

# INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON JOURNAL PUBLISHING

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Manila, Philippines

# PROFESSIONAL JOURNAL EDITORS, KEY TO PUBLISHING CULTURE



INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON JOURNAL PUBLISHING  
Manila: June 16, 2009  
(CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS)

Philippine Council for Health Research & Development  
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**Welcome Remarks**  
**Ms. Merlita M. Opeña**  
Officer-In-Charge  
Office of the Executive Director  
Philippine Council for Health Research and Development

From the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Charlie Raby, Professor Hahn, president of the Asia Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors (APAME), panelists, resource persons, friends and colleagues from the Philippines and international research communities, good morning! Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat.

Welcome to this International Seminar on Journal Publishing with a focus on the key role of professional journal editors in creating and sustaining a research publishing culture in and across countries. In particular, we welcome our co-workers in the Western Pacific Region Index Medicus (WPRIM), our friends and colleagues from Japan, Vietnam, Mongolia, Singapore, Malaysia, Republic of Korea and China.

The Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) and the Philippine National Health Research System (PNHRS) is pleased to host this important forum as a platform for sharing experiences and good practices between the Philippines and the Western Pacific journal editors. The recent assessment of the Technical Panel on Health Journal Publishing pointed out the need to professionalize journal editorship, to raise the level of research publishing productivity. Journal editors are strategic allies in research, in creating and sustaining health research databases and in our goal of translating research into policies and actions. Enabling the editors to play their roles well is a continuing concern. The experiences of our colleagues from the international journal publishing community will be vital to leapfrog from the present level of development to a desired state. We believe the insights we'll gain from our resource persons from the Western Pacific would fast track the learning process. In addition to the learning and sharing that will be facilitated today, we hope that long-term relationships will be nurtured as a way to understand each other in our respective roles in our research communities.

Again, welcome everyone. We anticipate today to be a fruitful learning event for all of us. We actually have 97 confirmed participants representing 62 journal societies and research organizations.

Thank you very much and welcome again to this seminar.

**Message**  
**Mr. Charles Raby**  
Technical Officer  
Translation and Knowledge Management  
World Health Organization Western Pacific Office

Ms. Merl Opeña, Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD), Professor Chang-Kok Hahm, president of the Asia Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors (APAME), guests from Japan, Vietnam, Mongolia, Singapore, Malaysia, Republic of Korea and China, medical and health journal editors from the Philippines, welcome to this very special event.

This is actually the very first forum-workshop organized under the umbrella of APAME with the participation of the regional journal editors and it won't be the last. In fact, sometime in November this year, the Singapore Medical Association and Singapore Medical Journal will host a similar event in Singapore on the occasion of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I'm announcing it now. Some of you will be invited. We will send you an invitation.

I am pleased to be here with you today. You may wonder what the World Health Organization have to do with this activity. It started with WPRIM and the Global Health Library which we started in 2005. Now, aside from the WPRIM, we have the APAME which was formally established in 2008. WPRIM and APAME complement each other as they share the common goal of helping raise the level of journal publishing and promoting equitable access to quality health research done in the region. At the moment, there are 13 countries involved in APAME and WPRIM activities: Australia, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Vietnam.

This forum will not only promote health research but will also promote our goal of improving the quality of journal publishing in the region. WPRIM and APAME meetings and activities are really great opportunities for journal editors to collaborate with their peers from other countries and share lessons learned. But also for librarians and all the information specialists in the region who already have formed a very effective network and obviously play a key role in facilitating access to health information.

It should be noted also that WPRIM and APAME have generated training exchanges and technology or knowledge transfer between institutions and countries in the region. This has already happened.

The purpose of the workshop today is for you to acquire learnings and solutions that, hopefully, you can apply to your own work. I also find it very pleasant that this event makes us meet new friends. I also see some familiar faces in the room.

I would like to thank Dr. Montoya and Ms. Opeña of PCHRD for organizing this event. I would also like to congratulate Dr. Joey Avila, editor of Acta Medica Philippina, which is

now, I hear, named the national health science journal of the Philippines. This basically means that it is the only journal funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) through PCHR. Lastly, just have a fruitful workshop and a very pleasant day. Thank you very much.

## **Message**

**Professor Chang-Kok Hahm**

President

Asia Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors (APAME)

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. It is a great honor for me to deliver a message in such a good workshop.

Thanks to Dr. Montoya and Ms. Opeña of PCHRD for hosting this important workshop. As you all know the Western Pacific Region Office . For the success of WPRIM, we have to consider three major points: software, content, and manpower. Software is a minute problem because it depends on mind and policy. Content is the most important factor for success. Sufficient data and a good database are essential for popular use of WPRIM.

APAME was established in Seoul, Korea in 2008. APAME and WPRIM have a common goal of providing high-quality medical and health information in the Region. The objectives of APAME are: (1) encourage collaboration and facilitate communication among medical journal editors in the Region and globally; (2) improve editorial standards and promote professionalism in medical editing through education, self-assessment, and self-governance; (3) promote research in peer-review and medical editing; and (4) foster continuing education of medical journal editors.

I hope this workshop will be successful and very helpful. Thank you very much.

## **Case Presentations by Journal Editors on Journal Publishing**

### **What PJSS Editors Do**

**Dr. Theodor S. Vesagas**

Co-Editor

Philippine Journal of Surgical Specialties

Good morning!

#### **Objectives of the Presentation**

- Define editing and its purpose
- Explain composition, organization and responsibilities of Editorial Board
- Explain the PJSS Editorial process

#### **PJSS Beginnings**

- PJSS was established in July 1946 as the Philippine Journal of Surgery.  
-Conceived as a journal for general surgery
- It evolved to become the Philippine Journal of Surgical Specialties.  
-Involve all the cutting specialties

#### **Philippine Journal of Surgical Specialties**

##### **Vision**

To be an internationally recognized journal in surgery

##### **Mission**

To publish quality world class research from all surgical specialties in the Philippines through internationally accepted standards of editing and peer review

#### **Philippine Journal of Surgical Specialties**

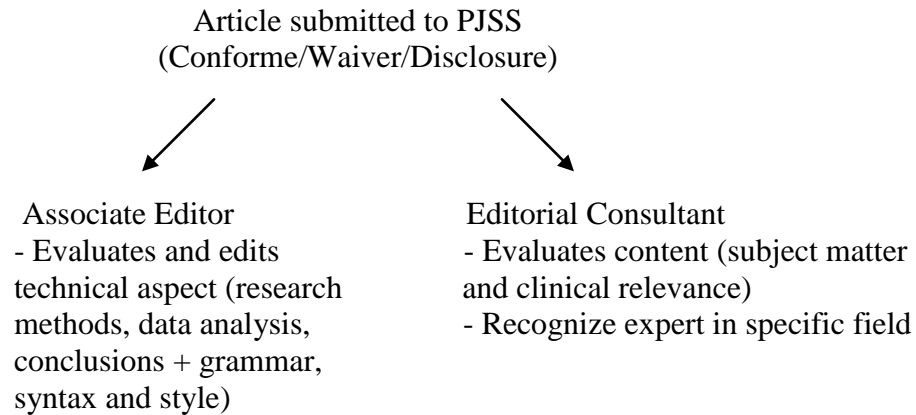
##### **Roles**

- Venue for publication of research papers in surgery
- Publish evidence-based clinical practice guidelines in surgery
- Assist in the development of surgical research  
-Lectures and workshops on scientific writing

##### **Editing**

“...to modify, improve, reformat or even change to conform to a predetermined standard”

## **PJSS EDITORIAL PROCESS**



## **PJSS EDITORIAL PROCESS**

- Accepted with minor revisions
- Accepted with major revisions
- REJECTED

### **Co-Editor**

- Evaluates paper with comments of associate editor and editorial consultant
- Communicates with authors and editors
- Recommends first proof
- Assists in proofreading prior to final publication

### **Editor-in-Chief**

- Assigns paper to specific editor/peer reviewer
- Reviews articles for possible rejection
- Performs final editing
- Assumes final responsibility for content of each issue

## **Workshop for Surgical Editors (April 25, 2009)**

- 18 participants
- Staff from journals of 8 cutting specialties
  - PSVS, Vascular Surgery
  - PSGS, General Surgery
  - POA, Orthopedics
  - AFN, Neurosurgery
  - PSCRS, Colon and Rectal Surgery
  - PATACSI, Thoracic and Cardiovascular
  - PSPS, Pediatric Surgery
  - PSST, Trauma Surgery

## **Lectures in the Workshop**

### **What Editors Do**

-This module explained why an editorial board exists, its organization and the responsibilities of each of its members.



**·An Introduction to Research Methods and Study Design**

-This module covered the research methods briefly and explain the elements of a good study design.

**·Reporting Research**

-This module explained the different consensus statements (CONSORT, Clinical Guidelines, STROBE...) and how editors use them when assessing submitted material.

**·Ethical Issues in Medical Journalism (Plagiarism, Authorship, Disclosure, etc)**

-This module covered common ethical concerns that editors must deal with: plagiarism, disclosure, authorship, and scientific misconduct.

