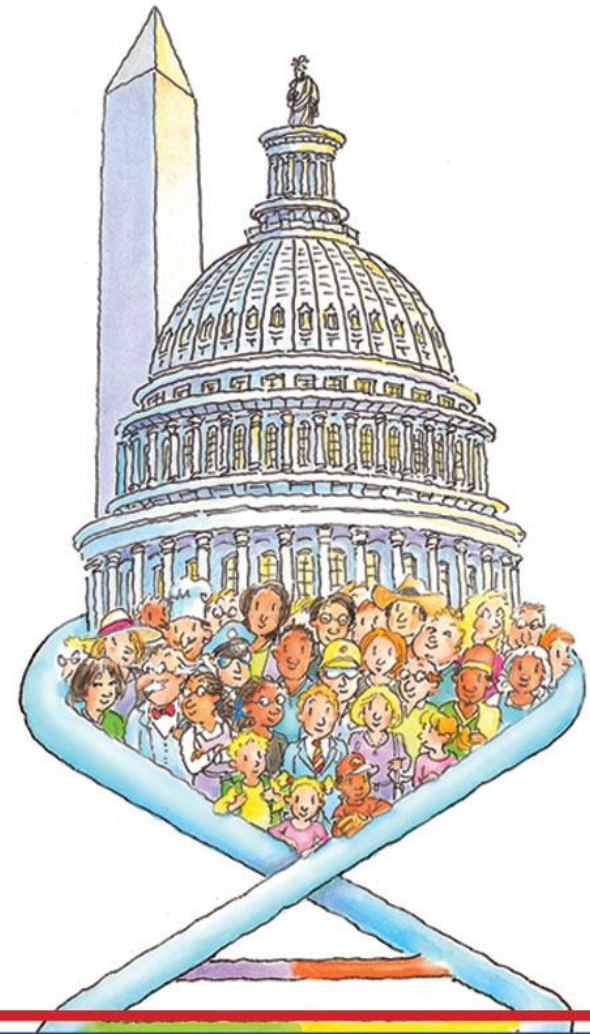


GSA 2014 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

NOVEMBER 5-9, 2014
WASHINGTON, DC

Walter E. Washington Convention Center
Washington Marriott Marquis



Making Connections: From Cells to Societies



How to Publish Symposium

In partnership with the
Publications Committee
Thursday, November 6, 2014



Luigi Ferrucci, MD, PhD
Publications Committee Chair

WELCOME



AGENDA

- Introductions
- Editor Presentations and Q&A
- Journal Breakouts
- Summary and Closing



Advancing Innovation in Aging Through Our GSA Journals

- *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Social Sciences*
- *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences*
- *The Gerontologist*
- *Public Policy & Aging Report*
- *The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences*
- *The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Medical Sciences*
- *Gerontology & Geriatrics Education*





Stephen B. Kritchevsky, PhD

Editor-in-Chief, The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Medical Sciences

GETTING READY TO PUBLISH



AGENDA

- Why Publish?
- Before You Write the Paper
- Choosing a Journal
- Writing the Paper
- View From the Other Side: Increasing the Odds that your Manuscript will be Published



WHY PUBLISH?



Why Publish?

- The Livelihood of Academicians
 - Getting the first job
 - Building careers
 - Getting grants
- Building Knowledge
 - Communicating with other scientists
 - Testing theory
 - Improving practice



BEFORE YOU WRITE THE PAPER



Questions

- Does this paper advance an important conversation in the literature?
- Does it:
 - Test an important hypothesis for the first time?
 - Replicate a finding in a way that extends the conversation?
 - Address an understudied problem?
 - Move knowledge forward?



Useful Replications

- Conflicts in the literature
- Extend findings in important ways
 - Bigger sample sizes
 - Better methods
 - New groups of interest (e.g., Hispanic caregiving)
 - Different geography (but explain why)
- Introduction must make it clear why replication is important



Types of Articles

- Empirical studies*
- Literature reviews
- Theoretical articles
- Methodological articles
- Case studies



CHOOSING A JOURNAL



Choosing a Journal

- Does it matter where you publish?



Types of Journals

- Review Journals
- Society Journals
- Generalist Journals
- Regional Journals
- Subspecialty Journals
- Online Journals



Choosing a Journal: Content Issues

- What conversation are you joining?
- Who is your audience?
- Will your methods be appreciated?
- What is the culture of the journal:
 - What types of articles do they publish? Theory? Empirical articles?
 - Disciplinary or multidisciplinary focus?

