Disentangling the Complexity of Research Publications in Pharmacy

Associate Professor Dr. Mohamed Azmi Ahmad Hassali
B.Pharm (Hons), M.Pharm (Clin Pharm) (USM), PhD (Monash, Aust)
Deputy Dean (Student Affairs & Networking)
School of Pharmaceutical Sciences,
Universiti Sains Malaysia,
11800 Minden,
Penang, Malaysia.
E-Mail: azmihassali@usm.my

Presentation Outline

We lead

1) Motives and benefits of publishing research findings

2) Malaysian publication statistics

3) Key strategies in getting research published

Introduction

- **Implementing change to pharmacy practice in recent decades has required a solid base of research and evidence to support the clinical and economic value of extended roles for pharmacists.**

- **The essence of research is to define a problem, gather data systematically, interpret the data, and report results.**

- **The impact of a research work output can only make sense to stakeholders in healthcare if it been disseminated effectively**

Pharmacy Practice Transition

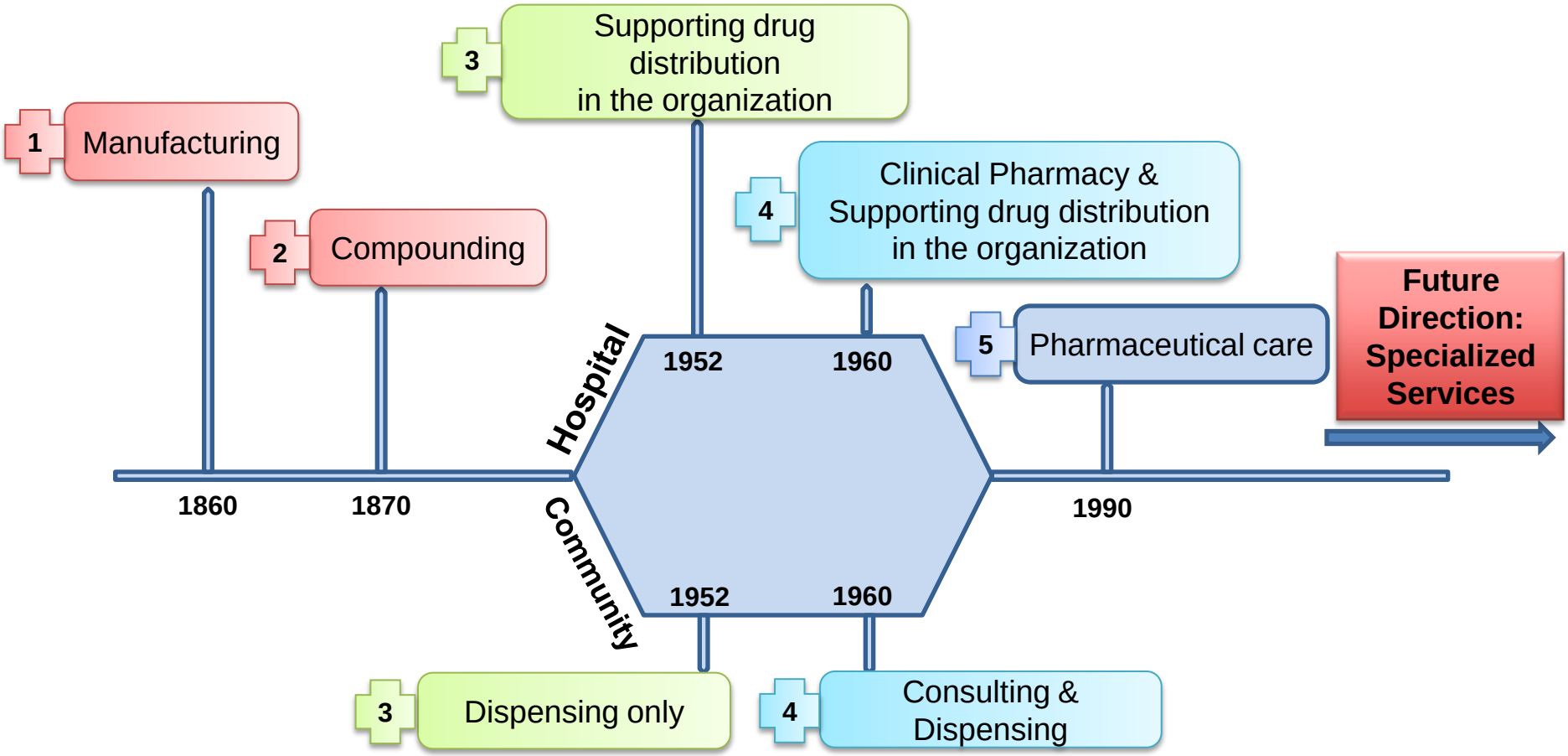


Figure 1 . Time line of the five stages of major change in pharmacy practice.

Ross H, Christine N. Beyond pharmaceutical care. American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy. 56 (17):1758-1764.

Quote To Ponder

We lead

Nation, RL. How is the research score card for hospital pharmacy.
***J Pharm Pract Res* 2006;36(2):90-91**

“ In relation to pharmacists undertaking research, we have come a long way-but we still have a long way to go. It is crucial that pharmacists contribute to generation of new knowledge through their involvement in research. Any profession that is not actively involved in research is destined to become a dead profession.”

Setting The Scene

We lead

Cyranoski D. Malaysian biotechnology: the valley of ghosts. *Nature*. 2005; 436:620-1.

The valley of ghosts

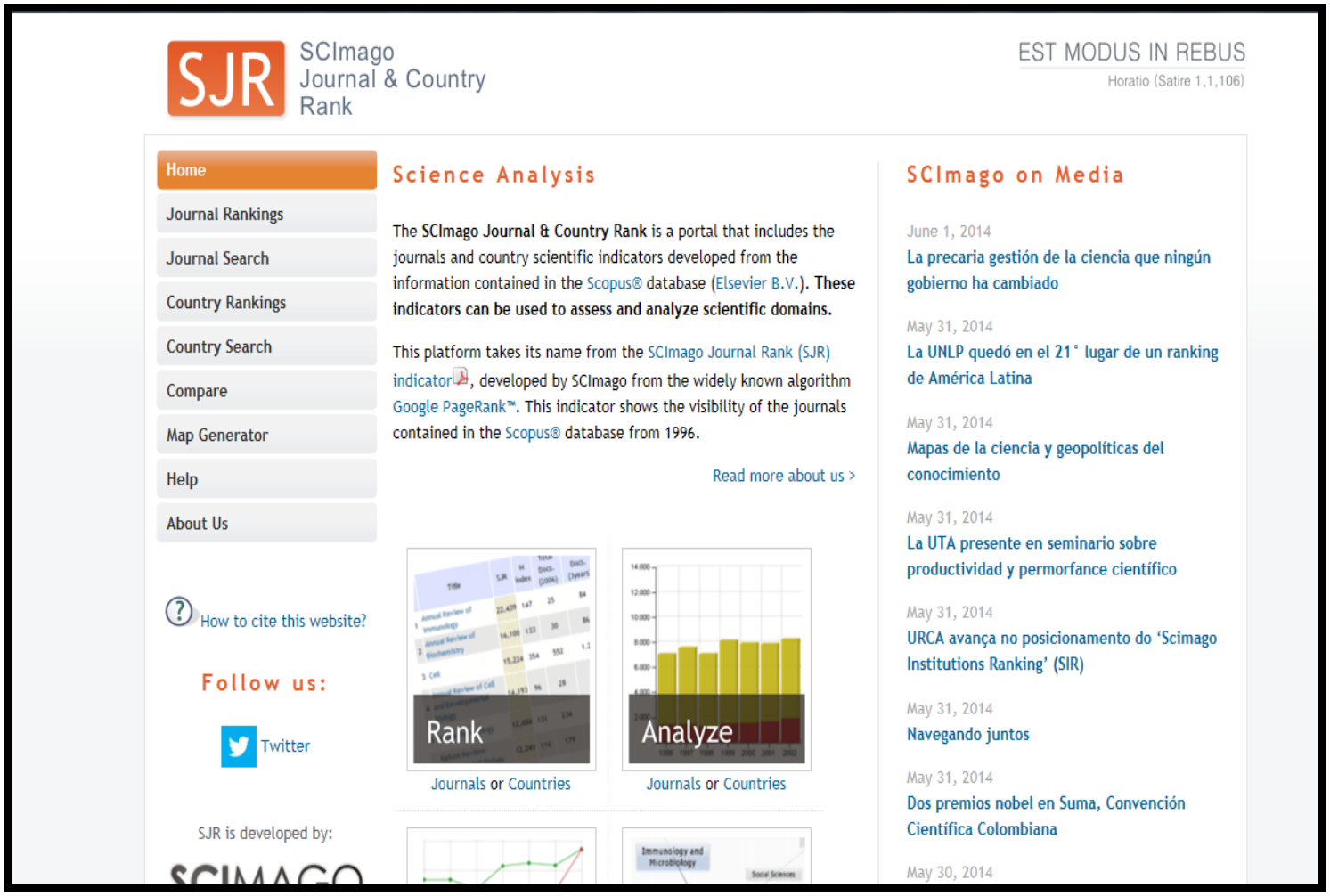
While other Asian tigers are roaring ahead in biotechnology, Malaysia's BioValley is going nowhere fast. **David Cyranoski** asks what went wrong.

