

Medical writing course

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Attending the online medical writing course was a knowledgeable and interesting experience. It was conducted in collaboration with University of Health Sciences through online zoom classes and google class room for feedback and assignments so was unique in exposure and learning of the new technology along with the medical writing skills. It was CME accredited course. The content of the course covered all aspects of medical writing related to requirements of health professionals. It provided the opportunity to interact with persons from different specialties at different levels of their professional education.

New knowledge is constantly being added in medical profession with ongoing research, evolving experience, new ideas and thoughts¹. To effectively formulate the manuscript of writing different guidelines are being developed which are upgraded periodically and adherence to these guidelines is much needed practice to be adopted and learned². These guidelines are followed by the journals to select quality original articles, meta analysis, case reports, review articles and editorials and to publish them. Learning these core aspects is important as journals refuse to publish the articles that are not in accordance to the standards and guidelines.

The duration of the course was 3 months and it comprises of 6 sessions. Each session was of 3 hours. First session was conducted by Dr. Amir Furqan, cardiac anesthetist and certified CME editor. It was related to orientation of course, zoom application,

concept of google classroom and designing the medical research.. Topic selection and converting it to a reasonable title is the key of an article. Study design has always been a challenge for medical professionals who were discussed according to the standards laid down and to be followed. The art of writing of original Article was discussed in detail in second session by Dr. Masood Alam, pulmonologist certified CME editor. Writing the methodology in a way to cover all the procedural points and making it easy to understand for the reader is very important aspect of an original article which was adequately elaborated. Statistical analysis again is the hardest challenge for the medical professionals and need to be learned and mastered in a way that makes it easy for them to complete their research process. That is why this course had separate session on SPSS skill training which was conducted by Dr. Lamia yousaf, gynecologist, and certified CME editor. Fourth online session was aimed at the writing of case report, book review and editorial writing which are the topics to which many of the health professionals are not very familiar. This session was conducted by Dr. Wajida rehabilitation specialist, certified CME editor and Dr. Amir Furqan. Review article including narrative, systematic review and meta analysis are the types of medical writing not commonly practiced and thought difficult to proceed with. They were taught according to the specific guidelines laid down for this subset of medical writings in 5th session conducted by Dr. Amir Furqan. Each session was followed by submission of reflection and minor assignment by all participants through google class room which were marked and

returned by the facilitators. How to submit manuscripts online and understanding of online journal management system was elaborated in 6th session by Dr. Wajida. Grand assessment system was based on minor assignments submitted following each session and major assignments submitted by the end of the course and on its bases course completion certificates were awarded to the participants.

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It is the need of hour to master these skills as medical research is advancing and growing rapidly as with time new drugs, medical devices and therapies are being developed which need to be researched in all aspects ranging from patient benefits to cost effectiveness. Lack of proper formatting and transforming scientific knowledge into readable, understandable and acceptable manuscript can lead to rejection of many of the important research that will otherwise have many benefits for the mankind. Organizing such courses and attending them and learning these aspects related to medical professional will also help to reduce the duplication, manipulation of data and results and will also demoralize those bodies who have made scientific research a business and will promote facts and fact based results which will help our future generation to further work on them and continue to evolve the medical science.

References

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