On the occasion of the International Scientific Conference “Publishing Integrity and Misconduct in Biomedicine”

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SCHOLARLY PERIODICALS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE BIOMEDICAL FIELD

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ABSTRACT

This article is focused on the development of scholarly publishing in Bosnia and Herzegovina with special reference to the periodicals in the Biomedical Field. Namely, it is well known that the first journal with scholarly orientation under the name Herald of the State museum in Sarajevo (Glasnik Zemaljskog muzeja) was founded in 1889. and its first editor was Kosta Herman. Since the year 1893, from time to time it was issued in German language.(as Wissenshaftlichen Mitteilungen). This journal with more or less frequency is published today.

Between two world wars there were about 294 periodicals published in Bosnia and Herzegovina of which small number could be classified as scientific. First medical Journal in Sarajevo under the title Medical Archive (Medi-
cinski arhiv) appeared in Sarajevo in the year 1947. and as far as it is known is still being published. After most recent war (1992-1995) there are a number of journals in the field of Biomedical Sciences which are published in Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Tuzla. Among those are: Medicinski Arhiv/Medical Archives, Acta Informatica Medica, Acta Medica Saliniana, Bosnian Journal of Basic Medical Sciences, Folia Medica, Medicinski Glasnik, Acta Medica Academica, Medicinski zurnal, HealthMED, Materia Socio Medica, Journal of Health Sciences, Biomedicinska istrazivanjaMedici.com, Pedijatrska danas, Pharmacia, Stomatoloski bilten, etc.

This might not be complete list of biomedical journals at present time, since these periodicals like any other come and go. The picture might be more complete if we have much more research and evaluation done on the number, profile and quality of biomedical journals issued in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Key words: Scholarly publishing, Periodicals in B&H, Biomedical journals, journal lists, evaluation of quality.

Figure 1. Participants of STC Days of AMNuBiH 2013, Sarajevo June 21st, 2013

13,00 Opening Ceremony - Welcome speech by the President of AMNuBiH, Izet Masic
13,15 “Scholarly Periodicals in Bosnia and Herzegovina with Particular Reference to the Biomedical Field” – Enes Kujundzic (Zenica, B&H)
13,30 “Principles and standards of Scientific Communication: Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals” – Doncho Donev (Skopje, Macedonia)
13,45 “American Board of Neurological Surgery (ABNS): From Residency to Retirement – Keeping us on our toes Indefinitely and Academic Ranking and Bibliometrics in Neurosurgery” - Kenan Arnaoutovic (Memphis, USA)
14,00 “What is Optimal Discovery Rate of New Treatments When Tested in Clinical Trials – Importance of Research Integrity for Accurate Assessment of Treatment Success in Clinical Research” - Beniamin Dijubievo-
vic (Tampa, Florida, USA)
14,15 “Citation and plagiarism in the biomedical literature” - Izet Masic (Sarajevo, B&H)
14,30 “Ethics in Biomedical Publishing” - Frank Chervenak, Asim Kurjak (New York, USA; Dubrovnik, Croatia)
14,45 “The International Medical Journal ‘Medcut’ – A Success Story from Macedonia” - Azis Pollozhani, Besnik Hamiti, Sead Zeynal (Skopje, Macedonia; Tetovo, Macedo-
15,00 Discussion
15,30 Promotion of the June’s issues of the journals: Medical Archives, Acta Informatica Medica and Materia Socio Medica - Mirko Grujic (Sarajevo, B&H)
15,45 Promotion of the book: “Clinical propedeu-
tics”, written by Izet Hozo - Muharem Zildzic and Sead Zeynal (Sarajevo, B&H)
16,00 Coctail
PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS OF SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION—UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS FOR MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED TO BIOMEDICAL JOURNALS