"For most Malaysian researchers, publications in international peer reviewed journals do not seem to be a priority. People here do not seem to publish much, apart from in workshop and conference proceedings"

Research Around The World: Fast Statistics

We lead

http://www.scimagojr.com/



Research Around The World: Fast Statistics

USM
We lead

Home
Journal Rankings
Journal Search
Country Rankings
Country Search
Compare
Map Generator
Help
About Us

Country Rankings

Ranking Parameters

Subject Area: Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics
Subject Category: All categories of selected Area
Region: All
Year: 1996-2012
Order By: Documents
Display countries with at least: 0 Documents
Refresh

Subject Area: **Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics.**
Period: **1996-2012.**

Download data in MS Excel format

How to cite this website?

Follow us:

Twitter

SJR is developed by:

SCIMAGO LAB

Powered by

	Country	Documents	Citable documents	Citations	Self-Citations	Citations per Document	H index
1	United States	187.121	177.417	3.343.150	1.624.360	19,43	344
2	Japan	55.683	54.945	708.153	203.340	12,87	161
3	China	50.566	49.841	308.382	142.761	7,74	106
4	United Kingdom	49.430	44.363	853.658	184.655	18,31	218
5	Germany	43.978	40.959	598.363	139.747	14,73	184
6	India	38.981	37.627	257.357	113.004	11,89	119
7	Italy	27.703	26.692	418.792	100.177	16,86	148
8	France	26.917	25.944	426.272	83.740	16,77	173
9	Canada	22.550	21.604	395.561	78.755	19,10	160
10	Spain	18.168	17.179	232.354	56.620	14,21	120
11	South Korea	15.297	15.057	176.697	47.491	14,31	100
			14.116	236.527	42.069	16,33	139

countryrank.php?category=0&area=3000&year=all&region=all&order=it&min=0&min_type=it...

Research Around The World: Fast Statistics

We lead

- Home
- Journal Rankings
- Journal Search
- Country Rankings
- Country Search
- Compare
- Map Generator
- Help
- About Us

Country Rankings

Ranking Parameters

Subject Area: Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics
Subject Category: All categories of selected Area
Region: Asiatic Region
Year: 1996-2012
Order By: Documents
Display countries with at least: 0 Documents
Refresh

Subject Area: **Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics.**
Region: **Asiatic Region.**
Period: **1996-2012.**

Download data in MS Excel format

How to cite this website?

Follow us:

Twitter

SJR is developed by:

SCIMAGO LAB

Powered by

n/countrysearch.php?country=SG&area=3000

	Country	Documents	Citable documents	Citations	Self-Citations	Citations per Document	H index
1	Japan	55.683	54.945	708.153	203.340	12,87	161
2	China	50.566	49.841	308.382	142.761	7,74	106
3	India	38.981	37.627	257.357	113.004	11,89	119
4	South Korea	15.297	15.057	176.697	47.491	14,31	100
5	Taiwan	8.188	7.982	109.950	25.939	15,02	87
6	Hong Kong	3.105	2.992	53.183	8.136	18,91	78
7	Thailand	2.445	2.369	26.790	4.517	15,63	62
8	Singapore	1.958	1.878	32.026	3.880	19,59	72
9	Malaysia	1.919	1.854	11.147	2.966	12,86	41
10	Pakistan	1.614	1.575	11.342	3.403	10,66	43
11	Bangladesh	773	766	4.204	866	9,79	31

Research Publication By Pharmacist Authors In The Top 37 Journals

We lead

Table 1. Summary of the 37 Journals Included in the Analysis of Original Clinical Research Publication by Pharmacist Authors

			1993		2003	
Rank	Title	2002 Impact Factor	No. of Research Articles	No. (%) of Pharmacist Authors	No. of Research Articles	No. (%) of Pharmacist Authors
1	*New England Journal of Medicine*	31.70	251	6 (2.4)	229	8 (3.5)
2	*Journal of the American Medical Association*	16.59	240	4 (1.7)	247	17 (6.9)
3	*Annals of Internal Medicine*	11.40	181	5 (2.8)	84	6 (7.1)
4	*Circulation*	10.26	568	3 (0.5)	911	5 (0.5)
5	*Archives of Internal Medicine*	6.75	153	8 (5.2)	232	20 (8.6)
6	*American Journal of Psychiatry*	6.46	239	0 (0.0)	265	2 (0.8)
7	*Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*	6.28	188	1 (0.5)	279	9 (3.2)
8	*Journal of the American College of Cardiology*	6.28	460	7 (1.5)	469	9 (1.9)
9	*Neurology*	5.34	317	4 (1.3)	552	7 (1.3)
10	*Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics*	5.34	134	32 (23.9)	101	27 (26.7)
11	*Stroke*	5.18	269	2 (0.7)	436	3 (0.7)
12	*American Journal of Medicine*	4.90	170	2 (1.2)	156	3 (1.9)
13	*Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*	4.33	51	3 (5.9)	160	9 (5.6)
14	*American Journal of Gastroenterology*	3.95	206	2 (1.0)	331	7 (2.1)
15	*Cancer*	3.94	825	9 (1.1)	603	13 (2.2)
16	*American Journal of Kidney Disease*	3.69	142	2 (1.4)	246	8 (3.3)
17	*Anesthesiology*	3.47	213	3 (1.4)	323	11 (3.4)
18	*Pediatrics*	3.42	231	4 (1.7)	315	9 (2.9)
19	*Critical Care Medicine*	3.36	210	13 (6.2)	335	12 (3.6)
20	*American Journal of Public Health*	3.28	238	3 (1.3)	177	2 (1.1)
21	*Medical Care*	3.23	102	1 (1.0)	117	7 (6.0)
22	*Journal of Pediatrics*	3.22	265	11 (4.2)	179	3 (1.7)
23	*Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*	3.09	152	9 (5.9)	122	4 (3.3)
24	*Clinical Therapeutics*	3.07	88	17 (19.3)	113	18 (15.9)
25	*Chest*	2.97	488	8 (1.6)	453	12 (2.6)
26	*Mayo Clinic Proceedings*	2.87	59	0 (0.0)	51	4 (7.8)
27	*American Journal of Clinical Pathology*	2.84	127	1 (0.8)	161	1 (0.6)
28	*American Heart Journal*	2.77	337	3 (0.9)	276	7 (2.5)
29	*Journal of General Internal Medicine*	2.75	90	1 (1.1)	103	2 (1.9)
30	*American Journal of Preventive Medicine*	2.63	53	1 (1.9)	97	1 (1.0)
31	*Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*	2.47	20	0 (0.0)	85	6 (7.1)
32	*Sexually Transmitted Diseases*	2.42	54	0 (0.0)	150	4 (2.7)
33	*Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal*	2.38	130	6 (4.6)	121	5 (4.1)
34	*American Journal of Cardiology*	2.33	622	9 (1.4)	232	7 (3.0)
35	*Annals of Emergency Medicine*	2.15	141	7 (5.0)	75	2 (2.7)
36	*Journal of Family Practice*	2.14	68	3 (4.4)	6	1 (16.7)
37	*Hematology-Oncology Clinics of North America*	2.10	15	1 (6.7)	1	0 (0.0)
Totals			8127	191 (2.4)	8793	271 (3.1)

Touchette et al. Research Publication by Pharmacist Authors in Major Medical Journals: Changes over a 10-Year Interval. *Pharmacotherapy 2008: The Journal of Human Pharmacology and Drug Therapy; 28(5): 584-590.*

Research Publication By Pharmacist Authors

We lead

Table 1. Classification and Authorship Characteristics of Articles by Publication Year

Characteristics, n (%)	1989	1999	2009	p Value
Articles	574	659	589	
Original research	189 (33)	201 (31)	218 (37)	<0.05
Reviews	87 (15)	170 (26)	170 (29)	<0.001
Case reports	46 (8)	114 (17)	93 (16)	<0.001
Letters	220 (38)	139 (21)	72 (12)	<0.001
Editorials	31 (5)	34 (5)	28 (5)	0.88
Pharmacist author	494 (86)	560 (85)	493 (84)	0.53
Physician author	143 (25)	250 (38)	242 (41)	<0.001
First author from non-US institution	53 (9)	103 (16)	121 (21)	<0.01
Author with industry affiliation	37 (6)	44 (7)	48 (8)	0.46

