

Research and reporting

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Cite this article as: Khan MI. Research and reporting. JSTMU. 2018; 1(1): 1-2.**Keywords:** Research, reporting, medical writing

Research is indispensable for the growth and development of all disciplines, particularly medical sciences which fundamentally need continuous research and progressive innovation. The aim of any research should be 'solving of the unsolved' and adding up innovative expertise for the better clarification of scientific challenges. The real need of the society must be kept in mind while planning, devising and conducting research [1]. Only applied and translational research can serve this purpose. The challenges faced by the practicing physicians today are to provide update and cutting-edge care to their patients by incorporating the valid new information [2]. In order to ensure high-quality care and best practices, sound guidelines are developed based on recorded and transparently assessed clinical experience. Translational research (enabling the practical application of scientific discoveries to develop and implement, new ways of prevention, diagnosis and management of disease) has entirely changed the outlook of medical practice leading to notable progress in health care systems. Similarly, research has a colossal impact on human health and longevity of life, and that contributing to the national economy in addition to the individual benefits of improved health. To boost societal interest, the research must be robust and placed on fast track to answer the unanswered [3].

Writing and reporting scientific discoveries is an important outcome of a researcher. The scientific reporting on discoveries is important for society to improve health care through the advancement of knowledge beside a researcher's career growth. Scientific writing is a challenging task, and a mind-numbing process to crop up appropriate structure and style, expressing

subjective intellectual discoveries. Structuring and phrasing of research findings require appropriate training. Though plentiful literature is available on scientific writing and reporting, beside hands on training programs on preparing scientific manuscripts. Nevertheless, there is no straight answer to the question; 'what constitutes a good paper worthy of publication'. We do not find foolproof rules in the literature guaranteeing success in publishing a manuscript. Even good scientific contents of a manuscript alone do not promise its publication in a good journal [4]. Mostly, editors and reviewers appreciate manuscripts that are easy to read and to edit beside valuable scientific contents. The art and science of medical writing requires; understanding of the concerned project, the purpose of reporting, approval process, a correct literature search strategy, adequate language skills, formatting, understanding and presenting research data, editing and publishing requirements. All data require presentation and interpretation, including tables and graphs which should be self-explanatory reflecting research design [5].

While constructing a manuscript, information must be truthful and complete including negative findings, taking care copyright laws, avoidance of plagiarism, following authorship criteria for research manuscripts, and the policies of journal must be respected at all cost.

Medical writings have significantly improved in past two decades resulting in increased number of medical journals and quality of reporting. Although, over six million medical articles are published yearly, yet quality of these articles published, even in the most prestigious journals is questionable. A vast majority of these articles is either clinical case series or clinical trials. The clinicians are encouraged to adjust their practices according to the

guidelines determined through trials, a gold standard evidence for defining usefulness of interventions. The clinicians and policymakers thus make sound evidence-based decisions for the adjustment of practices and health care choices. All studies need to be approved by Institutional Review Board (IRB) - a committee of independent physicians, statisticians, social scientists and representatives of the community, established to review, approve and monitor all research proposals including clinical trials. IRB regulates the ethical considerations, rights and welfare of the research participants, validates the worth of the study and ensures that the risk should not override the benefits. Based on purpose of writing, we can divide medical writings into: editorials, original articles, review articles, case reports, short communications, letters to the editor, personal views and special communication [6]. Thus, a writer takes personal responsibility of providing a valid, reliable, and well-defined information to the readers. Published research findings serve as basis on which clinical actions can be planned and implemented. Therefore, learning the art and science of medical writing is paramount for all teachers, scientists and academicians.

Once research findings are ready to be reported, a researcher makes an educated choice, as to where to get it published. Every researcher desires to get his work published in a high impact factor journal (Measuring the frequency and number of citation of a journal/manuscript). A high impact factor indicates that research findings published in journal are considered highly influential. All peer review journals while accepting for publication look for accuracy, novelty and ethical methodology of the research and ensure that manuscripts selected for publication certainly contribute to advance knowledge and improve health care of the masses [7].

With stirring zeal and drive, the "Journal of Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University" (JSTMU) is being launched and a dedicated team of editors, advisors and reviewers has been appointed to facilitate the researchers who wish to publish in JSTMU. We at Shifa, strongly believe that soon it will be among the most respected journals of health care fraternity.

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