

Insight into the Process of Publishing in ACLP Bulletin

Mary Parman, MS, CCLS
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN

Morgan Mullen, CCLS
Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, Memphis, TN

Have you ever wanted to write for the *ACLP Bulletin*, but don't know where to begin? The *Bulletin* Committee wants to encourage all aspiring writers to contribute to our organization's quarterly publication. Many individuals feel overwhelmed by the possibility of publishing an article for all to see, but taking the process one step at a time can help make it seem more manageable. The *Bulletin* editorial board and *Bulletin* committee members are here to support you as you traverse these waters. Writing for the *Bulletin* is an excellent way to develop as a professional, explore deeper areas of interest, and communicate ideas and information on a widely-read platform. Follow these simple steps and you will be on your way to publication. Happy writing!



1. **Inspiration strikes!** All you need to get started is an idea or an interest in a topic. Many contributors find inspiration from their own practice or forum topics. As a reminder, articles written for the *ACLP Bulletin* do not have to be formal research articles. *ACLP Bulletin's* aim is "to provide content that encourages the continued clinical development of child life professionals, and a forum for highlighting their milestones, challenges, innovations and successes".
2. **Review the guidelines.** Check out the requirements for general article submission, as well as the specific guidelines if you are hoping to contribute to a column within the *ACLP Bulletin* such as Point/Counterpoint, Alphabet 2.0, Global Perspectives, etc. We've found that it is better to review the guidelines ahead of time to minimize future editing and rewriting.
3. **Submit a proposal.** This does not have to be a formal submission—an email is fine! Just share your idea with the managing editor (bulletin@childlife.org), and the editorial team will give you feedback on length, specific angle, and other details.
4. **Write and submit your article.** The editorial board and members of the *Bulletin* committee can help you throughout this process. This step is all about communication

and collaboration. The editors can support you through the writing process by reading drafts or pairing you up with a veteran writer or member of the *Bulletin* committee if you would find that helpful. Once your article is submitted, it will be reviewed multiple times and you will receive plenty of feedback before it goes to publication to insure that it is high quality.

5. **Final version is submitted and published.** Congratulations! You did it!