What did I need from my supervisor in order to publish internationally?

Marika Kaakinen, MSc, PhD
Postdoctoral research fellow, Institute of Health Sciences, University of Oulu
Honorary research associate, Dept. of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Imperial College London
Background: my publication history


5. 37 other (non-first author) publications in international peer-reviewed journals
Writing the article

• Student to write the draft

• Comments from the supervisors from early stage on (Pay not too much attention on language etc yet, but more on the contents)

• Make as ready a draft in a small writing group (student + supervisors) before sending to all of the authors
Selecting the journal

• Aim **high**, but be **realistic**: high IF is not the only criterion but the journal needs to be suitable for the study as well (student may not be aware of suitable journals)

• Once target journal selected, put the student to **familiarize with the style** of the journal (taking into account the audience: clinicians vs. epidemiologists etc)
Submission

• Pay attention to the style of the cover letters (also point-to-point answers in revisions): it’s also about marketing your study and results

→ give examples of cover letters and answers to reviewers’ comments to the student
Some further tips

• Encourage the student to read in English (books etc) → improved fluency in English

• Establish international collaboration and include foreign researchers (preferably native English speakers) in your team and the articles of the student

• If possible, include the student in other projects (and papers) than those that will be included in the student’s thesis

• Get the student to practice article reviewing skills (journal clubs etc)