

Panel Discussion on Enhancing Quality of Medical Journalism

Institutional support is extremely important to ensure successful publication of Journals-Mariyah Hidayat

Getting Declaration may take lot of time, Professional Capacity Building of the Editorial Team is also essential- Adeela Shahid

LAHORE: Enhancing Quality of Medical Journalism was the first Thematic Session during the 6th PAME National Conference on Medical Journals organized by Pakistan Association of Medical Editors (PAME) in collaboration with University of Health Sciences (UHS) and Eastern Mediterranean Association of Medical Editors (EMAME) on October 21st 2024 held at UHS Campus. This session was moderated by Prof. Saira Afzal Chief Editor of Annals of KEMU and the Panelists included Prof. Ghulam Mustafa Editor of Journal of Sheikh Zayed Medical College Rahimyar Khan, Prof. Mariyah Hidayat Editor of Journal of University College of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Lahore and Prof. Adeela Shahid Editor Journal of Shalamar Medical & Dental College, Lahore

Tracing the history of Journal of SZMC Rahimyar Khan Prof. Ghulam Mustafa said that the journal was started in 2010 with the help of Prof. M. Saeed our then Principal. PAME helped us a lot and my participation in the CME course organized by PAME & UHS was very helpful and we learnt a lot. The Journal got recognition from the Pakistan Medical & Dental Council. However, later since there was no post of Professor at SZMC and I was transferred to Nishtar Medical College Multan. No one could take care of the Journal and its publication suffered and it became irregular. We are now trying to publish it regularly and would apply for PM&DC recognition again.

Prof. Mariyah Hidayat narrating the success story of

ensure quality. Peer Review plays a central role in the quality and standard of a journal. It eventually reflects on the Editor why they published these papers if they were not of quality. One needs to publish at least four

is not yet recognized by PM&DC is not easy and one really has to beg at times and request friends for help. However, consistency, patience and hard work does pay off and eventually one is able to start publishing a new journal. It



Prof. Nadia Naseem Pro VC UHS who is also focal person for CME programmes at UHS making a presentation during the inaugural session of the 6th PAME National Conference held at UHS on October 21st 2024. The conference was organized in collaboration with UHS and EMAME.

issues regularly to apply for the PM&DC recognition. Getting recognized in Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Scopus, PubMed and PubMed Central, Web of Sciences are all extremely important and it is not easy. It may take couple of years, she remarked.

Participating in the discussion Prof. Adeela Shahid said that they started the Journal in 2019, published a few issues but then

is just start of the journey and to ensure successful publication and also ensure sustainability in the long run needs proper planning for funding, minimum full time dedicated staff for which support of the institution is extremely important.

Prof. Nazeer Khan shared his experience of being affiliated with quite a few journals published by various medical institutions.

Prof. M. Aslam



Panel discussion during the First Thematic Session of 6th PAME National Conference was devoted to Enhancing Quality of Medical Journalism. It was moderated by Prof. Saira Afzal. Sitting on the dais the panelists from (L to R) are Prof. Adeela Shahid, Prof. Mariyah Hidayat and Prof. Ghulam Mustafa. The conference was organized in collaboration with UHS and EMAME.

their Journal remarked that institutional support is essential to ensure sustainability and regular publication of the journal. It is also important to build the professional capacity of the editorial team., they should be aware of how to select papers. In the initial days, only poor quality papers are submitted to newly established and recognized journals hence selection of papers for publication is important to

we had to change the name and start the whole journey fresh. Obtaining a Declaration from the Government of Pakistan is an uphill task and one has to go through lot of formalities which at times are very frustrating. The whole process may take some time and for us it took two and a half years. All Editorial Board members have to be cooperative, getting good quality papers for the initial issues when the journal

PAME Session-I

The next session was dedicated to Prof. Muhamad Aslam founder President. of PAME at President Vice Chancellor of City University, Islamabad. He chaired the session along with Prof. Tayyiba Waseem Editor of Esculapio, official journal of Services Institute of Medical Sciences along with Prof. Mian Hanan Ahmed from School of Communication Studies from



Prof. Maj. Gen. M. Aslam, Prof. Jamshed Akhtar, Prof. Akhtar Sherin, Prof. Nazeer Khan, Prof. Anwar Siddiqui and Prof. M. Irfan speaking at the 6th PAME National Conference on Medical Journals held at UHS campus on October 21st 2024.

University of Punjab.

Prof. Muhammad Aslam discussed Medical Journalism in the era of Social Media, Data Analysis an Artificial Intelligence. He emphasized the importance of fact checking before sharing any news on the social media. One has to be sure about the authenticity of information sources, as it lacks in depth analysis. At times social media is used to spread lot of misinformation hence quality control is an issue. AI driven medical journalism offers lot of benefits but it also has

comprehensive information on the journal website i.e. aims, objective, offices, editor and editorial board, ownership of the journal, processing and publication charges, timely publication, adherence to ICMJE guidelines to authorship, COPE guidelines on publication ethics, timeline of publication. Each manuscript has to be reviewed by at least two experts. Journals are supposed to keep record of all such peer review reports, plagiarism check, LOU, EC/IRB approval with reference number and date of all manuscripts published for at least two years. It is a very transparent system and the objective is to facilitate rather than create hindrances. We wish to have as many standard medical journals so that the researchers do not have to wait for too long for publishing their research work, he added.

Prof. Jamshed Akhtar Editor Journal of Surgery discussed issues with PrePrint publications. While some journals, he stated, do not entertain manuscripts published in PrePrint, universities encourage PrePrint publications. It is just like Blog which does not ensure authentic results. Education, he said, is reshaping, some prefer preprint with minimum peer review. At times authorship get changed in every PrePrint. BMJ, PLOS and many universities, he disclosed, encourage PrePrint publication.

Prof. Akhtar Sherin Chief Editor Khyber Medical University Journal published from Kohat highlighted the importance of Scientometrics and questioned does it really reflect the quality of scholarly literature and academic journals. He discussed in detail different Scientometrics, how they are calculated and what is

serious drawback. AI generated information has lot of legal, ethical issues which has yet to be resolved, he remarked.

Dr. Fatema Jawad Chief Editor Journal of Pakistan



Dr. Masood Jawaid Associate Editor Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences making a presentation on "Use of Artificial Intelligence and other Technologies in Medical Journalism" at the 6th PAME National conference.



Photographed during the 6th PAME National Conference from (L to R) are Prof. S.H. Waqar President PAME, Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaid, Dr. Masood Jawaid and Prof. Jamshed Akhtar.

Medical Association (JPMA) made a presentation on Falling standard of Publication Ethics in Pakistan which she described was a major concern. She highlighted the menace of gift and ghost authorship, sale and purchase of authorship which was spreading fast among the faculty members. She also referred to the growth of predatory journals in Pakistan and desired that authorities particularly regulatory bodies must take some action.

Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaid described in detail the criteria used for evaluation and recognition of medical journals by the PM&DC. Some of the important issues which are looked into include

their importance and relevant.

PAME Session-II

This session was dedicated to Dr. Fatema Jawad Chief Editor of JPMA who also chaired this session. Speakers in this session included Prof. Anwar Ali Siddiqui from JPMA who discussed the Critical Role of Peer Reviewers to improve quality of the journal while Prof. Nazeer Khan from Baqai Medical University talked about How much Statistics Editors Must Know? Prof. Irfan's presentation on New Knowledge Dissemination Behind the Paywall versus Open Access Journals was covered in an earlier session.