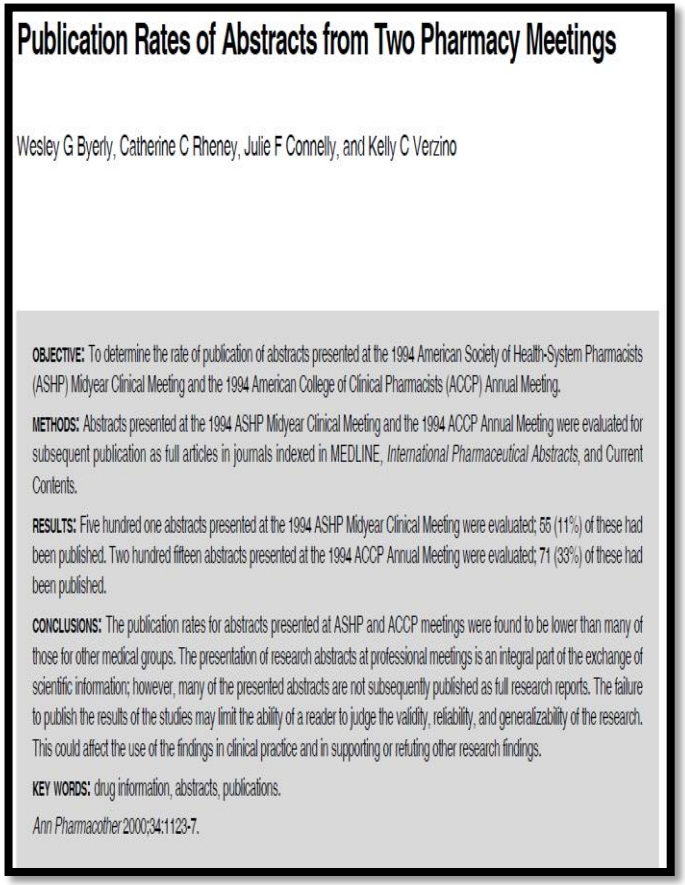
*Publications in 3 pharmacy journals: American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy, The Annals of Pharmacotherapy, and Pharmacotherapy.

Dotson et al. Authorship and characteristics of articles in pharmacy journals: changes over a 20-year interval. Annals of Pharmacotherapy 2011;45(3): 357-363.

Statistics: From Conferences To Publications

We lead

- The study determined the rate of publication of abstracts presented at the 1994 American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Midyear Clinical Meeting and the 1994 American College of Clinical Pharmacists (ACCP) Annual Meeting.
- 501 abstracts presented at the 1994 ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting were evaluated; 55 (11%) of these had been published.
- 215 abstracts presented at the 1994 ACCP Annual Meeting were evaluated; 71 (33%) of these had been published.
- The publication rates for abstracts presented at ASHP and ACCP meetings were found to be low.
- The failure to publish the results of the studies may limit the ability of a reader to judge the validity, reliability, and generalizability of the research



Publication Rates of Abstracts from Two Pharmacy Meetings

Wesley G Byerly, Catherine C Rheney, Julie F Connelly, and Kelly C Verzino

OBJECTIVE: To determine the rate of publication of abstracts presented at the 1994 American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Midyear Clinical Meeting and the 1994 American College of Clinical Pharmacists (ACCP) Annual Meeting.

METHODS: Abstracts presented at the 1994 ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and the 1994 ACCP Annual Meeting were evaluated for subsequent publication as full articles in journals indexed in MEDLINE, *International Pharmaceutical Abstracts*, and Current Contents.

RESULTS: Five hundred one abstracts presented at the 1994 ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting were evaluated; 55 (11%) of these had been published. Two hundred fifteen abstracts presented at the 1994 ACCP Annual Meeting were evaluated; 71 (33%) of these had been published.

CONCLUSIONS: The publication rates for abstracts presented at ASHP and ACCP meetings were found to be lower than many of those for other medical groups. The presentation of research abstracts at professional meetings is an integral part of the exchange of scientific information; however, many of the presented abstracts are not subsequently published as full research reports. The failure to publish the results of the studies may limit the ability of a reader to judge the validity, reliability, and generalizability of the research. This could affect the use of the findings in clinical practice and in supporting or refuting other research findings.

KEY WORDS: drug information, abstracts, publications.

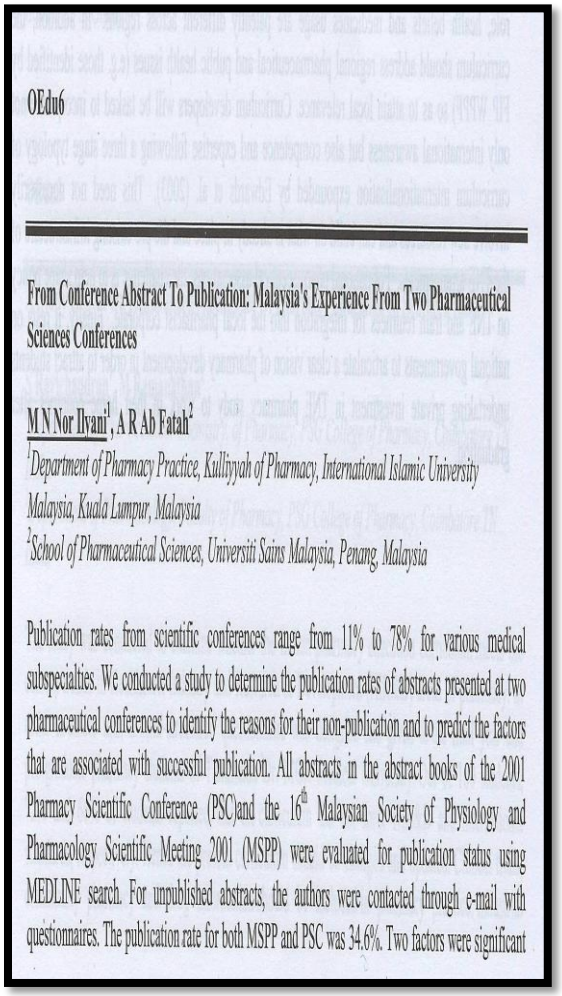
Ann Pharmacother 2000;34:1123-7.

Byerly GW, Rheney CC, Connelly FG, Verzino GK. Publication Rates of Abstracts from Two Pharmacy Meetings. Annals of Pharmacotherapy 2000;34:1123-7.

Statistics: From Conferences To Publications

We lead

- The study aimed to determine the publication rates of abstracts presented at two pharmaceutical conferences in Malaysia.
- All abstracts in the abstract books of the 2001 Pharmacy Scientific Conference (PSC) and the 16tn Malaysian Society of Physiology and Pharmacology Scientific Meeting 2001 (MSPP) were evaluated for publication.
- The publication rate for both MSPP and PSC was 34.6%.
- Two factors were significant in predicting publications: authors affiliated with USM and a multicentre study.
- Mean time from presentation to publication was 2.5 years.



OEdu6

From Conference Abstract To Publication: Malaysia's Experience From Two Pharmaceutical Sciences Conferences

M N Nor Ilyani[1], A R Ab Fatah[2]

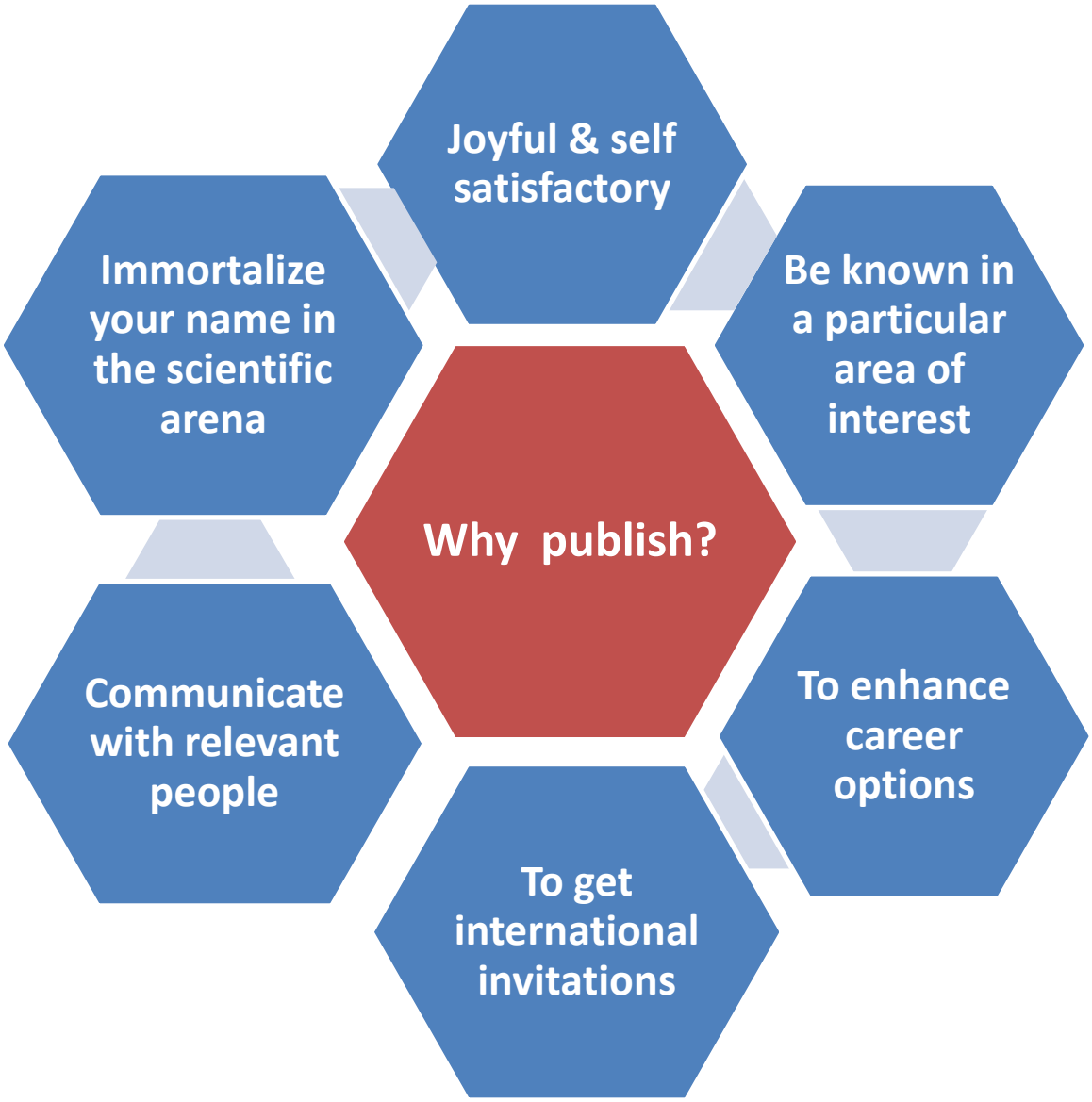
[1]Department of Pharmacy Practice, Kulliyyah of Pharmacy, International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

