

Preprints in Urology Research: To use or not to use

ARCTICS Community Forum

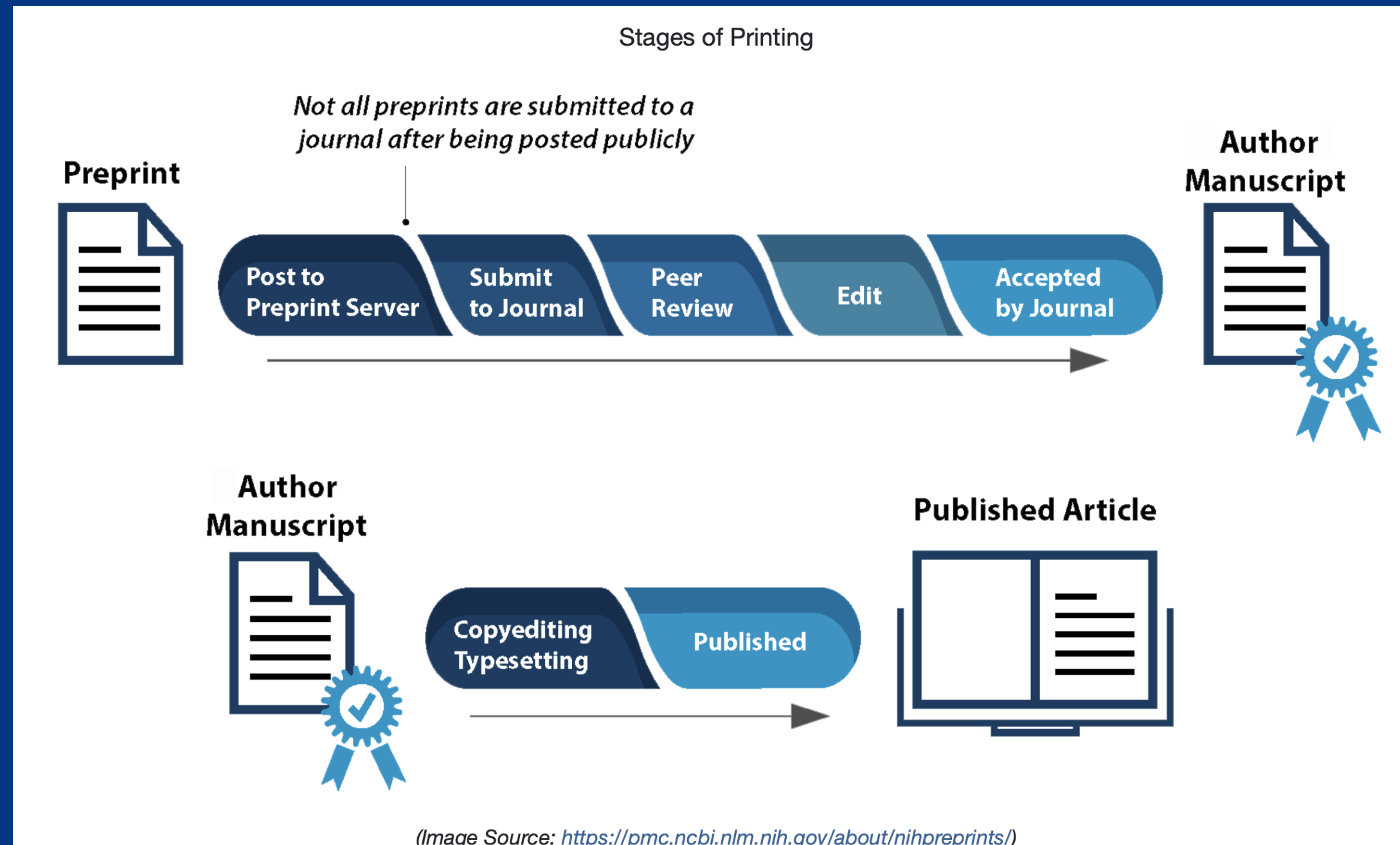
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moderated by **Renee Vickman, PhD (Endeavor Health)**



What is a preprint?

