VOLUME 1, ISSUE IV JULY 2023

AMC TODAY

"Committed to academic excellence and cultural diversity"

AFRICA MEDICAL COLLEGE

Africa Medical College Holds a Curriculum Review Workshop

Africa Medical College conducted a one-day curriculum review workshop at the College's Graduate Library on 26th May 2023. It was attended by department and unit heads, teachers, and technical staff of the College.



EMSA-AFRICA Members Practice a Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) Screening



Members and Executive Board Members of EMSA-Africa practiced a Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) screening by working alongside Dr. Demeke Mekonnen, a renowned Pediatric Cardiologist and Medical Education Expert. Members who had an interest to be involved in the program were registered and given a chance to directly engage in the screening of volunteer students

(cont'd on page 2)

AMC Students visit Macedonia Charity Homes

Africa Medical College students visited Macedonia, "A Sanctuary of the Poor, the Sick, the Weak and the Friendless" and participated in the selling of T-shirts prepared for the oncoming charity running event



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Inside this issue:

Students in Assuring Quality in Higher Education Institutions

Curriculum Review Workshop

(cont'd from page 1)

Welcoming participants, Ato Desta Berhe, the Head of the Quality Assurance Office, explained to participants that the aim of the workshop was to make some modifications to the harmonized curricula received from the Ministry of Education (MoE) based on internal and environmental contexts.

Africa Medical College has been using harmonized curricula produced by a cluster of universities organized by MoE and believes periodic curriculum review is important to regularly update programs and orient faculty members to institutional quality assurance process.

The College, it was explained, has a mandate to make slight modifications on the programs based on internal and environmental context of the College.

Ato Desta thanked the Office of the President, the Vice-President and Academic Dean for helping the workshop a reality and appreciated participants for availing themselves for the arduous job and requested them to carefully study the documents and forward their feedbacks.

Participants therefore methodically went through the curricula documents of Pharmacy, Public Health, and Laboratory Technology and suggested minor changes to the organization, course lists, credit hours, contact hours, codes, descriptions, and contents.

"curriculum review is important to regularly update programs and orient faculty members on institutional quality assurance process."

Feedbacks from participants were then incorporated in the curricula. It was recommended that Ato Desta take notes of the whole review process and produce finalized documents to be implemented by departments.

...Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) Screening...

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from Entoto Amba Primary School from June 7 to 16 2023.

It is also reported that a team of professionals led by Dr. Workye Tigabu, a Consultant Pediatric Surgeon, and Dr.Yosef, a senior Hepaticopancreatico Biliary Fellow, undertook a successful Whipple procedure for a 12-year-old female pediatric patient, Meklit, at St. Peter Specialized Hospital on June 7, 2023.

In related news, on June 16, 2023, the Director of SCOPH (Standing Committee of Public Health), Behailu Tadesse, invited Dr. Workye to Arada FM Radio Station at 95.1, *Tena Yestelegn*, a weekly program. Mr. Behilu, as the host of *Tena Yestlegn*, interviewed and discussed with Dr. Workye Tigabu, Mr. Litsanework, the father of Meklit, and Meklit herself. It is reported, SCORA (Standing Committee of Reproductive Health) and SCOPH (Standing Committee of Public Health) collaboratively trained students on menstrual hygiene at Entoto Taytu primary school.





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Students Visit Macedonia Charity Homes ...(cont'd

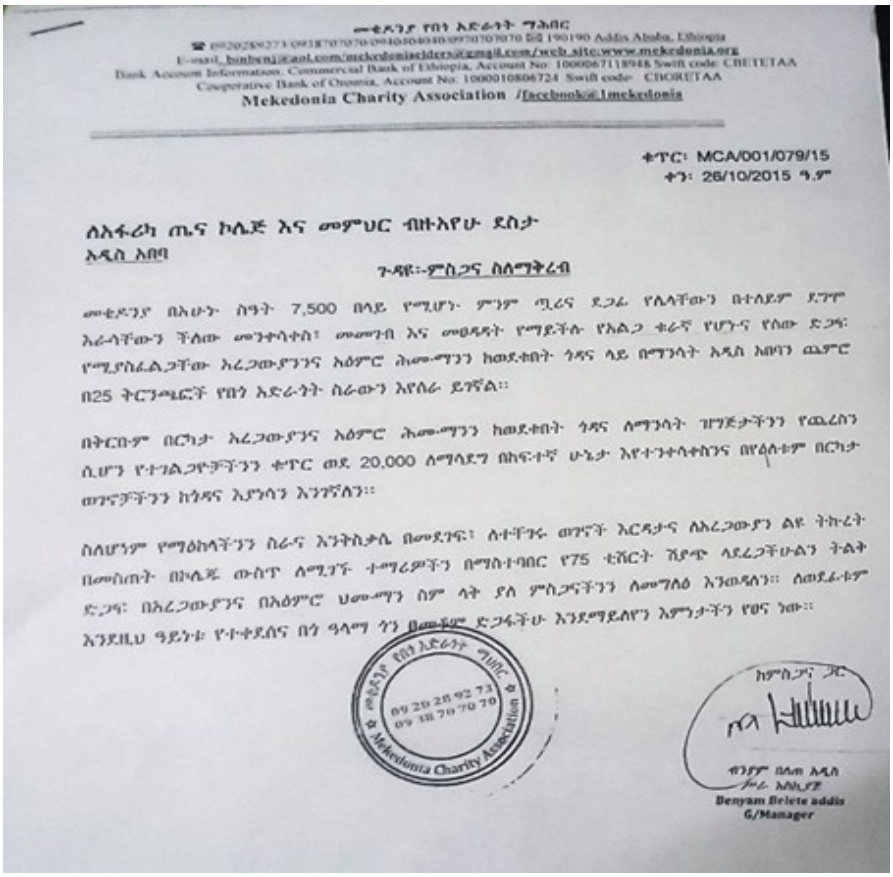
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expected to take place before the end of this year.