[2]School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, Malaysia

Publication rates from scientific conferences range from 11% to 78% for various medical subspecialties. We conducted a study to determine the publication rates of abstracts presented at two pharmaceutical conferences to identify the reasons for their non-publication and to predict the factors that are associated with successful publication. All abstracts in the abstract books of the 2001 Pharmacy Scientific Conference (PSC)and the 16th Malaysian Society of Physiology and Pharmacology Scientific Meeting 2001 (MSPP) were evaluated for publication status using MEDLINE search. For unpublished abstracts, the authors were contacted through e-mail with questionnaires. The publication rate for both MSPP and PSC was 34.6%. Two factors were significant

Ilyani MN, Fatah AR. From Conference Abstract To Publication: Malaysia's Experience from Two Pharmaceutical Sciences Conferences. Proceedings of the Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association-Malaysian Pharmace4utical Society, Pharmacy Scientific Conference, 2007.

Joy Of Publication



Eminence Of Getting It Published

We lead

- Science is a **shared knowledge** based on a common understanding of some aspect of the physical or social world.
- The objective of research is to **extend human knowledge** beyond what is already known.
- Research results are not of any use until they are **published**!!!
- If your research does not generate papers, it might just as well not have been done.

“If it wasn’t published, it wasn’t done”

Motives To Write Papers

- Pleasure of challenge in scientific writing.
- Develops quality thinking.
- Opportunity to share information or discovery with the whole world.
- Driving force to contribute to scientific knowledge.
- Improvements in patient care.
- Benefits humankind.
- Enhance the ability to view problems from different perspectives.

“There are three necessary steps in useful research:
first to begin it, second to end it and the third to publish it.”
Michael Faraday 1791 – 1867

Basic Competency Needed To Be A Pharmacy Researcher

We lead

- Identifies relevant problems, generates hypotheses, conducts research experiments to test hypotheses and interprets the results of research studies.
- Demonstrates clinical competence in a specialty area of pharmacy practice that complements the research focus.
- Applies legal and ethical principles and regulatory requirements when conducting clinical and experimental research.
- Communicates research and clinical findings to relevant stakeholders.

Basic Skills Needed For Producing Good Publication

USM
We lead

1. Knowledge of basic writing skills.
2. Ability to understand research objectives and methodology thoroughly.
3. Ability to use scientific databases (E.g. PubMed, Scopus, etc.)
4. Speed reading of journal articles and ability to criticize them as well as understand the statistics.
5. Ability to evaluate journal strength and research novelty.
6. Correct choice of the target journal where to send your manuscript.
7. Continuous motivation to follow-up during the review process and ability to have wide frustration index (40-70 % rejection rate in general).

Common Types of Publication

We lead

1- Scholarly journal articles

2- Books and chapters in edited books

3- Conference publication (abstracts and full papers)

