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Africa Medical College

Report on One Day Seminar
"Academic Research in Medical/Health Areas and Scientific Journal"
22th August 2022

Research and Publication Office

September 2022
Addis Ababa

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September 2022

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Abbreviations used in the report

AJPP	African Journal Partnership Program
AMC	Africa Medical College
AY-	Academic Year
COPE	Committee of Publication Ethics
CSE	Counsel of Science Editors
EJHIS	Ethiopian Journal of Health Sciences
ICMJE	International Committee of Medical Journal Editors
MoE	Ministry of Education
WAME	Association of Medical Editors

1. Introduction

Africa Medical College (AMC) is a privately owned higher education institution mandated to promote and enhance research focusing on knowledge and technology transfer consistent with the country's priority needs. In order to expedite these duties, the College undertakes and encourages relevant research and community services in national and local priority areas and disseminates findings, as may be appropriate (Higher Education Proclamation No. 1152/2019, Articles 4.2 and 8.3).

In line with these mandates, the College has designed and implemented a research policy and guideline that set the direction of its research and community services. It has prepared an annual operational plan for the current academic year that consists of a number of activities one of which is to conduct an in house seminar up on which issues on research and scientific journal are to be discussed.

Accordingly, the Research and Community Service Office organized a one-day seminar on August 22, 2022, on which Professor Abraham Haileamlak, MD, Paediatric Cardiologist and a renowned researcher in medicine and other health related areas presented two important papers entitled Academic Research in Medical/Health Areas and Scientific Journal. The management, academic

and administrative staff and graduating classes of 2014 AY attended the seminar. The objectives of the seminar were twofold:

- develop awareness of academic and administrative staff about research and development activities undertaken by higher education institutions focusing on medical/health education and
- lay the foundation of an academic journal for Africa Medical College, which is hoped to be published in 2015 Academic Year.

This report presents the two PowerPoint presentations of the Professor and the subsequent discussions held after that. The College hops the report will serve as reference to all those who want to engage in research activities now and in the years to come.

2. Opening Speech



Opening the seminar, Dr Mekonnen Belay, Vice President of Africa Medical College, pointed out the College has always been active in supporting those who are engaged in research activities and publishing their papers on reputable national and international Journals. He also revealed to participants, in the current academic year, the College has set aside considerable resources to encourage and support those who want to develop their knowledge and skills and engage in scientific writings further according to the College's annual research and community service plan.

The Vice President thanked Professor Haileamlak for his willingness to share his time from his busy schedule and make presentations to the academic and administrative staff at short notice. He also appreciated the Research and Community Service Office for organising the seminar.

Dr Mekonnen advised participants to actively participate in the seminar and contribute their part. He finally declared the seminar was officially opened.

3. Presentations



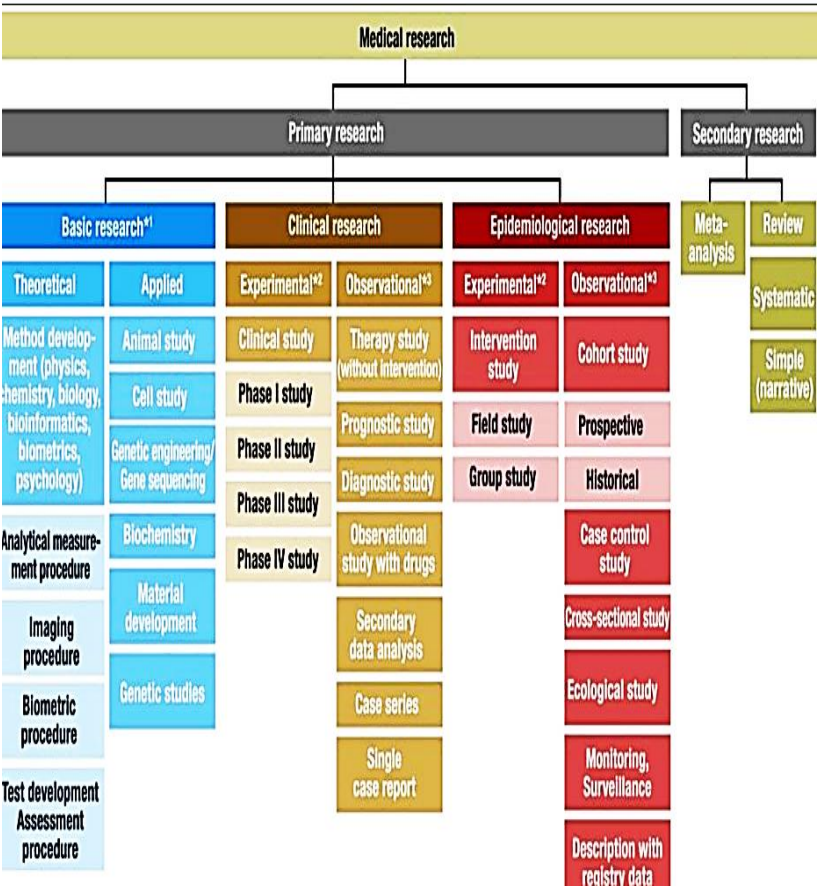
Professor Abraham Haileamlak, MD, Paediatric Cardiologist is a prominent scholar. He is the editor-in-chief of one of the most successful scientific journals in the country, Ethiopia Journal of Health Sciences (EJHS). He has published and reviewed articles published on various national and internationally reputable academic journals.

