

Post Conference Session at University of Lahore

Editors should have essential competencies, know Regulatory requirements to run a successful Journal - Prof. M. Ashraf

Indexation and inclusion of journals in important Databases is not an easy task

Universities are supposed to create knowledge, set some milestones to achieve them through hard work

LAHORE: Editors must possess the essential competencies and be aware of Standard Operating Procedures besides knowing the regulatory requirements to successfully run a Journal. Indexing in various databases is not at all an easy task and to earn that one has to ensure quality of the manuscripts accepted for publication and maintain high standard of the journal. This was stated by Prof. M. Ashraf Rector

task and a test of the editor and editorial board's dedication to publish a journal and also ensure its sustainability in the long run, he remarked.

Prof. Mahwish Arooj Principal University College of Medicine and Dentistry at University of Lahore in her welcome address commended the collaboration of University of Health Sciences, Pakistan Association of Medical Editors and University of Lahore

Artificial Intelligence in Research. Without proper education and guidance these issues compromise the integrity and credibility of scientific work, she added.

Prof. Mahwish was of the view that we need to continuously address these issues until they are fully understood and integrated into our practices. Keeping this in view we at University of Lahore,

understand the value of research in advancing healthcare and equip them with the skills to critically engage with and contribute to the scientific community. She thanked President PAME and PAME leadership for supporting and proposing this event to be held at University of Lahore. She also thanked all the invited guest speakers, Chairpersons of the scientific session and panelists who will be participating in the panel discussion besides Prof. Muhammad Iqbal Director ORIC at UOL for their participating, insight and valuable contribution to the scientific programme of this post conference session. She specially thanked Prof. Nadia Naseem Pro Vice Chancellor at University of Health Sciences for successful organization of the 6th PAME National Conference on Medical Journals, PAME and UHS, Prof. Mahwish Arooj remarked should consider us as committed

beginning of PAME's collaboration with UOL and we will strengthen

interest and current research. Do proper literature search to identify



Prof. Maj. Gen. M. Aslam alongwith Prof. M. Akbar Chaudhry, Dr. Fatema Jawad Chief Editor JPMA, and Prof. Nazeer Khan Secretary PAME chairing the scientific session.

it further in the days to come. I myself, he stated, has never been

gaps in that particular field, find out what questions remain to be

Peer Reviewers should be true scholars, experts in the field, trustworthy, make objective assessment of manuscripts - Jamshed Akhtar

infected with the materialistic virus. Money has never been an

answered and what are the new emerging trends and challenges which needs to be explored?

The next step will be to find a Mentor who is helpful, identify and collaborate with known researchers in that area, contact senior professors, researchers for guidance and invite them to be co-authors if they are interested. Select the right journal, identify journals which encourage and support early career researchers as they take short time in peer review and publishing the manuscripts. Some journals also publish special issues for young researchers. Make sure that the selected journal matches your topic. Publication in Impact Factor Journal is a bit difficult as they have a very stringent peer review system and they also take more time in processing and publications. Do not forget to carefully read

Editors need to train themselves how to detect AI tools generated manuscripts - Masood Jawaid

respect and Trust and we all must uphold professional ethics while working with each other. We must ensure that whatever we do should not bring any bad name but further enhance the prestige and image of our organizations.

Scientific Session
Prof. Maj. Gen. Muhammad Aslam alongwith Prof. Akbar Chaudhry, Prof. S.H.Waqar chaired the scientific session. Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaaid Chief

and follow the instructions of the journal to which you wish to send your manuscript, make sure to make complete submission, you have covered all the important components of the manuscript category you have chosen. For an original article, structured abstract should have sub headings of objective, methods, results and conclusion and key word. Full text should have apart from structured abstract Introduction,



Speakers in the PAME post conference session held at UOL on October 22nd photographed with Rector UOL Prof. M. Ashraf and Prof. Mahwish Arooj Principal UCMD and PAME Executive.

elevate medical journalism and research contributing to the progress of healthcare in Pakistan, she concluded.

