishing

*Rachel Hamilton Walton, EdD\**, Price, UT 84501; *Katherine M. Brown, PhD\**, Tarleton State University, Bryan, TX 77807; *Mark A. Listewnik, MA\**, Taylor and Francis, Boca Raton, FL 33487; *Jenny Cossham, MS\**, John Wiley & Sons Ltd, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 8SQ, UNITED KINGDOM; *Michael A. Peat, PhD\**, The Woodlands, TX 77381; *Alexander J. Smith, MA\**, Elsevier, Kidlington, Oxfordshire OX51GB, UNITED KINGDOM

**Learning Overview:** After attending this presentation, attendees will have a basic understanding of how to: (1) determine whether their proposed topic is suitable for publication; (2) identify and contact a publisher; and (3) work with the publisher through the publication process. Participants will attain a foundation of journal and book publishing. In addition, attendees will be able to identify the differences between publishing styles and formats and the differences in book, chapter, or journal requirements.

**Impact on the Forensic Science Community:** Publication of research and findings is essential for open review and discussion by those engaged in the forensic sciences. This presentation will impact the forensic science community by educating participants who desire to publish their forensic work in the solicitation, acquisition, and editing phases of the process for journal or textbook publication. This presentation will assist in furthering communication and enhancing awareness among scientific professionals and disciplines.

Having published a textbook or peer-reviewed journal article is a professional accomplishment that acknowledges your skill and expertise in a topical field. Publication not only establishes or furthers writing credentials, it may assist in professional promotion or other recognition of the work. Academia usually requires publication for granting tenure and promotion, and publication in the *AAFS Journal of Forensic Sciences* or other areas that further the forensic sciences may assist in meeting criteria for membership promotion within the Academy.

The forensic sciences are in a continuous state of discovery, evaluation, and re-evaluation of old and new forensic practices and techniques. As new knowledge is gained, it needs to be shared with the forensic science community. Publication in chapters, books, and peer reviewed journals is a primary means by which information is disseminated. It is most likely that forensic students and practitioners across the international spectrum have, at one time or another, thought about publishing in a peer-reviewed journal or a textbook. But lack of knowledge on how to proceed further has mystified and undoubtedly inhibited many qualified forensic-oriented personnel from pursuing this avenue. The questions so often asked are: “How do I go about being published?” “Where do I start?” “Where do I go?” “How can I get help?” and “Who would be interested in my topic?”

This introductory workshop will answer these questions. It offers the participant the opportunity to obtain valid, first-hand answers to these hurdles, and more. A panel comprised of representatives of forensic textbook and journal publishers will discuss questions proposed by a moderator. After each representative has had an opportunity to respond to each question, attendees will have the opportunity to further pose questions from the floor. Attendee participation is strongly encouraged. Panel members will present their perspectives on determining whether a prospective author has a marketable topic and how to locate an appropriate publisher. The panel will guide attendees, in detail, through the start-to-finish aspects of forensic publishing. This will include how to approach a publisher and suggested do’s and don’ts at this stage. Attendees will learn of the various types of editors involved in the publication process, from solicitation of the manuscript to those involved through the review and proof process, the final editing stages, and then publication.

As journal submissions are typically much different than those submitted for textbook format, the panel will offer further, specific guidance for consideration and writing for a peer-reviewed journal submission. The discussion will clarify the difference and importance between a peer-reviewed manuscript and one which is not subject to such. For both text and journal submissions, the attendee will further become aware of some of the legal requirements for publishing as well. The panel will address the importance of credits and source citations and documentation. Inclusions such as photographs or similar exhibits have separate permission requirements, and these will also be discussed.

Upon completion of this workshop, the attendee will have a better, more comprehensive understanding of what is involved in the publishing process. This presentation will de-mystify the publication procedure and attendees will be better able to assess and review their work and their thoughts about publication and will have the basic knowledge to make their dream publication a reality.

The presence of these representatives of forensic textbook and journal publishers is not an endorsement of their products or their firms by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and all statements and opinions are their own and do not reflect the views of the AAFS.

#### **Publishing, Forensics, Processes**