Professor Abraham presented two papers, "Undertaking Scientific Research in Health and Health Related Areas" and "Scholarly Journal". Although the papers were presented in PowerPoint format, using additional oral explanations of the presenter, they have been rewritten and reorganised in a Word, booklet format, so that they can be more lucid and informative to readers.

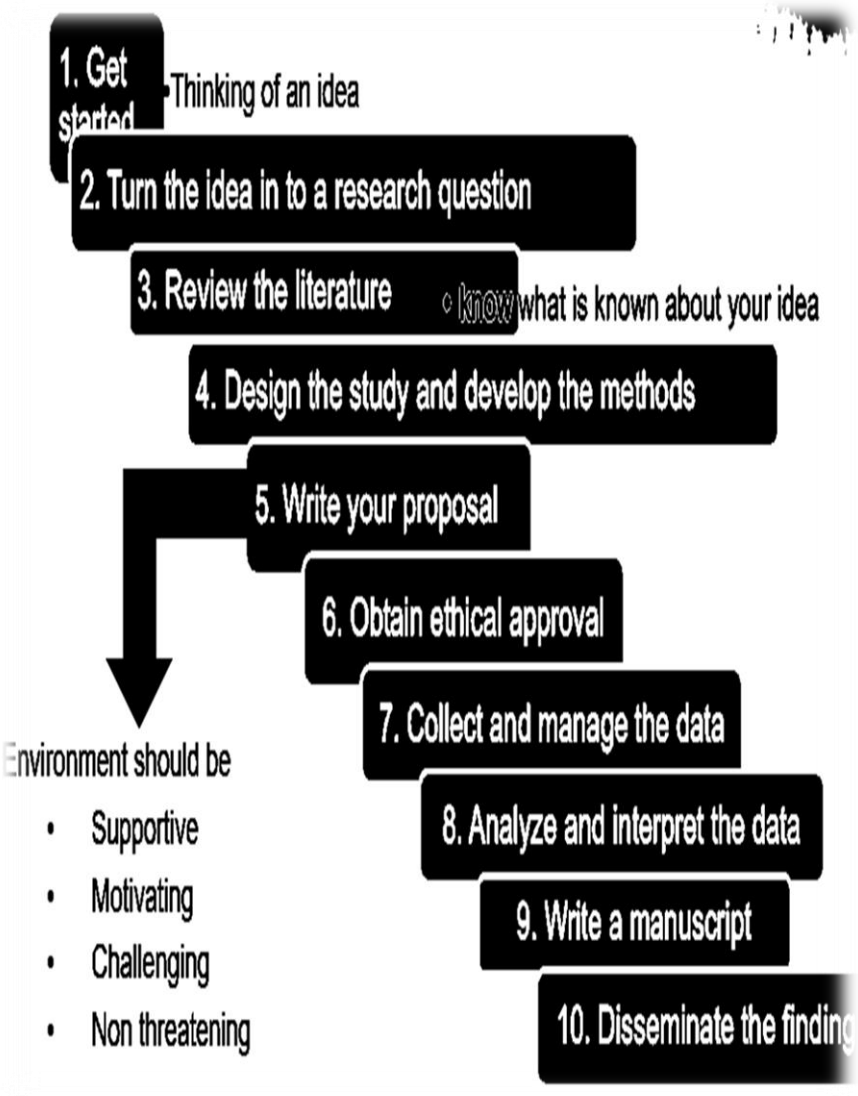
3.1. Undertaking Scientific Research in Health and Health Related Areas

3.1.1 Classification of Medical/Health Sciences Research

Prof Abraham began his presentation by displaying and explaining what Medical/Health sciences research looks like and how it is classified using the following chart:


Medical research
Primary research
Secondary research
Basic research*1
Clinical research
Epidemiological research
Meta-analysis
Review
Systematic
Simple (narrative)
Theoretical
Applied
Experimental*2
Observational*3
Experimental*2
Observational*3
Method development (physics, chemistry, biology, bioinformatics, biometrics, psychology)
Analytical measurement procedure
Imaging procedure
Biometric procedure
Test development Assessment procedure
Animal study
Cell study
Genetic engineering/ Gene sequencing
Biochemistry
Material development
Genetic studies
Clinical study
Phase I study
Phase II study
Phase III study
Phase IV study
Therapy study (without intervention)
Prognostic study
Diagnostic study
Observational study with drugs
Secondary data analysis
Case series
Single case report
Intervention study
Field study
Group study
Cohort study
Prospective
Historical
Case control study
Cross-sectional study
Ecological study
Monitoring, Surveillance
Description with registry data

3.1.2 Procedure of Research Writing



3.1.3 Reasons, and Principles of Conducting Researches

What do we require to conduct a research?