Earlier Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaaid in his introductory remarks thanked University of Lahore administration, its Rector Prof. M. Ashraf, Director ORIC Prof. M. Iqbal and Prof. Mahwish Arooj for their kind invitation to host the post conference session at their campus. This, he said, was the

Editor Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences was the first speaker who talked about How to get

Methodology, Results, Discussion and Conclusion with appropriate latest and relevant references. Start

Papers written just for promotion often does not reflect good quality of research work-Tayyiba Waseem

published: A Guide for early career researchers. His advice to them was to identify the area of their interest and expertise, try to focus on a topic which aligns with their skills,

with Letters to the Editor, case report or short communication, Attend conferences for social networking, develop a habit of reading, and try to learn from the comments and suggestions of reviewers. With Dedication, Persistence, strategic planning, you will soon be on way to publishing your research and win the publication game, he remarked.

Prof. Jamshed Akhtar former Editor JCPSP currently Editor Journal of Surgery Pakistan discussed the importance of Peer Review ensuring quality and credibility in medical research. Peer Review, he defined is a process to assess the quality of a manuscript before it is published. Huge data, he said, is available on the net which is easy to access for a lay person.

Post Conference Session at University of Lahore

CONTINUED FROM PAGE-4

One can see conflicting claims and success stories but the public Trust remains the main issue. It must be ensured by all the stake holders that this Trust is not betrayed. He then referred to different websites and recommendations including WHO and cited references from leading medical journals of the world like BMJ and Lancet related to quality and credibility of research. Peer

tools to help support authors, researchers who should be intelligent enough to know how to use these tools. No AI tools can replace the human mind. Editors also need to train themselves how to detect this AI tools generated manuscripts. We at Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences, he said have developed our own ChatGPT for initial screening of manuscripts which is quite efficient, fast and reliable which is

Alternative Metrics is being increasingly used in Academia - Akhtar Sherin

Review, Prof. Jamshed stated steers the education and practice of medical researchers, is an influential type of feedback but hastened to add that it was not without flaws and it may also allow biased critique by anonymous reviewers. Peer Review ensures independent assessment of research papers. Speaking about the qualities of a good reviewer he mentioned that they should be true scholar's experts in the field, trustworthy and dependable, critical thinker, makes objective assessment of the manuscript with a clear intention to help authors to improve their manuscripts. He also talked about selection of reviewers, designing peer review Form, educating the editors, getting multiple reviews and providing some incentives to the reviewers.

In the absence of a proper peer review system, manuscript with poor quality will get published, these will contain unimportant subjects, poor methodology, invalid results which all may have far reaching implications. There is a potential risk of harm to the patients and society at large besides the reputation of the journal and

being further improved keeping in view our editorial, peer review policy and requirements. He quoted Gray Scott who has remarked that "There is no reason and no way that a human mind can keep up with an artificial intelligence machine by 2035".



Prof. Ashraf Rector UOL and Prof. Mahwish Arooj presenting Mementoes to Prof. S. H. Waqar, Prof. Akhtar Sherin at the post conference session.

Prof. Akhtar Sherin Chief Editor Journal of Khyber Medical University highlighted various Research Metrics and referred to Impact Factor, h-Index and other indexes in detail. Journal Citation Report issued by the Clarivate Web of Science in June every year from USA presents Impact Factor of various journals all over the world. It



Prof. Mahwish Arooj Principal UCMD from UOL hosted a dinner for the speakers of the PAME post conference session at Poet Restaurant on October 22nd. Picture shows from (L to R), Prof. Adeela Shahid, Prof. Irum Manzoor, Prof. Mahwish Arooj, Prof. Mariyah Hidayat. Second row from (L to R) Prof. Jamshed Akhtar, Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaaid, Prof. Mughees Baig, Prof. Maj. Gen. M. Aslam, Dr. Haris and Prof. Akhtar Sherin.

institution to which it belongs is at stake and they won't be entertained by funding agencies. He concluded his presentation by stating that a Good review creates an impact in

is based on citation in the journals which are covered by Clarivate and is based on citations from the last two years. On the other hand the Cite Score by Scopus covers

Persistence is the key to success - Saira Afzal

terms of publication of a highly cited article.

Dr. Masood Jawaaid Associate Editor at Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences spoke about the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Medical Editing and Publishing. He shared the guidelines issued by WAME, COPE and ICMJE which all state that no AI tool cannot be listed as an author, they are excellent

citation from papers from the last four years. He then discussed how the h-Index is calculated. He also briefly referred to numerous other indexes besides ALTMETRICS also known as Alternative Metrics which is being increasingly used in Academia.