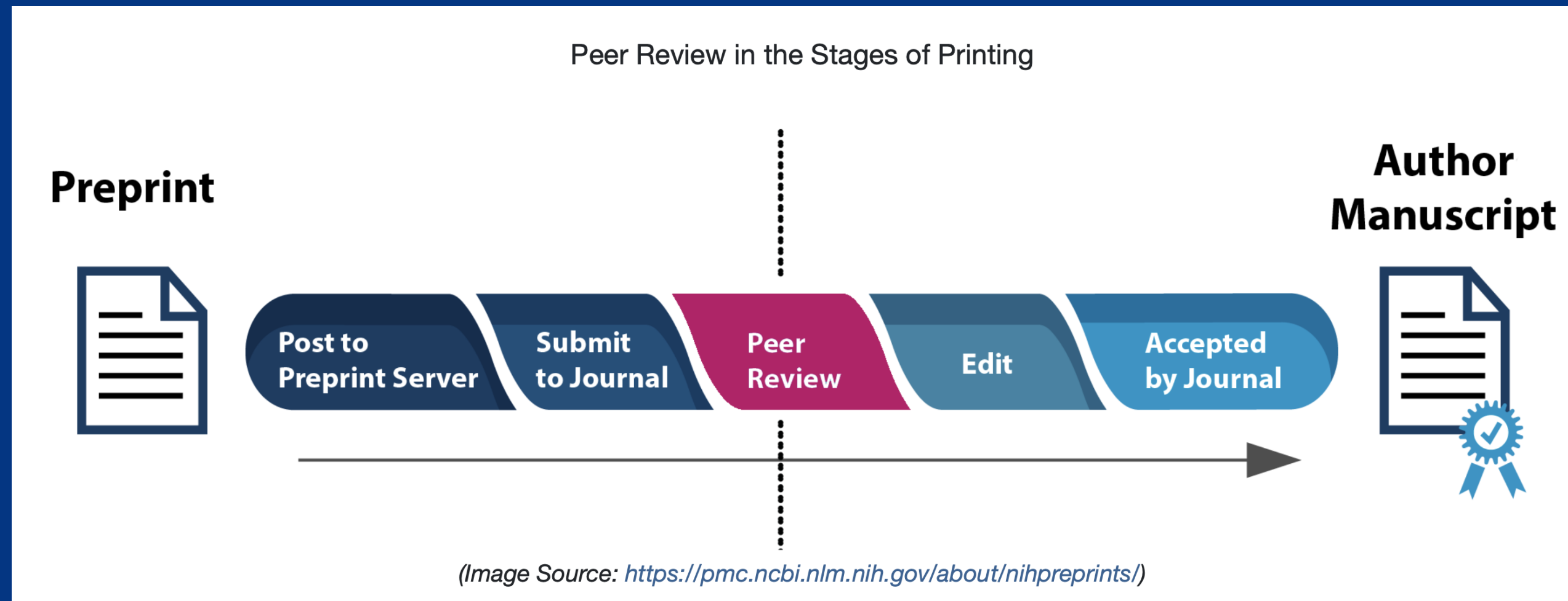
Preprints are complete drafts of scientific documents



Prior to peer review, preprints are often made public at no cost. They are shared publicly to not only distribute information to the research community, but also to invite feedback. A preprint can be shared before or at the same time as it is submitted to a research journal

What is a preprint?

Preprints are not peer reviewed, but posting to a preprint server can often be part of the publication process.



Preprints have dois, are often indexed on NCBI and can be cited. However, they are flagged with a warning that they are not peer reviewed.

Where can I preprint?

Preprints are housed on servers that are commonly hosted by universities, non-profit organizations, and publishers. Some well-known biomedical preprint servers are bioRxiv, which launched in 2013, and medRxiv, which began accepting papers in mid-2019.



General



Field-Specific



Geography-Specific



Publisher
Submission
Workflows

Examples of Preprint Repositories

Repository	Type	URL
arXiv	General	https://arxiv.org/
bioRxiv	Field-specific	https://www.biorxiv.org/
EarthArXiv	Field-specific	https://eartharxiv.org/
ChemRxiv	Field-specific	https://chemrxiv.org/
medRxiv	Field-specific	https://www.medrxiv.org/
AfricArxiv	Geography-specific	https://info.africarxiv.org/
Research Square (Springer Nature)	Publisher submission workflows	https://www.researchsquare.com/
Authorea (Wiley)	Publisher submission workflows	https://wileyopenresearch.authorea.com/

Preprint benefits and challenges

Benefits

As a preprint *user*, benefits include:

- ✓ Accessing timely research in emergency response.
- ✓ Actively participating in open science practices.
- ✓ Advocating for high quality, rapid retrieval of information.

As a preprint *creator*, benefits include:

- ✓ Increasing visibility and reach of your research.
- ✓ Directly contributing to body of open science scholarship.
- ✓ Encouraging critical engagement with your research from peers.

Challenges

- 1 It can feel overwhelming to deal with an influx of new information.
- 2 The need for increased caution in using information that might be poor quality or lack research rigor that is usually evaluated and identified in peer review².
- 3 Publishing through preprint servers does not have as much of an impact on most promotion and tenure processes compared to scholarly journals.

The NIH encourages investigators to use interim research products such as preprints to speed dissemination and enhance the rigor of their work. NIH-funded investigators may claim preprints as products of their NIH award in their required reports.