One has to understand the issue to be researched thoroughly and set aside adequate human, financial and material resources such as research facilities, laboratories, reagents, research subjects/animals.

Why do we conduct researches?

Some of the main reasons for conducting researches are the need to investigate an idea, to look into an issue that already exists, to solve a problem and to modernize existing practices, guidelines and policies. It is also common to do researches in order to make an argument in relation to what others have published.

What are some of the skills we may develop while doing a research?

The presenter stated those who engage in research activities would develop multitude skills. Some of these skills are personal time management, the ability to work with others, organizational skills of assembling data and arranging them for easy retrieval. Individuals who do researches also develop fascination with details during the phase of immersion in data and curiosity and creativity.

Important principles of doing a research

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. The presenter emphasized these principles are mostly part of research ethics which we have to carefully observe and strictly adhere.

3.1.4 Publication

Why to publish?

Publications, the presenter underlined, are fundamental component of an academic career. Those who are engaged in teaching learning and research activities in higher education institutions should take research and publications seriously, as they are the bases for their promotions. Publications, in other words, are golden eggs of an academic life and are useful tools to disseminate knowledge and skill. They are means to encourage discussion within the professional community and foster communication between friends and foes, within, and across the field. Publications are also essential to gain recognition, fame and fortune. In the academic world, it is argued if there are no publications, evidences cannot be communicated, projects cannot be designed and implemented, funds cannot be obtained, promotions cannot be secured and, as a result, it will eventually be the death of science and academy.

Things we have to consider while deciding to publish

Planning for publications is a key part of the research

lifecycle and should be carried out at individual, group and project level as appropriate. Research publications should have a clear idea of what to publish, why we publish and the audience the journal is directed at in order to achieve a positive outcome.

What do we want to publish? - Is it the finding of our research, is it a book review or a guideline for some procedures we want to publish? Is it an abstract or a full report we want to publish? All have their own characteristics and there are certain formats we have to follow for each one.

Choosing your forum – It is also important to note that the type of audiences we are targeting will determine the forum we will be choosing. Researchers have to be careful about the type of journal they want to send their articles or reviews to. There are a number of predator journals whose aims are charging publication fees to authors without checking articles for quality and legitimacy, and without providing editorial and publishing services that legitimate academic journals provide, whether open access or not.

Researchers therefore should investigate the nature of the journal they want to have their articles published.

3.1.5 Writing a Scientific Manuscript

Some conditions need to be addressed while writing a scientific manuscript.



Writing environment

The writing environment should be supportive, motivating, challenging and nonthreatening. It is very difficult to feel motivated and calm when a researcher is in a messy environment. It is therefore important to put things in their proper place and make the room comfortable as much as possible.

Clear purpose and outcomes

Clear purpose is one of the guiding principles behind the writing of a good scientific manuscript. Writing experience must have strongly focused on objectives and outcomes.

3.1.6 Writing Style and Audience

The presenter advised participants writers of manuscripts have to observe the following points while writing a research article. They have to refrain from using anecdotes or stories and outlandish conclusions and focus on facts.

Researchers also have to be careful of misspellings because spelling errors can affect how people perceive writers with too many spelling errors are mostly attributed to low-level ability of writing.

Grammatical accuracy is also critical and writers must meet formatting guidelines. The presenter

emphasized that writers should avoid using the first person and always should know who their target audience are.

Before writing, writers should analyze the problem and ask themselves what information they wish to present, what specific group of readers I they are writing for, what background information readers have, what logical sequence they should follow while presenting the information to the readers.

3.1.7 Choosing Words

While choosing words, the presenter advised writers to employ Bloom's Taxonomy.

Knowledge: while reciting facts we may use words like 'founded', identified and labeled are suitable.

Comprehension: When stating a problem or interpret facts, it is possible to use words like 'Discuss', 'predict' and 'compare'.

Application: To apply old information or to solve new problems words like 'Solve', 'show', 'examine' and 'classify' could be used.

Analysis: Explaining patterns or meaning words like 'aanalyze', 'investigate', 'compare' and 'contrast' are appropriate.

Synthesis: Making predictions or discussing possibilities can also be made using words such as 'predict', 'plan', 'devise' and 'propose' are used.

Evaluation: When drawing conclusions and making recommendations, one can possibly use words like 'justify', 'verify', 'argue', 'recommend' and 'determine'.

3.1.8 Steps of Manuscript Writing

Step1- Thinking – knowledge -writing

Thinking is essential to

knowledge and knowledge is essential to thinking! Therefore, while writing a manuscript, attention should be given for thinking skills. One should have scientific background, clear understanding and knowledge of reasoning and creative thinking.