Article Level metrics, he said, assess the impact of individual research articles through cita-

tions while author level metrics evaluates the overall impact of researchers with h-Index. Altmetrics provide insight into the immediate online impact of research through social media and other platforms. Together these metrics offer a comprehensive view of research

present we are working on getting it covered by Scopus, she added.

Prof. Saira Afzal said that she was appointed Associate Editor of the Annals of KEMU in 2007. We have now started a student's journal to provide an opportunity to the medical students to publish their

PAME & UHS has provided platform for training editors. CME course at UHS has been very helpful and I learnt many new things - Gulfreen Waheed

performance and impact, he added.

Panel Discussion
Editors of newly recognized medical journals were invited to participate in the panel discussion and share the problems they had to face in the initial phase. It was brilliantly moderated by Prof. Mariyah Hidayat Editor of Journal of University College of Medicine and Dentistry at University of Lahore. The questions she put to different panelists extracted some useful information for the participants and in fact this was the most important and interesting part of

research work. We have a good postgraduate programme and our PGs are involved in research. Persistence is the key to success. First one should try to get it covered by Director of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). Visibility of the journal should be ensured. Attend confer-

To survive in today's world, scientific writings and publications are extremely important - Farhat Ijaz

ences, training sessions. I had the opportunity to get training with Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaaid at Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences

she suggested.

Prof. Tayyiba Waseem suggested collaboration between different journals. Publishing a paper in International journals, she opined, was extremely difficult and their publication charges are also too much which many of our authors cannot afford. One needs passion to do something. I was lucky as Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaaid helped me a lot and we were able to improve our journal under his guidance. Papers written just for promotion often does not reflect good quality of research work. One should find some time to think but today the younger generation wants short cut. For quality work, one needs time. It takes months not weeks to get the paper published in a standard peer reviewed journal. It was research

work which showed that steroids are lifesaving in Covid. Only quality research work gets published in International journals. It is essential that one reads a lot of literature. We were never trained how to do research and write papers. In order to ensure that the students get guidance, teachers have to be trained first, she remarked. I was a

We need more journals in W category so that PhD candidates can publish their research-Muhammad Iqbal

part of one of the International research project and that also helped me a lot to learn and understand many things related to research and publications, she added.

Prof. Gulfreen Waheed participating in the discussion thanked PAME for providing a platform to undertake research and publications. CME course at UHS has

PM&DC. Then try to get the journal covered by Scopus which is possible if the journal has established its credibility. First of all, the journal must be covered by DOAJ which is also not easy these days. However, once it is covered by DOAJ, it helps in getting indexed by other international databases and indexes. To earn credibility and ensure



Photographed at the Faculty dinner during PAME Conference from (L to R) are Prof. Asghar Naqi, Prof. S.H.Waqar, Prof. Ahsan Waheed Rathore, Prof. Khalid Masood Gondal, Prof. M. Aslam and Prof. Hanan.

been very helpful and I learnt many new things during this course. If passion is there, one should accept the challenges and the first hurdle is getting quality research papers for publication in a newly established journal. We must encourage our colleagues, students to get involved in research and then

to virtually beg for papers. Finding good peer reviewers is not easy. I learnt a lot from the CME course at UHS. She suggested that Certificate in Medical Editing course must be made mandatory for the editors, UHS should also start a certificate course in Peer Review. Postgraduates need to be taught. There should be a workshop on Scientific Writing at every conference organized by various professional specialty organizations. Training

Certificate in Medical Editing course must be made mandatory for the editors, editorial board members - Adeela Shahid

courses for reviewers should be undertaken. Poor quality of review does not help the author and the editors. Developing countries like Pakistan must undertake research on diseases which are prevalent in this part of the world which include Tuberculosis, Dengue etc. CME course should also be made mandatory of Editorial Board members,

it will lead to publications. Peer Review is extremely important. One needs continuous feedback to improve the quality of the journal. Sustainability of the journal in the long run is extremely important. Recognition from the regulatory bodies takes time and it is essential that one follows the guidelines on websites of these regulatory bodies.

