

EMAME Secretary Report

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this report find you all in good health. I would like to share with you some of the activities that we in EMAME have had during the past two years. (2018 – 2020)

Unfortunately the political instability in the region and due to many other reasons, we could not do much as we wanted though we did manage to organize some workshops on scientific writing in Dubai, Riyadh, Beirut, Alexandria, Tehran and Cairo. All this became possible due to the keen interest of some of our Executive members which included **Prof. Farhad Handjani** President EMAME, **Shaukat Ali Jawaid** Secretary EMAME, **Dr. Ahmed Mandil** from WHO EMRO, **Prof. Akhtar Sherin**, **Dr. Behrooz Astaneh** and others. Most of the academic activities have of course taken place in Paksitan and Iran and I have not received any report of activities from any other country.

In Pakistan we have been organizing some activities on regular basis. Workshops on Scientific Writing, Peer Review, Training courses for Medical Editors are being organized in collaboration with various professional specialty organizations, medical universities and other institutions. In collaboration with University of Health Sciences, we also organized a conference on Medical Journalism and its proceedings have also been published in a book form. It was held in collaboration with EMAME and PAME. We had planned to hold the 5th Biennial conference of Pakistan Association of Medical Editors at Karachi on April 11-12th 2020 while the seven pre-conference Workshops on different topics were also planned but all this had to be postponed due to COVID19 till a later date most probably in later part of this year.

I as Secretary of EMAME also helped University of Health Sciences Lahore to start a Six Months **Certificate Course in Medical Editing** for professional capacity building of the Editors. Sixty candidates applied for the first course of which thirty were selected. It consisted of two contact sessions of four days each plus Assignment Portfolio. Two candidates were attached to a Mentor which were senior Editors. The course also included Assignment Portfolios in which five assessments had to be completed. The first course has just finished and the second batch will be inducted soon. I am acting as the Course Coordinator for this training course. I am sharing with you the group photograph taken on the First Day of this Course with **Prof. Javed Akram** Vice Chancellor of University of Health Sciences.



Group photograph of participants of First Certificate Course in Medical Editing organized by PAME in collaboration with EMAME at University of Health Sciences Lahore, Pakistan.

More recently I conducted two workshops during the International Dental Conference organized by University of Health Sciences Lahore since the number of registered participants was over sixty-four. One was held in the morning and the other in the afternoon on November 2, 2019. Another workshop on Scientific Writing was organized at Fatema Memorial Medical College Hospital at Lahore on March 11th 2020. I have tried my best to keep the EMAME Flag flying and so is the case with our colleagues in Iran who are also organizing similar activities on regular basis.

We had an excellent three day workshop on Scientific Writing and Publishing at Dubai which was organized in collaboration with Dubai Health Authority from June 22-24, 2018. Our local host and organizer was **Prof. Hamid Yahya Hussain** Vice President at large from Journal of Progressing Aspects in Pediatrics and Neonatology (PAPN), Vice President EMAME. It was attended by over sixty participants from the Gulf countries.

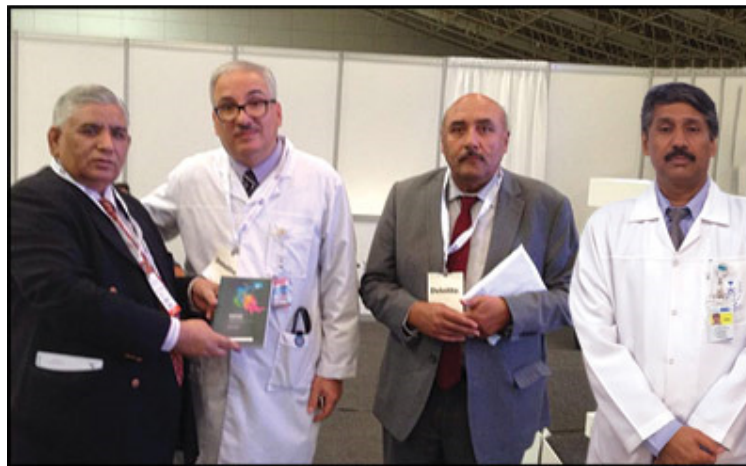


Prof. Farhad Handjani President EMAME along with other facilitators of Workshop on Scientific Writing and Publishing presenting a memento to Prof. Yousef Al Bastaki Director of Medical Education Department in Dubai Health Authority who was the moving spirit behind this academic activity.