Step2-Thoughtful planning

Thoughtful planning is the most important step in scientific writing. A writer should identify the main message of his article, the target journal he or she is going to have his or her article published on and the audience he or she is writing the article to.

Step 3-Manuscript writing

During the actual manuscript writing, one has to follow the following steps: THINK WRITE, STOP, REVIEW and THINK AGAIN in a cyclical manner.



Each step should precede, follow, and be interspersed with the others. Writers should not rush through the entire process in one continuous effort, but continually stop, think what they have written, review what they have done and think again and determine about what is to come.



3.1.9 Manuscript Structure

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

Title

Title is the first part of the journal 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 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.

Example: Results or data?

> Mean translational movements in the X (left to right), Y (back to front) and Z (bottom to top) head directions were 0.10 ± 0.11 mm, 0.16 ± 0.03 mm, and 0.65 ± 0.58 mm, respectively. Mean rotational movements about the three axes were 0.44 ± 0.42 degrees, 0.24 ± 0.26 degrees, and 0.18 ± 0.17 degrees, respectively. Movement was not significantly correlated with age

for translation in the X (r = -0.09; p = 0.69), Y (r = 0.21; p = 0.35) or Z (r = -1.02; p = 0.64) directions.
Movement was not significantly correlated with age for rotation in the X (r = 0.15; p = 0.51), Y (r = -0.20; p = 0.35) or Z (r = 0.02; p = 0.94) directions.

As shown in Table 1, the mean age of participants was 20.4 ± 2 years, and 80% of patients were Caucasian. Treatment group contained 40 patients, whereas control group contained 45 patients. Table 2 shows the demographics of women in these groups. There were 24 women in the control group, and 33 women in the treatment group...

There were no significant differences in treatment and control patient intake demographics (Table 1), although a significantly greater number of patients in the treatment group dropped from the study for a variety of reasons, mostly relating to adverse reactions. However, analysis of patients in this group later revealed that those dropped patients had significant disease at intake (Table 2). In comparing the two treatment

groups (Figure 1), we found that...

Some of the common mistakes observed are presenting raw data, redundancy of facts, and lumping discussion and interpretation of data together. Presenting results which are not related to the objective of the research and using tables using inappropriate (no or too many inappropriately presented figures), failure to adequately address statistical methods and failure to provide all the data critical to answering the research question and adding interpretations to results are also mistakes frequently witnessed.

Example: (belongs in Discussion)

> "Six of the 20 patients required intubation, illustrating the seriousness of this problem"

Discussion

Discussion part of a research manuscript refers to interpreting results. It answers whether or not the study confirm/ deny the hypothesis. If not, the section tries to show whether the results provide an alternative hypothesis. It attempts to present what interpretation can be made. Some of the questions that are asked are Do results agree with other research? Sources of error/anomalous data? What are the Implications of the study for field? What are the suggestions for improvement and future research? It also tries to relate the study to previous researches and explain differences.

A few of the mistakes seen are mixing discussions with results, repeating results, missing the objective of the research and discussing new

results, using broad statements and ambiguous data sources, discussing incorrectly inconclusive results, missing information, employing unwarranted review of literature, failure to mention limitations and to summarize/ conclude and using unwarranted conclusions not supported by the data.

Figures and Tables

Tables present lists of numbers/ text in columns while figures are used to depict visual representation of results or illustration of concepts/methods (graphs, images, diagrams, etc.) Captions must be standalone.

Researchers should use figures and tables, which have high resolution and neat, with legible labels, simple, clearly formatted and have detailed captions.

Using figures and tables in incorrect formats and redundant information on texts, figures, tables and captions are some of the common mistakes observed.

References

Researchers are advised to use only peer-reviewed journal articles, abstracts and books and should not use non-peer-reviewed works, textbooks, personal communications. They have to also check specific referencing style of the target journal, whether it is Vancouver or Harvard.

Example: Journal

- Hart CA, Kariuki S. Antimicrobial resistance in developing countries. Br Med J 1998; 317: 647-50.
- Shen HM, Zhang QF. Risk assessment of nickel

carcinogenicity and occupational lung cancer. Environ Health Perspect 1994;102(Suppl 1):275-82.

Example:

Book

Chapter in book Park MM. Innervation of the intraocular muscle. In: Duane TD, Jaeger EA, eds. Clinical Ophthalomology. 2nd ed. Philadelphia, Lippincot Co, 1988: 1-5.

Author

Ringsven MK, Bond D. Gerontology and Leadership Skills for Nurses. 2nd ed. Albany, NY: Delmar; 1996

3.1.10 What Is A "Good" Paper?

A good paper is a paper whose content is essential to the scientific community. It is also important to make sure that it is palatably presented and it contains a scientific message that is clear, useful, and exciting. It should also convey the authors' thoughts in a logical manner such that the reader arrives at the same conclusions as the author.

