Are you interested in getting published?
A guide to getting published in the BDJ Portfolio or new dental writers

General information
Are you interested in getting your writing published? We have several different places where you can do this in the BDJ portfolio:
- BDJ Student magazine
- BDJ Student enewsletter
- British Dental Journal
- BDJ In Practice
- BDJ Open
- BDJ Team

You must submit original content that has not have been published elsewhere. If you have written something for another BDJ publication, e.g. BDJ Student magazine, please contact the editorial team to see if it would also be appropriate for publication elsewhere in the BDJ portfolio.

If you are successful in getting an article approved for publication, we request that your article remains exclusive to the BDJ portfolio.

In BDJ Student magazine:
- BDJ Student is the BDA’s dedicated magazine for dental students. It is posted to all BDA student members three times a year: autumn, winter and spring. We look at all sorts of articles from every year group. Letters, opinion pieces, electives, clinical insights or even guidance for lower year groups – it’s all there. If you would like an article published in this magazine, please send a brief outline of your article to David Westgarth at students@bda.org
- When submitting articles for publication in BDJ Student, BDA members will be given priority for publishing.

In BDJ Student enewsletter:
- BDJ Student enewsletter is the BDAs dedicated enewsletter for BDA student members. There are 11 editions of BDJ Student enewsletter each year, so it is much easier to get an article published here than BDJ Student magazine. We are interested in articles about careers, events or opinion of around 500 words. If you would like an article published in this enewsletter, please send a brief outline of your article to students@bda.org

In the BDJ:
The British Dental Journal (BDJ) is the UK’s leading dental journal and one of the leading general dental journals worldwide.

Clinical or Research
- Send us a Research Article: Are you working on a research project or an audit with an interesting outcome? The results of this could make a great research article in the BDJ. More info via the journal’s author guidelines and you can also submit online. If you have any questions about the suitability of a topic you have in mind for a research paper, just contact the Editorial team - we would love to hear from you. Remember these should appeal to the general GDP audience, ie not too specialised and please note research articles in the BDJ are subject to peer review.
- Write a Practice Paper: If you have a supervisor or mentor who is willing to co-write with you, this would be a great option. If you can think of a clinical topic you feel should be covered in the journal, contact the Editorial Team with your suggestion and we can advise you from there. We have new types of Practice Articles that could be perfect for your topic: ‘How to...’ or ‘Refresher Guide to...’ More info in the journal’s author guidelines. Remember: Practice articles are subject to peer review.
- Become a ‘Research Insights Summary’ writer: Research Insights is a new section of the BDJ where we make research more accessible through research summaries, Author Q&As, infographics etc. You can view a good example here. If you would like to get involved in writing 300 word research summaries on BDJ or BDJ Open papers chosen by the editorial team, please contact Ruth at r.doherty@nature.com. It would help if you could send an example of previous writing you may have done or prepare an example summary of a past Research Paper.

Options in the Upfront section
- Write an Opinion paper: Do you have an idea you would like to introduce? Or would you like to start a debate on a particular topic that’s been niggling at you for a while? Then perhaps you would like to write an Opinion paper for the BDJ. These papers should be between 1,000-3,000 words and can be submitted online. If you have any questions or topic ideas you would like to test out, the editorial team would love to hear from you.
Examples:
  - The potential role of dentists in HIV screening
  - Surgery: a patient's perspective and lessons learnt
  - Public opinion

Submit a ‘Letter to the Editor’
Letters are 500 words long and can be used for individual news, views, opinion and sometimes short case reports. More info in our online guidelines. Examples:
  - Short case report as letter
  - ‘Contract dispute: Crass and insensitive’

Write a feature article for the BDJ’s Upfront section: Feature articles are usually around 1,000 words. Please also send us images, if available, or suggest an image that may be appropriate. We recommend that you firstly suggest a topic to the Editorial Team to make sure we haven’t covered it or a similar subject recently and it will be suitable for the readership and the Upfront section. Please note that publication is dependent on quality but we are happy to help! Examples:
  - Investigation: Greening up the bottom line
  - Have women changed the dental workforce
  - A drop of dentistry in the jungle

Other options in the BDJ:
  - Reviews - Books, CDs, DVDs - please note there is a long waiting list of people wanting to write reviews.
  - Conference reports - we sometimes publish conference reports in the BDJ. However, please note that the conference has to have a particular relevance to the wider GDP readership and we cannot publish every conference report we receive. Please note that these reports should be no longer than 450 words.

  - Case reports - Unfortunately, case reports are not normally considered for publication in the BDJ. Case reports must only be submitted if they report on a case that will have a significant impact on day-to-day clinical practice or a particularly unusual and interesting case that will attract the interest of the journal’s general readership. Case reports will not be considered for publication when of little relevance or usefulness to readers beyond the setting of the case reported. Another option to get your case report published might be in a shorter form as a ‘Letter to the Editor’ - see above.

In BDJ Open
BDJ Open is a new peer-reviewed, open-access, online-only journal publishing dental and oral health primary research from all disciplines. We publish technically sound, scientifically valid primary research from across dental and oral health research.

Authors whose papers are accepted for publication in BDJ Open are required to pay an article processing charge (APC). Corresponding authors who are current members of the British Dental Association are entitled to a 15% discount on the APC. More information here.

In BDJ Team
BDJ Team is aimed at dental care professionals (DCPs) including dental nurses, dental hygienists, dental therapists, dental technicians and orthodontic therapists. If you would like to write about team-working or your experience of working closely with a DCP or DCP student, please contact the Editor of BDJ Team, Kate Quinlan, to discuss your idea.

In BDJ In Practice
BDJ In Practice aims to inform and educate the dental audience on developments, trends and issues affecting dental practice in the UK. If you think this is the most appropriate outlet for your article, email the Editor, David Westgarth, to discuss your idea.

Editorial Team
The Editorial Team would love to hear from you! Please contact us anytime with any queries, feedback, article suggestions or topic ideas.

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