**·Fixing the Manuscript: Title, Abstract, Key Words**

**·Fixing the Manuscript: Introduction**

**·Fixing the Manuscript: Methods**

**·Fixing the Manuscript: Results**

**·Fixing the Manuscript: Discussion and Conclusion**

**·Fixing the Manuscript: References**

-Each mini-module was a short talk about common problems encountered in that part of the manuscript being discussed.

**·Edit This!**

-Small groups were created for a hands-on editing session of sections of badly written manuscript. Each group will select an editor, co-editors, associate editors, and editorial consultants.

**·Manuscripts-Before and After**

-Each group presented their edits and the body discussed the edits.

Thank you very much for your time.

## **The Acta Medica Philippina: A Case Study**

**Dr. Jose Ma. C. Avila**

Editor-in-Chief

Acta Medica Philippina

Good morning!

In contrast to the previous presentation which represented a medical journal which is published by a subspecialty, I'm about to present a medical journal that is published by a government educational institution, University of the Philippines. It is actually a narrative story that the Acta Medica had to go through in order to succeed.

### **What is the Acta Medica Philippina?**

- The official medical journal of the UP College of Medicine and the College of Public Health (publishers, provide budget)
- First issue: 1939 (70 years)
- Published quarterly initially
- First editor: Dr. ABM Sison (department chairmen were the editorial board)
- No mention of peer reviewers
- 10-12 original articles

### **Who am I?**

- Dr. Jose Ma. Co Avila, pathologist by profession
- Involved with the AMP for 18 years in various capacities (editorial board, associate editor)
- Became editor in chief in 2003, appointed by the Dean, reappointed
- Why was I originally chosen to be in the editorial board? Research, publications

### **Brief History of the Acta Medica**

- 1940-1950's – one of Asia's top medical publications, with icons of Philippine medicine in the editorial board and authors
- Rotor syndrome, filariasis, schistosomiasis, beri-beri and other landmark articles published
- Attending/consultant staff were the authors
- Editorial board acted as reviewers
- English was excellent, content was good, form was fair
- 1960-1980s – Acta still fairly regularly published, with 8-10 original articles; therapeutic trials
- 1990s – Acta articles down to 5-8 articles per issue; mostly specialty-based and technical with few public health articles; delay of issues by at least a year; research and articles now esident-driven
- 2000 – 2003: Acta unable to publish quarterly due to lack of articles; workshops to Brainstorm, Acta problems; attempts to establish office

### **Summary of Problems**

- Acta had no office and no permanent support staff
- Editorial staff acted as peer reviewers; were actually doing technical editing
- Research output was low – reflected in the number of articles submitted
- No ethics review, no editorial vision and guidelines
- Budget was very low and unchanged for years
- No faculty incentive to publish

### **Changes that were made:**

- Requested for additional support: office, equipment, budget, faculty incentives for research
- Reconceptualized the Acta: vision and mission rethought and editorial policies established
- Professionalized the System: letters, waivers, forms, fulltime editorial assistant
- Established external peer review system
- Templates and form for the Acta established
- No issues for 2003
- Decided to relaunch in 2004
- With some luck: The UP President mandated an “up or out” policy: requiring first author original research for permanency
- The university/college fortified its research policies/offices around this time
- More research funds available
- Ethics review board more active in implementing its policies

### **Recent Developments**

- 2004-2007: still biannual; articles now trickling in; 8-10 articles per issue with a few rejections
- External peer review system: 2 peer reviewers blinded
- Editorial board of 8: met bimonthly to tackle editorial board policies and issues; goes over all papers submitted to assess general quality
- Small office established with one fulltime editorial assistant (not secretary)

### **Now...**

- Acta chosen by PCHRD/DOST to become the “National Health Science Journal” (2008)
- Project Proposal approved by DOST (for funding) and presented to DOST Secretary/Board
- Acta “relaunched” in DOST anniversary with a “new” look
- Budget increased, five fulltime personnel, big office, fully equipped
- Quarterly issues resumed: 10-12 articles per issue
- Around 80 peer reviewers
- Website, podcast to be launched

### **Things I have Learned**

- Editors must take charge and assume responsibility. Everything is up to you.
- Editors must have a vision for the journal. It must be very clear in his or her mind.
- The culture of research is present. BUT the culture of publication must be nurtured and given due attention.
- Peer review is everything.
- Editors learn the ropes along the way. There are no short-cuts.
- Researchers need help in writing for medical journals.
- Medical publication and medical journalism has already suffered too long in this country and the time has come to give it the PUSH it needs!

### **Questions**

- Problems of ethics (plagiarism, authorship, disclosures) and review boards – authors becoming discouraged with “too much red tape.”
- How can we sustain our journals with “open access” policies looming?

Thank you very much.

## **The Editorial Process Involved in Journal Publishing POGS and PSREI Journal**

**Dr. Ma. Trinidad R. Vera**

Editor-in-Chief

Philippine Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility

Good morning!

I represent the journal of our Society, POGS, and subspecialty of reproductive endocrinology and infertility. The responsibility of maintaining the journal is with the Society itself. The funding is usually acquired from donors, mostly from the pharmaceutical companies and also mainly from the budget given to us by the Society.

### **Editorial Board**

- The editorial board sets the criteria for articles submitted for publication. These criteria ensure that the articles are simple and that the results are reproducible.
- The editorial board is responsible for the content of the journal, each one playing his own unique role, for the smooth and efficient process of publishing the journal.
- The Editor-in Chief is the head of the editorial staff. He assigns the submitted articles, first to the editorial board members who are responsible for evaluating the content and the clinical relevance of the article. He has the expertise and experience in the specific topic.

### **Peer Reviewers**

- In case additional expertise is needed, the article is forwarded to the Peer Reviewers (national or international) who is a content expert.
- He comments on the importance of the research work, its applicability in actual practice and the strength of the conclusions based on the data presented.
- He may also give suggestions on current knowledge that should be studied in order to contribute to the current pool of data.

### **Associate Editors**

- A copy of the manuscript is then forwarded to the associate editor who will evaluate the technical aspect of the article.
- He is therefore knowledgeable in research methodology, data analysis, drawing of scientific conclusions as well as grammar, syntax and literary style.
- He determines whether the article is fit for publication for publication.

### **Editor-In-Chief**

- To ensure that the editorial process is thorough, the articles are sent to the editor-in-chief for additional comments, and if revisions are necessary, these are sent back to the authors.
- Once all the revisions have been made the editor-in-chief recommends the preparation of the first proof to the editorial assistant, who incorporates the tables and figures in the lay out

after which it is again returned to the Editor-in-chief who decides if subsequent proofs are necessary prior to printing.

### **Managing Editor**

- He is responsible for the business transaction of the publication.
- He takes care of the budget for the issue of each journal.

### **Some Articles Published**

- Reproductive Outcome In Assisted Reproductive Technology : The Philippine Experience, 2008
- The Correlation of Ki-67 Expression With Tumor Recurrences And Survival Rates In Early Stage Carcinoma Of The Cervix, 2009
- The Use Of An Anemia Scoring Index To Prevent Severity of Anemia Among Emergency OB-GYN Patients, 2009
- Correlation Between Preoperative Serum CA 125 AND Surgicopathologic Prognostic Factors in Edometrial Cancer, 2009
- Intrauterine Insemination : A Cross- sectional Study On Determinants of Success, 2009
- A Comparison of the Knowledge, Attitude and Practices of Clinicians from Different Subspecialties Regarding the Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine

Copies of the journal are available outside.

Thank you.

## Panel Discussion on Professionalizing Health Journal Editorship

**Dr. Jeong-Wook Seo**

Editor

Korean Journal of Pathology

Good morning!

What I would like to say with my presentation this morning, with journal and manuscript submission. It is also important to choose it and be in WPRIM but usually it is not the case. So in that the case, editor could be a facilitator or mentor of the authors so we can be ensured that they can be improved in their journals. So we don't reject that directly. So I am thinking as a co-author and of course in the interest of the author. I am saying that because there...

### **Stakeholders of Journal Publishing (31:21)**

Author, Editor, Publisher, Librarian, Reader

- In the past
  - I write
  - I pay
  - I print
  - I publish
  
- Local View
  - I write
  - Peer review
  - We print
  - We publish
  
- Global view
  - We write
  - Peer review
  - They print
  - They publish

### **Issues of Editorship of a Journal**

- Aims and Scope
  - Geographical scope of the journal?
- Society and Conference Affiliations
  - The support of an academic society.
- Existing Competitors
  - Direct competitors for the journal
  - general titles with which you may compete
- Readership and Market

- Who will read your journal?
- How many academic departments might subscribe worldwide?
- Critical mass of papers and an economically viable base of subscribers.
- Marketing Opportunities
- Promotional opportunities do you anticipate for the journal

### **Post-publication Activities**

- Indexing
  - Pubmed, ISI, Scopus, Chemical Abstract
  - WPRIM
- Electronic publication
  - Ovid, Science Direct, Interscience
  - Home page of sponsoring society
  - Full text services by Aggregator
  - Institutional Repository
- Citation analysis
- Marketing and public release
- Periodic review of myself

### **Financial analysis**

- MECHANICAL DATA**
  - Number of issues per year
  - Number of editorial pages
- SUBSCRIPTION DATA**
  - Number of Society Online Subscribers
  - Number of Other Institutional Online Subscribers
- SUBSCRIPTION RATES**
  - Institutional Subscribers (USD)
  - Individual Subscribers (USD)
- ARTICLE CHARGES**
  - Case Report
  - Articles
- Other REVENUE**
  - Supplements

### **Unit Costs of Articles**

Multinational Journal B	
Production (issues)	U\$16,200
Editorial Office costs	8,000
Manuscript Central	6,500
Promotion	7,000



English Editing Service 3,000  
Invited Review 2,000  
Publishing Charges 15,000

**TOTAL COSTS U\$ 57,700**

60 articles per year:

Unit cost per article U\$962

**What to say to authors?**

- To associate editors “ Write paper!”
- To readers “ Write paper!”
- What to write?
  - Simple fact, my own fact
  - Not authors’ view, but Readers’ view
- How to write?
  - Attractive TITLE/ABSTRACT
  - My own message first, then Balanced view

**Full text services of KoreaMed journals (May 10, 2007)**

- 104 journals are available somewhere.
- 22 journals are not available.