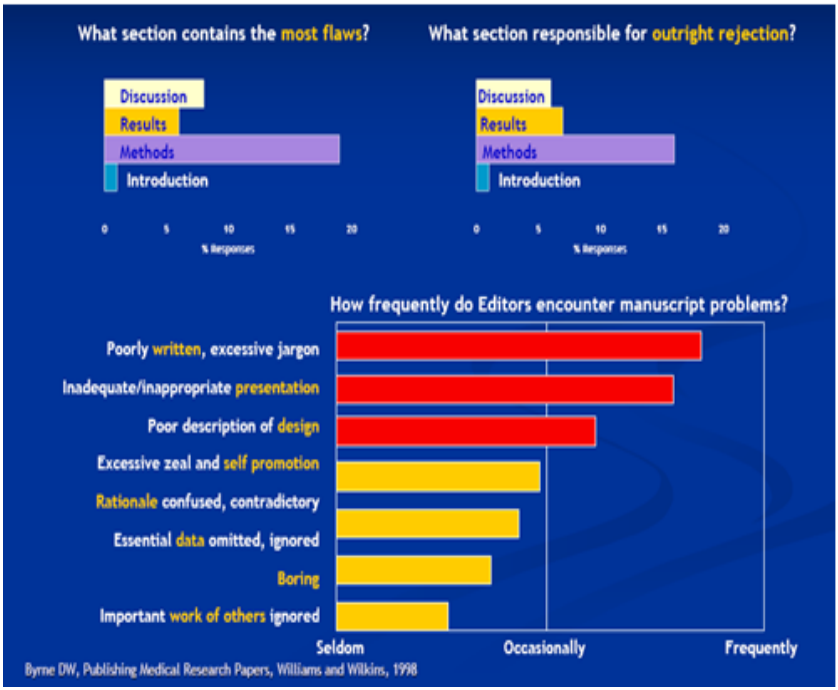
A good research manuscript is constructed in the format that best showcases the authors' material and written in a style that transmits the message clearly and makes readers (especially reviewers and editors) grasp the scientific significance as EASILY as possible.

3.1.11 Causes of Rejection of an Article: Editors' Responses

The presenter explained some of the most important

rejection causes by publishers using the following graph:





3.1.12 Some Pieces of Advice

The presenter concluded his speech by forwarding some pieces of advice to the audience:

- You need a GOOD manuscript to present your contributions to the science community!

- Cherish your own work – if you do not take care, why should the journal?
- There is no secret recipe for success – just some simple rules, dedication and hard work.
- Editors and reviewers are all busy academicians, just like you – make things easy to save their time!

3.2. Scholarly Journal

3.2.1. Types of publications

There are several types of publications. Some of them may be newsletters, fact sheets, reports, seminaries, portable guides, bulletins, magazines and journals. Journals can be divided into trade journals and scholarly journals. Trade journals focus on topics of interest to members of a particular profession such as law enforcement, advertising or banking while scholarly journals contain articles written by researchers, professors and other experts.

3.2.2. Scholarly journal

The word "Publishing" means to make something public and scholarly journals are scholarly communication systems through which findings, ideas, and discoveries are shared within a community.

Scholarly journals are peer-reviewed and every article that is submitted for publication is read by two

or more recognized scholars in the field, who critique not only the writing but the importance and usefulness of the information presented.

A scholarly journal may have a serious, sober appearance and few bright colors. It is intended for an academic audience and is usually published by scholarly publishers owned by higher learning institutions and professional associations/societies.

Articles published in a scholarly journal are written by scholars in the field and are usually signed.



3.2.3. Contents of a regular scholarly journal

The contents of a scholarly journal vary from journal to journal. Most of them contain the following sections

A scientific journal may publish original/ research articles that are informative/critical reappraisal that expand the frontiers of knowledge, brief communications, reviews, case reports/patient summaries, editorials, medical notices/news, correspondences and views.

What is an Original Article or a Scientific Research?

An original article or research generally is based on original research or experimentation. A researcher or an expert in the field who is often affiliated with a college, university or research institute writes it. Reviews are secondary researches.

3.2.4. Journal establishment and office operations

Why do we establish a scholarly journal?

Before establishing a scholarly journal we have to answer questions like which gap are we trying to fill?, whom do we want to serve?, and above all the commitment of the publisher/owner to financially support the activity. It is also important think about the sustainability of the journal vis-à-vis funding and source of manuscripts. It is

also good to form a committed team.

Once decided to establish a scientific journal, form an editorial board – minimum 5- will be the next step. Experience in scientific publication will help a great deal here. It is imperative to have gender and geographic mix in the editorial board. An advisory board should also be formed with individuals who have good scholarly profile.

It is also essential to develop an editorial policy document, which contains issues such as peer review policy, conflict of interest policy, ethical policy, retraction policy, copyright policy and plagiarism policy. Further, code of conduct for the editorial board should be developed and the publication mode (whether it is online or paper based or both) should be decided.

The journal's appearance is also given due emphasis. Its colour, design, paper size and quality (if print) International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) must be determined. Before publishing the first issue of the journal, the editorial board must secure ISSN/ eISSN.