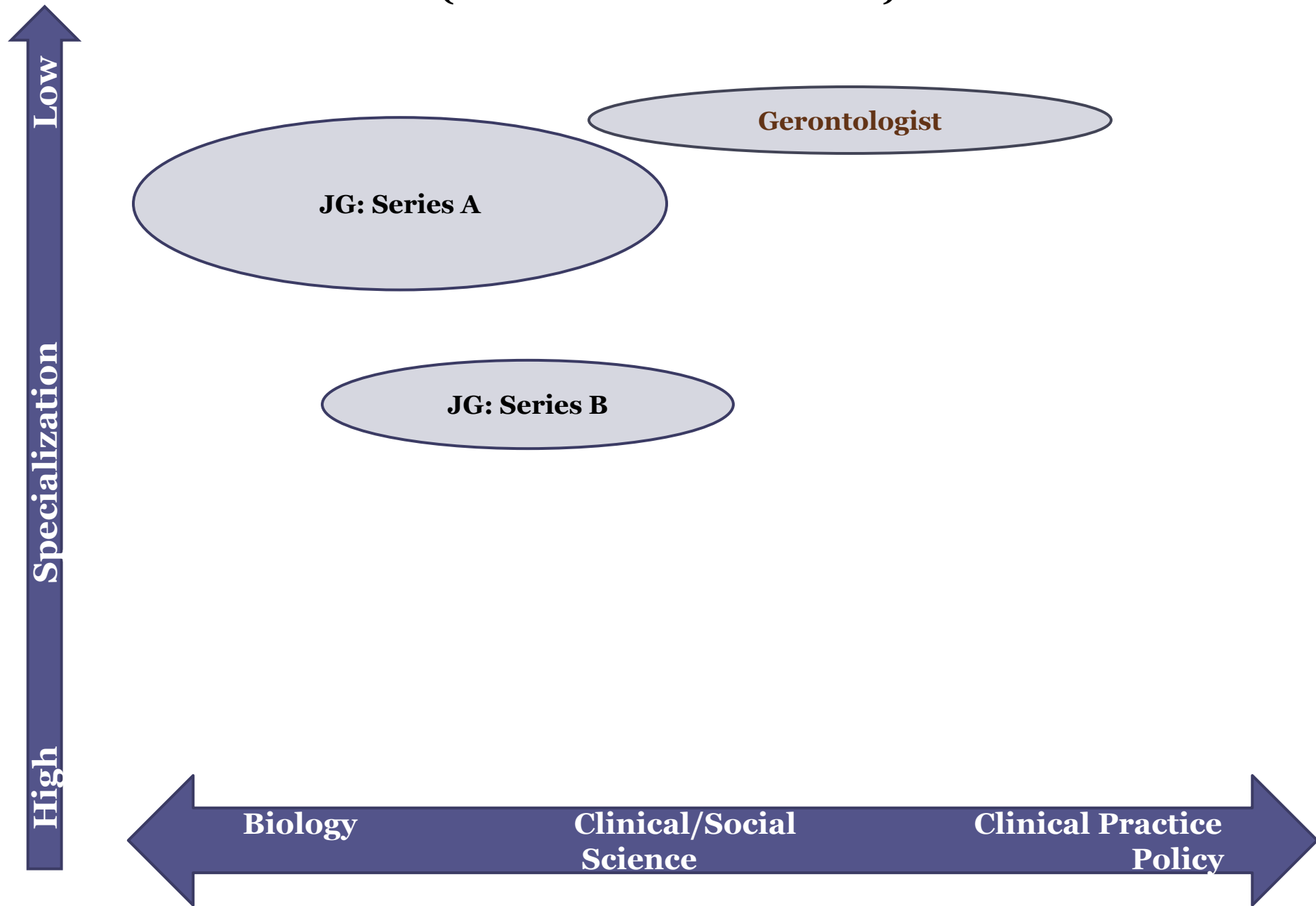
DO YOUR HOMEWORK: READ THE JOURNALS!



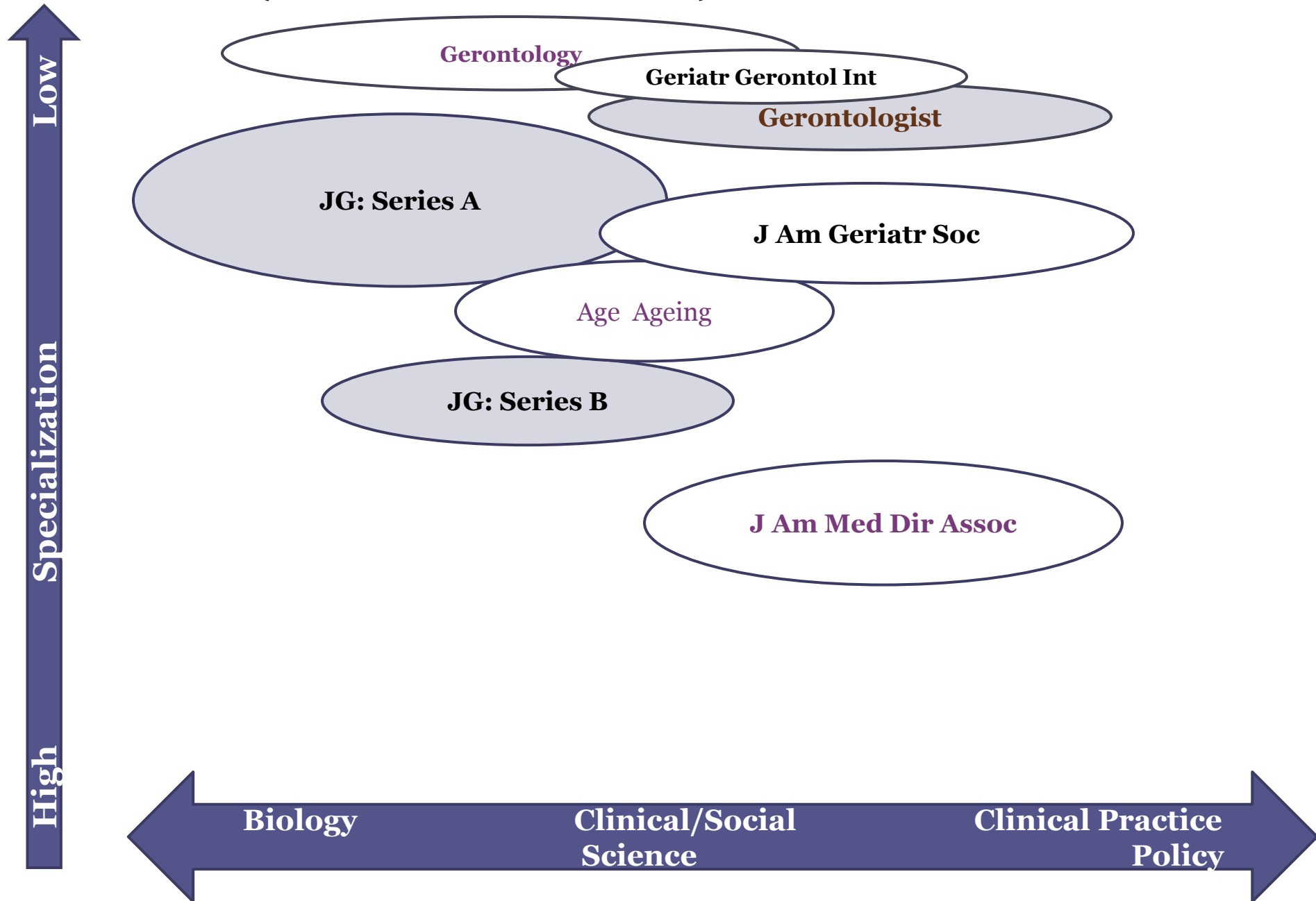
Geriatrics and Gerontology Journals visualized by scope and IF (Review Journals omitted)