**Accelerating the Scientific Research Cycle**

Science Commons serves the advancement of science by removing unnecessary legal and technical barriers to scientific collaboration and innovation.

**Messages on Scholarly Journal Publication**

- Abstract Database
  - Standard format
  - Participation of editor/publisher/librarians
  - Aggregation
- Full Text: Open Access vs Optimal Access
  - Individual / Institutional services of a Journal
  - Institutional Repository of Articles
- Citation Analysis and Marketing

Thank you very much.

**Prof. John T. Arokiasamy**  
Editor  
Medical Journal of Malaysia

Good morning to all of you!

I don't have a formal presentation, but I'd like to share some views and experience. I am now the adviser to the journal in my country. The Medical Journal in Malaysia, it is one of the three index journals in the country and one of the first journals, the original journal in the country and it belongs to the Malaysian Medical Association, the ones who govern the journal and its policies. We have about 15 editorial board members, this is increasing actually. The recent board was just elected; the numbers have increased to 18, so it's a growing editorial board. The editor in chief, the position that I was holding, it's elected by the Malaysian Medical Council every year in fact. And that's quite challenging for an editor in chief because you therefore push certain agendas through can be challenging. And when you are under an association, you have to be always conscious about the new policies; you have to go back to the council on a regular basis. Unfortunately the financial issues, they preferred the editorial board not to be doing wrong with the financial issues so that they have solved on the concerns of the shoulders of the editor in chief and members. Nevertheless it does become challenging at times. Because at the same time they are looking at how much it costs to bring out an issue, we have to change after every titles, and every titles are not too keen, wherein your readership is confined to only the members of the association. In fact, we will be producing about 7,000 issues at one stage. And we will go back to the association members and say, "Who among you are interested to receiving the journals?" and that brought it down to 1/3. So the council was very happy because the cost of application goes down. But nevertheless it cuts down the readership, and then the advertising that not too interested, so it is challenging.

I must commend the three speakers for the excellent presentations that I think all the issues that it brought up, issues that we as editors all share. We are going through changes in terms of developing our own journals and the experiences that they shared we can relate to. We have different stages of development, and therefore we, as panel members, we are in the position to really commend on whatever has been presented, but to be able to share to one another and I think this is an excellent form that has been organized by the team and we must congratulate you for bringing this workshop. I think we are on the right track.

One of the things that came out very clearly is the journal mentioned, the Philippine Journal of Surgical Specialties in a vision, mission. And these are very critique. And we've heard their experiences and challenge that somewhere along the line; these are going down in terms of coming up with regular issues and so on. And they have to revisit in setting up a vision and mission. And once that was set, they were back on track. So I think this is very very critical in bringing it into medical journalism. Then particularly Joey's presentation, the moment they established as a good structure, in terms of processes and also the kind of publication that was coming out. It automatically when we

have structure, process and the outcome, these are important ingredients for quality assurance and quality outputs.

We are very fortunate that we have the uniform guidelines that have pass in this whole process.

Most journals that I have screened of at national levels, they have to meet this important criteria that they are following this guidelines.

All of us in journals, as editors and even the viewers, will be all the time conscious that there are several stakeholders that are interested in what the journal comes out with. And we have funding agencies that are certainly interested to see papers being published for the projects they have funded. Therefore, the journals, the editors, when they approving and accepting manuscript for publication as a way this important stakeholders of the funding agencies. And suddenly goes a long way to support the other stakeholders who is the researcher himself, because it's a successful ending to a long journey of a research project that has been funded and is a long credibility for the funding.

The institution that the researcher belongs to is suddenly also interested in seeing this output. Then of course the policymakers have plans. We have public health research work that is published that would eventually impact public policy in terms of health policies. In our country, in mid-80's, we are involved in the work of caring for the older persons or the elderly, and I think Philippines was part of it, the bridge of the countries studying along with Malaysia and Korea and other countries. In Malaysia it took almost over ten years before the findings of that study to be translated into policy for the elderly. As the consequence of that, the healthcare services I've taken takes into account and the services for the elderly have put into place.

So it takes time, in terms of our practices in clinical setting, what is coming out in print, could influence as practices of taking care of our patients. The professions, specialities, peers, mold good publications that come out in a particular speciality. It helps the growth of that specialty. But finally the most important person or a group that would be certainly interested of what comes out as an important stakeholder is the public. A lot of public funds are going to funding research projects. In our country, the R&D funds which are available for science and technology.

In terms of all the stakeholders, the journals, editors, have a heavy responsibility on their journals to meet the expectations. Whatever is published needs to be accurate and useful. There are challenges because we as editors actually aware that very often we painfully have to reject some premise papers that have been submitted by authors at the end of our print research project that has cost millions, the rejection for the fact that the research design has not been appropriate. That means all the money has been wasted.

The research methodology, the whole aspect of quality research work is discreet. It was also brought out in today's morning's presentations that quality research is very important and as we discuss the process already we are creating our young potential authors in terms of good research methodologies. I think I've been a lot of attention to

this area in terms of the whole association for medical editors, in terms of training authors. I think they have been suggested that part of this training is to go back to medical schools and the students are encouraged to go to research methods, process and even to put their own thoughts together in order to carry out a good research project.

On the other hand, training for editors, there is a manual for editors that will come out, and these are all exciting things and I think that is relevant of mutual sharing of inventory on what is already available then. So I think a good opportunity that we have of moving forward is to maximize our gathering here in terms of networking and moving, for those of us who are coming from different countries to go back and improve the processes that we already have in place for our own journals in terms of training programs and so on. Wilfred and I will share later our own experiences of what we are doing in Malaysia.

We do recognize that we want quality manuscripts to get published and we need good quality research as well. We need to address this, so thank you for your time and we will be available for further discussion. Thank you.

**Dr. Wilfred CG Peh**  
Editor  
Singapore Medical Journal

Index Medical Journal in Singapore, we have the largest circulation. Our circulation is 5,000 printed copies. This year we are now in the 50th year of publication and so in this context we are organizing a 50th anniversary activity at the end of the year on November. The days are from 4 – 8 of November. The first 2 days would be a joint meeting with APAME and WPRIM. We will have a one day International Forum for Editors and Reviewers similar to the meeting now. So this will be a good opportunity to visit Singapore as well as to for the sharing our editing and reviewing experiences and on the last 2 days the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of November, we would be organizing a medical writing workshop along the lines those who are organizing in the past and we also take this opportunity to use it as train the trainers' workshop. So therefore those editors who are interested running future workshops they can attend it and take out the material and produce this workshops and take in their own countries so this will be from 4 – 8 of November, 2009 in Singapore.

I am the hospital diagnostic radiologist. I work full time in a public sector hospital. This is my 6th year as the editor of Singapore Medical Journal. I enjoyed the 3 presentations earlier and I think the thing stuck in my mind was Joey Avila's "the things I've learned" because this is exactly my own experience. Also I was talking with Joey Avila. I think the book called "Editing for Dummies" as he suggested I think is a useful idea. Because for most of us we learned the hard way by trial and error. Some of us give up along the way. Those who are stubborn. Those who are around today. So I think workshops like this can also perhaps and guide book, as a short cut for editors especially to take on this road.

There are 3 points I would like to comment on based on the discussions earlier. The first one was plagiarism. The second one is open access journals. The third point is print versus electronic publishing.

Let me start with plagiarism. They published an editorial on plagiarism this was written by myself and Prof. John here. And this was based on our personal experience in our editorial policy since over the past 1 or 2 years. The Singaporean Medical Journal and Medical Journal of Malaysia have cooperated on quite a number of common issues. And this is one we identified with being on the increase. The Singapore Medical Journal has open access journal so you can go to our website and download this article free of charge. Our website is [www.smj.sma.org.sg](http://www.smj.sma.org.sg) or you can go to PubMed and type Singapore Med J and you can get all articles and download the full text so if you are interested you can read this in detail. I will not really go on this but this is a very useful article.

Talking about the detection of plagiarism, I think it could be detected from my own experience at 3 levels. One is at the time of submission. If an article is an online it is very easy to detect so what we have; we are blessed with an editorial staff. We have a few full time editorial staff. We have 3 editorial executives. For every manuscripts that comes in,

the editorial staff will do a Google scholar search as well as PubMed Search and this would be the first screening to pick up any signs of plagiarism: any plagiarism, size of plagiarism within a Manuscript.