The editorial board must think about the visibility of the journal that is going to be published. It can have its own a website or a place in the publishing institution's website. It may also have an online manuscript management system.

The editorial board should work for indexing of the journal and the publishing institution should provide the editorial board with well-furnished office for editorial committee, for the secretariat and the editorial board members (optional). The new journal need to have well-furnished and equipped meeting hall, store, secretariat staff, admin secretary, editorial manager, production staff, layout designer and web manager.

3.2.5. Accountability and responsibility

The editor in chief is accountable to the publisher or the owner of the institution. He or she has responsibility to lead board members and secretariat staff.

The editorial board has to submit quarterly report to the publisher and hold meetings and trainings.

3.2.6. Role of stakeholders

Stakeholders have a major role in leading a scholarly journal. Scholars create a work that is Original, publishable and well organized articles. Their main concerns are the prestige of the journal, the efficiency and fairness of the review process, the timeliness of publication and their out-of-pocket publication costs.

Editors and peer reviewers serve as gatekeepers of the journal. They provide quality control for the content. Their main concerns are advancing knowledge in their field, increasing visibility of the

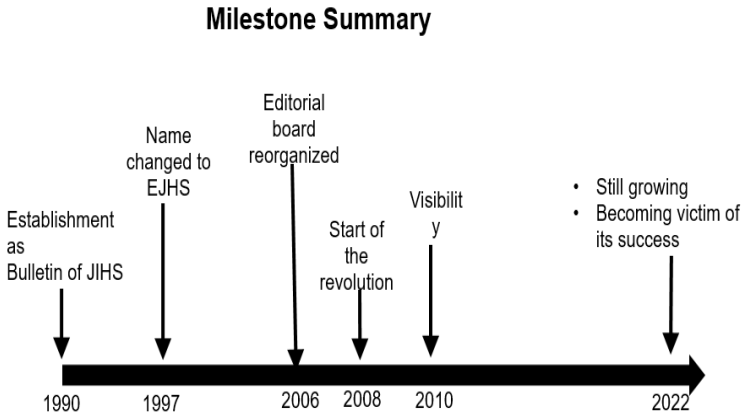
journal, creating a prestigious journal,. Increasing the potential impact of the journal and obtaining the support of the publisher.

Some of the roles of publishers are promoting scientific communication, getting the journal into the marketplace and promoting the institution. Their main concerns are making a profit (or for professional societies at least breaking even) on the publication, holding costs down and creating a healthy profit margin.

Subscribers/readers also contribute to the success of the journal by purchasing the journals and providing access to the scholars in their community. They are mainly concerned about their budgets and increases in the price of journal subscriptions and providing access to the most prestigious journals for their faculty and students.

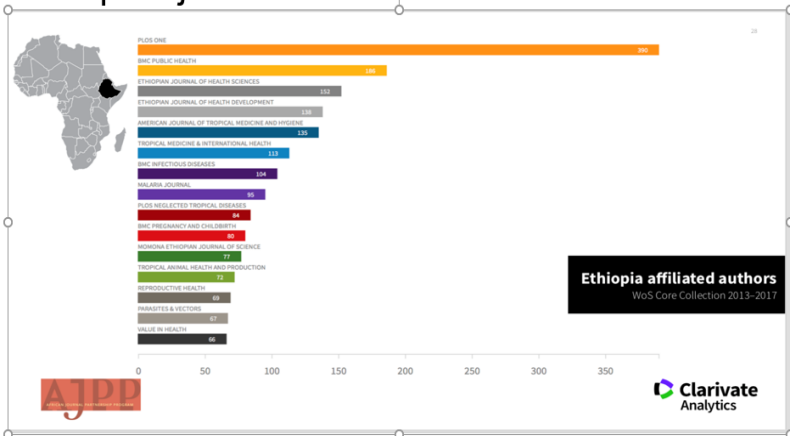
3.3. EJHS's Experiences

Where is Ethiopia Journal of Health Science (EJHS) in the publication WORLD?



EJHS started out as JIHS in 1990 and developed into Ethiopia Journal of Health Science in 1997. It had to pass through countless challenges to reach this stage when it publishes 6 issues a year and become number one nationally. It is the member of African Journal Partnership Program (AJPP), Counsel of Science Editors (CSE), Committee of Publication Ethics (COPE), International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) and World Association of Medical Editors (WAME). It has developed a paperless manuscript management system and the rate of manuscript submission has grown from 50/per year in 2006 to over 1600 a year in 2022. Currently the acceptance rate of articles is less than10%.

