

HEC has started classification & funding of research journals published from Pakistan-Dr.Javed Leghari

WHO EMRO should continue patronage of EMAME
to facilitate holding of such conferences

PAME has been doing a commendable job of organizing seminars
and hands on workshops for authors, reviewers and Editors

KARACHI: Inaugurating the EMMJ5 the Fifth Regional Conference on Medical Journals Chairman of Higher Education Commission Dr. Javed H.Leghari remarked that we have started classification and funding of research journals published from Pakistan. He also urged the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office to continue patronage of Eastern Mediterranean Association of Medical Editors (EMAME) for holding such conferences regularly. This provides an excellent forum for the editors of this region to share their knowledge and experience. The conference was organized by Pakistan Association of Medical Editors (PAME) and WHO EMRO in collaboration with EMAME, College of Physicians & Surgeons Pakistan, Dow University of Health Sciences and Aga Khan University and it was supported by the Federal Health Ministry, Government of Pakistan. It attracted many invited guest speakers from Europe, WHO offices in Cairo and Switzerland besides Muslim countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

Continuing Dr. Javed Leghari said that medical journalism is a very well developed specialty in the West while it is beginning to take shape in the less developed countries. Since the disease pattern and pathology in our part of the world is different as compared to the West, thus it underlines the importance of local research and finding indigenous solutions to our problems. Medical Editors in this region, he further stated, are faced with many problems including non-availability of good reviewers and good quality manuscripts which are not faced by the editors in the developed countries.

Referring to the recent UNESCO Report Dr. Javed H. Leghari said that old scientific powers, it looks are starting to lose their grip. Twenty years ago, North America, Europe and Japan produced almost all the world's

science; they published the most and patented the most. By 2007 their share had dropped to 76%. The number of researchers has also grown every where. China is on the verge of overtaking both America and European Union in the quantity of scientists. The picture this report paints is of a waning West and a rising East and South. China has more than doubled its share and Brazil has over 60%. This UNESCO report concludes that Asia will become the dominant scientific continent in the coming years.

HEC Chairman laid emphasis on assessing quality and relevance of research and pointed out that HEC has now digital library with twenty three thousand journals and forty five thousand e books. We have provided Video conferencing facility to seventy universities. In addition HEC funded one hundred three research projects, sponsored eighty three conferences, awarded 986 travel grants, started research grant to newly appointed TTF besides initiating collaborative research programme with USA and UK. Our research fund allocation has gone up twenty times in the last seven years. The total number of PhDs the country produced during the last fifty five years was three thousand while in the last seven years 3,280 PhDs have been produced. The number of PhDs in biological and medical sciences in the first fifty five years was 589 but in the last seven years we have produced six hundred one more PhDs. Number of publications have also gone up from 815 in 2002 to over four thousand in 2009. All research papers, Thesis and Dissertations are checked for plagiarism. Pakistan's research performance is now comparable to countries like Malaysia and Thailand.

Talking about EMAME, Dr. Javed Leghari said that Pakistan has played an important role in its Foundation and Pakistani delegates have made significant contributions to scientific deliberations in all the conferences organized by EMAME. HEC, he said, recognizes the importance of scientific publications and the First ever national conference on Medical Editing held at Army Medical College in 2007 was sponsored by HEC. We have recognized quite a few medical journals. He commended Pakistan Association of Medical Editors for organizing seminars and hands on workshops on medical editing and peer review for the reviewers and training of editors. Institutions like CPSP and PM&DC, he said, can play an important role in supplementing their efforts. He was delighted to note that CPSP was one of the co-organizers of this important conference on medical journals. We are delighted to host this conference in Pakistan and HEC, he said, will be pleased to extend any possible help and assistance to ensure that workshops on Medical Editing, Peer Review are organized on regular basis besides making arrangements for training of medical editors.

Prof. Rashid Jooma who was the Guest of Honour on this occasion in his speech pointed out that in the past some postgraduates while writing their dissertations for FCPS have been involved in plagiarism which needs to be checked. It is also important to determine as to who is eligible to be an Editor of a journal. PM&DC and HEC, he said, has held joint meetings regarding evaluation of medical journals. Prof. Rashid Jooma however, felt that organizing such an important conference should have been done by people in the medical institutions but this task has been accomplished by the terrific twins (Shaukat Ali Jawaid and Dr. Maqbool H. Jafary) who are from the private sector.

Dr. Guido Sabatinelli WHO Representative in Pakistan read the message from Dr. Hussein A. Gezairy Regional Director WHO EMR while Ms. Jane Nicholson delivered a Thematic lecture on Medical Journals: Difficulties and Opportunities.

Earlier Dr. Maqbool H. Jafary Conference President read a message from Dr. Ahmad Jamal President of EMAME and also welcomed the chief guest, guest of honour and other delegates to the conference from overseas and Pakistan. Conference mementoes were presented to the chief guest and guest of honour by Dr. Maqbool H. Jafary and Prof. Maj. Gen. Mohammad Aslam President PAME while Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaid organizing secretary EMMJ5 thanked the CPSP and its administration besides DUHS, AKU, INFAQ Foundation, some anonymous donors and all others who extended their valuable help and support to make the conference a success.