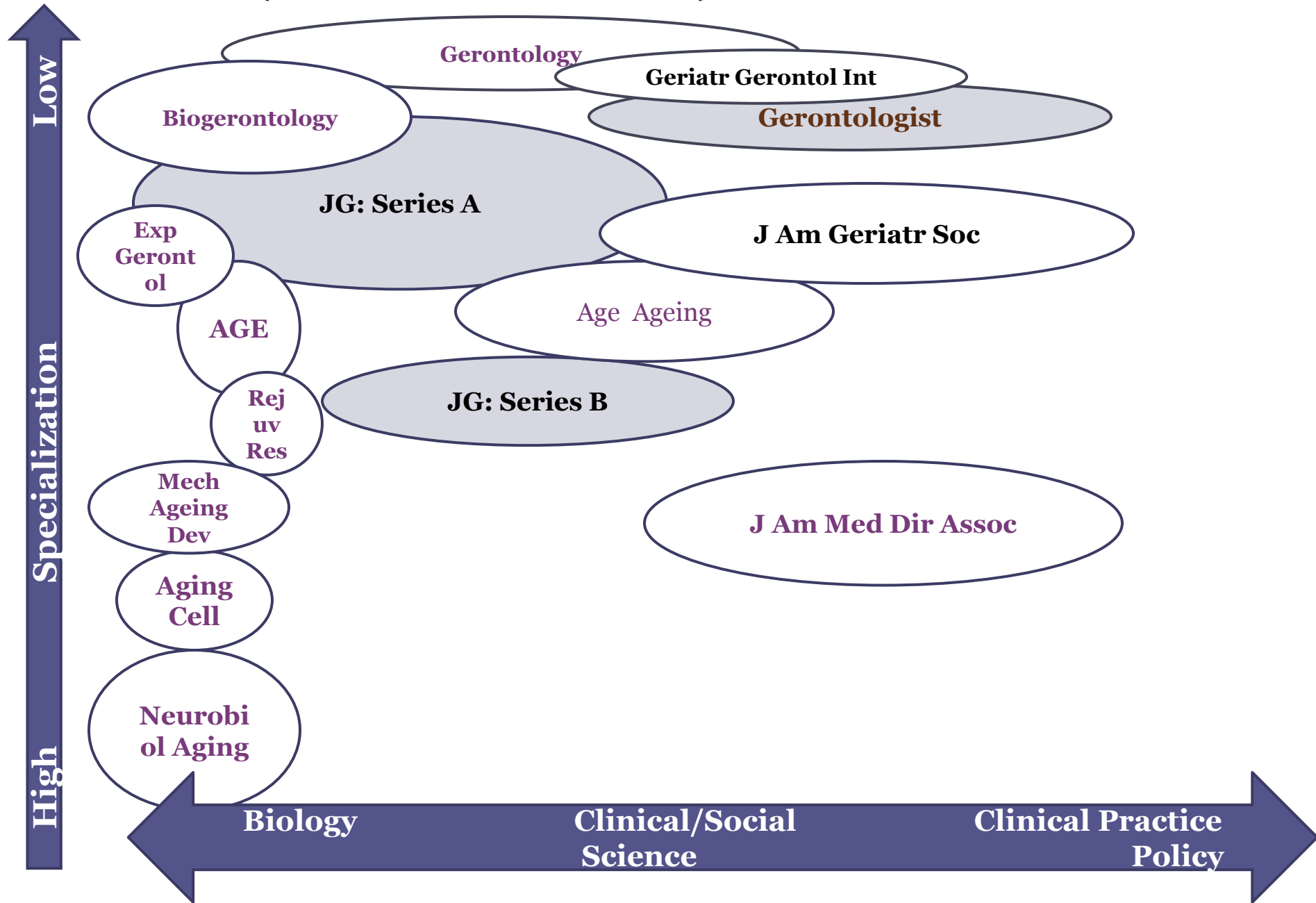
Geriatrics and Gerontology Journals visualized by scope and IF (Review Journals omitted)



