#### Medical Research, Education and Health Services

# Tremendous opportunities exist for academic collaboration between Peoples Republic of China and Pakistan

Chinese researchers are keen to publish their research work in Impact Factor Journals By Shaukat Ali Jawaid times the number of submissions and August 2024 issues of the

SHANGHAI: Peoples Republic of China has made phenomenal progress in every field health sector being no exception. Currently China is No.2 as regards publications in medical literature and the number of publications from China are increasing annually at a very fast pace simply because everyone in medical institutions is engaged in research and publications. At present the largest number of clinical trials are being conducted in China and by the Year 2025, China is expected to become global leader in the field of research, clinical trials and publications. Many multinational pharmaceutical companies, electro medical equipment and scientific instruments manufacturers have established their plant in China

which welcome investment and

from China increased to four to five hundred annually but the acceptance remained very low. Hence it resulted in decreased submissions. However, following an author friendly policy we have also tried our best to teach, train and help our friends from China as much as we can, hence this eventually resulted in increase in submissions once again. The number of submissions increased a lot between the Year 2013 to 2016 crossing the figure of five hundred but then when the Chinese researchers realized that we do not publish everything that was submitted, the number of submissions suddenly decreased a lot and this trend continued till the Year 2019. However, the message was conveyed and Chinese researchers realized the importance of good quality manuscripts to get it published,

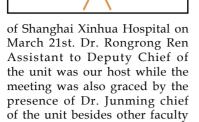
#### Surgical ICU at Xinhua Hospital at Shanghai has 16 Beds, over 50% admissions are of elderly over 50 years of age and one thousand patients are managed annually

encourage collaboration offering huge market and incentives to the investors. The investors also find it is much more economical to go for mass scale production. Chinese companies are also competing and have already gained enough share of these markets. Apart from producing Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) which are exported to many countries of the world, Chinese Traditional Medicine has also made lot of progress and their use is being accelerated through scientific studies and clinical trials. In certain cases, Chinese Traditional Medicines are being combined with Western medicine and the safety and efficacy of this combination is being tried which has not only improved efficacy but also reduced morbidity. Their adverse effects if any are being closely monitored so that their clinical use could be further

selections, appointments and get published in Impact Factor Journals. This pressure to publish has unfortunately also given birth to lot of unethical publication practices. Gift authorship is quite common all over the world and

Regulatory bodies in China has taken a serious note of all this. There is a zero tolerance for plagiarism and anyone caught involved in scientific misconduct and other unethical publication practices faces the risk of ruination of their academic career. Hence lot of individuals and organizations have also become active and are offering services to those interested in getting the quality of their manuscripts improved and help them get it published in Impact Factor Journals. We in Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences are attracting lot of research papers from China for the last twenty years. The number of submissions has been increasing every year but the number of papers which were accepted for publication after initial screening, internal review and external peer review has not increased much since we are determined to maintain some standard and wish to safeguard our intellectual integrity and credibility of the journal. At

I have been planning to visit China since long as the last time I was in China was in 2009 which was my fourth visit to Peoples Republic of China but then Covid19 pandemic came which changed everything. China was closed to the outside world, even within China there was strict



members including the nursing

#### Presentation at Xinhua Hospital

In my presentation I first introduced Pakistan Journal of

peer review system that we practice and secondly due to lack of human resource and financial constraints as we wish to accept only the number of papers that we can manage and publish. Monetary gains have never been an attraction with us but we uphold professional ethics and go for quality of manuscripts before they are accepted for ublication Types of manuscripts

various reasons, first due to

excellent internal and external

## submitted from China

Giving details of the type of manuscripts submitted from China, it was pointed out that a vast majority of them consist of retrospective studies followed



Group photograph taken after the presentation on Enhancing Academic collaboration between China and Pakistan at the Surgical Intensive Care Unit of Shanghai Xinhua Hospital on March 21st. Picture shows Dr. Junming chief of the unit besides Dr. Rong Rong Ren and other faculty members including Chief of the nursing chief.

isolation hence I was waiting for an opportune time to undertake this visit. Finally, the dream of yet another visit to this wonderful country materialized and I spent eight days visiting Shanghai and Changsha provincial capital of Hunan province from March 20th to March 28th 2024. The main