Preferred by Ethiopian Authors from other Ethiopian journals

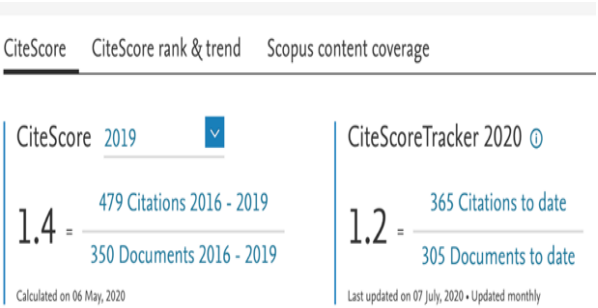


Over 60% of the article submissions are from international contributors. It has secured DOI, improved visibility, and hosted on international cloud.

It is indexed in 16 sites.

- MEDLINE
- PubMed Central
- AJOL
- DOAJ
- Africal Index Medicus
- OVID
- Web of Sciences-Emerging sourc
- ICI Master Journal List
- Google Scholar
- ROAD
- Scopus
- SUNCAT
- oalib
- HKUL: Electronic Resources
- SAJE
- Index Copernicus

Citation



Cites per document	Year	Value
Cites / Doc. (4 years)	2013	0.000
Cites / Doc. (4 years)	2014	0.538
Cites / Doc. (4 years)	2015	0.833
Cites / Doc. (4 years)	2016	1.054
Cites / Doc. (4 years)	2017	1.056
Cites / Doc. (4 years)	2018	1.195
Cites / Doc. (4 years)	2019	1.243
Cites / Doc. (4 years)	2020	1.565
Cites / Doc. (4 years)	2021	1.796

- **Ranking ….**

– 1st In Ethiopia (all types of journals)

– 17th from all medical Journals in Africa

– 54th from all types Journals in Africa

– 168th from all health science journals in the world

3.4. Questions and Discussions

Participants asked the following questions:

- Plagiarism has been a serious problem these days and how can we mitigate them?

Answer: The Presenter explained plagiarism is presenting someone else's work or ideas with or without their consent, by incorporating it into our work without full acknowledgement. All published and unpublished material, whether in manuscript, printed or electronic form. Plagiarism may be intentional or reckless, or unintentional. He agreed plagiarism has been a serious problem in higher education institutions these days. Most universities have academic regulations that render plagiarisms as a disciplinary offence and those who commit it are punished. Higher education and research institutions and individual researchers are the ones that need to take responsibility to mitigate the current problem of plagiarism. Currently some higher education institutions have been using applications to identify research work or ideas taken with or without the consent of original researchers.

- What are some of the reasons for

professionals to be interested in research?

Answer: As explained in one of the PowerPoint presentation, some of the reasons for professionals to be involved in academic research are to investigate an idea, to look into an issue that already exists, solve a problem and modernize existing practices, guidelines and policies. It is also common to do researches in order to make an argument in relation to what others have published.

- What are the standards we have to use for operational definitions?

Answer: The Presenter explained operational definitions of a research manuscript are definitions that assign meaning to a construct or variable by specifying the activities or ' operations' necessary to measure the construct or variable. There are no standards set; however, the definition should be clear, concise and detailed definition of a measure.

- What should be the age/date of a reference material?

Answer: It is important that cited sources should be as current/recent as possible. However if some areas may not have current sources, it is possible to use sources that are available. As stated in the Reference part of this presentation, researchers should use only peer-reviewed journal articles, abstracts and books and should not use non-peer-reviewed works, textbooks, personal communications.

- Shouldn't research be included in the curricula of medicine

and other health related programs?

Answer: Research is in the curricula of other health related programs. In addition, research focused courses such as biostatistics and epidemiology are given to students.

- What do you think about drug approval, after marketing approval of COVID-19? Do you think the vaccine has passed all the steps before it was approved?

Answer: Ethiopia has a system through which it can check the safety of vaccines and other medical scientific evidence regarding a product's quality, safety and effectiveness, risks (including an adverse event profile) and benefits, and any adequate, approved, available alternatives to the product.

- How ethical approval is given to researches?

Answer: Most higher education institutions have institutional review boards (IRBs) for researches conducted by staff and students that can review and provide certificates of ethical clearance. For researches that are undertaken nationally and internationally, however, researchers can submit their application to the Ministry of Education (MoE) or Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI).

Appendix I- Timetable of the Seminar

Africa Medical College

Seminar on Research in Higher Education and Launching a Scientific Journal

August 22, 2022, Addis Ababa

Date /Day	Time	Activities	Responsible	Facilitator
August 22	9.00-10.30 am	Welcoming Speech	Dr Mekonnen Belay, Vice President of Africa Medical College	Dr Kassahun Kebede, Research and Community Service, Head
	9.30-10.30 am	Presentation on Conducting Research in Medical and Health Areas	Prof Abraham Hailemelak, MD, Paediatric Cardiologist, Clinician, Professor, Dean, Vice president (Paediatrics and Child Health)	Dr Kassahun Kebede
	10.30-11.00	Tea Break		

	11.00-11.30	Question & Discussion	Staff	Dr Kassahun Kebede
	11.30-12.00 pm	Laying the Foundation of the First AMC Academic Journal	Prof Abraham Hailemelak	Dr Kassahun Kebede
	12.00-12.30 pm	Question & Discussion	Dr Kassahun Kebede	
	12.30	Closing Speech	Dr Mekonnen Belay /	