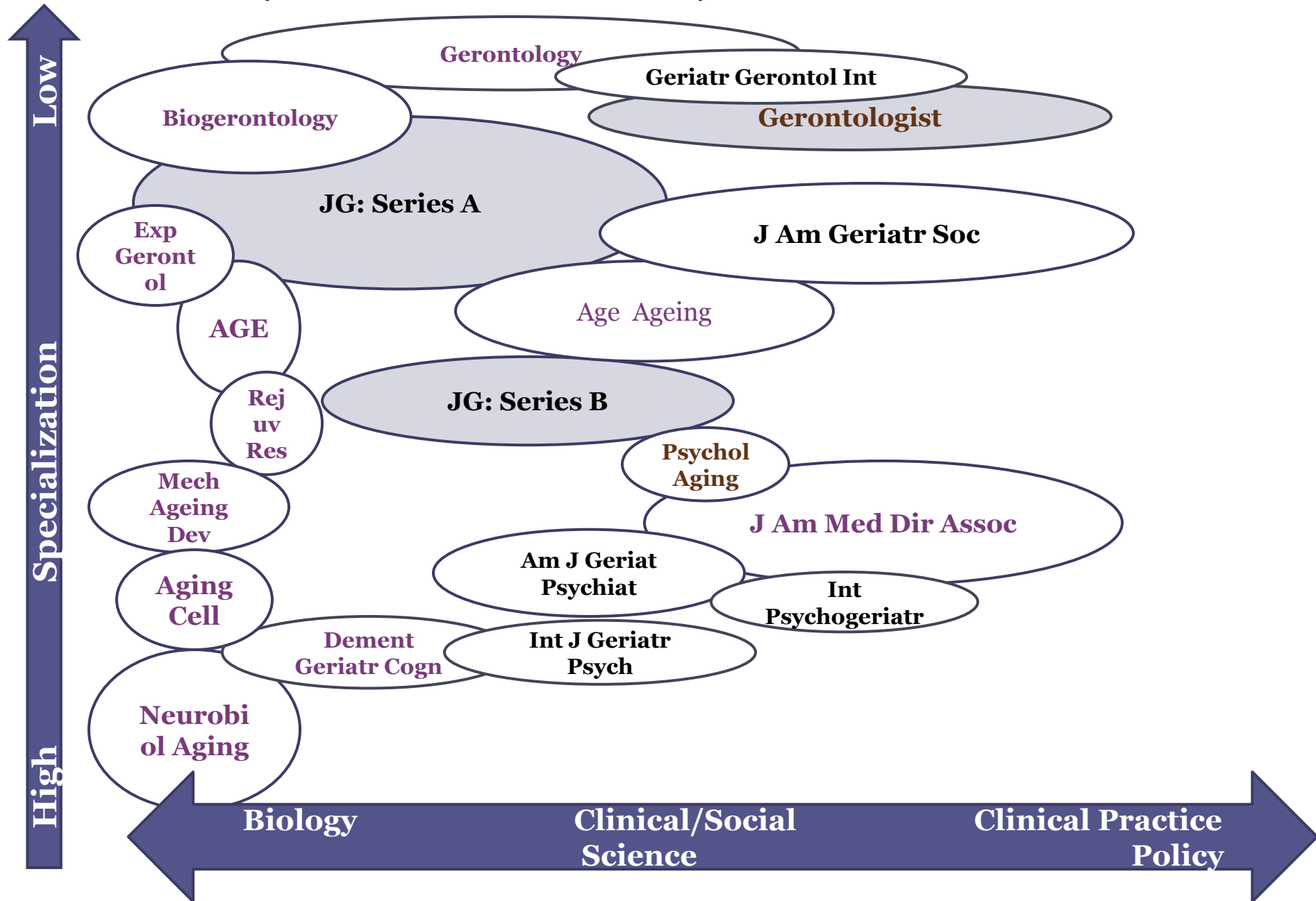
Geriatrics and Gerontology Journals visualized by scope and IF (Review Journals omitted): Journals with IF > 2