If the article is deemed to be plagiarized; the manuscripts will be referred to the editor or myself or to peer journal. And will not go to the peer review process until I cleared it.

The second stage of the screening would be depending on the reviewers. I totally agree with what Joey Avila's said about reviewing. The reviewers are the very important part of the journal.

To me a journal is always good as a journal to the reviewers. If you have reviewers that don't agree with the journal or don't know about the quality of the manuscript – the quality of the journal will correspondingly go down and this is the extension. And this is partly true for general journals.

For example, the Singapore Medical Journal, I am a diagnostic radiologist, if the article that comes in say on dermatology or pathology, I don't know anything about it and I depend totally on my reviewers.

The third way of plagiarized article can be detected if it is really published and then the author who plagiarizes or writes it said this is exactly what I've written and then it become a big problem by the time it comes to SMJ the article deal and that stage to be really published. We have a lot of problems. The withdrawn articles we have to ...it was because it was really difficult.

So what are the actions we take for plagiarism? Actually for plagiarism we can classify it into few types: One is outright plagiarism. It means you have taken the intellectual content from somebody's content. Stole somebody's idea ... material, his work and passing it as your own. I think that is the simplest classification of plagiarism. And there are some gray areas, which we will talk about later.

For outright plagiarism, If it is detected it means that it can be written, the idea and the content, the material are those of somebody else's totally. So to me outright plagiarism is a very bad crime. It is actually a crime it should be dealt with in a very severe manner. From there I have no doubts about it and I think the editor of medical journal of Malaysia also agrees with that.

So how to deal with it? Take some evidence and then it has to be a source from which the plagiarized article was taken or comes from and I do an outright comparison. And if I am sure and very sure in my mind it is a plagiarized article and passed it to 1 editorial board members to be confirmed or say look at this and wait for his opinion. And most of the time the opinion is a safe and then we will write to the author with the evidence and say look can you please clarify on this and giving the person time to respond.

Time is very important because you have to deal with. You have to close it even with changes and when we don't respond with the things here and if by certain time, the author does not respond then we would be assumed as guilty and we will write to author. We copy the letter to index medical of Singapore. This is our courtesy because we don't want these manuscripts to be circulated and submitted it to somewhere else and we send a copy to the Medical Journal of Malaysia as well.

We will send copies to the Chief of his institution to which he will send it to the dean and the person in the university. If it is a hospital, we send it to the CEO, and to the hospital director because we took this seriously and evidences say we have founded a case of plagiarism. And we will not be interested in accepting this article or any future articles from you. So the modest, in order words this not to credit the author so those actions we are taking and we would take.

There are couple of other gray areas. One is which not really plagiarism. One is paraphrasing. I mean direct quotation. I think this is what is discussed earlier as well. This usually occurs in the introduction and the discussion section. Sometimes in the literatures and methods where the author quotes word for word from an article and because it is very obvious in chunks of 2 – 3 paragraphs whether it is exactly the same as from somebody else articles.

So how do you deal with that? It depends on the stages of the manuscript. If the manuscript is rejected then it doesn't matter. If the manuscript is set for deliberation or accepted already and it becomes usually pick up of the copyediting stage. When the editorial staff goes through the manuscript and there are few ways he can pick up. One is the style of writing is different. You can arrange the paragraph on certain ways. He can correctly get wrong paragraph and get suspicion because our writing is different.

The second way or another way or is the common way is mixing of British English and American English. Which are chunks are different so this expected to look from different articles. So if the articles are about to be accepted, we ask the author to paraphrase, to rewrite it on the each content or just rewrite it so that there's no direct quotation. In the APAME as suggested to put in quotation marks the areas but not the whole discussions in quotation marks. There was once I remembered we rejected a letter to the editor. The letter to the editor is about three paragraphs. And you can see that every single sentence. The chunks of five sentences followed by 1-5, 6-10, 11-15 they are all copied from different articles just direct copies so we thought and organized it, we highlighted in color. This is from this article. This is from this article and so on then some people have to go back. And so for such instances we ask people to rewrite the corrected paragraphs. So this is not such serious offense. It is just a matter of paraphrasing.

The other gray area is so-called self-plagiarism, where you quote from the articles, where you quote from the materials. Not just because you have written the article on certain topic, it doesn't mean the journal belongs to you. Once it is published, it belongs to the journal where which is published. So it is not or you can not quote even if you have written something published. You can not quote it without attributing to it. So if you are

using a certain method, certain table, figure, you should always get permission for your article from the previous publisher of the journal which the article previously appeared. But I think this fairly that very few people tend to self-plagiarized. But again this is gray area. Some editors argue that it is alright. Others will not be on the same side. I would advise if you detect self-plagiarism, I suggest you keep the author to get the permission from the editor of the journal where the article was originally published.

The next comment I would like to touch in was on open access journals. For some reason it is regarded as a dirty work. But most of the top 5 journals are open access journals ... and the Singapore Medical Journal is also an open access, which means anybody can subscribe to it to see it. There is nothing wrong being an open access journals. Sometimes it is mixed with journals which are online journals so I think this area which is spent all afternoon talking and discussing it. What are the advice? My own view is that all journals who have a print version they should have an electronic version. Because this gives the journal for a lot more publicity and more all people can access the journal. Because as you know, researchers nowadays, if you want to look for something the first thing you do is to switch on the computer and look at PubMed or do a Google scholar. That's how article become; and this is also good for journals which are small and reasonable because the more people accessed your journal the more people are aware of your journals that you have. And if readers know the articles, they will more submit to your journal, which is open to more reader. On the other hand, very few journals have open access and online get only indexed in PubMed. PubMed only, very few, very few relative journals can be opened access or only a part of the text. PubMed is very wary about indexing journals, which are online. The reason it is very easy to set up online journals from all types of PC. And there are always issues about peer review quality and control, and when the contents could be altered at many times. This is one thing about online journals. They are relatively different from print journals. In print journals, once it is published, to me any alterations, you need to put a letter on the journal. Also, it is very common today so if we want to make sure that everything is perfect before it is printed. There are a lot of quality control.

So this is a big factor, which is considered by a major indexing database. So I will say that could be the reason why all open access journals are not gathered very well. Because there is so-called online journal and there are many things that just come out - disappear.

The third issue is print versus electronic publishing. First is cost. We save in printing, which is the big chunk of the general budget and so is costing. These are 2 major factors, and when I took over as the journal editor, I was under pressure by Singapore Medical Association which is the owner of the journal to do the electronic publishing cost. I resisted this and discussed this many times with my editorial board. I think the print version is important because of some reasons. It gives more credible quality of a journal. You can see it wholly rather than something can disappear on the night. For practical purposes, another major reason is because of advertisement. One reason why the Singapore Medical Journal has more advertisements than other index medical journals is that our circulation is more than 1,000 and to the advertisers this is very important. If your journal is in print about 200 or 300 or above 1,000, this could be disbursed through



paper you could give the advertisements a favor not really so subscription is really important. So if we cut the print by half in 2005. It could impact a lot on the existing and the other way to keep the journal is through supplements and the writing of the journal. So these are the things or issues that APAME has been considering. If we want our journal wants to go electronic.

So in behalf of the panel we are happy to entertain any further questions or comments.

## **International Development and Collaboration in Journal Publishing**

**Dr. Narantuya Samdan**

Editor

Mongolian Journal of Health Sciences

OK Good Afternoon Everyone! I am very happy to see all of you here especially to see some familiar faces to me so I had the chance to be in a meeting. It is a very first meeting for APAME and today I am pleased to meet all of you. Very familiar faces around the tables. So I was asked to tell about sources about the WPRIM and the culmination of Mongolian Journals. So we have the Mongolian Journal of Health Sciences. It is included in the WPRIM and it is only...next please. And the only journal in Mongolia in English. It was found on 2003 and we are proud to have 6 journals because in Mongolia. May some know that Mongolian languages so we have a big problem in the English Language. So the journal in English Nothing is easy for Mongolians especially in the Medical Journals so that is why we are very carefully trying to make it successful and of good qualities. To here you can see out the new cover page of the Mongolian Journal of Health Sciences. And the Medicus logo on it.

- So publication types we have publishing in medicine, traditional medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, public health articles. And we are receiving original research reports
- Review articles
- Short communications
- Case reports
- Commentaries
- Clinical practice materials
- Letters to the editor
- Medical memoranda

And we have been asking contributions from distinguishing scientist of Mongolia. For the meantime we are asking the scientist of Mongolia to prepare a reviewed articles for some to be in the journals. So first of all, we strengthening the review articles on Mongolian traditional medicine because there is no much known about Mongolian traditional medicine but almost Mongolia has a long history of traditional medicine. And also because of the language, so it is difficult for the Asian nationalities to learn about it so soon if you read an article on Mongolia traditional medicine journal.

We have international editorial board members and distinguished professors from different countries and different universities to walk with this editorial part and thesis journal. So here you can see countries represented or part of the Mongolian Journal of Health Journal and Sciences so people here are have been part of very different professions. So from very different fields of medicine and the health sciences

Then the article reviewed into 2 stages:

First is the national review so we are checking grammar, style, writing and this is where we are requesting ethic accomplishment , which is the very important. And then we have articles for international / professional review. Professional reviewer for content, research level, statistical analysis and deviation. And have been taking for the analysis of research results

And here we are reporting the Mongolian Journal of Health Sciences in the ... especially the Mongolian health journal of Health Sciences and still Mongolia and is still walking with the University of Health Sciences within the university you can find the website [<http://www.hsum.edu.mn/>] where all the information on how to publish and all the requirement for the journal and subspective journal

And here ... we're happy to see our journal included in the WPRM website. So you can get the very general information about it and how it is going to by.

