

TWO DAY WORKSHOP ON MEDICAL JOURNALISM

There has been a substantial increase in medical knowledge in the last few decades. Not only doctors, but people not directly related to the medical profession, have also developed a profound interest in health related information and the latest advancements in medical field. Medical journalism plays a pivotal role in the dissemination of this information.

In order to promote and enhance the skill of medical writing and editing a two day workshop on "Medical Journalism" was held at Army Medical College on 10 and 11 December 2018. The workshop was arranged by Pakistan Armed Forces Medical Journal. It was conducted by one of the most prominent members of the community of medical journalism, Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaaid, Chief Editor Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences and Secretary Eastern Mediterranean Association of Medical Editors. Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaaid has an experience of more than three decades in this field. He regularly conducts such workshops not only across the country but internationally as well.

The workshop was attended by the Principal Army Medical College, Maj Gen Saleem Ahmed Khan HI(M), Maj Gen Syed Raza Jaffar, Head of the Department of Pathology and the editors, reviewers and authors who came from the various medical institutions of the Armed Forces.

The main topics of the workshop were; "How to enhance quality of a Journal", "How to do Peer Review of a manuscript", "How to overcome your inhibitions to be a Peer Reviewer" and "New Developments, Future Directions in Peer Review". In his presentations Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaaid talked about the pressures on editors, their rights and responsibilities, their mission and publication ethics. He also talked about the different aspects of peer review and emphasized on the significance of constructive criticism. He shared some important guidelines with the participants of the workshop on how to overcome their inhibitions in becoming good reviewers. Open peer review system was discussed in length and its advantages and disadvantages were highlighted. In the end, new trends in medical journalism such as development of different softwares for detection of plagiarism, correct use of statistics and for detection of image manipulation also came under discussion. The Principal, Maj Gen Saleem Ahmed Khan HI(M) delivered the vote of thanks and appreciated the efforts of the esteemed speaker.

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