

“Publishing in a Global Competitive World”: Workshop for Journal Editors and Reviewers Convenes in Malaysia

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Kuala Lumpur hosted more than 120 participants from 16 countries during the third University of Malaya Biomedical Imaging Symposium, held 15-16 July 2006. This symposium, titled “Publishing in a Global Competitive World: the Workshop on Publishing for Research Journal Editors and Reviewers,” was organized by the University of Malaya Department of Biomedical Imaging (Radiology) and *Biomedical Imaging and Intervention Journal*.

Professor Dato’ Mohd Amin Jalaluddin, acting vice-chancellor of the University of Malaya, said in his welcoming address that the university was proud to be a pioneer in organizing such a publishing workshop in this region.

The values inherent in the research process depend on the possibilities that arise when others are able to use or even further the resulting information. Publishing has an important role in disseminating the information—for science to progress, we need to publish!

The workshop brought together some of the best talent in biomedical publishing. Speakers—biomedical professionals and academicians of international standing, authors, editors, reviewers, copyeditors, designers, and librarians—were invited to discuss and exchange ideas and experiences aimed at publishing a biomedical journal of world-class quality with professional integrity.

The comprehensive 2-day program covered the entire publishing process of the biomedical journal in today’s world. A host of topics were presented, including the responsibilities and roles of editors, authors, and reviewers; editorial indepen-

dence and governance; the peer-review process; ethics in scientific publishing; manuscripts for the era of evidence-based medicine; developments in international journal publishing; the art of copyediting; copyright and intellectual-property rights; and open-access online publishing.

Among the speakers were John Arokiasamy, editor of *The Medical Journal of Malaysia*; Arnout Jacobs, content acquisitions manager of Elsevier; Pik-To Cheung, senior editor of the *Hong Kong Medical Journal*; Siew-Tyng Fung, director of training and technical support, Thomson Scientific; Rajendra Kale, clinical-reviews editor of the *BMJ*; Senthil Kumar, technical communicator; Li-Ming Leong, editor with Taylor & Francis Asia Pacific; Lai-Meng Looi, editor of the *Malaysian Journal of Pathology*; Wilfred C G Peh, editor of the *Singapore Medical Journal*; and Martin van der Weyden, editor of *The Medical Journal of Australia*.

In addition to presentations by individual speakers, there was a minidebate in the Point-Counterpoint session on “Impact Factor of Journals: Use and Abuse” at the end of the first day.

Although Bruce Squires, for health reasons, could not attend, he participated in the opening lectures from his home in Ottawa, Canada, via teleconference. His lectures were delivered with voiceover presentation slides. Squires is editor emeritus of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ)* and cofounder of the World Association of Medical Editors.

During the closing session, “What Asian-Oceania Editors Should Be Doing Now”, the participants unanimously agreed that a regional grouping representing Southeast Asian and Australasian biomedical editors should be set up to facilitate networking, discussion, and collaboration among all the stakeholders. There were also requests

for workshops on peer review and scientific writing to improve the skills of biomedical authors and editors. As the organizing cochairman, Basri J J Abdullah, said in his closing remarks, “There was an underlying spirit of editorial integrity and professional kinship among biomedical editors.”

Although diverse opinions were expressed on the approach and emphasis in publishing a biomedical journal, there was agreement that biomedical publishing will benefit from online publishing and instant access to information and communication.

The organizers are grateful for the support of the cosponsors: the *BMJ*; the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*; the College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia; the College of Radiology, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia; Elsevier; the *Hong Kong Medical Journal*; *The Medical Journal of Australia*; *The Medical Journal of Malaysia*; the *Singapore Medical Journal*; Taylor & Francis; and Thomson Scientific. Special thanks go to Schering AG, Siemens, and GE Healthcare for their generous financial support.

The workshop program, including abstracts, can be viewed at radiology.um.edu.my/cbie/2006/editorworkshop/Programme%20Book.2006-07-05.pdf. Digital recordings of the lectures are available at www.bij.org/biomedical-imaging-intervention-journal-resources.asp. 

KWAN-HOONG NG was organizing chairman of the workshop described in this report.