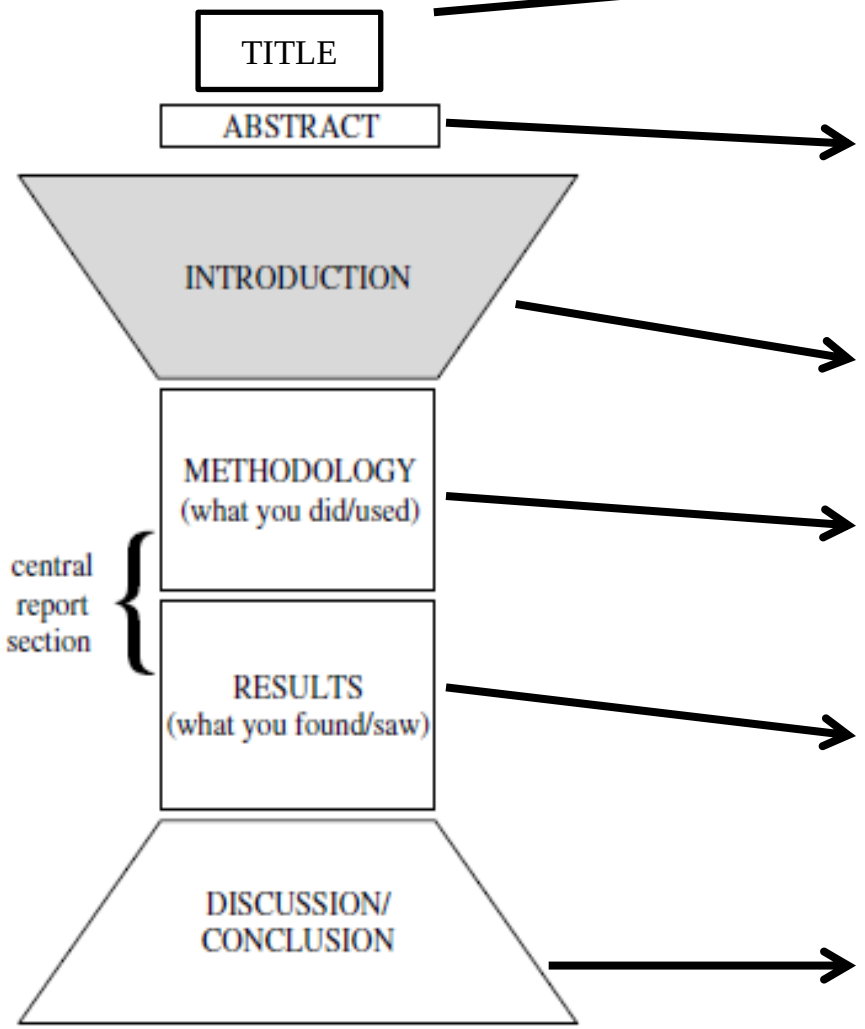
5. Letter or case notification

6- Report to funder & patents

7- Lay press

8- Multimedia and online publications

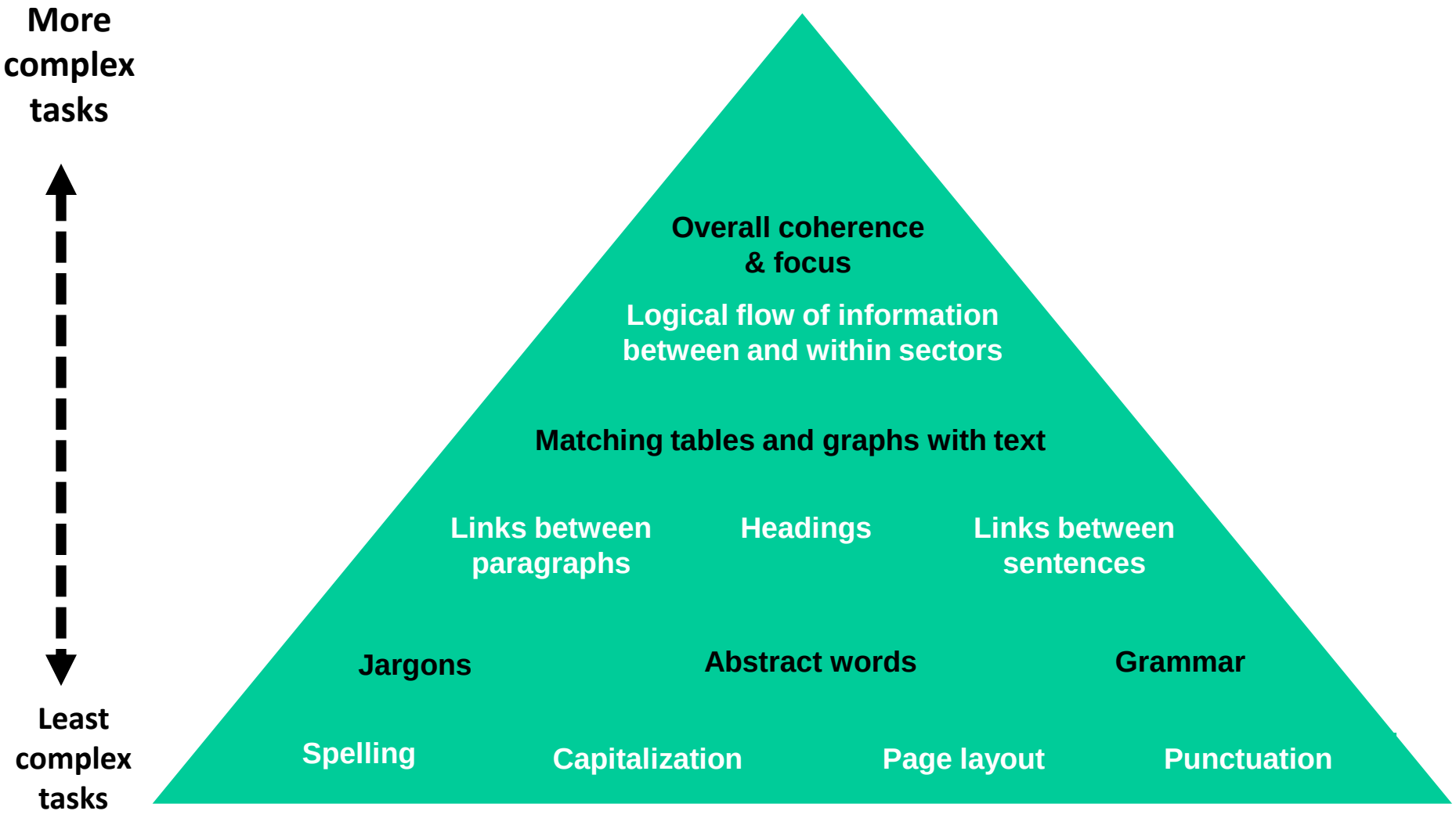
Format Of A Manuscript



- Good title is the passport for readers to start reading the abstract.
- Extensive and concise abstract is an opportunity for the reader to go through the full article.
- Careful not to write long redundant introduction.
- Should satisfy reader with enough details so that he/she can repeat your work accurately.
- Careful not to confuse readers with many numbers and too many non sensible tables.
- Your golden space to amaze the reader with your capability of critical thinking.

Challenges In Writing

We lead

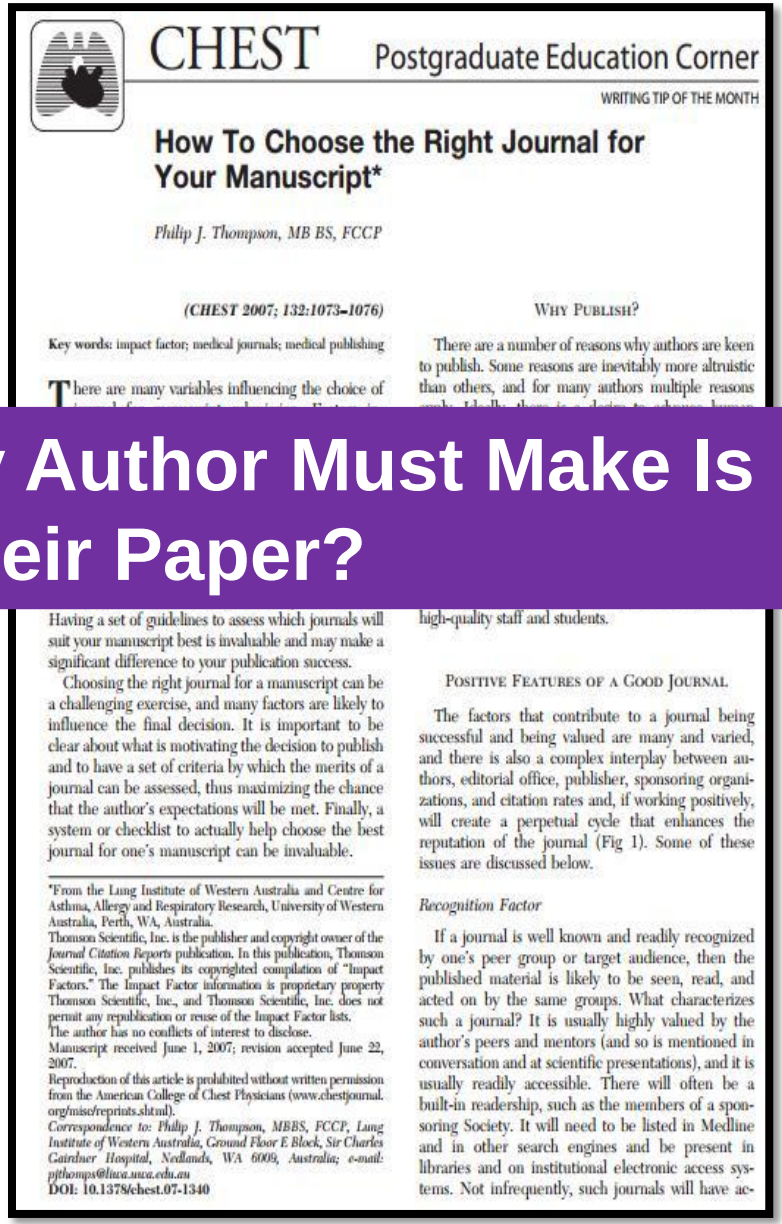


Where To Submit The Manuscript?

We lead

- Publication usually represents the culmination of most research efforts.
- The process of selecting the appropriate journal has become increasingly complex due to the proliferation of journals, areas of specialization and emergence of increasing pressure on researchers and academic clinicians to publish high volumes of work in highly visible publication outlets means that authors must have a finely tuned, efficient process for submission.

A Key Decision However, Every Author Must Make Is Where To Submit Their Paper?



CHEST Postgraduate Education Corner

WRITING TIP OF THE MONTH

How To Choose the Right Journal for Your Manuscript*

Philip J. Thompson, MB BS, FCCP

(CHEST 2007; 132:1073–1076)

Key words: impact factor; medical journals; medical publishing

There are many variables influencing the choice of

Having a set of guidelines to assess which journals will suit your manuscript best is invaluable and may make a significant difference to your publication success.

Choosing the right journal for a manuscript can be a challenging exercise, and many factors are likely to influence the final decision. It is important to be clear about what is motivating the decision to publish and to have a set of criteria by which the merits of a journal can be assessed, thus maximizing the chance that the author's expectations will be met. Finally, a system or checklist to actually help choose the best journal for one's manuscript can be invaluable.

*From the Lung Institute of Western Australia and Centre for Asthma, Allergy and Respiratory Research, University of Western Australia, Perth, WA, Australia.

Thomson Scientific, Inc. is the publisher and copyright owner of the *Journal Citation Reports* publication. In this publication, Thomson Scientific, Inc. publishes its copyrighted compilation of "Impact Factors." The Impact Factor information is proprietary property Thomson Scientific, Inc., and Thomson Scientific, Inc. does not permit any republication or reuse of the Impact Factor lists.

The author has no conflicts of interest to disclose.

Manuscript received June 1, 2007; revision accepted June 22, 2007.

Reproduction of this article is prohibited without written permission from the American College of Chest Physicians (www.chestjournal.org/misc/reprints.shtml).

Correspondence to: Philip J. Thompson, MBBS, FCCP, Lung Institute of Western Australia, Ground Floor E Block, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Nedlands, WA 6009, Australia; e-mail: pjthomps@liwa.uwa.edu.au

DOI: 10.1378/chest.07-1340

WHY PUBLISH?

There are a number of reasons why authors are keen to publish. Some reasons are inevitably more altruistic than others, and for many authors multiple reasons

high-quality staff and students.

POSITIVE FEATURES OF A GOOD JOURNAL

The factors that contribute to a journal being successful and being valued are many and varied, and there is also a complex interplay between authors, editorial office, publisher, sponsoring organizations, and citation rates and, if working positively, will create a perpetual cycle that enhances the reputation of the journal (Fig 1). Some of these issues are discussed below.