So in Health Sciences Journal we started graduate which is a BS Medical degree so we are introducing graduate programs it is a Master Degree and a PhD. So this Masters student were are getting students from the class and academic writing skills. So in academic writing this required to follow the Mongolia Science of Health Journal

And to write the article on English. So faculty members of the university in the Mongolian Journal of Health Science have been publishing very good articles and this very different journals and very distinguished journals and of high factor. So here you can see some journals in the last PUBMED and next  
And here some names of the publication in the pub med

So I personally appreciate that Mongolian Journal of Arts and Sciences has been included in the Western Pacific Region Index Medicus it is because it is worth stimulating for the journal and its increasing the quality of research in Mongolia.

- Increased the quality of research
- Academic writing skills (included at the curricular for PhD training)
- MJHS publication recognised
- Journal club (MJHS)
- Networking with different scientists
- Introducing results of Mongolian researchers

So we are practicing journal clamps of the Mongolian Journal of Health Sciences. So this is in the curricula of the Masters and PHD program in Mongolia so we are practicing with different scientists and introducing Mongolian exams, Mongolian researchers to scientists so this is the benefit of the inclusion in the WPRIM.

So in Mongolia we are very ambitious we are looking at improving the quality of our journal

- To improve the quality of journal
- To enhance English scientific writing skills of researchers
- To improve the quality of research works

- To broaden the editorial board members
- To improve the management of the journal
- To increase the advertisement of the journal
- To increase the purchase

The Mission of Mongolain Journal of Health Science

- To obtain Impact factor (IF)
- To be listed in the Index Medicus /pubmed/
- To publish scientific papers of international researchers in the Western Pacific region

So just recently last year, we published a number of articles from countries. For example, we have an article from Fiji, from Malaysia, and from Japanese colleagues and Mongolians; we are bringing articles from Bhutan so we get a number of publications from international researchers.

So thank you for your attention and my colleagues here ... Thank you

## **Dr. Wilfred Peh**

I would like to share with you the joint experience of the Medical Journal of Malaysia and Singapore Medical Journal in organizing regional medical writing workshops.

I would just give a brief background. This is my own experience that Prof. John here has extensive experience as well I just prepared the slides last night but the first 2 slides I gave my own experience. As you know, I am a diagnostic radiologist and over the last few years since 2002, we organized 5 regional medical writing workshops in conjunction with regional and national societies. So actually the first one was here with the Singaporean Radiological Society. Then we organized a meeting with the college of radiology in Malaysia and then the college of radiology in Sri Lanka. And we have a meeting in Thailand with the Asian /Oceania Society of Chief Radiology and more recently another meeting together with the Eco-Scientific Radiological Society.

And informally we have done a quite number of workshops with the various universities in Malaysia. These are the ones which over the years had started with International Islamic University in Kuantan and the University of Malaya, which is the oldest university in Kuala Lumpur.

From then we quite standardized a program with APAME over the years and how we started the time with the initiative of Dr. Dato Teoh Siang Chia, who was the former president of the Malaysian Medical Association. During the editorial meeting in December 2007 when Prof. John was still the editor, they invited me as the editor Singapore Medical Journal, the editor of Thai Medical Association Journal and we have a representative from Brunei, which at that time were not a medical journal or medical association – some senior person who is a member of a Brunei committee attended this meeting. And we discuss various things relating to journals and this region and one of this joint is to start a series of joint relations with Singapore and Malaysia workshops for various centers in Malaysia.

So the time was December 2007 and APAME was established in Seoul May last year. And I think you know their officers Prof. Hahn is the president. Prof. John is the vice president. Prof. Seo here is the secretary general. And you that we have strong links with WPRIM with Charles Raby being the main person from WHO. And aside from these officers there are board of directors and three main committees headed by Joey Avila, Prof. Hahn and education committee which is headed by myself.

So under education committee, we took... we started organizing this completing medical writing workshops so the 2 took place on the same time. The initiative with the Singapore and Malaysia for organizing workshops and then the APAME.

So soon after that we started organizing these joint workshops with the participation of APAME as a partner. So we are the first ones organizing in the Northeast of Malaysia in Kota Bharu with the Committee on Science of Malaysia; UKM in Cheras, Malaysia. And the first one is Clinical Research Center in Kuching this was in August last year.

So this is just an announcement from Kuching. The “1<sup>st</sup> Scientific Writing Workshop for Healthcare Practitioners (Basic & Advanced);” day 1 is basic and day 2 is advanced. And this was by Clinical Resource Center with the APAME logo and Singapore and Malaysian logo. So this is a typical announcement

So far this year, we have organized 2 workshops. One in Kota Kinabalu, which is in Sabah – northeast Borneo. One in Alor which is northwest of Malaysia and the other workshops from the rest of the year. The second one in Kuching. One in Kuala Lumpur with University Putra Malaysia (UPM) and another with university in Penang State, which would be so... This year’s workshop is going well. The feedback has been very good and for the retrieve of workshops is because the numbers are bigger and the most of the workshops have been subscribed needs repeat workshops

So this is just a map showing the workshops that have been bring on this year and last year. This island Borneo is actually closer to the Philippines than this part of Malaysia. There is a lot of consultants so we have to conduct workshops.

So the format of the workshops is a two-day workshops. Co-organized with local institution. So far either the university or clinical resource center of that state. We tried to limit it to 45 participants or less. Mainly we are hands on small group exercises so we don’t want the institute to be diluted. All the participants must attend both days. If you attend day 2 or the last day topics without day 1 there is a possibility you get lost. The target has been quite very ... mostly doctors it could be senior, hospital doctors or junior. It could be junior medical academics, junior lecturers, graduate students, and quite a number of healthcare professionals such as nurses.

The local organizers are responsible for the publicity locally. Although, we have a quite number of doctors traveling from one state to attend this workshops; usually a registration fee is charged to cover the cost of the organizing the workshop. The venue and refreshments have been also provided by the local organizers. This is usually either in hotel or in the hospital itself or in the university. The organizers tried to get seal of accreditation from the local body and we release certificate on the hospitals and also they filled up the feedback form, which we categorized and used as proof of the workshops.

Usually we invite guest of honor to say just a few words which are not more than in 5 minutes so they can go out of the workshop. The workshop price is quite high, which is a dean of a local or pubmed person. The faculty, myself and Prof. John here agree for all the workshops and we include 1 – 3 other local academics who are director, who have strong track record of teaching, research, publication and journal editing or reviewing.

So this is the format. On day 1, we call it the basic workshop; day 2 is the advanced workshop. In the morning we have a series of short lectures ranging in time from 9 – 10 minutes on the basic format and components of a scientific manuscript. And in the afternoon, we have the small group hands-on exercises. And on Day 2 we have short lectures in the morning with small group exercises in the afternoon. And the exercises on each day are directly related to the topics discussed in the morning.

Ok this was lifted from one of the workshop so this is one of the ... in case ... we ... This is part of policy which you wrote policy. During the registration process so the process will be ... what to expect? So maybe, these are the basic workshop objectives and the aims. And at the end of the workshop, we expect them to ... read them up.

Advanced workshop objectives, this is slightly different. So we likely define so to benefit from the advance workshop and to agree. Otherwise, it would not be so useful. So this is copied from one of my word documents. This is a typical assembled program. This was the workshop done in Kota Kinabalu that we do this year. So in Day 1 we have registration period and talk on with Dr. Teoh and quoted and then this is from 5 – 15 minutes. This is taken from scientific papers and this because the quoted person could not come so we have to put this annually. And after tea break, a good title or abstract, she works with Ms. Lye writing the results of the discussions. You can find the references and presentations and school results, incurring scientific tables and preparing and submitting the manuscripts. And you see this the format of a typical scientific paper broken down to small parts. So each speaker will cover each in detail and comprehensively. And in the afternoon, we have small corrected exercises so after lunch. The close group, usually we divide to groups so there will 10 to 5 people in a group. They would be given exercises and then after that they will spend half an hour going through the exercise and after that we get together. They lecture in the hall. Each one will ask to present the findings so it is quite directive and good to comment on what we missed out or criticized the other group. And from the feedback of the many workshops, more participants were found this is to be more useful more than the letters of some idea and some basis but this is really what we enjoy.

And this is Day 2 – quite an advance program. We always try to publicize APAME so Prof. John is given the task to talk about APAME and then the topics here are authorship, writing a case report, writing a review article, writing an invited commentary, writing a letter to editor, writing a technical note and pictorial essay. How the manuscript is processed? Two sets: What the Reviewer and Editor looks for in a manuscript. Dealing with editor's and reviewer's comments. Electronic Publishing, Fraud and Misconduct in Biomedical Publishing, And in the afternoon we have exercises again. And these are slightly advanced exercises incorporating all that has been discussed in the 2 days.