quality takes time. To survive in today's world, scientific writings and publications she opined were extremely important. Prof. Saira Afzal suggested that the editors should use social media to increase the visibility of their journals. Prof. Jamshed Akhtar suggested that HEC and other regulatory bodies should involve professional in decision making regarding recognition of journals. There is lot of data in public hospitals, we do not use it and others come and use this data and publish and also earn grants. We need to look into this. Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaaid stated that they offer some incentives to the reviewers to retain good reviewers like waiver of processing fee and discount in their own publications. We have also inducted some young reviewers who have completed CME at UHS and they are also provided some financial incentives. Prof. Mughees Baig remarked that one should not publish for the sake of publishing. Quality of research and publications is extremely important. Research must offer some benefit to the public. We need to undertake research on diseases prevalent in our country many of which are not found in the developed world like Dengue hence no research work is being undertaken on these diseases in the West.

On the whole this post conference session at University of Lahore was quit informative and useful for the participants. It also reflected the talent, competence among the new Editors in which the PAME and UHS through its courses has played a vital role and they all acknowledge it.

of University of Lahore while speaking at the inaugural session of the post conference session organized by Pakistan Association of Medical Editors as a part of its 6th PAME National Conference on Medical Journals held at University of Health Sciences Lahore on October 21st while this session was held at UOL on October 22nd 2024. The session was very well attended by senior executive of PAME besides a large number of editors of medical journals published by various medical institutions from all over Pakistan, faculty of University College of Medicine and Dentistry at University of Lahore as well as postgraduates.

In his address Prof. Ashraf further pointed out that even while applying for registration with Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) if the journal does not qualify, they give you chance to apply after six months twice and if still the journals fails, they are debarred for a period of two years for applying again. Similarly indexation with Medline or PubMed and Web of Sciences by Clarivate is a very difficult



Participants in the panel discussion from (L to R) are Prof. Nadia Naseem Pro VC UHS who is also Editor of Biomedica and President-elect of PAME, Prof. Saira Afzal, Prof. Tayyiba Waseem, Prof. Adeela Shahid, Prof. Gulfreen Wahid, Dr. Farhat Ijaz and Prof. M. Iqbal Director ORIC at UOL. Panel discussion was part of the programme during the post conference session held at UOL held on October 22nd.

particularly in developing countries like Pakistan. The most pressing issue, she recalled, was the lack of awareness and proper training

entirely on academic integrity and academic misconduct underscoring the importance of upholding ethical standards in medical research. At UOL, she said, we have always had a special focus on research. Our worthy Rector Prof. Ashraf himself being a distinguished researcher has made significant strides in advancing the research output in the past one year alone. Our faculty at UOL produced and published two thousand three hundred ninety three (2,393) papers which is a remarkable reflection on our collective dedication to research and innovation.

Continuing Prof. Mahwish Arooj said that importance of research must be instilled early on that is why we have integrated research into our undergraduate curriculum. By embedding research in education of our future doctors, we are preparing them to not only consume knowledge but also



Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaaid Secretary EMAME and Chief Editor of Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences presenting Memento to Prof. Mariyah Hidayat Editor of Journal of UCMD who was the moving spirit behind this post conference session held at UOL.

task which the editors must know before initiating the process.

Universities, Prof. Ashraf said, are meant to produce knowledge for which they must set some milestones and work hard to achieve that. There are at present about thirty thousand universities in the world. Our neighbouring country India has five thousand five hundred universities, United States has three thousand three hundred. Even Muslim countries like Malaysia and Indonesia have more universities than Pakistan as we have just over two hundred sixty universities. University of Lahore is the biggest university in private sector in Pakistan and we always compare ourselves with international universities. We have a special focus on Research & Publications. Over two dozen journals in various disciplines have been started and efforts are being made for professional capacity building of the editorial staff. Publishing a quality standard peer reviewed journal is a gigantic

in publication ethics. This gap leads to problems like unethical publishing practices, plagiarism,

With Dedication, Persistence, strategic planning, early career researches can win the publication game - Shaukat Ali Jawaaid

gift and ghost authorship, data fabrication and the misuse of

contribute to its creation. This early exposure ensures that our students



PAME Executive, speakers at post conference session organized at UOL on October 22nd photographed with Prof. Ashraf Rector UOL, Prof. Mahwish, Prof. Mughees and other members of PAME.