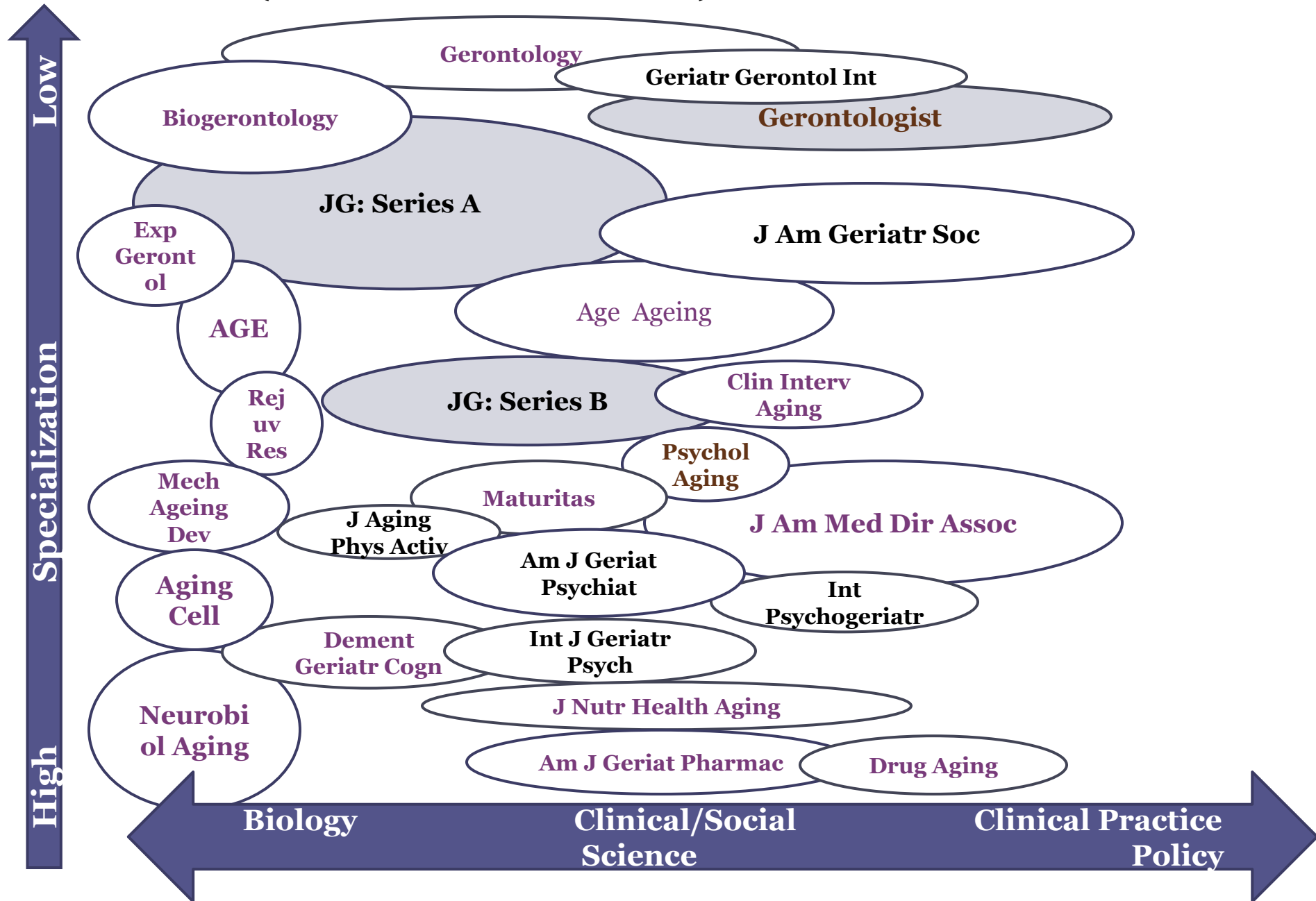
Geriatrics and Gerontology Journals visualized by scope and IF (Review Journals omitted): Journals with IF > 2



Geriatrics and Gerontology Journals visualized by scope and IF (Review Journals omitted): Journals with IF > 2



Geriatrics and Gerontology Journals visualized by scope and IF (Review Journals omitted): Journals with IF > 2





Choosing a Journal: Author Costs

- Free to Authors – All GSA journals
- Charge submission fee – covers handling
- Publication fees:
 - *PLOS Biology* US\$2900
 - *PLOS Medicine* US\$2900
 - *PLOS Computational Biology* US\$2250
 - *PLOS Genetics* US\$2250
 - *PLOS Pathogens* US\$2250
 - *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases* US\$2250
 - *PLOS ONE* US\$1350



Peer Review Process

The Peer Review Process: “Critical assessment of manuscripts submitted to journals by experts who are not part of the editorial staff.”

- Prevents publication of substandard work
- No flaws in design or methods
- Ensures growth of the knowledge base
- Select work that will be of greatest value to readership
- Helps editors make judgments:
 - Reviewers advise and make recommendations, editors make decisions



Choosing a Journal: Open or Closed Peer Review

CLOSED PEER REVIEW

– Single Blinding:

- Authors do not know who the reviewers are
- Reviewers know who the authors are

– Double Blinding:

- Authors do not know who the reviewers are
- Reviewers do not know who the authors are

Reviewers do not know who the other reviewers are.



Peer Review

OPEN PEER REVIEW - more transparent

- Authors know identity of reviewers
- Greater accountability
- Reviewers given public credit for their work



Choosing a Journal: More Practical Issues

- The Impact Factor
- Theory – the more influential an article is, the more times it will be cited by others
- Equation:
 - A journal's impact factor for 2013 is:

$$\frac{\text{\# OF TIMES ARTICLES PUBLISHED 2011 AND 2012 WERE CITED IN 2013}}{\text{\# OF ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN 2011 AND 2012}}$$



Interpreting the Impact Factor

- Number of citations is related to:
 - Size and pace of the field
 - Kinds of research (epidemiology tends to get cited more)
- A journal's IF can be manipulated:
 - Review articles
 - Self-citation: In 2012, 90% of citations of articles from *Energy Education Science and Technology* (IF: 31.7) were self-citations. The IF with these removed would have been: 2.9
 - One very highly cited article can cause large swings in the IF: *Acta Crystallographica Section A* went from 2.05 to 49.9 in 1 year when 1 article was cited 6,600 times



Gerontology Journal Impact Factors

- Journal of Gerontology: Series A, Medical and Biological Sciences = 4.984
- Psychology & Aging = 2.913
- Journal of Gerontology: Series B, Psychological and Social Sciences = 2.852
- The Gerontologist = 2.772
- Journal of Aging & Health = 1.832
- Research on Aging = 1.111
- International Journal of Aging & Human Development = .62



Choosing a Journal: More Practical Issues

- Journal's acceptance rate?
- Time to make decisions?



Rachel Pruchno, PhD

Editor-in-Chief, The Gerontologist

PUBLISHING FROM TWO PERSPECTIVES



Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th Ed.)