Recognition Factor

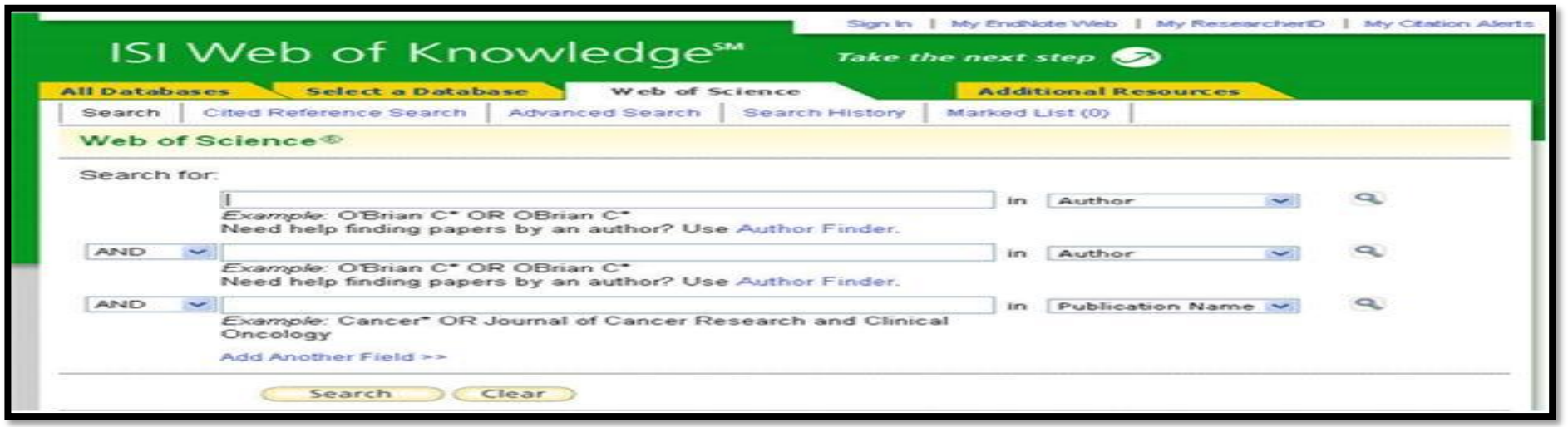
If a journal is well known and readily recognized by one's peer group or target audience, then the published material is likely to be seen, read, and acted on by the same groups. What characterizes such a journal? It is usually highly valued by the author's peers and mentors (and so is mentioned in conversation and at scientific presentations), and it is usually readily accessible. There will often be a built-in readership, such as the members of a sponsoring Society. It will need to be listed in Medline and in other search engines and be present in libraries and on institutional electronic access systems. Not infrequently, such journals will have ac-

Research Journals: How Many Do We Have?

We lead

- Web of Knowledge is an academic citation indexing and search service, which is provided by Thomson Reuters.

- The combined databases includes the following:
  - 23,000 journals.
  - 23,000,000 patents.
  - 110,000 conference proceedings.
  - 9,000 websites.
  - Coverage from the year 1900 to present.
  - Over 40 million source items.



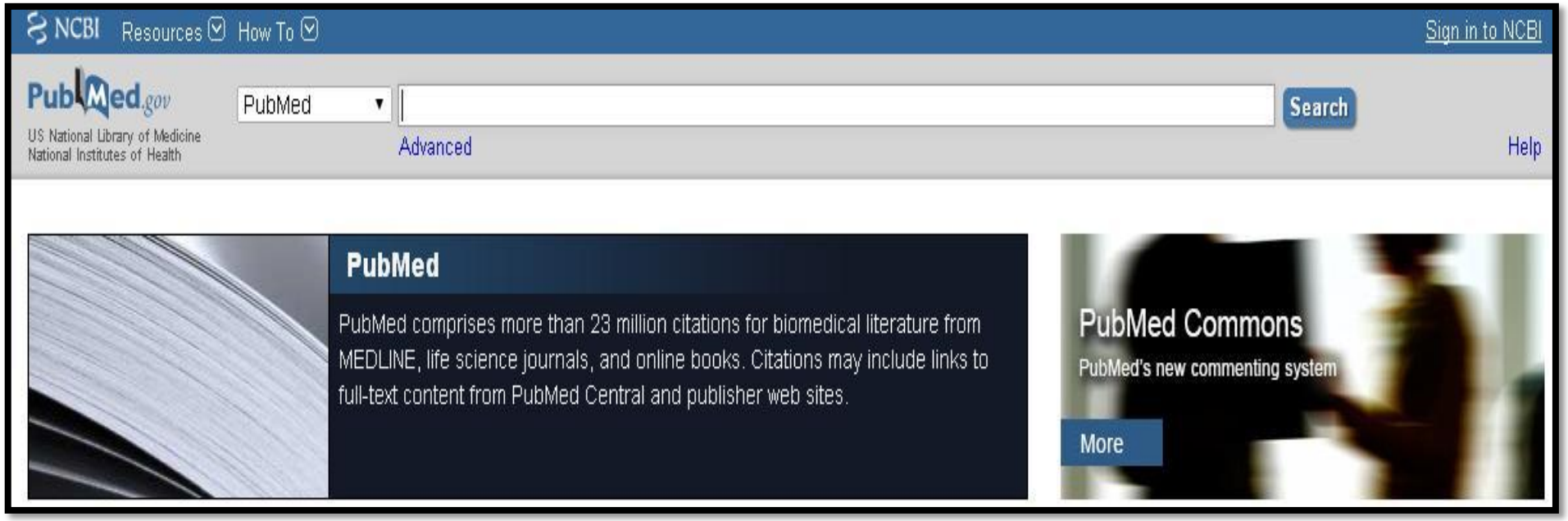
Research Journals: How Many Do We Have?

We lead

- PubMed currently holds over 5669 journal titles with a cumulative number of 3 million articles. These articles are only a tiny fraction of the total literature – since a lot of the rest is locked up behind publishers pay walls.

- PubMed, an index of biomedical abstracts published by the National Center for Biotechnology Information receives one paper per minute (on average).

- This does not include published articles in Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Engineering and Computer Science and Humanities.



Research Journals: How Many Do We Have?

We lead

- Next in line is Scopus, updated daily, Scopus includes:
  - 21,912 titles from more than 5,000 international publishers.
  - 20,874 peer-reviewed journals (including 2,800 open access journals).
  - 367 trade publications.
  - 421 book series.
  - 30,000 books and growing.
  - 5.5 million conference papers.

Targeting The Right Journal

We lead

- Selecting the right journal is not easy.
- Authors have to optimize between many criteria or constraints before reaching a decision about where to publish.

EDITORIAL
Medicine General & Social Medicine

JKMS

http://dx.doi.org/10.3346/jkms.2013.28.8.1117 • J Korean Med Sci 2013; 28: 1117-1119

Choosing the Target Journal: Do Authors Need a Comprehensive Approach?

Armen Yuri Gasparyan

Departments of Rheumatology and Research and Development, Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust (A Teaching Trust of the University of Birmingham, UK), Russells Hall Hospital, West Midlands, UK

Choosing the right journal for submission of a manuscript is a tough task for most authors. Experts in writing and editing advise selecting the journal at the start of manuscript writing, so that the article can be addressed to the audience of the chosen journal and presented in a general style and length preferred by that journal, thereby helping to avoid unnecessary rejections and delays with publication of the research data and opinion pieces that may advance science. For authors from mainstream science countries, the choice is often determined by the institutional policies, regulations of research funding agencies and knowledge of journal rankings. In fact, scholarly publications are now valued as a hard currency for academic promotion and for enhancing the position of the leading academic and research institutions in prestigious world rankings.

The emerging scientific powers are also increasingly concerned with what and where their scientists publish, trying to incentivise publications in high-impact journals. However, not all good works find their home in these journals, posing a dilemma - which of the lower rank journals would be suitable for submission.

Over the past few years the global publications boom and uncontrolled growth in the number of journals offering rapid publication and different models of open access have created

(7%) and publication fees (6%) appeared to be the least important factors.

Other than this opinion poll, a few surveys have analysed authors' preferences for the most suitable journals, with evidence being produced primarily for biomedicine. In 1992, the general medical faculty of Stanford University (n = 305) were asked to rank factors affecting their submission choices (2). The results distinguished the journal's prestige, readership, relevance of the published topics, acceptance rate, print circulation, manuscript turnaround time, the editors' and reviewers' characteristics as the main determinants of initial submissions. For subsequent submission after a rejection, however, the acceptance rate was ranked as the most important factor. Unsurprisingly, other recent surveys have indicated that the current active authors consider the journal impact factor as the crucial player in the field (3, 4), and that no alternative impact indicator has yet gained a comparable rank (4).

The 'obsession' with high-impact journals is a phenomenon of the 'big science' era, and it reflects the authors' wish to publish their best papers in widely visible and well cited media. As a consequence of 'the impact factor game', it has become a common practice to initially target journals with high impact factors and, in case of rejections, embark on the lower rank journals.

Process Of Selecting The Right Journal

Adopted from: http://www.enago.com/blog/how-to-select-the-right-journal-for-publication/

Publication Ethics

We lead

Publish and perish – if you break ethics rules

- **So always avoid:**
  - Plagiarism (must learn how to ethically paraphrase sentences).
  - Gift authorship.
  - Multiple and duplicate submissions.
  - Non-disclosure of conflict of interest.
  - Submission without the consent of co-authors.
  - Fraud by data manipulation, data exclusion, suppression of inconvenient facts
  - False academic credentials.
  - Improper use of subjects and animals in research
  - Too many self-citations
  - Copyright infringement*.