The Charity Home, in a letter written on July 2, 2023, thanked Africa Medical College, students, and the coordinator of the visit, Mr Bizuayehu Desta, for selling 75 t-shirts.

On the website of the Charity Home, it is indicated Macedonia works to ensure each resident has access to the resources they need to live a fulfilling and comfortable life, and is trying to provide comprehensive support by offering basic services including food, clothing, shelter, hygiene facilities, medical care, education, and to residents living in the center. It provides severely needed incontinence supplies, including diapers, bed pads, and gloves to 2500 bedridden and mentally disabled residents. Presently, the Home is constructing a 12-story facility that can house up to 20, 000 beneficiaries of its services. The Home uses an Amharic slogan "ሰውን ለመርዳት ሰው መሆን ብቻ በቂ ነው።" which means "To help others, it is enough to be only human , ".





መቂዶንያ የበጎ አድራጎት ማኅበር
Mekedonia Charity Association /facebook/@1mekedonia
ቁጥር: MCA/001/079/15
ቀን: 26/10/2015 ዓ.ም
ለአፋሪካ ጤና ኮሌጅ እና መምህር ብዙአየሁ ደስታ
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በ25 ቅርንጫፎች የበጎ አድራጎት ስራውን እየሰራ ይገኛል።
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...Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) Screening

(cont'd from page 2)



QUALITY ASSURANCE CORNER

Students in Assuring Quality in Higher Education Institutions

Ana Gvritishvili[1] and Horia Onita[2]

University World News *, Global Edition (weekly),* ***22 April 2023***

There are five important areas through which students can actively involve and contribute to higher education quality:

1. Valuing student participation

Student participation in internal QA processes and in developing the indicators used to monitor the student centered-learning approach ensures that study programs result in desired learning outcomes in an inclusive learning environment that fits students' needs and expectations.

2. More face-to-face meetings and interaction

To improve the quality of student involvement in quality assurance, more face-to-face meetings, interaction and training are necessary. This will allow for a more meaningful exchange of ideas between students and higher education institution staff, leading to more valuable feedback and the development of a relationship based on trust.

Higher education institutions should prioritize creating opportunities for students to engage in more personal and interactive ways, such as through small group discussions.

3. Feedback and impactful follow-up

In addition to creating opportunities for personal and interactive student involvement in quality assurance processes, it is crucial to follow up on these interactions with constant feedback regarding the outcomes. Providing regular feedback to students regarding survey results or other discussed matters is essential to gain their trust and demonstrate that their opinions and contributions are valued by higher education institutions.

The lack of sustainable feedback loops has proven even more problematic during the COVID pandemic, when combined efforts were needed to adapt the teaching process to an emergency digital mode. The context, nevertheless, provided useful lessons on the added value of co-creating solutions.

4. Enhancing knowledge of QA among students

The publication *Bologna with Student Eyes* (2020) indicates that many students lack information regarding quality assurance processes.

To address this, higher education institutions should provide clear and comprehensive explanations of the main aims of involving students in quality assurance processes and engage student representatives in the whole policy cycle of QA, from planning the processes to analyzing the results, formulating recommendations and implementing, monitoring and evaluating them.

The move towards greater student participation, in QA and beyond, is also in line with developments in understanding student participation as a fundamental value within the Bologna Process.

Furthermore, to increase student knowledge of QA, higher education institutions should make relevant policies and guidelines readily available and offer training and support to students who are involved in quality assurance activities.

Showing students examples of how their peers are involved in quality assurance or governing processes can be a powerful motivator for student

1- Ana Gvritishvili is an Executive Committee member
2- Horia Onita is vice-president of the European Students' Union.

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Students in Assuring Quality...(cont'd from page 4)

involvement. In some countries, the culture of student union participation in QA is strong and students are actively working to improve the quality of education at an institutional level. In some cases, student unions have their own pool of student experts in QA who can help with both internal and external QA processes.

