

Preface

Benefitting from the collective wisdom

There are numerous books available published by eminent writers on the subject of Scientific Writing hence one may ask why the need was felt for this book. We have been conducting workshops on Medical Writing and other related subjects for the last twenty years and during the discussions we felt that there was a need to compile and edit a book which should contain indigenous efforts. We also believe that there is no dearth of talent in Pakistan hence it was about two years ago that we decided to embark on this journey. It was also decided to benefit from the collective wisdom of distinguished editors of medical journals published from Pakistan besides involving eminent researchers to accomplish this task.

First we prepared a list of the topics which we thought should be included in this book and it was shared with a few friends. The objective was to cover most of the topics keeping in view the need and requirements; hence an effort was made to include almost all the topics related to medical writing and scientific publishing. Then the prospective authors were identified and they were invited to contribute on a particular given subject. Most of them were kind enough to accept our invitation. Soon after a couple of months we started receiving the various chapters and some of them had to be revised. We are extremely grateful to Prof. Mukhtiar Baig who was consulted time and again on different aspects of this project and he was kind enough to oblige us every time. Hence we would like to acknowledge his guidance, help and assistance in this regard.

We have dedicated this book to two distinguished medical personalities of Pakistan in recognition of their services to

promote the discipline of medical journalism and scientific publishing in Pakistan. Prof. Maj. Gen. (Retd) Muhammad Aslam currently serving as Pro Vice Chancellor of National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) deserves special mention because of his enormous contributions. Apart from being professional editor he hosted the first Medical Conference on Medical Editing that we organized at Army Medical College Rawalpindi from April 23-25, 2007 when he was the Principal. It was a great success as it attracted seven eminent speakers from overseas as well. This encouraged us to bid for the EMAME (Eastern Mediterranean Association of Medical Editors) Medical Journals Conference (EMMJ5) which was organized at Karachi from December 2-5, 2010 held at College of Physicians & Surgeons Pakistan under his leadership as the founder President of Pakistan Association of Medical Editors (PAME). Later we had two successful conferences of PAME and numerous workshops on medical writing, peer review, training courses for editors at University of Health Sciences (UHS) at Lahore wherein he played a vital role as Vice Chancellor of UHS. It has been a pleasure to work under his command while organizing all these academic activities.

Prof. Arshad Javaid Vice Chancellor of Khyber Medical University has also contributed a lot in this respect. As Chief Editor of Journal of Postgraduate Medical Institute published by Postgraduate Medical Institute/Lady Reading Hospital, Peshawar he has been very supportive encouraging all academic activities related to medical journal publishing. He is a keen researcher and academician. He is also a member of PAME, and helped organize a daylong conference on medical journal publishing at Lady Reading Hospital/PGMI, Peshawar from January 7-8, 2012. Most recently he as Vice Chancellor hosted the national conference of Pakistan Association of Medical Editors held from March 3-4, 2018. They also utilized this occasion to celebrate the ten years of successful publication of Khyber Medical University Journal which started as KUST from Kohat and was later renamed as KMUJ. He has now been elected as Chairman of the Journals Committee of the Pakistan Medical & Dental Council in its new interim set up. He along with some editors is busy in framing the

Terms of Reference for recognition of medical journals. We hope he will help resolve some of the problems which the editors are facing and eliminate the communication gap which has existed between the PM&DC and the Editors of medical journals since long. These distinguished editors deserve to be commended and it is in recognition of their devotion, dedication and contribution to promote this discipline that we decided to dedicate this book to them.

We decided to request Prof. Ejaz Ahmad Vohra, Director Postgraduate Studies Clinical & Chairman Dept. of Medicine, Ziauddin Medical University, Karachi to write the Foreword for this book. An eminent physician who was one of the founder faculty members of Abbasi Shaheed Hospital when it was established in 70s, he also served as Principal of Karachi Medical & Dental College and got it recognized from the Pakistan Medical & Dental Council. He is among those kind hearted physicians who went abroad for postgraduate studies in 60s and then returned home to serve their own country. Former President of Pakistan Society of Physicians, Prof. Ejaz Ahmad Vohra believes and practices ethical medicine and has always upheld professional ethics. We are extremely grateful that he accepted our invitation to write the Foreword for this book. We sincerely thank all the contributors and hope that young researchers, authors, postgraduates and the faculty members will find this book useful and informative.

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