Medical Sciences, its publication history besides other Impact Factor Journals published from Pakistan. Apart from sharing the details of submissions and acceptance of manuscripts from China, I also shared with the participants the submission and eventual publications of

by Systematic Reviews, Meta-Analysis. Some manuscripts contain combination of Western Drugs and Chinese Traditional Medicine which are being tried for the treatment of various disorders. A few selected case reports, short communications and correspondence is also entertained. Since we prefer to cater for the readers in South East Asia and Asia Pacific, we are keen to accept those papers which deal with the diseases prevalent and

pathology seen in these countries

Some useful Tips to enhance acceptance rate

April 15, 2024

In the next part of my presentation I shared some useful tips which could enhance the chances of acceptance of their manuscripts. Some of these included the following:

- · Authors should carefully read, follow instructions
- Ensure submission with LOU,
- EC/IRB approval · Scientific Misconduct state-
- RCTs must be registered EC/IRB approval must have
- No. & Date with Stamp Suggest Two to Three potential
- Latest and relevant references from last five years
- Follow PRISMA Guidelines for Systemic Reviews
- Follow EQUATOR, STROBE
- Guidelines Mention software used for Statistical Analysis
- Involve Statistician from the
- very beginning Structured abstract it was stated must have the sub-headings of Objective (Background and Objective), Methods, Results, and Conclusions with appropriate key words and the maximum world count should not increase
- Introduction must have rational of Study

participants were as under:

three hundred. Some other useful

tips which were shared with the

- Restate objective at the end of Introduction
- · Place & time of study must be mention in Abstract & in Methodology in Manuscript
- Methodology (Use subheadings for)
- Inclusion Criteria
- Exclusion Criteria - Ethics Committee / IRB
- Indent Matter if needed Use Hyphen (Table-I, Group-I,
- Do mention how sample size was selected While writing Discussion,

Surgical ICU is equipped with multifunctional monitors, ventilators, portable bedside ultrasound machines, CRRT machines, fiber optic bronchoscopes, blood gas electrolyte analyzers, twelve lead ECG, AED, Non-invasive and invasive heart functioning monitoring devices

of the world. It was also pointed out that we will prefer prospective studies, Randomized Controlled Trials, Epidemiological studies, innovations in surgical techniques, innovations in health delivery system, innovations in medical education, Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis on important interesting topics besides studies which have increased chances of further citations which will help improve Impact Factor of the

**Deficiencies:** While managing these submission from China, some of the deficiencies

always start with the findings of your study and then compare your results with local, national, regional and international studies. Most of the references should come in this section. What new information this study has added to the world medical literature and what is its clinical relevance and importance, any particular strength of the study must also be highlighted in the discussion section. It was also pointed out that do use sub-headings for limitations of the study, source of funding, acknowledgement, individual

Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences prefers RCTs, Original Research, Innovative Studies which have increased chances of further citations

which we noticed include authors contribution particularly

poor quality of English and Grammar mistakes, there are serious issues in formatting, low quality of figures and illustrations, too many tables some of which are unnecessary and can be easily eliminated, at times too much duplication and repetition of information, too lengthy manuscripts, poor literature search, too many authors with strong suspicion of gift authorship besides problems with references. The Chinese friends were told that if they are careful and take care of these deficiencies, it will certainly reduce and greatly minimize trauma to their submitted manuscripts before publication and thus increase the chances of

acceptance.

for integrity of the study. Avoid plagiarism, gift authorship as this is a menace and we in Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences do not wish to promote this intellectual corruption. Always follow International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) guidelines on authorship and scientific publishing, Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines and do not forget to write et al in references after listing six authors. In case the number of authors is less than six, list all of them. Ethics committee/IRB approval should be mentioned with proper reference and date and the soft copy being uploaded must be stamped.

mentioning who is responsible

Review articles: Always

#### **Academic collaboration** between China and Pakistan be with their family members

mention the different databases electrolyte analyzers, twelve searched and the time period in lead ECG, AED, Non-invasive the summary as well as in the and invasive heart functioning man text. Citations of relevant monitoring devices to ensure papers published in Pakistani the treatment of critically ill patients. The unit has a very Impact Factor journals, it was busy research department, further pointed out, will increase Retrospective Research of MIMC the chances of acceptance of Database and clinical data which their manuscripts. However, is extremely helpful for research cite only relevant papers and and publications. It also has the we do not insist on it because it is unethical.