OK I was to present 4 lectures here but I think it has been a run through. What I showed is the article in the exercises. Click this one. So this is like exercise 1, we keep some manuscripts and each is numbered so exercise 1 find the manuscript in this 4 title page. So they comment on title page. Then the next one is the foreword or the abstract. Another data with slight introduction, comment the title for introduction. This is for abstracts or rewrite abstracts. So the emphasis in this exercise as we discussed we looked at the title , title page, foreword or abstract, introduction, key results. And for the next paper this for figure and methods and the third point is the two references on 2 papers. These are the problems. Two sets of references. OK lets close this.

This is the exercise for the next day – day 2 afternoon, where the reference is critiquing an article or ... so they are given an article and we ask them to comment to this sections:

Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Use of Figure, Discussion, References, General Organization of the paper and suggested improvement.

This is just to highlight the meeting this year. So for the first 2 days we are on a meeting with APAME and WPRIM. There will be a position paper called the Singapore Declaration. This segment will be of interest to all of you Open International Forum for Editors and Reviewers, where we will discuss topics, which we relate to editing and reviewing and over the weekend you have the Medical Writing Workshop. Then we will incorporate the train the trainers workshop, which will open to limited number of trainers – which who would be interested with seeing our workshop is done and would be given lecture ...

Thank you very much for your attention.



## **Prof. John T. Arokiasamy**

I would like to comment because Wilfred has covered very comprehensively right from the exceptions where it has led. Just prior to Wilfred coming with the other journal editors in December 2008.

There was a tremendous concern with the Medical Journal of Malaysia. We were receiving increasing number of articles, manuscripts for review. Submitted by authors. But our rejection rates are going up.

The quality of the manuscripts has been a concern. And about the same time, we detected a case of duplicate publication. And so happen that these were published at the Singapore Medical Journal. Subsequently came to us, and one of our board members picked this up. So there was a bit of concern and very timely to bring in Wilfred for some discussions because of this concern that we had on the quality of the manuscripts. We said ok, it is timely that we can work on together in educating young authors and trying to improve the quality of the manuscripts. Because this is also appropriate to work with us because many of the Malaysian authors are submitting to the Singapore Medical Journal so subsequent to that meeting. We get and we keep this workshops working. And to start with we involve the board members of Medical Journal of Malaysia to host some of the workshops, and that's who the university of science and the national university come in.

We have a representation on the medical journal board from these 2 institutions. They started the ball rolling. And we have manuscripts coming from the different states. And that snowball where the clinical research centers of the ministry of health has some management and took on the leadership to organize things subsequently so that has been snowballing. In many of the centers, while we are limiting to 40 – 45; the demand has been much more. It might double or more. And so we give up to the states to give up the other. There are some followers that are following us in the couple of workshops. I m not sure why. Whether they found it interesting or they want to gain some momentum on their own efforts to write papers. The links are very interesting. We have very junior authors or researchers. Those interested in writing and some very senior ones. And the interactions during the group discussions as well as the participations during the interaction. When we give the topics, we give the presentations and we have a Q & A type. During the Q&A, the public have the main forms and the seniors prefer not to talk much. The juniors are talking a lot. But during the group sessions, the seniors took the lead. I guess they can hone in the expectations in the article are and the technical content but overall it is highly interactive the group sessions. And when they make the presentations – lively interaction, not only within the group we make the interactions stay within the group. The interactions are very lively and it makes them interesting.

Generally we want some topics to be longer but you are avail only of 15 – 20 minutes. But we prefer this and to keep on going because there are large number of topics and give the lectures in the morning and discussions in the afternoon. And 2 days of the work will really break away from work and come and attend. So most of the sessions where tied up on a weekend on a Saturday or Sunday. In some of the states they are operating on a

Friday or Saturday. To show how enthusiastic, they had been, one of the workshops held in conjunction with the National Celebrations or holidays that was the prescribed by most and so they are very enthusiastic. We are not really to follow through in terms of the outcome – how many of these participants have gone to really start on publishing. It has always been enthusiastic with what they started. But I guess, this is something that the organizers or the host institutions to follow through.

Thank you.

## **Journal Editor's Business Meeting**

Dr. Marie Carmela M. Lapitan  
Editor  
Philippine Journal of Urology

Good Afternoon everyone, I am Dr. Marie Carmela Lapitan representing the Philippine Journal of Urology. May I call on our resource person for this session: Dr. Joey Avila and Dr. Raymond Rosales. Dr. Avila representing – sitting here as the Philippine representative to the Asian Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors and Dr. Raymond Rosales as the member of National Selection Committee for WPRIM. For this session, the objectives of preparing this program – for this workshop.

One of the main objectives actually for the next hour. Mainly, since most of you, who are all invited here. Most of us representing the journals that our being published here in the Philippines. This is actually to discuss the inclusion criteria – the criteria for inclusion to the WPRIM. Basically, if you get the yellow paper from your kits, actually we will go to each item and discuss how feasible are we as we represent our journal publications; how feasible for us to achieve such requirement. What problems do we see in achieving such? And if anyone can, well we have our resource speakers here – resource persons on the station or the other entries from the other countries, who are more experienced or so in achieving such criteria – requirements and if anyone who is also in the audience possible solution to the problems that we would welcome. So it is really a discussion between among ourselves and with the experiences and expertise of our resource person in our stage and each of the other visitors of the other countries.

Dr. Jose Ma. C. Avila  
Philippine Representative  
Asia Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors (APAME)

Perhaps, I would like just to review again to everyone how we came about these criteria just for everyone's clarity. The work that WPRIM has starting to meet the first things in the agenda – how, what is the requirement or what are the minimum requirements we could meet for a journal committee included as part of the WPRIM. Now, there is another debate for the discussion about this and it was decided that each country would have the liberty of expanding on the minimum criteria. What is the minimum criteria that is required for each country? It depends on the country group to decide whether they will make this more to elaborate on each requirement or not.

For the Philippine group, I think that we – our president is not here Dinah. Because Dinah during our last meeting we discussed this quite a while so I don't have the notes that she has but anyway. There were notes?

Heto na yun? So this are the notes. These are Philippine specific requirements. So many here are journal editors of medical related journals? Raise your hands please. Okay so great. So probably this is the most number ever in the history of Philippine Journalism. We have the most number of people here. Because when we meet we are only 4 or 5 at a time. We are more than 20 to 50.

We will just review the requirements.

First, it was understood that the journal would be about health or biomedical related and that is number one requirement.

Number 2, the journal should be peer reviewed. Now we decided, in the WPRIM discussions. It was not specified whether the journal would be internally or externally peer reviewed. Now the ICMJE as all of you know, that the journal should be externally be peer reviewed. But during the discussions the group, we decided that we would implement an external – we would require external peer review. If you want to... I don't know the debate on that but now, this is a long discussion point but that was the decision during that meeting.

Now articles in the journal must have English abstracts. I think this is very basic.

Number 4, The journal should be regularly published. The decisions was to have 2 issues per year. When the journal was published only once a year, it will be encouraged to increase its frequency at least 2 issues a year. Okay? I think that is clear.

So how many? I think they are drawing it at least once a year. Are they doing it published once a year?

Okay. So we talk about that little later but that is one of the requirements at least twice year. But we decided a little leeway on that so it is only twice a year.

Number 5, there should be instructions to authors section and we will discuss it. If you don't want to put it into the journal if you have an online version you put it there. Okay so that is number 5.

Number 6, the journal should have an ISSN Number. So this is the 6 minimum requirement for Philippine journal to be included in WPRIM. Now the only important thing you have to do is that give us the latest at least you know ... I see some journals outside. This must belong to you. But we are requesting 2 at least of your latest journals. Please submit it to us and the group. We are a group of five . We will review the journals and look on the criteria we look upon and see if the journal fits into the criteria. Okay if it does, I think we will have reimburse and we have a MOA with WPRIM, which your publisher of course the editor will sign with WPRIM. So that your journal article ... your journals could be uploaded to the website .

For the ... the website will be operational anytime now ... between now and the end of the year. So we have a September deadline here September 30, 2009. Any? Raymond will talk.

Dr. Raymond L. Rosales  
Member  
National Journal Selection Committee

Because in the normal journal setup; you have an editor. You may have or not have an associate editor, managing editors things like that but you have an editorial board, which maybe composed of any number of members, right? So this will generally constitute within but has been referred to by Dr. Avila is external peer reviewers – outside the editorial board. Now I can speak where I am an editorial board, where they would say that we will pick each and every journal and every manuscript that comes to us. One of the editorial board must review it and 2 external peer reviewers. And so there are ways ... but the point of Dr. Avila is very clear there must be external peer reviewers outside the editorial board.

Dr. Jose Ma. C. Avila

Okay editors, this is your time. This is our business meeting whether what you call it. So please if you have any questions or any strong viewpoints on certain things start expressing them now.

Dr. Marie Carmela M. Lapitan

Just for clarification, actually the criteria is in bold letters. How the panel does – the selection panel will interpret the requirements. How do we will see if it is externally peer reviewed and then the ones who are not in bold letters are the panel proposes to implement such a – on how to check whether your journal will qualify. If you will be required – for example in item number 2, you will be required in your application for

inclusion the – submit the description, give a list of reviewers and give us peer reviewed forms that you use in the process so that’s how the panel will see if you actually fulfill such a requirement.