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ABSTRACT

Aim: To present the main principles and standards of scientific communication and to emphasize the importance of honesty and ethical approach to research and publication of results in scientific journals. Methods: An analysis of relevant materials and documents, sources from the internet and published literature and personal experience and observations of the author. Special attention is paid to the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals as a set of guidelines for standardising the ethics, preparation and formatting of manuscripts submitted for publication to biomedical journals. Results: The main principles of the scientific communication are clarity, accuracy, simplicity and understandability. There are some basics of writing a paper. The text of the paper should be structured in accordance to IMRAD formula which means: Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion, each of them with an appropriate content. The title of the paper might be indicative or informative, and the abstract might be in a classical form or structured, always ending with a few key words. Authorship is about credit and responsibility and the number of authors of the paper should be determined in proper order in accordance with their contribution to the research activities and to the writing the paper. Papers related to Public Health practice may differ from IMRAD formula but need to structure the text with clear formulation of the problem/subject and abjectives, description of the status or situation or program or activities, as well as the lessons learned, new experiences, results achieved, conclusions and recommendations. At the end of the article the full list of cited references (Vancouver style) should be added, properly connected to the text. Advancement of the scientific community is based on honesty and equity of the researchers in conducting and publishing the results of research. Conclusion: In addition to education about the principles and standards of scientific communication there is a need to raise awareness about the importance for education of the scientific community on research and publication ethics in order to create an ethical environment as one of the most effective ways to prevent scientific and publishing misconduct or fraud.

Key words: scientific communication, publishing principles and standards; scientific and publishing misconduct, ethics

AMERICAN BOARD OF NEUROSURGERY (ABNS): FROM RESIDENCY TO RETIREMENT: KEEPING US ON OUR TOES INDEFINITELY; US STATE MEDICAL LICENSING; AND ACADEMIC RANKING AND BIBLIOMETRICS IN US NEUROSURGERY

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ABSTRACT

Residency training in various medical specialties in the United States (USA) has been governed and administered by corresponding specialty boards all of which are supervised members of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). Neurosurgical training in the USA, the primary certification process including the oral exam, maintenance of certification process (MOC), neurosurgical subspecialty certification, and other aspects of neurosurgical training/licensing have been administered by the ABNS. This process is indefinite, all inclusive, and lasts from the application for neurosurgical training to the retirement of the neurosurgeon from his/her practice.

Additionally, in order to practice medicine (including neurosurgery) in the USA, one has also to obtain a valid State medical license. This process is administered and governed by the respective State Medical Licensing Board and is generally similar/reciprocal from state to state, although some differences do exist between them. This process includes independent and direct validation/proof obtained by the State medical board from the primary source of: Medical School graduation, ABNS license, prior professional employments/evaluations in the medical specialty, passed test of state medical laws if applicable, obtained yearly CME credits for meetings/conferences attendance, absence of legal problems and addiction issues (drugs, alcohol, etc), and description in writing of every law suit experienced so far with legal outcome.

Academic and teaching involvement in USA neurosurgery programs includes the neurosurgeon’s association with the Department of Neurosurgery (Surgery) at their respective University. The University Board appoints the individual to one of the following academic ranks: instructor,
WHAT IS OPTIMAL DISCOVERY RATE OF NEW TREATMENTS WHEN TESTED IN CLINICAL TRIALS? IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH INTEGRITY FOR Accurate ASSESSMENT OF TREATMENT SUCCESS IN CLINICAL RESEARCH

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ABSTRACT
Advancement in therapeutics and prevention depends on the willingness of humans to enroll into clinical trials. Therefore, potential participants in clinical trials should be given all relevant details about the situation in which they find themselves, including the accurate track record of new experimental treatments studied in earlier trials. However, how often experimental (new) treatments are superior to standard (established) treatments has been difficult to answer, primarily because of the problems related to integrity of research records. The research over the last couple of decades have shown that the results of trials can frequently be explained by factors such as ‘spin’ in data interpretation, the risk of bias (methodological quality), reporting bias, or choice of (inferior) comparator. It is only after accounting for all these factors we may obtain the accurate assessment of “treatment success” in clinical research. We recently summarized evidence from published and unpublished randomized trials and accounted for all the factors that may potentially distort the results away from the truth. We pooled data from 4 inception cohorts of 743 publicly-funded sets of randomized trials, which, between them, had enrolled 297,744 patients over the past 30-50 years. In addition, we compared the results of 40 industry-sponsored cancer trials accruing 19,889 patients to 77 publicly sponsored trials enrolling 33,260 patients. We found that the probability of experimental treatment being superior to standard treatment for is about 50%, which is a good return on investment. However, we also found that the large number of trials failed to provide the answer to the questions they were set to answer leading to the considerable waste of resources and ethical breach of contract with the trials participants.

Key words: clinical trials, optimal discovery rate.