Eastern Mediterranean Association of Medical Editors (EMAME) in collaboration with Dubai Health Authority organized a three-day workshop on Scientific Writing and Publishing at Dubai from June 22-24th, 2018. The group photograph taken on this occasion shows the facilitators of the workshop with the workshop participants.

We had a Workshop on Scientific Writing at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on September 10th 2018 during the Global Health Exhibition/conference. It was very well attended. Here we invited three local eminent researchers to join us as facilitators. They included **Dr. Ziad Memish**, former Vice Minister for Public Health Saudi Arabia, an eminent research scientist, Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Epidemiology and Global Health, **Prof. Sultan Ayub Meo**, Prof. of Physiology at King Saud University, Saudi Arabia and **Prof. Abdelazeem Eldawlatly** Editor of Saudi Journal of Anesthesia. It is in line with EMAME policy of encouraging and involving the local talent to promote the aims and objectives of EMAME of promoting the art of Medical Writing and Scientific Publishing. Later I spent three days at King Saud University, Riyadh, and met numerous faculty members and shared with them the objectives of EMAME and encouraged them to take active part in its activities.



Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaid Secretary EMAME presenting his latest book on Scientific Writing to Dr. Ziad Memish, an eminent research scientist from Saudi Arabia during Master Class on Scientific Writing & Publishing organized by EMAME in Riyadh on September 10th. 2018. Also seen in the picture are Prof. Abdelazeem Eldawlatly and Prof. Sultan Ayub Meo the other facilitators of the workshop.

Dr. Ahmed Mandil from WHO/EMRO was instrumental in organizing a workshop at Alexandria, Egypt in collaboration with The High Institute of Public Health. Similarly yet another workshop was organized by him at Beirut, Lebanon in collaboration with the International Epidemiological Association. I myself was supposed to be one of the facilitators at this workshop but could not make it as I got the Visa only a day before and it was not at all possible to fulfill all the visa formalities. Dr. Mandil has organized quite a few academic activities in Cairo as well. On the request of the Ministry of Health & Medical Education Islamic Republic of Iran, **Prof. Farhad Handjani** has been concentrating on research and publication ethics workshops.

In October 2019, WHO and the Eastern Mediterranean Association of Medical Editors (EMAME) organized a two-day workshop on ethics in scientific writing and journal publishing for more than 25 biomedical journal editors. The workshop took place at the Iran University of Medical Sciences in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. The focus was on aligning science journal publishing in the Islamic Republic of Iran with international and regional ethical standards and best practices; encourage participants to draw on existing national, regional and international professional networks and resources.



A view of the workshop on Ethics in Scientific Writing and Journal Publishing in progress at Iran University of Medical Sciences during October 2019.

The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Tobias Boyd, Manager, Editorial, Graphics and Publications, and Dr. Ahmed Mandil, Coordinator, Research and Innovation, from the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and Professor Farhad Handjani, President of EMAME.

Dr. Behrooz Astaneh one of our Vice Presidents has made a sincere attempt to revive the EMAME Listserve by having an educational corner and posting some interesting and relevant topics to generate discussions (although with very few feedback). He was also instrumental in organizing numerous workshops on medical writing and publishing at McMaster University with the collaboration of Prof Gordon Guyatt who is very well known in Evidence Based Medicine (EBM). He participated in these workshops under the name of EMAME to enhance its presentation at international levels.

In the end, I fully agree and support the suggestion put forward by Dr. Ahmad Mandil that we should try to hold the elections as soon as possible and move forward. This can be organized through online by WHO/EMRO as in the past whenever it is feasible. Any comments and suggestions from the members will be most welcome.

Shaukat Ali Jawaid
Secretary EMAME
April 18, 2020

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