

Workshop on Editing Medical Journals

Khartoum, Sudan, 16-17 January 2007

The World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office of the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) organized, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) and the Sudanese Journal of Public Health (SJPH), a workshop on Editing Medical Journals in Khartoum, Sudan, from 16 to 17 January 2007. The workshop was held at the premises of the Sudan Doctors' Union and was facilitated by Ms Jane Nicholson the WHO Editor, Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO). The objectives of the workshop were to:

1. To promote the standard of scientific papers and biomedical journals in Sudan
2. To set goals and establish a vision for individual journals
3. To outline the roles and responsibilities of the editor(s) of a journal, the reviewers and technical editors, and the process of review
4. To develop work plans for individual journals



At the start the host Dr. Abdulazim Kabalo, President of the Sudan Doctors' Union, welcomed the participants and expressed his delight about this workshop that could enable doctors and other health professionals to keep updated and get promoted academically and professionally.

The opening session of the workshop was addressed by Dr Ismail Bushara Ahmed, Director General Training and Human Resource Development, on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Health. He welcomed the participants and expressed his hope that the workshop would contribute to improving and increasing capacity of medical journal editors in the country.

He noted that the number of medical journals in Sudan is increasing, a sign of more interest and dedication of many institutions and professional associations. Dr. Bushara has also expressed the commitment of FMOH to support medical journals in the country.

The Workshop was inaugurated by Dr Mohammed Abdur Rab, WHO Representative in Sudan. In his message to the workshop Dr Abdur Rab noted that journals can play an important role in dissemination of research and incorporating it into policy and practice.



The various sessions of the workshop covered the following topics: objectives and introduction of

participants, expectations, goal setting and personal work plans, role and situation of medical journals in Sudan, setting journal policy: vision, goals and planning, establishing management and review systems, role of the editor, ethical issues in publishing, peer reviewers: role and responsibilities, planning and design considerations, quality control, evaluation and close.



A number of 16 participants attended the workshop from 9 medical journals in Sudan. Participants included editors and technical editors of medical journals, as well as from Sudan Doctors' Union the sponsor of professional medical associations in Sudan.



The participants are listed below:

- Dr. Elsheikh Elsidig Badr, Dr. Elfatih Mohammed Malik and Dr. Nadir Ali Ahmed Idris from the Sudanese Journal of Public Health
- Prof. Qurashi Mohammed Ali and Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Siddig from the Sudan Medical Monitor
- Prof. Ali Ahmed Idris Ahmed and Dr. Mirghani Abdelrahman Yousif from Gezira Journal of Health Sciences
- Dr. Abdelmageed Mohammed Imam and Dr. Abdelmarouf Hassan Mohieldein from the Sudan Journal of Medical Sciences
- Prof. Eldirderi Salim Ahmed and Dr. Mubarak Elkarsani from the Juba Medical Journal
- Dr. Abubakr Abdelraouf from the Khartoum Pharmacy Journal
- Prof. Elrasheed Ahmed Abdallah represented both the Sudan Medical Journal and the University of Khartoum Medical Journal
- Dr. Adil Hamid Bashir from the Sudanese Journal of Dermatology
- Dr. Badereldin Fraigon from the Sudan Doctors' Union



The workshop participants identified a need to improve skills of editors and reviewers of medical journals in Sudan. Need to improve the quality of medical journals in Sudan was noted. Communication between the editors was felt to be vital to improving the quality of medical journals in Sudan.



The participants also agreed on the need to establish an association of medical editors in the country.

The participants in the workshop thanked the WHO for organizing and facilitating the workshop, and for their support for the various initiatives. They also thanked the Sudanese Journal of Public Health and staff for their involvement in initiating and organizing the workshop.



At the end of the workshop, each journal team came up with an action points for the coming period. It was also agreed that journal editors in Sudan continue contacts and follow-up with Ms Jane Nicholson and preferably meet her again to assess progress and project new steps.



For more information about the workshop, please contact Dr. Nadir Ali Ahmed Idris, e-mail: nadir.idris@gmail.com