It was further stated that we can enhance this academic collaboration further if the quality of submissions is good, one can also plan special supplements to showcase the research work being performed in China. Special issues with Guest Editors from China can also be planned. Timely revision of manuscripts which must be accompanied with the covering letter as to how the authors have responded to the reviewer's comments and suggestions is a Must. Selection of a unique topic, innovative topics for research also have greater chances of acceptance.

My friend Alex Li was very helpful in translating my presentations in Chinese so that the participants could understand it much better. The presentation was followed by lively discussion. The participants were keen to know more about plagiarism, how many authors we allow in different categories of manuscripts, how much time it takes from submission to final publication, the peer review process that we practice, how the potential reviewers suggested by

#### First Changsha Hospital has a bed strength of two thousand while the number of beds in the Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery Department are fifty-two

facilities of Clinical application

of near infra-red technology.

Another important component

of the unit is Laboratory Research

extremely helpful in management

of sepsis and organ damage. She

also shared the list of important

research papers published by

faculty members in Impact Factor

Journals in different countries of

the world. She also introduced

the faculty members present

in the meeting. I also took this

the Art of Scientific Writing and

Publications to Dr. Junmin Du

Visit of Surgical

members took me on a guided

Director of the Unit.

opportunity to present my book the authors as per journal policy on Scientific Writing: A Guide to are selected.

Welcome Address

Earlier Dr. Rongrong Ren Assistant of Deputy Chief of Surgical ICU in her welcome address and introductory remarks pointed out that Xinhua Hospital is affiliated with Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine. The hospital was established in 1958 and it was the first comprehensive hospital designed and constructed by Shanghai since the founding of Peoples Republic of China. Medical School is spread over an area of two hundred sixty-one acres, affiliated hospital has a bed strength of 2450 and has three thousand nine hundred forty employees. This is an excellent tertiary healthcare facility.

Surgical ICU Unit has sixteen beds and over one

thousand patients are managed them from infections, some of Dept. of Cardiovascular, Thoracic Surgery

serious were hospitalized in

Isolation rooms. Majority of the

patients were elderly with over

seventy-five years of age. When

I asked her what about the end

# at First Changsha Hospital has eight consultants and twelve nursing staff members every year. The unit is equipped those who were much more

with advanced monitoring system and treatment equipment like multifunctional monitors, multifunctional ventilators, portable bedside ultrasound machines, CRRT machines, fiber of life situations and how this optic bronchoscopes, blood gas is handled, she said, when that



With Mr. Alex Li on the river bank at Shanghai on March 22nd 2024.

traditional Chinese dishes which in research on how to keep also provided an opportunity these valves soft so that they for further discussions to know can continue functioning, he about medical education and remarked. Dr. Li Ke Chief health services in China. At Director of Vascular Surgery at many times my friend Alex Li the First Hospital of Changsha came to my rescue and served as also graced the occasion with interpreter so that we can have his presence and provided lot fruitful conversation. Other of useful information about the faculty members who attended department and the hospital. the dinner included Dr. Liu, Dr. Earlier I had my presentation Ran Li, Dr. Yiming Li who were wherein I shared information how to enhance academic Meeting at First collaboration between Chinese

Changsha Hospital on March 26th 2024. Third from right is Dr. Li Ke Chief Director of Vascular Surgery.

Also seen in the picture are Dr. Xiaoke Qi, Mr. Alex Li and Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaid.

also present. It was a feast of

Fortnightly PULSE International

hospital set up where they can years whereas other valves

Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine was

established in 1958. It is spread over 261 acres. Its affiliated

Xinhua Hospital has bed strength of 2450 & has 3,940 employees

but no family member is allowed on prevention of infections for

at a Chinese Restaurant where prevent calcification otherwise

stage comes, these patients

are transferred to a different

who are allowed to spend time

with them during their last days

in the ICU. Dr. Rongnng Ren also

hosted a Dinner in my honour

some faculty members were

pigs which is convenient and

soft but it can last just for few

can continue functioning for

eight to ten years or more. My

research work he stated was

which I received my degree.

It is extremely important to

patient will go into heart failure.