WRITING THE PAPER



Writing the Paper

- Write for a Specific Journal:
 - Follow Instructions to Authors:
 - Format
 - Length
 - Type of manuscript
 - Reference style
 - Read articles published in the journal
 - Cite articles published in the journal
 - Find a model paper and follow its structure



The Importance of Writing Well

- Reviewers take the quality of writing as a sign of the quality of science
 - Have someone else edit
 - Professional translator if needed



Plagiarism and Self-Plagiarism

- Credit the source
- Slicing the salami



Title

- Summarize the main idea of the manuscript simply (e.g., The effects of X on Y)
- Be concise, avoid useless words
- Identify key variables
- Don't be cutesy
- Title should stand alone
- Don't use abbreviations
- No more than 12 words



Abstract

- Brief, concise summary
- Adhere to journal standards for format & word limit
- Most important single paragraph of an article
- Accurate
- Clear, active language: Use verbs not nouns
- Present tense
- Empirical study abstract:
 - Problem
 - Participants
 - Method
 - Results
 - Conclusions



Introduction

- Introduce the Problem
 - Why is this problem important?
 - How does your study relate to previous work?
 - Last sentence of first paragraph: State the purpose of your paper
- Discuss relevant scholarship briefly
 - Summarize state of the art
 - Cite relevant work
 - Avoid nonessential details
- Identify a gap that your work will fill
- Put your work in the context of theory/model
- End with research questions or hypotheses
- No more than 5 pages



Method

- How was the study conducted?
- How were variables defined?
- Reader should be able to evaluate the appropriateness of your methods and replicate
- Describe:
 - Sampling, recruitment, and participants
 - Psychometrics of all measures
 - Methods of data collection
 - Experimental manipulations or interventions



Results

- Sufficient detail to justify your conclusions
- Report all findings, even those counter to hypotheses
- Present findings in clear tables



Discussion

- Clearly state your findings
- Make sense of them for the reader
- If hypotheses not supported, offer post hoc explanations
- Highlight similarities and differences between your results and work of others
- Acknowledge study limitations
- Discuss generalizability of findings
- Suggest directions for future research
- End with a comment on the importance of your findings



Authorship

- Defining authorship: take credit for work performed (writing, formulating hypothesis, designing experiment, analysis)
- Determining authorship:
 - Tasks
 - How work divided
 - Be open to renegotiation
- Order of authorship:
 - Principal contributor first; others in order of decreasing contribution
 - If equal roles, indicate in author note
 - Relative status should not determine order of authorship



Optimizing Success

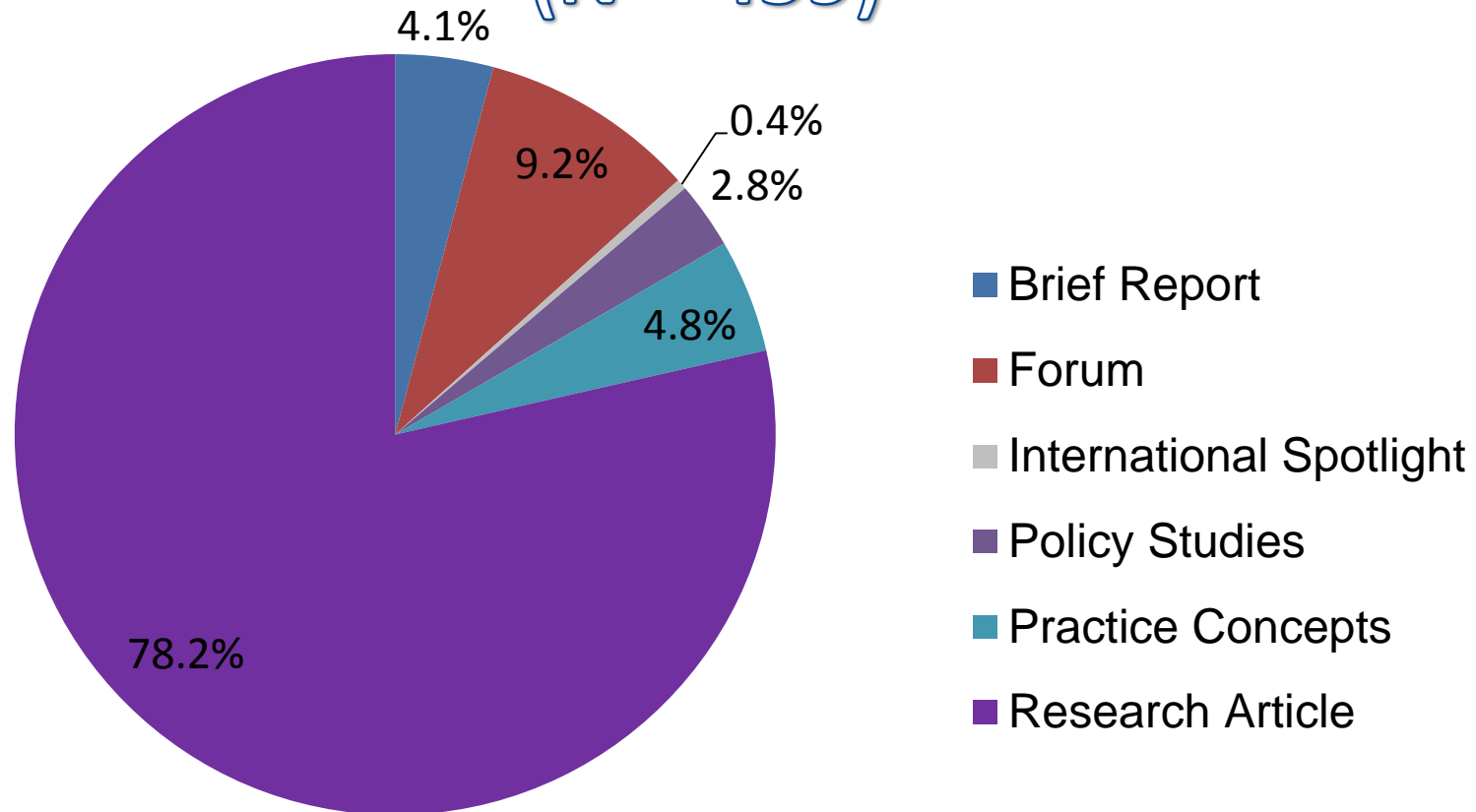
- Adhere to journal style and standards
 - Word limits
 - Reference style
- Write clearly and concisely
- Make it clear how your work advances the field
- Avoid overuse of acronyms
- Don't do too much!
- Cite articles from the journal
- Be critical of your own work
- Rely on your mentors as well as your peers
- Proofread, proofread, proofread. . .