* *Copyright belongs to publisher, therefore, always seek for permission to use any part of their article!*

What Reviewers Look At?

We lead

- Is the manuscript important?
- Is the “So what?” question answered?
- Are there any ethical problems with the conduct of the trial?
- Are statements adequately supported, either by the data or by references to the existing literature?
- Are the conclusions adequately supported by the data?
- Are the conclusions believable?
- Does the paper make extensive use of jargon or introduce unnecessary abbreviations?
- Is the presentation of the manuscript consistent with the journal style?

The following problems appear much too frequently:

- **Submission of papers which are clearly out of scope**
- **Failure to format the paper according to the ‘Guide for Authors’**
- **Inappropriate (or no) suggested reviewers**
- **Inadequate response to reviewers**
- **Inadequate standard of English**
- **Resubmission of rejected manuscripts without revision**

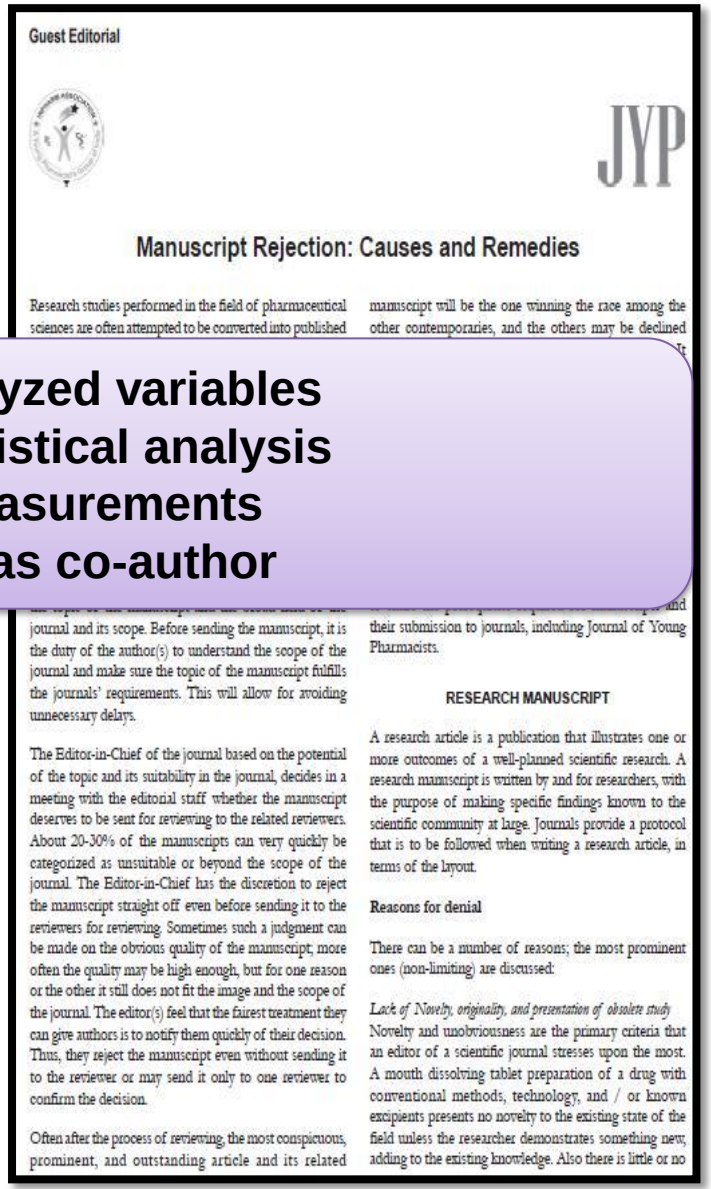
Minimize Rejection!

We lead

1. Poor experimental design.
2. Failure to conform to the targeted journal.
3. Poor English grammar, style, and syntax.

1 in 10 studies does not explain analyzed variables
1 in 9 studies does not describe statistical analysis
1 in 2 does not report units of measurements
Less problems with a statistician as co-author

6. Over interpretation of results.
7. Inappropriate or incomplete statistics.
8. Unsatisfactory or confusing presentation of data.
9. Conclusions not supported by data.
10. Incomplete, or outdated review of the literature.



Guest Editorial

JYP

Manuscript Rejection: Causes and Remedies

Research studies performed in the field of pharmaceutical sciences are often attempted to be converted into published

manuscript will be the one winning the race among the other contemporaries, and the others may be declined

journal and its scope. Before sending the manuscript, it is the duty of the author(s) to understand the scope of the journal and make sure the topic of the manuscript fulfills the journals' requirements. This will allow for avoiding unnecessary delays.

The Editor-in-Chief of the journal based on the potential of the topic and its suitability in the journal, decides in a meeting with the editorial staff whether the manuscript deserves to be sent for reviewing to the related reviewers. About 20-30% of the manuscripts can very quickly be categorized as unsuitable or beyond the scope of the journal. The Editor-in-Chief has the discretion to reject the manuscript straight off even before sending it to the reviewers for reviewing. Sometimes such a judgment can be made on the obvious quality of the manuscript; more often the quality may be high enough, but for one reason or the other it still does not fit the image and the scope of the journal. The editor(s) feel that the fairest treatment they can give authors is to notify them quickly of their decision. Thus, they reject the manuscript even without sending it to the reviewer or may send it only to one reviewer to confirm the decision.

Often after the process of reviewing, the most conspicuous, prominent, and outstanding article and its related

their submission to journals, including Journal of Young Pharmacists.

RESEARCH MANUSCRIPT

A research article is a publication that illustrates one or more outcomes of a well-planned scientific research. A research manuscript is written by and for researchers, with the purpose of making specific findings known to the scientific community at large. Journals provide a protocol that is to be followed when writing a research article, in terms of the layout.

Reasons for denial

There can be a number of reasons; the most prominent ones (non-limiting) are discussed:

Lack of Novelty, originality, and presentation of obsolete study

Novelty and unobviousness are the primary criteria that an editor of a scientific journal stresses upon the most. A mouth dissolving tablet preparation of a drug with conventional methods, technology, and / or known excipients presents no novelty to the existing state of the field unless the researcher demonstrates something new, adding to the existing knowledge. Also there is little or no


CANADIAN JOURNAL OF ZOOLOGY
YOUR PAPER IS CLEAR AND WELL RESEARCHED, BUT I'M AFRAID *IMAGINARY ANIMALS* ARE OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF OUR JOURNAL.
NAK

Your Response to Rejection/Revision

We lead

- Understand why it is rejected.
- Try to understand what went wrong.
- Make your new version different.
- Show you are responsive to the issues raised.
- Keep the main ideas uncluttered.

What Gets A Manuscript Accepted?

We lead

ACCEPTANCE

- Attention to details
- Check and double check your work
- Consider the reviews
- English must be good as possible
- Presentation is important
- Take your time with revision
- Acknowledge those who have helped you
- New, original and previously unpublished
- Critically evaluate your own manuscript
- Ethical rules must be obeyed

"Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler"

Albert Einstein

Your Article Is Accepted!

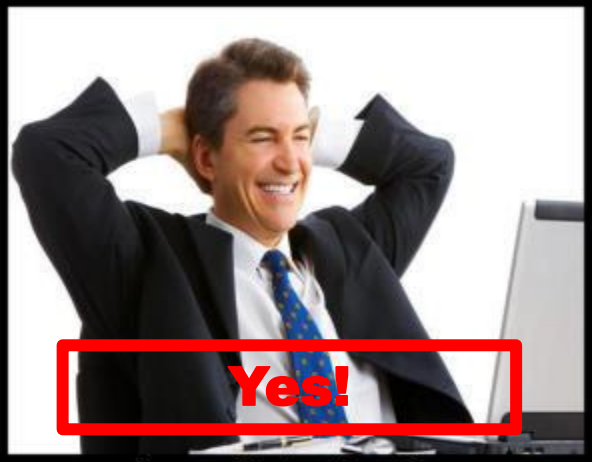
We lead

Reactions to acceptance of an article

Student

Post-doc

Assistant Prof.



Associate Prof.

Professor

Prof. after retirement

BJS@UVA

Good Reading

We lead

The joy of writing a paper

P.J. Sterk[1]
K.F. Rabe[2]

[1]Dept of Respiratory Medicine, Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam, and [2]Dept of Pulmonology, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden University, the Netherlands

Correspondence
P.J. Sterk
Dept of Respiratory Medicine, F5-259
Academic Medical Center
University of Amsterdam
P.O. Box 22700
NL-1100 DE Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Fax: 31 206917584
E-mail: p.j.sterk@amc.nl

The authors are Chief Editors of the European Respiratory Journals

Competing interests
None declared

Provenance
Commissioned article, peer-reviewed

Why am I doing this?

Tell us, did you enjoy writing your first scientific paper? Or, if you are an enthusiastic newcomer to science, are you looking forward to it? Science is writing. You have probably spent weeks on writing your protocol. Furthermore, it may have taken days to put your standard operating procedures, clinical record forms and analysis plan on paper. Eventually, you may have reserved the next few months to write up your paper. How can one enjoy writing a paper, meant to be read by unknown colleagues somewhere else on the globe? Who are your customers? They could be clinicians, trying to keep up to date, or biomedical scientists searching for the best work in their field of interest.

