

Editorial

Sophistication of Medical writings

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Research is essential for the growth and development of any science and medical science has no escape from continuous and persistence research and innovation. Only through sound, scientific and educational research new and old ideas can be tested¹. In order to achieve its goal of becoming useful to the society, the research has to be translated and applied in reality to the patients in the day today clinical practice. The challenges faced by the practicing physician today are to provide up date and cutting edge care to his patients by incorporating the valid modern information².

The role played by the scientific publications in translation of research into clinical practice need not to be emphasized as it is the only available mean for the growth and up gradation of any specialty. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of medical journals published in the last one decade and there has been an increasing demand for the scientific articles. Every year over six million scientific medical articles get published. Despite this gargantuan volume of medical literature, less than 15% all articles published on a particular topic are really useful³. Even articles published in the most prestigious journals are far from perfect. Analyses of clinical trials published in wide variety of medical journals have described large deficiencies in design, analysis and reporting. Although improving with time, average quality score of clinical trials during the past two decades is less

than 50%⁴⁻⁶. The researchers thus, must have to take personal responsibility of providing a valid, readable, scientific material.

Conveying one's research findings is an exciting moment because it represents the out come and recognition of an arduous process. Clarity in reporting how the research was conducted and what results were obtained is paramount both for the research community and for the medical practitioners. Research in medical sciences can only be useful for the community if it has been conducted to meet the challenges of the specific field. Only through reporting clearly in medical text can the clinicians transfer the benefits of the research to the patients and the fellow researchers eventually to explore the issue one step further. It is through the correctly written articles that the clinicians appreciate the concept being developed and judged the extent to which results can be applied in their setting. The results serve as basis on which clinical actions can be planned and implemented. Thus, a healthy and productive cycle is created between theory and practice: theory-practice-theory⁷. Although potent stimulus, rather a compulsion for any body to write a scientific paper is an albeit misplaced, universal emphasis on 'publications' as a criteria of determining competence and suitability for academic positions. Paper written solely for this purpose contributes significantly for low quality publications.

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The common deficits found in articles written in developing countries are due to poorly planned and conducted research which is naturally poorly presented as well. This could be due to deficiency in infrastructure, intellectual and economic resources. A poorly designed and conducted research can never yield a worthwhile paper and therefore due attention must be given this aspect at the conception stage⁸. All researchers need to find their own mechanism of rectification in their given circumstances but even in very primitive economical setup, it is quite possible to

design, conduct and publish quality research. How to conduct and publish valid, useful and good research is beyond the scope of this editorial. Let us assume that a scientifically valid research has been conducted and published in our societies which were cited in most prestigious medical journals. One should learn the science and art of scientific research and required tools for medical writing. A well planned, properly conducted well presented study will not be rejected by any journal.

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