

6th PAME National conference on Medical Journals

Guest Speakers discuss Global issues in Medical Journalism at EMAME Session

LAHORE: One of the scientific sessions during the recently held 6th PAME National Conference on Medical Journals organized by Pakistan Association of Medical Editors (PAME) in collaboration with University of Health Sciences (UHS) Lahore and Eastern Mediterranean Association of Medical

Jakistan was one of the countries which had published largest number (2597) manuscripts in EMHJ from 1995-2022. The journal accepts manuscripts which makes substantial addition to scientific knowledge in research, should present a new idea or a new finding. It could also be an expansion of

ing ChatGPT and it all depend on what command you give. His conclusions were that there is no doubt that various Artificial Intelligence Platforms are very useful when it comes to editing provided they are handled by a skilled Editor.

Extraordinary intelligent **Behrooz Astaneh** who has also served as Council Member of Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) UK had selected a unique and innovative topic for his presentation highlighting the importance of evidence

familiarity with responding to peer reviewers feedback. He shared the highlights from the five articles. The limitations of the study were also highlighted. Message from his presentation was that we need to devise a universal curriculum on medical writing/publishing which has so far been ignored using collective wisdom of authorities. We need to maintain central pool of participant's data of workshops held in different locations to provide necessary power to perform long-term-follow-up of studies. Let us devise standard measurement tools to assess knowledge, performance, satisfaction besides evaluating the durability of learned knowledge during workshops, he added.

Dr. Farrokh Habibzadeh former

editors and producers, ensure time-liness are adhered to and create budgets. They arrange electronic manuscript management system and provide data to abstracting



PROF. FARHAD HANDJANI
President EMAME

and indexing services. They also design, do formatting, manage production process both print and digital, do marketing and publicity through conventional means and on social media. They work with retailers largely institutions and libraries. Some of the eminent publishers he mentioned included Elsevier, SAGE, Springer, Wolters Kluwer, Taylor and Francis. Well known Indian publishers include Medknow, Jaypee and Scientific Scholar. The medical journals in India are owned and run by commercial publishers, Professional Societies, Universities and industry. Some have print alone, others have Hybrid both print and online while some are only Online publications. They have different business models. The offer media handling and take over mundane tasks. They ensure quality.

National Medical Journal of India, he said, was published by Oxford University Press from 1988 to 1992. Though it had some benefits but also numerous problems. From 1992 onward till 2012 it tried to develop an online manuscript management system which was not successful. From 2012 we had no publisher but from 2014 onward we had service provider which developed website and installed manuscript management system. We also felt the need for marketing, increased visibility of the journal and its coverage on social media, he added.

Dr. Naseema Al Qaseer Global Health and Sustainable Development Expert who also served as WHO representative in Egypt and has been affiliated with EMAME since long was the last speaker in the session. She has been highlighting and written extensively on Role of local medical journals in developing the health research system in GCC countries and Challenges in medial publishing in the Gulf Region with special focus on Bahrain. She thanked Prof. Ahmad Bader and Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaid Secretary EMAME for providing her an opportunity to share the Bahrain experience in medical journal publishing. She commended the efforts of organizers and all the speakers for holding this conference. We need to undertake research and generation of knowledge to promote health and peace in this region and we all are striving for that.

diseases, managing diseases of children thus strengthening the whole system. Bahrain has five thousand years old culture. We wish to have a Knowledge based economy and improve the health sector. Medical journals support such visions.

Bahrain Medial Bulletin, she said was first published in 1979. We have another journal i.e. Journal of Bahrain Medical Society. It is an Open access journal which continues to grow. We are trying to improve Internaitonal collaboration, modernize it. Some of the challenges which we face is that at present only 40% submissions are from Bahrain and others are from the region. Researchers in Bahrain prefer to publish their work in international journals which are covered by Scopus and other databases. We need medical journals to advance evidence based practices. We are providing opportunities to local healthcare professionals to publish their research work, encouraging



PROF. PEUSH SAHNI
Former President WAME

the researchers in Bahrain as well as in the region to publish their research in Bahrain Medical Journal. Our current budget is Thirty thousand dollars most of the funds coming from government.

In order to encourage local contributions, we are providing increasing incentives like financial rewards to publish locally, supporting young researches to publish. National Editorial Board is being established. Collaboration with Internaitonal expert will be an asset to enhance the quality of the journal. Digitalization of the journal is being undertaken which will be user friendly, accessible to all and it will also increase its visibility. Solutions are being found to ensure its financial sustainability with diversification of the resources. We are approaching Internaitonal funding agencies, encouraging



DR. NASEEMA AL QASEER

advertisement, local corporate social responsibilities. Collaboration with pharma companies to ensure clinical trial in our country in the region. There are opportunities to increase our collaboration. We are

Sustainability of our journal is being ensured with diversification of the resources. We also encourage young researchers with financial incentives-Naseema Al-Qaseer

Describing her experience with medical journal, challenges and opportunities she said that health workers in Bahrain are doing their best to improve maternal mortality, mental health, reducing chronic

committed to supporting EMAME, enhancing membership and partnership. Sharing resources with each other would be rewarding. We wish to increase our contributions from local to regional and global level, she concluded.