Dr. Jose Ma. C. Avila

The committee on higher education (CHED) is also trying to professionalize the journal industry here and they have also a quite an external peer review also. I think it is already time to apply this. Make it stricter because eventually this is where we are going.

Dr. Germana V. Gregorio  
Assistant Editor-in-Chief  
Philippine Journal of Pediatrics

For one I would like to express my great satisfaction. I think I see the first initial – I think we had initial draft or recommendation and I look at this now as something moving in the right direction. But I would to – I was also thinking that we can do this as capacity building developmental also. One way is for all of us, for all journals – of course it is voluntary for us just to submit as much as we can and we have something in a sense a survey for a journal and how many are peer reviewed. And there will be points given to the specific journal, points for the improvement and development. It is up to you I don’t know how it will be organized whether part of that is the capacity building on which side, and one for eventually would – so initially we might have only a few coming in meeting this but they are also being developmental and help these others eventually so you hit 2 birds with one stone.

Dr. Jose Ma. C. Avila

We talked about adaption, in fact your actions are leading the journals. It is actually – we can do for us a study on the journals that we submitted and to make recommendations on how each journal can be improved ... parang may peer reviewed among ourselves.

Dr. Germana V. Gregorio

May I respond to that again. Obviously we put a lot of effort in our journal to really put in place a review process even if without any submission that we have started. We were very clear in the beginning to be peer reviewed and during that time there was a lot of developmental. For me what is more important is not right away nullify a good peer reviewer or etc. that can follow. Just simply putting it in a – if things are being asked right now. It is all that we can give now, right? A description this is a description of that and move with the next steps whether how can we ensure – yun yung pang-capacity building. How can you be ensure that your peer reviewers are actually peer reviewers that is very important. I think I can go that next level but it should be black initially because I’m interested and most of us are expressing today that we would like to encourage publication a lot of these things so many times we had to partner with singles to produce

more for more quality, gain access to all of these and at the same time create capacity. So very positive. I'm Dra. Gregorio from the Philippine Pediatrics

Dr. Jose Ma. C. Avila

I would like to clarify terms. Without our journal our policy, our journal is headed by the chief, the core editor which is me and the associate editors and the board was really created as a peer reviewer so we don't really follow the sense that the editorial board constitute of people who also set the rules of the journal. So anyway their names are submitted there but actually they are the peer reviewers. So I don't know if you classify them as internal or external peer reviewers.

Dr. Raymond L. Rosales

That is precisely the point of Dr. Avila but there are non- bold letters underneath it which is shall I say level of flexibility. It depends on how you are going to set up as long as if you say you have members but this does not constituting the authority – internal reviewers. You have to specify exactly what they are and that should be fine

Dr. Diana Payawal  
Editor – in – Chief

Philippine Journal of Gastroenterology

I am from Gastroenterology; I share their sentiments the same things our external peer reviewers are published along side with our internal peer reviewers. Do you specify number of years, where the journal has been published? If this is a new journal we are only up to 1 to 3 years. There is no specification in the number of years the journal has been publishing

Number, are we suppose to register an specific amount to input online are we going with WPRIM or give money or registration is for free?

Dr. Jose Ma. C. Avila

I think it is very clear that the instructions that journal publishers should submit 2 copies per issue for 2 consecutive years. No. There is no money involved here just submit it to us.

Dr. Raymond L. Rosales

Dra, you say you put the names of the external reviewers and the internal reviewers who supposed to be the editorial staff. That's really no problem. At least you are very clear about your external peer reviewer. Most international journals will print their external reviewers at the last issue in December, wherein they bring acknowledgment and this is precisely the correct way.

Dr. Maria Rhona Bergantin  
Associate Editor  
Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

I am Dra. Bergantin from DMSFIT Journal, I would like to clarify the position of external peer reviewer. Should this external peer reviewer, should be within the same society?

Dr. Jose Ma. C. Avila

No. There are no rules to that. In fact, even you get external peer reviewers from abroad even though you don't know him if you get him to review for your article even if he is qualified.

Dr. Maria Rhona Bergantin

Even if we are not going abroad, you will get our reviewers, should ... can we include the members of the same society outside of the editorial board.

Dr. Raymond L. Rosales

For each article it's up to you. But for each article, you should have external peer reviewer and if you have one person to do the articles, it is just fine. It's up to you.

No. We will just look at the requirements ... if you want to submit the details of the review.

So it's clear? You will do the reviewing. But look into the requirements but having said that every journal has inherent type of articles they send. It can be a review, a letter to the editor. It could be a full letter. It could be a medical hypothesis or any form of article. So it depends on the discretion of the editor on how it will form in the peer review. (Are there) any other issues particularly in any of the items; particularly in the requirements? Do we have problems in achieving the other requirements?

Ako may issue na I wan to share ... I know it is a burning issue of just keeping it as you said. What is the position of your journal in relation to your individual societies? I think it is a burning issue and of course it is not here. But it may encroach this as regard peer reviewing as regard to editorial ... So anyone can react to that?



Dr. Jose Lapeña Jr  
Editor-in-Chief  
Philippine Journal of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery

When I was first appointed, I demanded a firm appointment. That out lasts the firm or the office or the society that assures me of my editorial independence if they don't give me that then I don't service render.

Josefina Tuazon  
Editor  
University of the Philippines – Manila Journal

Again I'm coming from a point of view of capacity building of us. I'm excited thinking about that question because maybe it is not that critical. It is not going to be a critical point you come in and from WPRIM. But an asterisks that says something else ... It is encouraged I don't know maybe the word encouraged ... But there is editorial independence in the selection of the content of the journal. Again point here as capacity building, it strengthens our position in our universities and institutions and associations so indirectly we will know what is connected and part of a journal. Because for me; I see this as a guideline. But actually, this is a guideline. These are the basic things – minimum requirements of a journal.

Dr. Jose Ma. C. Avila

If you look at the APAME website, there are polices regarding the guidelines ... so I think the journals should be independent from the publishers. The publisher is no way influence editors regarding editorial content or journal content.

Dr. Theodor S. Vesagas

It is easy to say we are independent when we are siding on the institute but that's not going to be easy. In 2006 the editor of CMAP – Canadian Medical Association were inspired ... I don't know if anyone is familiar with the particular case? It was pressured from the society from the Canadian Medical Association because of the article they had invested on some work on and they – the society of pharmacists. Are there any pharmacists here? Complain to the Canadian Medical Association as Canadian Medical Association cling on the editor. They publish the article any way with some changes with the editorial complaint. Because you are supposed to complain when your name is on and one perspired he comes up with another article. This one published in the new journal so it is easy being independent but independent sometimes to put your money where the mouth is.

Dr. Raymond L. Rosales

I think this is the scenario we are facing. I think editorial independence must be really stressed so certainly. Let us put in this context, we know there are journals there such as

the Philippine Journal of Pediatrics, Philippine Journal of Urology, Philippine Journal of Psychiatry because there is the Philippine Psychiatric Association ... Philippine Urology. Do you agree with me? That's the way it is. But it has to have a level of independence. For example, in the hierarchical order, for each and every president who sits will choose a new editor that's a different story. There has to be guidelines within the editorial staff as regard to hierarchy. And we will just submit to the association. In so doing we must realized but financing of the journal would come from the association hence there is so influence . The gray lines must be clear cut about what is black and what is white.

From the Philippine Journal of Psychiatry, I have 2 questions mostly related to ethics and procedures. First is in relation brought up by Dr. Rosales and the relationship of the editorial staff with the association. Is there a protocol on how we choose editors? The other question I have is what is the usual practice of reviewing articles to be published by the editorial board? What's the usual process?

Dr. Jose Ma. C. Avila

Regarding the first question, is there any way by which ... is there any rules on how the editors are chosen ... the usual process? It is difficult to answer. I know ... I do know that editors usually choose the ... As society's president choose editors of the journal. I don't know of the process on how that's done. Also in the schools and universities, the dean or higher authority chooses the editor of the journal. I don't know and I don't think there are rules to that effect. Publishers have their own rules and the only thing we do is to follow them. Now when they have chosen us as editors I think that they should stop there and do it our way. I think that is the accepted way to do it and usually editorial board can choose the publisher or may ask you some recommendations to choose your own. In my case, the dean asked me to choose my editorial board and everything else. The dean also asked me that he will not interfere very clearly when he appointed me that the way I handle or in any way the work with Acta Medica and so we have this relationship from the start. And in fact, during the upper out rule, which is very controversial because the requirement is all these people – all these faculty members must to submit articles or else they will not be renewed and he told me that I am not going to talk about that they must all follow the process you established in Acta. Those especially for everybody if the person deserves not to be published then just don't publish him. We don't care even those whom are going to be renewed or not. So the independence was given to me and I think once you are appointed as editor you should talk to your appointive power and clarify these things with him.

Dr. Raymond L. Rosales

Okay I would like to react to the second question. I don't think anyone can be limited to submit in the journal whether you are the editor, editorial board member of the journal as long as the manuscripts goes to peer reviewed. The most important thing it goes to peer review and inhibit yourselves reviewing your own article.

