Mid career and publishing: A perspective from scientific research in academia

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My career pathway

2000 - 2003
• BSc Bioarchaeology

2004 - 2010
• Covance Laboratories
• Drug safety testing

2008 - 2010
• MSc Biomedical basis of disease

2011 – 2015
• PhD Microbiology
• Campylobacter biofilms

2015 – 2016
• Post Doc
• Biofilms and honey

2016 – 2018
• Post Doc
• Biofilms and prosthetic joint infections

2018 +
• Post Doc
• Salmonella and gut microbiota
Training for new senior authors

• Process training
  • Cover letters
  • What does a senior author actually do?
  • What are my responsibilities
  • What's the process and when/who should I chase?

• Mentoring
  • Editors and experienced authors
Importance of impact

• Early/Mid career authors NEED to demonstrate impact

“Emerging record of excellence”
“independent, cutting edge research programme”
“excellent publication record”
“high-quality research profile”
“demonstrate an active research background”
“potential to develop an externally funded research programme”
Cost of publishing

• Mid career research is often not RCUK funded
  • Funding is limited to consumables
  • No publication funding built in

• University's sometimes fund publication internally
  • Grants are competitive
  • Specific criteria need to be met
Thoughts on open access

• I like it

• I spend much less time now trying to access research

• I also have access to a wider range of research now (which would have been considered niche and not a purchasing priority)