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDE: INCREASING THE ODDS THAT YOUR MANUSCRIPT WILL BE PUBLISHED



Submitted Manuscript Characteristics (N = 459)

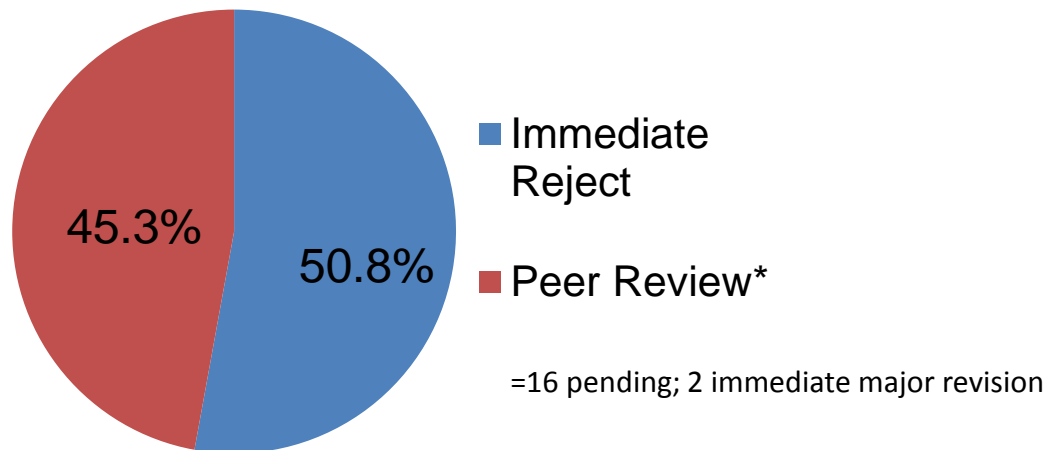




Original Submission Decisions (N=459)

Initial Editor Decision

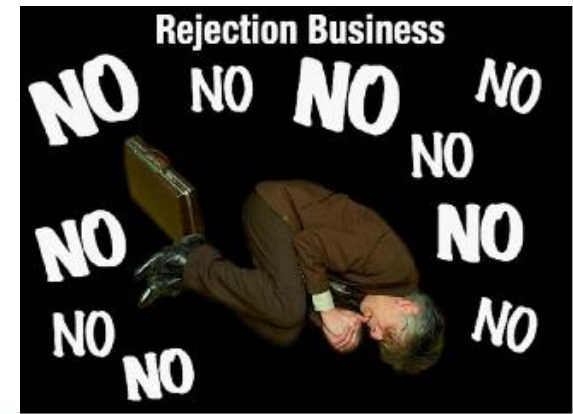
Average Time to Make Decision: 4 days





“You’re Only Human”

- Truisms:
 - Anyone who has ever published has been rejected.
 - Rejection hurts.
 - Rejection is part of the scientific process.





“How Could This Happen To Me?”

- “Thank you for submitting your manuscript TG-2012-999 entitled “This is the Most Important Finding EVER” to The Gerontologist. While the manuscript addresses an important topic, I am sorry to tell you that I am unable to send this out to peer review.”





REJECT WITHOUT PEER REVIEW: FIXABLE PROBLEMS



The primary reason for my decision is your manuscript:

Problem:

- Lacks a conceptual framework and set of testable hypotheses

Solution:

- Find one



The primary reason for my decision is your manuscript:

Problem:

- Does not follow APA format

Solution:



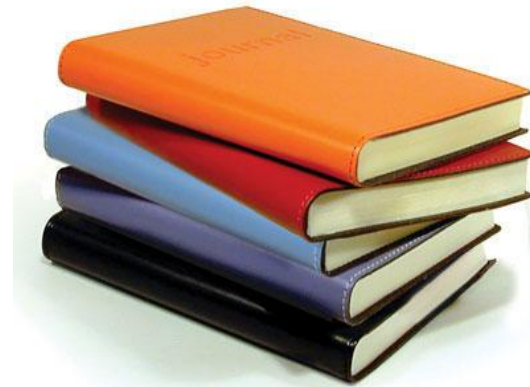


The primary reason for my decision is your manuscript:

Problem:

- Is not consistent with the mission of our journal

Solution:





The primary reason for my decision is your manuscript:

Problem:

- Is poorly written and confusing/includes numerous grammatical problems
- Includes inappropriate use of the English language (foreign speakers)

Solution:

- Engage an editor or colleague
- Consider hiring a translator
 - Can be expensive
 - No guarantees



MORE SERIOUS PROBLEMS



The primary reason for my decision is your manuscript:

- Is based on a small, volunteer sample
- Uses non-validated measurers or measures with low reliability
- Adds little to the literature
- Uses an inappropriate/flawed research design