Clear writing comes from clear thinking. If you do not understand the process, you cannot explain it to others- James Ayodele

Editors (EMAME) was devoted to EMAME. Distinguished Editors who were invited as guest speakers in the session included former Presidents of World Association



DR. BEHROOZ ASTANEH

of Medical Editors (WAME) Prof. Farrokh Habibzadeh from Shiraz Iran, Prof. Peush Sahni from New

what is already known, providing new perspective to an existing idea of finding. The authors must avoid plagiarism as it is checked before the paper is sent for external review. The manuscript should have relevance to the journal, current research, topical public health issues and should not present information which is too preliminary. It may present new opportunities for collaboration. Methodology used, data analysis and interpretation must be appropriate, findings must provide answers to new questions and conclusions must be consistent with evidence. The study must ensure reliability and scientific integrity. Message presented should be important and clear, well laid out structure should present message logically. Use simple and clear language. Evidence should support ideas discussed. Evidence can be presented in the form of tables, graphics, charts,

We need to devise a universal curriculum on medical writing/publishing using collective wisdom of authorities - Behrooz Astaneh

Delhi India. Other speakers were Prof. Behrooz Astaneh Vice President of EMAME and former Editor of Iranian Journal Medical Sciences currently in Canada, Prof. M.B. Rokni former Vice President at large of EMAME and Chairman of Indexation Committee of EMAME who is also Editor of Iranian Journal of Public Health from Tehran, Iran, Mr. James Ayodele Managing Editor Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal from Cairo, Egypt and Dr. Naseema Al Qaseer from Bahrain.

This session was also dedicated to Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaid Chief Editor Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences and Secretary EMAME who chaired it along with Prof. M. Akbar Chaudhry Dean, Azra Naeheed Medical & Dental College, Superior University Lahore, Dr. Haris from Journal of Khyber Medical University and Dr. Sahibzada Nasir Mansoor from Combined Military Hospital Peshawar. Global issues in medical journalism were discussed by all the speakers through Video presentations.

Mr. James Ayodele from EMHJ spoke on "What Journal Editors

images with proper references. The authors must use current, latest and relevant references.

He further stated that Clear writing comes from clear thinking. If you do not understand the pro-



PROF. M.B. ROKNI

cess being addressed, you cannot explain it to others. Writing must conform to established standards, rules and regulations. Journals will only accept papers on topics in which they are interested. Remember you are competing with

based findings. He opined that it was time to move towards Evidence Based Medical Journalism. Medical research, he said, was backbone of improving human health and wellbeing and without documentation, peer review and publishing it is of no worth. Writing and publishing is the last stage of research wherein medical journalism plays an important role. We need to teach how best the message can be transferred to audience through workshops, training sessions, how to write and publish but there is very little evidence on the contents, its impact and participant's views. We lack trustworthy and measurable tools while the effects of comprehensive education have not been evaluated using standard tools. He then shared the findings of his study. The objective of his study were to find what is available in the literature regarding strategies for optimizing medical writing and publishing, to devise trustworthy measurement tools for evaluating confidence

Results of many studies are not credible-Farrokh Habibzadeh

and evaluate impact of well-structured hands-on-workshops. His findings were that at least thirty articles were incomplete, there were issues with publication ethics,

President of WAME made a presentation on "Credibility of articles published in Scientific Journals." He highlighted the importance of carefully designed, appropriately conducted and well-written ran-



DR. FARROKH HABIBZADEH
Former President WAME

domized clinical trial (RCT) on an important topic. An RCT usually examines if a drug is effective compared with a placebo. The effects of

False-Positive results are observed when there is no real effect and in False-Negative results, no effect is observed when there is a real effect. The message he conveyed



Prof. Ahsan Waheed Rathore Vice Chancellor UHS speaking at the Faculty Dinner meeting of 6th PAME National Conference on Medical Journals organized in collaboration with EMAME and UHS.

use of English. He also discussed the topics ignored like changes in authorship after submission, image manipulation, how to properly use CONSORT and STROBE checklists.

He then discussed improvement in publication trends, importance of choosing the right journal and

through his presentation was that results of many studies are not credible. There is flexible p value with significance threshold cannot be computed a priori. We need to employ alternative techniques, he remarked.

Prof. Peush Sahni another former President of WAME from India discussed the Indian scenario related to Medical Journals and Publishes. The publishers, he stated, negotiate terms, manage

AI Platforms are very useful when it comes to editing provided they are handled by a skilled Editor- M.B. Rokni

look for in a Manuscript" and described in detail how the manuscripts are processed at EMHJ. This, he stated, was a monthly journal published by WHO EMRO. It aims to contribute to healthcare policy and Practice by publishing quality health research and information with relevance to the region. Pa-

many others who wish to get their papers published in the same journal, hence try to present your best, he remarked.

Prof. M.B. Rokni talked about "Can Artificial Intelligence platform replace an Editor". He showed numerous examples of original text after editing using AI tools includ-



Kh. Saiman Rafique Punjab Minister for Tertiary Care and Medical Education exchanging views with PAME Executive and Vice Chancellors of Medical Universities Prof. Ahsan Waheed Rathore, Prof. Khalid Masood Gondal, Prof. Mahmood Ayaz, Prof. Maj. Gen. M. Aslam and other distinguished participants soon after the inaugural session on October 21st 2024.



On left Prof. Akhtar Sherin, Prof. Jamshed Akhtar and Prof. Asghar Naqi Principal AIMC in a jovial mood at the faculty dinner while on right Prof. Ahsan Waheed Rathore VC UHS is also enjoying some joke with Prof. Maj. Gen. M. Aslam former VC UHS. Also seen in the centre is President PAME Prof. S.H. Waqar.