Now, the issue about hierarchy, let us face it being a member of the editorial board is a very difficult task. Many of us have been there as certainly many of us want to rise, correct? Associate editors ... How would you feel? Would you not lose esteem when the appointing like the president for example has suddenly chosen somebody from the outside and just bring in. Do you understand? This is precisely meant by autonomy. Autonomy – like the president or the dean or the association may appoint the editorial board, from their the editorial board will make guidelines by themselves which they will submit to the association. I am giving that as an example in the Philippine Urological Association because this is precisely what we did. Once the editorial staff were named, the guidelines were sent as to the hierarchy or how the people will be put. How the people will ascend to become the editor? So the editor could not perpetualize himself; if you know what I mean.

The editorial staff will vote themselves for who will become the next editor. In that way, Paul correct me can you say something about it? This is the system right now, right? We are doing. Just say something.

Yes sir, as you said the members of the board decide among themselves. Our president who will finish his term so we decide among themselves who will be the next.

Dr. Jose Ma. C. Avila

I think that is unique. I don't think any other organization is doing that. Is there any other organization doing that?

I would like to add or comment on the issue of independence, tenure and selection process of editors-in-chief. And the members of the editorial board: citing again, the Philippine Medical Association. It used to be in the Constitution. It has a Constitutional provision that the editor in chief and the members of the editorial board will have a security of tenure. The constitution was amended that portion was removed so now the selection process is by appointment and it depends on the pressure of the appointing officer. Now as I address earlier this morning. Probably when we organize under the APAME or the organization of editors, we could come up with a system, by which we can already propose to each of the institutions how the editor-in-chief and the members of the editorial board would be selected or perhaps more interestingly propose again a security of tenure or a term of office. So in that way, they will be more independent and usually the term of the editor in chief and the terms of the editorial board will outlast the appointing officer so in that way they could be really called autonomous or independent.

Perhaps, we can ask Dr. Seo. How they do it in Korea? Are you appointed also?

Dr. Jeong-Wook Seo

I don't think we are different from you. It is a human being working together. When the president identify you to be the chair because I know it is very hard work. So in academic society I understand that editorship is an honorary position. But the very issue is how do

we support the editorial chair. If you chose somebody and cut ... very rigorous. What I'm thinking is it what we do it as association of editors is reassure him or encouraging him so that we can ... let's take care of each other and encourage.

Dr. Marie Carmela M. Lapitan

Actually the topic is a nice segway to the next topic for this meeting, which is starting to creation of Journal Editors. That is actually the next ... so we are again inviting everybody to join the association before we go on in the next few weeks

Dr. Jose Ma. C. Avila

We are on a process on the last 2 years... The problem is we decided to ... the decision then was to form a technical panel initially because what's the reason why we form a technical panel? It is a transition period. The problem is that we could not really come up with good attendance in the committee meetings. In fact, we had 4 including a major one also in this hotel and a few minor ones. But how many people come? 4, 5? And we cannot compose an organization with 5 people so we are trying to kidnap but still they don't come so these guys wont come pa rin or they don't send representatives to represent themselves. So this is kind of hard problem. The editors are very transient just talk to a few of you and many of you has just been appointed editors. Parang every year nagpapalit – every year or every two years so this kind of difficult and I don't know how to solve this problem.

We have our technical panel chairman she is Dinah Nadera. Once she – we try to do with what we have. In fact, we are able to form our criteria and a lot of other things by just meeting – seeing each other. Kami lang yung nagkikita. So I really don't know. So perhaps you can tell us what you want because it also depends on you editors.

Dr. Raymond L. Rosales

Well said, I think the essence behind bonding together would many but there are a lot of issues that can be brought up. For example, tenureship, I give you specific example if you can come back together as medical journal editors and agree on certain tenureship. You can submit it to your individual associations for the associations to know there is such a thing – one way. On the other thing, it is not about tenureship of ourselves but educating the educators or teaching the teachers. When you teach among yourselves on how to edit; how to review and – exactly what is thought to us earlier this afternoon. This is the proper forum. Your medical association of editors, you can now discuss on matters on how you can make a uniform grid on how to review papers – something like that. So I think there is essence for bonding together but as Dr. Avila has said and many of you are new and next year you would be changed. This is precisely a precarious situation, which when you can bond together and establish certain statements that you can say that it is an association of medical journal editors and agreed that there has to be some kind of tenure and ascendancy and like this. You can bring it to your individual associations that is something that is holding to my mind

Dr. Jose Ma. C. Avila

By the way, you don't have to be editor by present. You can be previous editors or just a member of an editorial staff. You can be a member of a society or a group. So there is no need to be an actual editor as of the press time. Or if you are just plain interested, pwede na rin.

Dr. Marie Carmela M. Lapitan

So I hope you left your contact information by us. Because definitely when you are ready to come together, we will probably get in touch with you together and we hope that you –

Dr. Jose Ma. C. Avila

Please come. I know it is a second thing for us. We are all very busy and we all have our other work and we are not getting paid for doing this but let us look at it as a vulnerable exercise in our lives. I understand that being a journal editor, it is not really you don't get a lot from the university. This is a problem. We have journal editors in the Philippines as sort of neglect. Andoon tayo sa tabi. I think it is time to empower journal editors and going with you, it is something that empowers journal editors.

Dr. Raymond L. Rosales

So thank you very much. It is clear now by Dr. Avila. You don't need to be an editor. You could be an associate editor. You could be a previous editor. You can be a member of the editorial board. That's very nice. The second point, I want to raise. There is now a big possibility that we can make research. Yes, because each one of us can say this how our system works in our journal, this is the system that works in my journal and we come out with a research paper on it. And you are all authors

Dr. Marie Carmela M. Lapitan

That is one of the first project of the association, a survey and a – practices here in the Philippines and we will recommend to each and everyone on how to ... among other items: policies within a journal, staff training, getting ourselves indexed and all those other issues that can be tackled by the associations. So again we would like to invite everybody on WPRIM to come so we can consolidate – form up strongly.

Dr. Raymond L. Rosales

Can we come up ... I would like to emphasize the fact that we have to join APAME and WPRIM because this is coming more difficult to go into PubMed. And there are times

that changed the requirements are very difficult. If it is not professionalized it is hard to publish in PubMed. It took as years before we got accepted now. In the past it was very easy but now it is impossible. And once it was launched officially we will be a force to reckon with in the world of journal publishing and journal dynamics. Because I think it is going to be an alternative to PubMed. Eventually, it might happen the PubMed and WPRIM will join latter. It is a natural course of events.

Dr. Marie Carmela M. Lapitan

Any other issues or comments or ideas, can anyone would like to raise? Or anyone is tired. It has been a long day. So, any final words from our resource persons?

Just to summarize the session, the call for the submission for the inclusion in the WPRIM, your deadline is on September 30. These are the requirement. If you have any questions you can contact us and then another remainder for the forming – joining of the national pool, please come and participate and attend our meetings. So if there are no other issues to raise?

## **Closing Remarks**

Dr. Cecilia S. Acuin

Research Faculty

National Institutes of Health

University of the Philippines – Manila

Thank you for inviting me. This is my first time and I am I always believe the editors are the unsung heroes, those of research. Because if you think of research as a work in process. I think the editors are in-charge once the baby is out. But without that kind of care, the baby would not survive because you need to sit down with the baby. You need to remove the mucus secretions and all of these things and including measurement and assessment and new born screening and all of these things so I think this what enters to and It is nice to meet editors who are passionate with their work because we always thought it is a thankless job but without you researches would reach its audiences. And so, I will not make this long, but I will just want you to emphasize one aspect that we don't cover today that is the goal of publication. I've discussed a lot of things about funding, collaborating, about plagiarism and the technical aspect and the things of being an editor. But for me, from a researcher's perspective this is what I am and a consumer of what you do as editors, what I really like to tell you as a parting message is to remind the goal of publication. The goal of publication is to reach your audience and the audience is not necessarily your medical societies, or your institutions or your researchers. The audience is us and other people. It is really tailoring what you do with the audience that will make the difference. I think it was mentioned earlier. If your readership goes high... down, your advertisers will leave. If your circulation goes down, your journal becomes less effective so it is really the audience that matters. The audience is hardly discussed in this section so I wondered when the audience when will be discussed? Last year, I was in the Lancet media. The lancet media is coming out with the South East Asian countries, if you are aware of the work that Lancet is doing, they are trying to be more proactive. In the articles they published so in the last 5 years they will be selecting articles targeting lowering Maternal Mortality for example improving infant mortality, or nutrition and pushing for health sector reforms. They have started country focused paper. So they come out with a series in China. They are coming out a series in India. And for their first regional series, they have selected South East Asia. And they found South East Asia as the whole of Asia except China. And it is only because India and China have their own series already. But the fact, they are focusing on Asia, rather than other parts of the developing world. For the first regional series, I think tells a lot of the potential of our region for research and publication in these regions. So in that meeting, the managing editor who is with us told that when Lancet was founded. The founder has 3 goals. He said the Lancet should inform, should reform and should entertain. And from my experience in reading the journal; I think we have a pretty good job in informing. We sometimes reform. But we are really bad in entertaining. And I think this is where you keep your readers. It is not just informing. They can read that from books not from journals. Before they got back to their societies, to have all 3 in their journal it is one will do the readership. And so that is how I like to close this session but I am reminding you of these 3 goals of publication and I hope all the efforts that your bring on discussing today. You are able to achieve those 3 goals in the coming years. Thank you very much.