5. Developing a QA culture

The issues discussed above are also a matter of the quality assurance culture within higher education institutions and across countries as a whole.

The more developed the quality assurance culture and processes in a country, the more active, valuable and meaningful the involvement of students in all processes is likely to be. However, this requires significant time, effort and capacity-building as well as the willingness of all stakeholders to commit to it. We believe allocating these resources is not only valuable, but vital if we are to adapt higher education to the challenges it is called upon to tackle.



...Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) Screening...

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RESEARCH CORNER

Undertaking Scientific Research in Health and Health Related Areas



*Professor Abraham Haileamlak,**

Research is of great importance to individuals and the society. There are important principles we have to observe while doing a research. A few of them are respect for those who are involved in the research process, fairness to subjects and those involved in the process, exercising academic freedom, integrity in handling data, voluntary participation, confidentiality in handling information related to human subjects, impartiality and social responsibility and accountability. These principles are mostly part of research ethics which we have to carefully observe and strictly adhere.

A good research should have a title, abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion, acknowledgements, references and figures and tables.

Title

Title is the first part a reader looks at. A good title is like an honest advertisement that attracts the reader to the manuscript. A poor title, on the contrary, is like a quarantine sign, the reader will approach only close enough to read the sign and then hurry away [Peter Morgan, 1986].

According to Packer et al. (1989) and Greenberg (1992), a good title has the following characteristics: It has good taste, is eye-catchy, fascinates the reader and has same tone as the essay. A good title should be specific enough to describe the contents of the paper, and should not be so technical that only specialists understand. A good title is the one that has less than 12 words and 100 characters and it should never contain abbreviations and be appropriate for the targeted audience.

What does the title of a manuscript describe?

The title of a manuscript usually describes the subject matter of the article. For instance, "Effect of Khat Chewing on Academic Performance" describes the possible effects of Khat on academic performance of students. Sometimes a title summarizes the results of a study more effectively. The following title is a very good example:

"Students Who Chews Khat Get Lower Grades"

Abstract

According to the editor of the Journal of American Medical Association, "The abstract is the single most important part of a manuscript, yet the most often poorly written".

An abstract of a research article contains a brief summary of the manuscript, background of the study such as the problem investigated, the purpose of the research, the methods employed, the results and conclusion of the research.

An abstract of a research manuscript is given emphasis because it is the first impression to journal editor and the reader. The writer should follow the journal's guideline and structure it (outline it) as per the requirement. The word count of an abstract should not be more than 250.

What are the common mistakes observed while writing an abstract of a research manuscript?

Some writers tend to use too much background or methods information and figures or images, references to other literature, figures or images, abbreviations or acronyms and failure to follow the requirement.

Introduction

The 'Introduction' of a research manuscript is a place where broad information on the topic is presented and previous researches in the area are briefly reviewed. It includes providing narrower background information is given and the study/gap we have observed is mentioned. It also points out the focus and hypothesis of the paper and summary of the problem (selling point). Overall, the introduction contains from 300 to 500 words.

Differently put, an Introduction of a research manuscript is a place where we answer What is known? What is the lacunae? and What are we going to do? and it is written on ONE

(cont'd on page 7)

**MD, Paediatric Cardiologist is a prominent scholar. He is the editor-in-chief of one of the most successful scientific journals in the country, Ethiopia Journal of Health Sciences (EJHS).*

"Committed to academic excellence and cultural diversity "

Yeha Building, Ras Mekonen Ave, Addis Ababa

0116634653/

0116180383/

0116180932/

0116181308

P.O. Box: 13025,

We are on the web:

Www.amc.edu.et

Africa Medical College is a privately owned college established in 2005. It aspires to becoming "one of the 10 leading private higher education institutions (HEIs) providing education and training in the heath sector in 2025". Presently, the College offers more than fourteen programs, including MD and DDM in regular modality.

Undertaking Scientific Research ... (cont'd from page 6)

PAGE!

Some of the common mistakes observed while writing an introduction are using too much information, stating unclear purpose and missing objectives and employing confusing structure.

Methods and Materials

This section of the manuscript provides instruction on exactly how to repeat experiment, the research setting, the timing/ period of the study, the research design and the sample and sampling procedure.

The researcher, in this regard, must know that the sample is of adequate size and the sampling method is appropriate and sufficiently described. The population of the study should also be identified.

This section should also give information about the field site, the data collection protocol and the data analysis techniques, the method of analysis utilized and any computer programs used. It is also essential to describe the equipment which are used during the study and the ethical considerations that have to be observed. Operational definitions are also stated when required.

Some common mistakes are writing Methods and Materials are providing too little information about the aforementioned points, repeating information presented in the introduction part and employing long, confusing and difficult words.

Another mistake observed in this section is there is either poor understanding of research methods or use of a wrong method.

Results

Researchers should always remember that they have to present the objectives of the study before the presentation of researched results. It is also good to indicate the summary of data, NOT a Discussion!

The researcher should not repeat the information from table or graph in the text or amplify or explain the data.