

## How to Manage Rejected Scientific Papers? UNAIS as Final Solution

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### SUMMARY

Before publication, biomedical papers might undergo a very complex process, from journal selection, authors' motivations for submissions, modifications, and final publication or refusal. UNAIS (Unpublished Articles In Science) is an online repository in which authors can publish previously rejected scientific articles or articles that have never been submitted for publication. At UNAIS, authors can also publish the reasons behind the refusals to publication. UNAIS is more than an e-journal: it is a scientific drop box in which scientists can find indicative and negative results, as well as ideas that can inspire others. UNAIS's goal is also to help students and scientists who want to learn how to write scientific articles. UNAIS' aim is to exchange and promote knowledge. Have a look on [www.unais.net](http://www.unais.net).

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### Editor's note

Alessandro Diana is the head of pediatrics center of the clinique des Grangettes and a medical associate in infectious diseases at the child and adolescent department. I found his idea interesting when he brought it out in ResearchGate.net and his idea about UNAIS is worth for researchers from two viewpoints. First, he is a clinician and a scientist who thought about such idea and it should be lessons for busy clinicians about thinking about innovations; second, there were many apples and many Newtons but the first damaged one is called Newton. Viva Thoughts and Ideas!

### Which scientist has never had an article rejected by a peer-review journal?

Before submission to a journal and publication, articles go through an obstacle course of modifications and corrections. But even when these hurdles are crossed, due to a lack of reported results, contested methodology or inadequate language style, many papers never get published. Because of possible bias in publication process, biomedical articles with significant intervention and/or beneficial results might be rejected and some might never be published. Moreover, many authors get discouraged at reviewing their research work when faced with a lack of results and/or not have the necessary resources for improving format and language style.

How many unpublished scientific articles are vegetating somewhere on a hard disc or on a USB stick? And how many of these contain information, valid or invalid, that could be useful to the scientific community? These discarded articles, either not been validated or never submitted for publication, represent a wealth of knowledge and information that has every right to be published.

### Testimonies

I am a pediatrician and am one of those authors who have had an article refused by a peer-review journal. Even more than one...I came to UNAIS after the series of events below:

- Out of fourteen finished manuscripts, only two or three were accepted without a request for revision or modification.
- Five articles needed major modifications suggested by the reviewers.
- Three articles refused by a particular journal were accepted by another journal subject to "minor revisions".
- One paper was initially refused by the editor following a 'misunderstanding' of the reviewer. It was accepted after discussion and a line of argument with the journal's chief editor.

- During the review of an article in which I had validated the content on pediatrics, the chief editor told me of his hesitation to publish the article because of weaknesses regarding the article's content on microbiology. Finally, he decided to publish it amongst other reasons; because during that particular month of July, there were not many articles in the pipeline.

The above led me to ask the following questions:

- 1) Is there a specifications checklist for reviews validated by an international body?

- 2) According to which criteria is an article either accepted or rejected?
- 3) How are reviewers chosen?
- 4) How does one become a reviewer?
- 5) How many scientific articles are vegetating on computer hard discs?

Scientists from all backgrounds are invited to publish their unpublished articles and papers on UNAIS and to provide their testimonies and other comments.

### Competing interests

Author declared no competing interest.

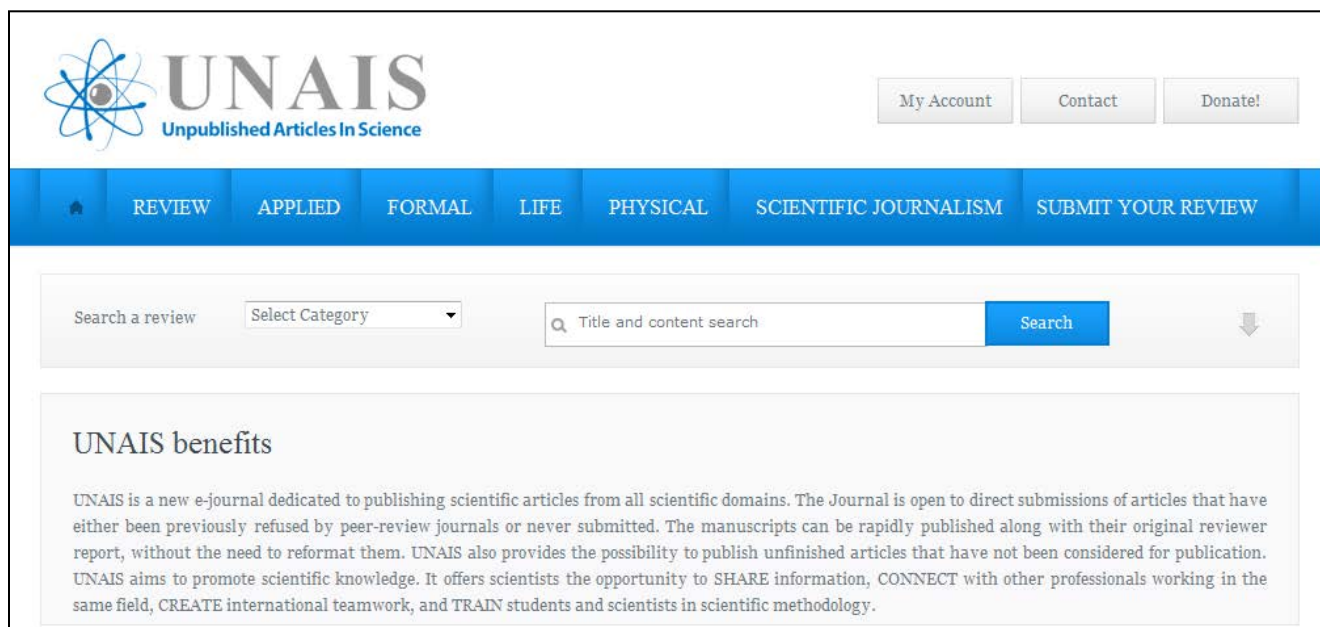


Fig. 1. UNAIS Homepage at www.unais.net.