Biomedical department is busy

and described various steps,

will enhance the chances of their

Pakistan Journal of Medical

## Changsha Hospital

The second meeting I had was at the Department of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery at First Changsha Hospital in Changsha. Total bed strength of the hospital is two thousand while the number of beds in the Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery Department are fifty-two. The hospital has six

floor of this building and it also

**Intensive Care Unit** main multistory buildings. This Later Dr. Junmin Du department was located on 20th accompanied by other faculty Doctors are too much overburdened. We start work at 8.00 AM and there is no time to leave we must finish the days scheduled work,

surgeries irrespective of the timings-Dr.Xiaoke Qi

had the Operation Theatre suite in tour of the ICU. It was a state of the art facility very well the department. ICU, Emergency equipped and monitored. In Department are also located one section of the unit, critically in this building. This Yiangya ill patients were admitted in Hospital is hundred years old and The Surgical Intensive Care a spacious area at a distance is affiliated with a medical school. from each other to protect. I was told there are five medical schools in the province which has a population of ten million. There is too much workload and

we need more medical schools and hospitals. Dr. Xiaoke Qi pointed out that doctors are too much overburdened. We start work at 8.00 AM and there is no time to leave as we must finish the days scheduled work, surgeries irrespective of the timings. Staff at the

#### Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery Department There are eight consultants

in the department and twelve nursing staff members. The unit is very well equipped with state of the art equipment and instruments, latest diagnostic facilities including CT and MRI and an excellent laboratory. Dr. Xiaoke Qi further pointed out that they were not at all infected with the materialistic virus but we wish to develop this department and make it as one of the most well developed facility for cardiovascular and thoracic surgery. The city has a history of two thousand years. In the department Dr. Qi said we do lot of valve repair, valve replacement surgery as well. We have developed valve from

Dr. Li Ke Chief Director of **Dinner Reception** Vascular Surgery at the First Hospital of Changsha thanked

Earlier on arrival at Changsha, Chief Visiting Thoracic Surgeon Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaid for Xiaoxiong Xiao hosted a dinner at his visit to the department. a restaurant on March 25th which The presentation, he said was was attended by few other faculty members from the department. very informative and useful He is a visiting Thoracic Surgeon for the faculty members in the department who are keen to at the First Hospital of Changsha. ublish their research work in I also took this opportunity to mpact Factor Journals. Other present him a copy of my book on Scientific Writing. He was busy in surgery and as the surgery took

faculty members also thanked the speaker for his visit and If the authors follow the Guidelines, it will minimize

trauma to their manuscript and ensure quick publication

enlighten presentation. They also thanked Mr. Alex Li for his facilitation

more time than expected, hence he could not join us at the meeting during the presentation.



Guide to the Art of medical writing and scientific publishing" to Chief Thoracic Surgeon Xiaoxiong Xiao who had hosted a dinner on March 25th which was also attended by few other faculty members from the department.

# SCIENTIFIC **WRITING** A Guide to the Art of Medical Writing and Scientific Publishing Shaukat Ali Jawaid Masood Jawaid Published By: Professional Medical Publications (Price Rs. 2500/=) For Further Details call: 0300-2375636

hence the number of submissions with improved quality started

increasing once again from the Year 2020 and the number increased to 483 submissions during the Year 2023.Similarily the number of papers accepted for publications also registered an increase from Year 2021 but it still remained between 18-20% of total submissions. Fig-I. **Submissions and Publication from China** Pak J Med Sci (2011-2023)

promoted Chinese researchers it seems has taken "Publish or Perish" very seriously. Since all further academic promotions are dependent on the number and quality of publications, everyone like all over the world is anxious and keen to

China is also no exception.

#### Submissions from China

2011 2012 2013 2014

During the year 2024 so far the total number of submissions from China is one hundred eighty-four manuscripts out of which ninety four have been either published or have been accepted for publication in July

collaboration with members of the medical profession particularly the researchers in China for which through the courtesy of my friend Mr. Alex Li, visits to different hospitals in both these cities were arranged. The first meeting I had with the faculty members of Surgical Intensive Care Unit

Year

papers in Pakistan Journal of objective was to increase academic Medical Sciences for the last ten years as we do our publication audit every year. The figures of submission and acceptance from a few other countries like Turkey, Saudi Arabia was also shared which depicted that the number of acceptance has always remained within 18-20% for

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023



Dr. Rong Rong Ren (Third from left) from the Surgical ICU at Shanghai Xinhua Hospital hosted a dinner on March 21st. Group photograph taken on the occasion shows the host along with some other faculty members and Mr. Shaukat Ali Ja-waid Chief Editor Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences. On extreme right is Mr. Alex Li who had organized this visit to China.

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