Appendix 2- Participants' Attendance Sheet

Alpha Medical College

Seminar on Research in Higher Education and Launching a Scientific Journal

Addis Ababa

August 22, 2022

S.N	Participants' Name	Phone No	Email	Signature
1	Kabu Nuguse	0920106434	kabunuguse@gmail.com	
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4	Delelegn Tefera	0933301985	delelegntefera635@yahoo.com	
5	Dr. Takele Achalu	0911592757		
6	Assefa Tafesse	0911885054		
7	Dejene Atnafu	0911266333		
8	Tadele Etticha	0913625938	tdetticha@gmail.com	
9	Kabtamu Kebede	0911432492		
10	Mekonnen Bekuma (PhD)	0911447023		
11	Yohannes Fufa Ejeta	0911625967		
12	Dr Jembere Belachew	0911772206		
13	Eyuel Abate	0911367021		
14	Shalom Asebe	0946908220	www.mathuos@ebrehym.com	
15	Mathuos Gebre	0946908220		
16				

Africa Medical College

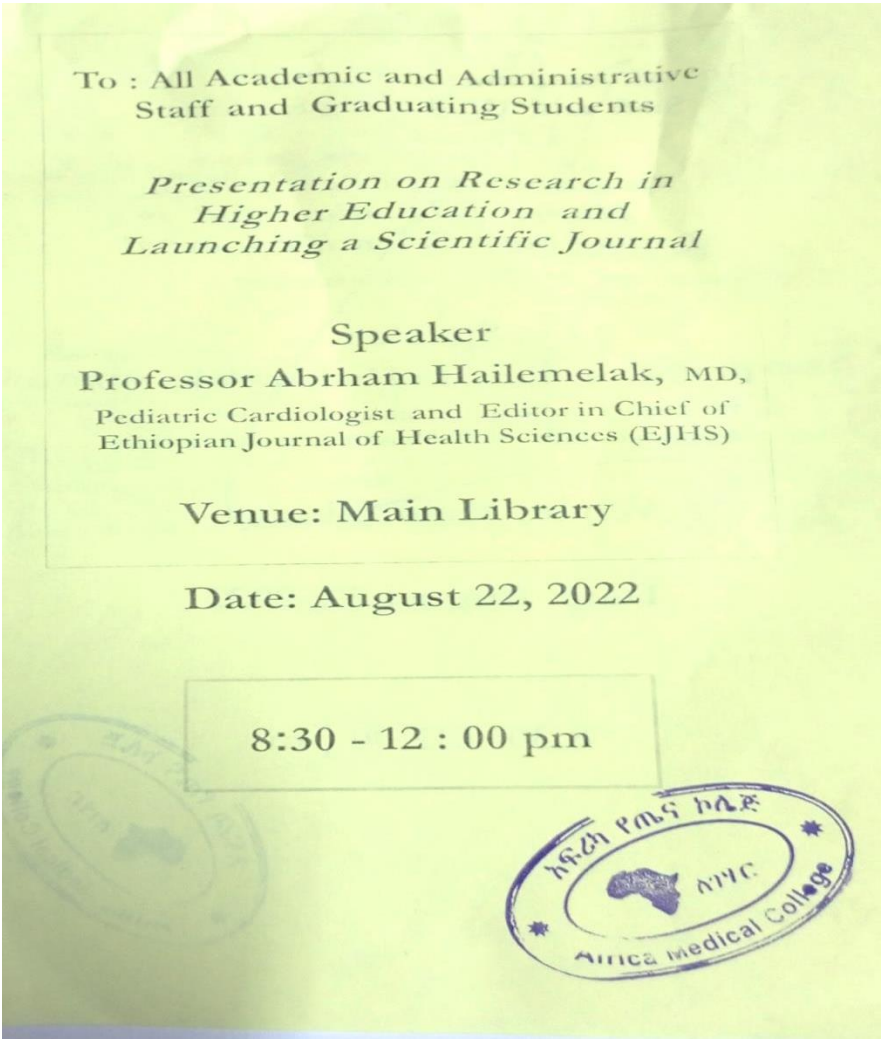
Seminar on Research in Higher Education and Launching a Scientific Journal

Addis Ababa

August 22, 2022

S.N.	Participants' Name	Phone No.	Email	Signature
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5	Desalegn Tefera	0985539183		
6	Kasim Jemal	0916667419		
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8				
9				
10				

Appendix 3- Notice



To : All Academic and Administrative Staff and Graduating Students

Presentation on Research in Higher Education and Launching a Scientific Journal

Speaker

Professor Abrham Hailemelak, MD,

Pediatric Cardiologist and Editor in Chief of Ethiopian Journal of Health Sciences (EJHS)

Venue: Main Library

Date: August 22, 2022

8:30 - 12 : 00 pm

Africa Medical College