ETHICS IN BIOMEDICAL PUBLISHING

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ABSTRACT
Ethics is an essential dimension of biomedical publishing that have been addressed by the international committee of medical journal editors. Our presentation will review some important aspects of this topic. Authorship is a serious matter. An author must take responsibility for at least one component of the work, should be able to identify who is responsible for each other component, and should ideally be confident in their co-authors ability and integrity. Editors must have editorial freedom and full authority for determining the editorial content of the journal. Owners have the right to appoint and dismiss editors and to make important business decisions. Unbiased, independent peer review is the essence of the biomedical journals. There needs to be transparency of financial and personal conflicts of interests of both authors and reviewers. Confidentiality of patients and study participants is essential. Confidentiality of authors is also important. Lastly, and most importantly, all research must be conducted according to standards which protect human subjects [Human investigation board approval]. In summary, it is clear that ethics is an essential dimen-

Figure 2. Web presentation of acc Benjamin Djulbegovic from Tampa, Florida at STC of “Days of AMNuBiH 2013”
THE PROPER CITATION AND PLAGIARISM IN MEDICAL PUBLISHING

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ABSTRACT

In scientific circles, the reference is the information that is necessary to the reader in identifying and finding used sources. The basic rule when listing the sources used is that references must be accurate, complete and should be consistently applied. On the other hand, quoting implies verbatim written or verbal repetition of parts of the text or words written by others that can be checked in original. Authors of every new scientific article need to explain how their study or research fits with previous one in the same or similar fields. A typical article in the health sciences refers to approximately 20-30 other articles published in peer reviewed journals, cite once or hundreds times. Citations typically appear in two formats: a) as in-text citations where the sources of information are briefly identified in the text; or b) in the reference list at the end of the publication (book chapter, manuscript, article, etc.) that provides full bibliographic information for each source. Group of publishers met in Vancouver in 1978 and decided to prescribe uniform technical propositions for publication. Adopted in the 1979 by the NLM in Bethesda, then the ICMJE, whose review in 1982 entered the official application by 300 international biomedical journals. Authors writing articles for publication in biomedical publications used predominantly citation styles: Vancouver style, Grandis, PubMed style, ICMJE, APA, etc. In the article are presented examples of all of these styles of citation to the authors in order to facilitate their applications. Also in this paper is given the review about the problem of plagiarism which becomes more common in the writing of scientific and technical articles in biomedicine.

Publication ethics checklist as a tool to promote research integrity

Sylwia Ufnalska, EASE Council Member, Poznan, Poland
Ana Marusic, Vice-President of EASE, University of Split, Croatia

A brief publication ethics checklist, if used routinely by science journals in the submission procedure, might substantially help to prevent scientific misconduct. It would inform or remind authors about major ethical issues relevant to scientific publications.

Such a checklist has been compiled as an appendix to EASE Guidelines for Authors and Translation of Scientific Articles to be Published in English, published by the European Association of Science Editors (EASE). The Guidelines are a concise and readable document, aimed to promote research integrity and effective communication in science worldwide. The document is freely available on our website (www.ease.org.uk) and its main part has already been translated into 20 languages. The Guidelines are reviewed annually (in June), so the appendix on ethics will be updated soon. If you have any comments on the presented draft of the 2013 edition of the appendix, please leave them in the envelope below.

THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL JOURNAL ‘MEDICUS’—A SUCCESS STORY FROM MACEDONIA

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ABSTRACT

Medicus is the official journal of the Society of the Albanian Medical Doctors from Macedonia, published biannually, and covers a wide area of medical research. Each printed issue provides in-depth original papers, review articles, case reports and short communications, in addition to summaries of recent international or national medical scientific meetings or symposia. The aim of the journal is to foster the exchange of knowledge and experience between the doctors of the region, giving the health care workers at all levels a concise, comprehensive guide to symptoms, diagnosis and treatment. Medicus is internationally peer-review journal of medical sciences. A highly enthusiastic and dedicated international team of medical doctors and scientists comprise the editorial board. From it’s very beginning, the journal publishes articles in Albanian and Macedonian language, whereas the English language has shown increased usage by our authors. This tendency favors our objective of being able to obtain the impact factor for our journal. The published articles have notably increased their standardization with the application of the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals, making a further step forward in terms of it’s international recognition. Not the least, the journal has largely contributed for the standardization of the Albanian medical terminology across the whole Albanian-speaking region of the Balkan Peninsula. Despite the success with the publishing of the Journal, the editorial board has assumed the educational role, as well. throughout these eight years of issuance, Medicus has emerged and sustained as a highly regarded reference for the academic and professional development of the region’s medical doctors.

Key words: Medicus, University of Tetovo.