

Editor's Note

Compiling and Editing EMMJ5 Conference Proceedings

I had reluctantly accepted the responsibility of compiling and editing the EMMJ5 Conference Proceedings in view of my previous experience. Just like organizing a conference, it is also a thankless job but quite satisfying once it is finally accomplished. It is the result of persuasion by the Conference President Dr. Maqbool H. Jafay who felt that since we had published the proceedings of the National Conference, it is all the more important that the proceedings of this international conference should also be compiled and published. It requires lot of time, concentration and at times is quite frustrating because even if the presenters are asked in advance to bring with them final manuscripts of their presentations it usually does not work.

When requested some presenters were kind enough to oblige immediately but there were others who did not send their manuscripts after repeated communications. However, there is yet another group which will never respond and one ends up preparing their write-ups based on their presentations. In order to ensure that their message has been conveyed correctly, the manuscript draft was sent to these presenters to have their consent and approval and that is exactly what happened in the case of EMMJ5. Even then two of the presenter's i.e. Ana Marusic from Croatia and Dr. Farrokh Habibzadeh from Iran could not be covered as they had sent it for publications to some journals and did not want to indulge in duplicate publications.

These proceedings contain the summary of the presentations made at the EMMJ5 by various speakers. An effort has been made to ensure that no one is left out but it is almost difficult to keep every one happy. We have also tried to see that this booklet contains other relevant and important information regarding EMAME and EMMJ Conferences, newly elected Executive of EMAME and its various Sub-committees, Messages from Dr. Hussein A. Gezairy Director WHO EMR and Dr. Ahmad Jamal outgoing President of EMAME. Details regarding members of the organizing committee, newly elected office bearers of Pakistan Association of Medical Editors (PAME), Members list of PAME with their affiliation and

e mail addresses, participants in EMMJ5 from overseas as well as Pakistan and above all Recommendations of the EMMJ5 have enriched the contents of this booklet which we hope will be quite useful for the Editors as well as medical writers, medical institutions at large. The medical libraries will also find it quite useful.

The conference programme included Thematic talks, invited lectures and free paper sessions, pre conference and in-conference workshops. All of them have been covered in the same order. We did not forget our colleagues who are no more with us who had contributed a lot to promote the cause of Medical Journalism in Pakistan. Hence, memorial sessions were organized in the name of late Prof. Ijaz Ahmad from Lahore, Dr. Sarwar J. Zuberi and Prof. Manzar Saleem from Karachi. In order to involve the various medical institutions, the conference was organized in collaboration with College of Physicians & Surgeons Pakistan, Dow University of Health Sciences, Aga Khan University, EMAME and WHO EMRO. Eminent medical personalities which included Vice Chancellors, Deans and Principals of medical universities, postgraduate medical institutes and medical colleges were invited to chair various sessions. All those who were honoured included Prof. Masood Hameed VC DUHS, Lt. Gen. S.Azhar Ahmad VC Baqai Medical University, Surgeon Badar Siddiqui who chaired Sarwar Zuberi Memorial session, Prof.Arshad Jawaid from Peshawar, Dr. Shuja Tahir and Prof. Riaz Hussain Dabb from Faisalabad, Dr. Akhtar Sherin from Kohat, Prof. Nasir Khokhar, Prof. Ejaz Ahmad Vohra, Prof. Waqar Kazmi, Prof.Abdus Samad,Prof. M. Akbar Chaudhry, Prof. Jahan Ara Pal, Dr. Inayatullah Padhyar who chaired the different sessions along with distinguished medical editors from overseas. CPSP President Prof.Zafar Ullah Chaudhry and Senior Vice President Prof.Abdullah Jan Jafar were invited to be the Chief Guest at the Conference Banquet and Guest of Honour at Conference Dinner respectively.

Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr. Javed R. Leghari was kind enough to accept our invitation to be the chief guest at the inaugural session. Similarly former DG Health Prof. Rashid Jooma was invited to be the Guest of Honour in the inaugural session which was also attended by Dr. Guido Sabatinelli WHO Representative in Pakistan. Pakistan Medical and Dental Council which recognizes the medical and dental journals published from Pakistan had nominated Prof. Syed M. Awais to be their representative. He also came for a day and chaired one of the sessions. One would have hoped that PM&DC nominates someone who could attend the whole conference as it provided a rare opportunity to share

knowledge and experience with distinguished medical editors from the Eastern Mediterranean Region as well as invited guest speakers from Europe. This would have also enabled them to know the latest developments in the field of Medical Journalism in general and Medical Editing, Peer Review in particular. PM&DC Representative could have then submitted a detailed report to the Council for their guidance but we are afraid, perhaps it did not happen.

Pre-conference workshops on Medical Writing, Medical Editing and Biostatistics were organized at Aga Khan University, College of Physicians & Surgeons Pakistan and DUHS respectively with the same objective of involving as many institutions as possible. By doing so the organizers wanted to spread the message and sensitize as many medical healthcare professionals, faculty members and particularly those in authority sitting in the coveted positions of Vice Chancellors, Deans and Principals so that they can help promote the standard of medical journals besides inculcating the habit of medical writing, documentation and promote research culture in their institutions. We are quite happy with the overall outcome as our distinguished visitors from overseas as well as local participants were extremely happy and delighted with the quality of the scientific programme. However, it could have been much better as we expected much more participation from editors of medical and dental journals as well as faculty members from all over Pakistan. Attending a conference overseas these days is very expensive and if such rare opportunities become available within the country, one should avail them.

Success of the conference was the result of the team work. Many of them were visible but there were others who worked a lot more behind the scene who deserve to be commended. The conference organizers had tried their best to make the scientific programme informative and interesting for the participants although there is always room for improvement the next time. At the end of the booklet, a Pictorial Section has been added which gives glimpses of the EMMJ5.

I am grateful to Conference President Dr. Maqbool H. Jafary who has now taken over as President of EMAME because it was his insistence and constant encouragement that the proceedings could be compiled and published. Dr. Masood Jawaid was very kind to go through the final document. I express my sincere thanks to both of them for their valuable suggestions and agreeing to be part of this academic activity as co-editors.

Shaukat Ali Jawaid
Organizing Secretary EMMJ5

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