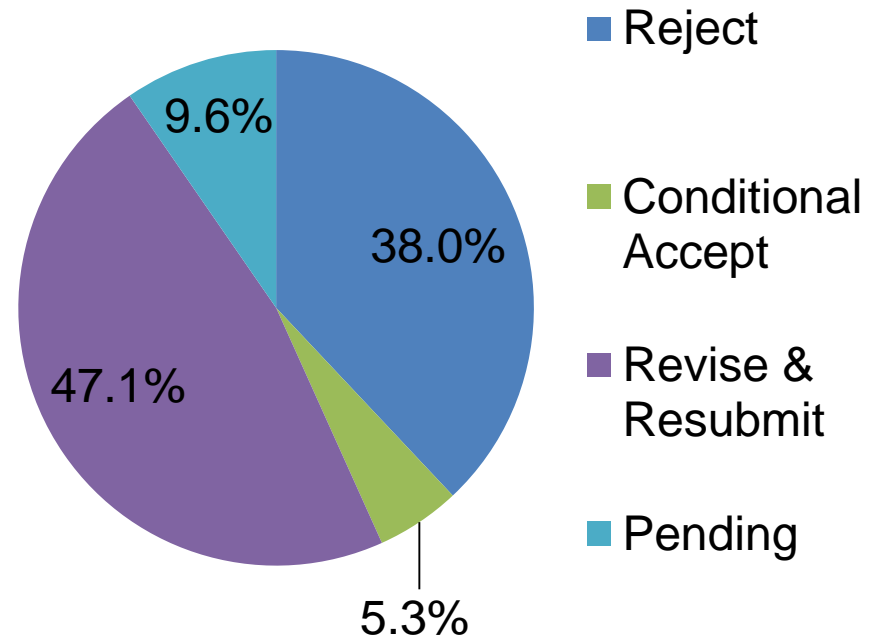




Initial Peer Review Decision (N=208)

Editor Decision

Average Time to Make Decision: 38 days





Revise and Resubmit



- Manuscript ID TG-2012-999 entitled “Really Important Science” which you submitted to The Gerontologist, has been reviewed. I invite you to revise and resubmit your manuscript. The comments of the reviewer(s) are included at the bottom of this letter.

The reviewers agree that your manuscript has the potential to make an important contribution to the literature but. . .



Revise and Resubmit

- Clarify conceptual framework
- Add details regarding methods
- Problems with analysis



Revise and Resubmit

- Carefully attend to each issue identified by reviewers and editor
- If you disagree (and this is not usually a good idea), respectfully explain why
- Follow editor's letter re: instructions for communicating changes to manuscript
- Don't add length



Revise & Resubmit

- Writing your Letter to the Editor
 - Explain how you addressed each editor and reviewer concern
 - If you don't agree, explain why.
 - Thank the editor and reviewers for their comments and for the opportunity to resubmit your work
 - Note that comments were helpful and improved the manuscript (even if you don't believe this!)



Life Course of Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts (N=210)

	TOTAL	Reject	Revise and Resubmit	Conditional Accept	Accept	Pending
	210	79	100	11		20
R1	111	9	18	22	17	45
R2	40	2	2	5	27	4
R3	7			2	4	1
R4	2				1	1
Total	370	90	120	40	49	71

October 31, 2014



Rejected After Review

- Thank you for submitting your manuscript TG-2012-999 entitled "Looked Good, But Not" to The Gerontologist. The paper addresses an important topic; however, based on my review and the recommendations of the reviewers, I am unable to accept it for publication.

The reviewers identified a host of conceptual and methodological problems with your manuscript. I'm certain you'll find their comments, found at the bottom of this letter, to be an excellent guide for the revision of your manuscript should you choose to submit it to another journal.



What to Do?

- Do nothing but simmer for a few days
- Read the manuscript with a critical eye
- Consider alternative journals – don't be afraid to try one with a higher impact factor
- Re-write the manuscript for the new journal:
 - Follow their instructions to authors
 - Make sure to restructure all, including references
- Take advantage of the reviews you received as you revise the manuscript.



SUMMARY, CLOSING REMARKS, QUESTIONS



Journal Breakouts

- ***The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Social Sciences***
 - Deborah Carr, PhD, Incoming Editor-in-Chief
- ***The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences***
 - Shevaun Neupert, PhD, Associate Editor
- ***The Gerontologist***
 - Rachel Pruchno, PhD, Editor-in-Chief
 - Nicholas G. Castle, PhD, Editor: International Research
 - Barbara J. Bowers, PhD, RN, FAAN, Editor: Qualitative Research
 - Suzanne Meeks, PhD, Editor: Practice Concepts
- ***Public Policy & Aging Report***
 - Robert B. Hudson, PhD, Editor-in-Chief
 - Greg O'Neill, PhD, Associate Editor
- ***The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences***
 - Rafael de Cabo, PhD, Editor-in-Chief
 - Placido Navas, PhD, Deputy Editor
 - David Le Couteur, MB, BS, Deputy Editor
- ***The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Medical Sciences***
 - Stephen B. Kritchevsky, PhD, Editor-in-Chief
- ***Gerontology & Geriatrics Education***
 - Judith Howe, PhD, Editor-in-Chief
 - Kelly Niles-Yokum, PhD, MPA, Managing Editor of GGE
 - Mark Brennan-Ing, PhD, Consulting Editor for Statistics and Methods
- ***GSA Editorial Offices***
 - Megan McCutcheon, Kathy Jackson, Amy Conradt



Luigi Ferrucci, MD, PhD

Publications Committee Chair

SUMMARY AND CLOSING REMARKS