What is the best approach to writing a manuscript on a biomedical scientific study? Well, the most solid approach, obviously, is to read a textbook on scientific writing. Both of us have Mimi Zeiger on our shelves [1]. But did we actually read the book? We may say we followed a more modern medical concept: an "evidence-based" approach using two simple facts: a) our papers that have been accepted for publication must have had some

What do I need to consider in advance?

Several issues need to be taken into account after deciding to write a paper. The best summary is given by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) [2]. The first principle is: the paper should present novel data. Duplicate publication of data is a suicidal boobytrap and must be avoided at all times [3].

Consider the following:

The data

- Are these novel or confirmative?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the data?

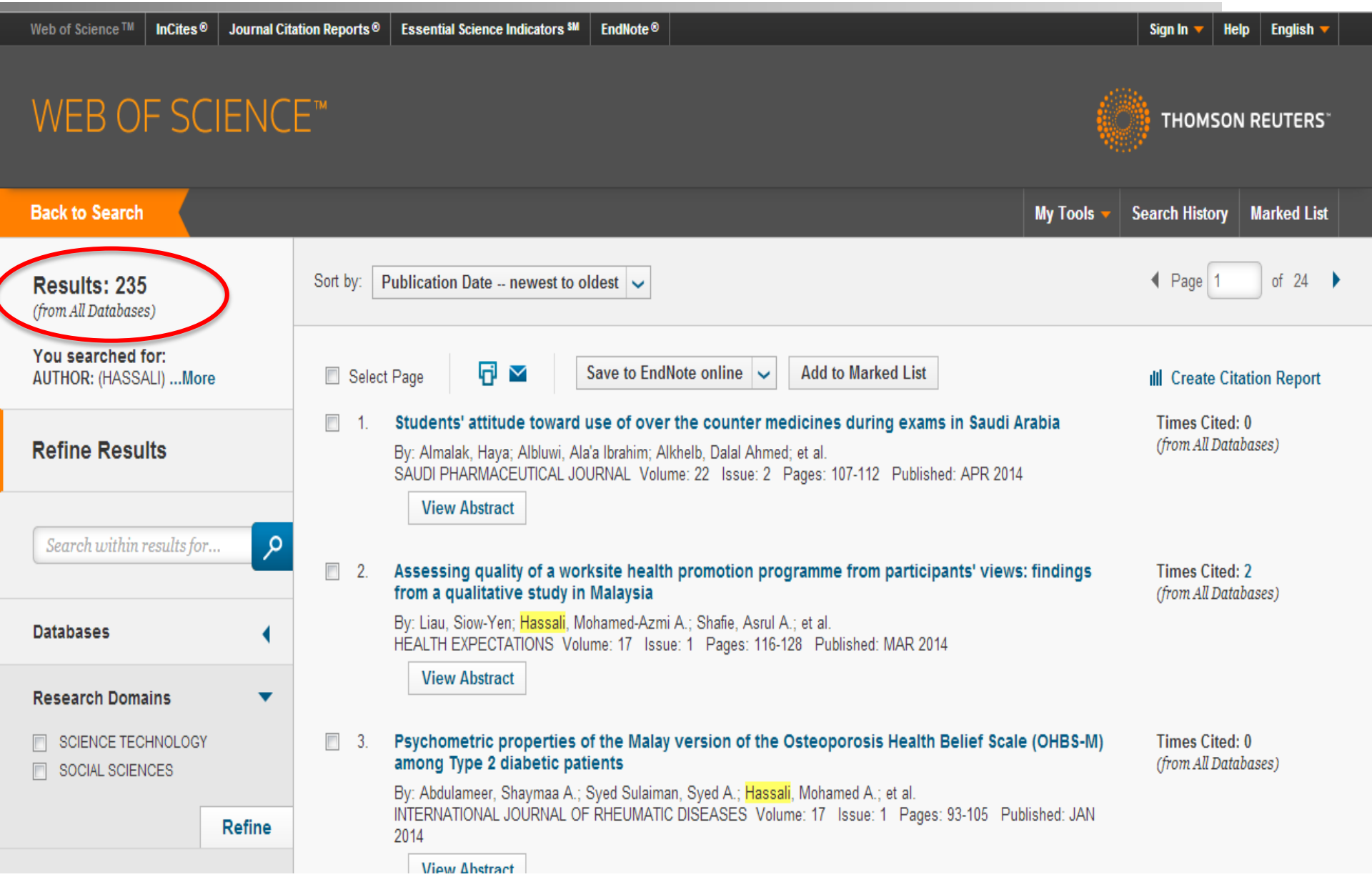
The journal

- Is my paper suitable for a specialty journal or a general medical journal?
- Am I heading for a high impact factor journal [4]?
- Is this kind of paper well cited [5]?
- Do I need a fast acceptance?
- Does my institution or granting body require that my paper have open access?

Sterk PJ, Rabe KF. The Joy of Writing a Paper. 2008;3(4): 225-232

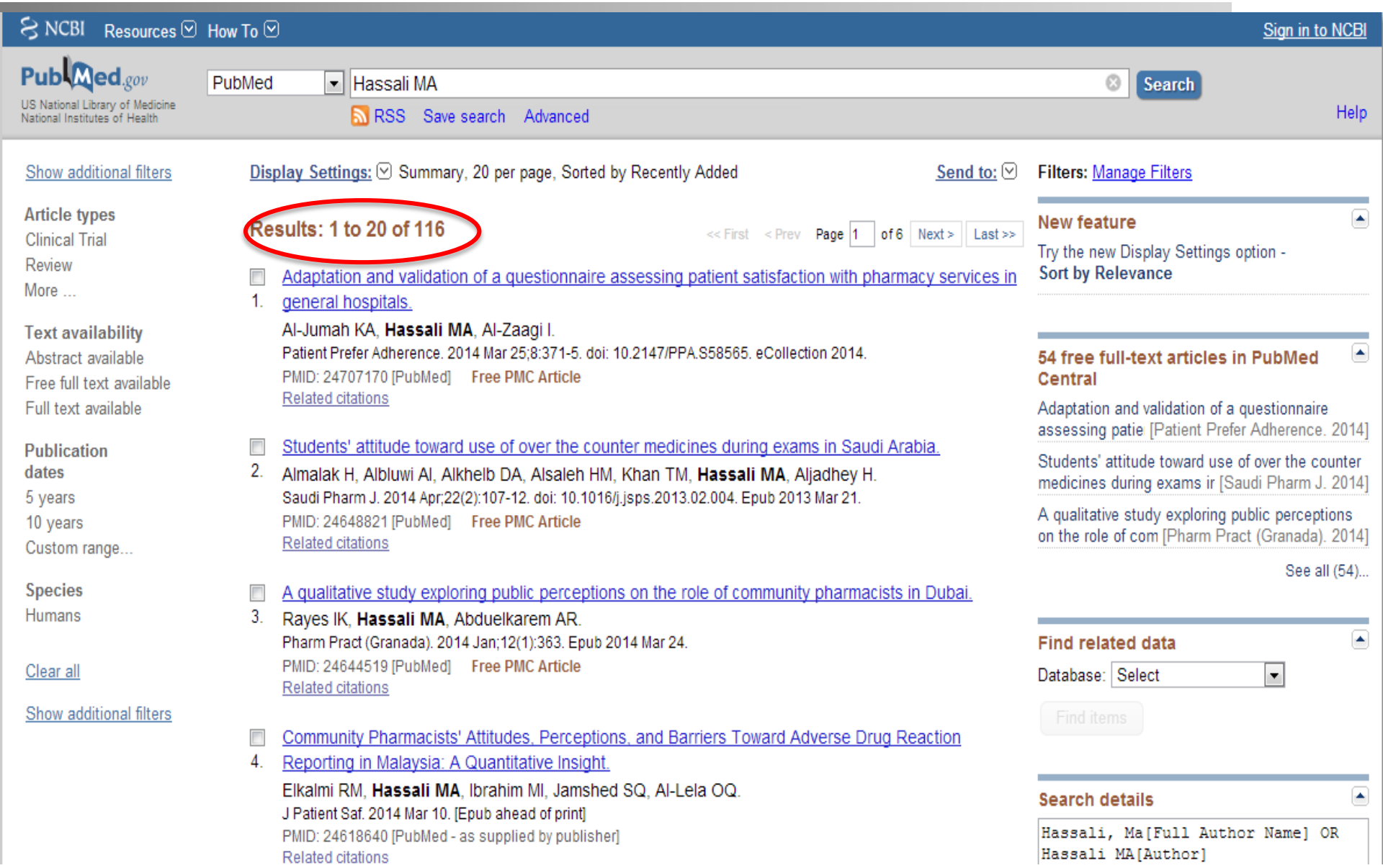
Personal Journey In Relation To Pharmacy Practice Research In Malaysia

USM
We lead



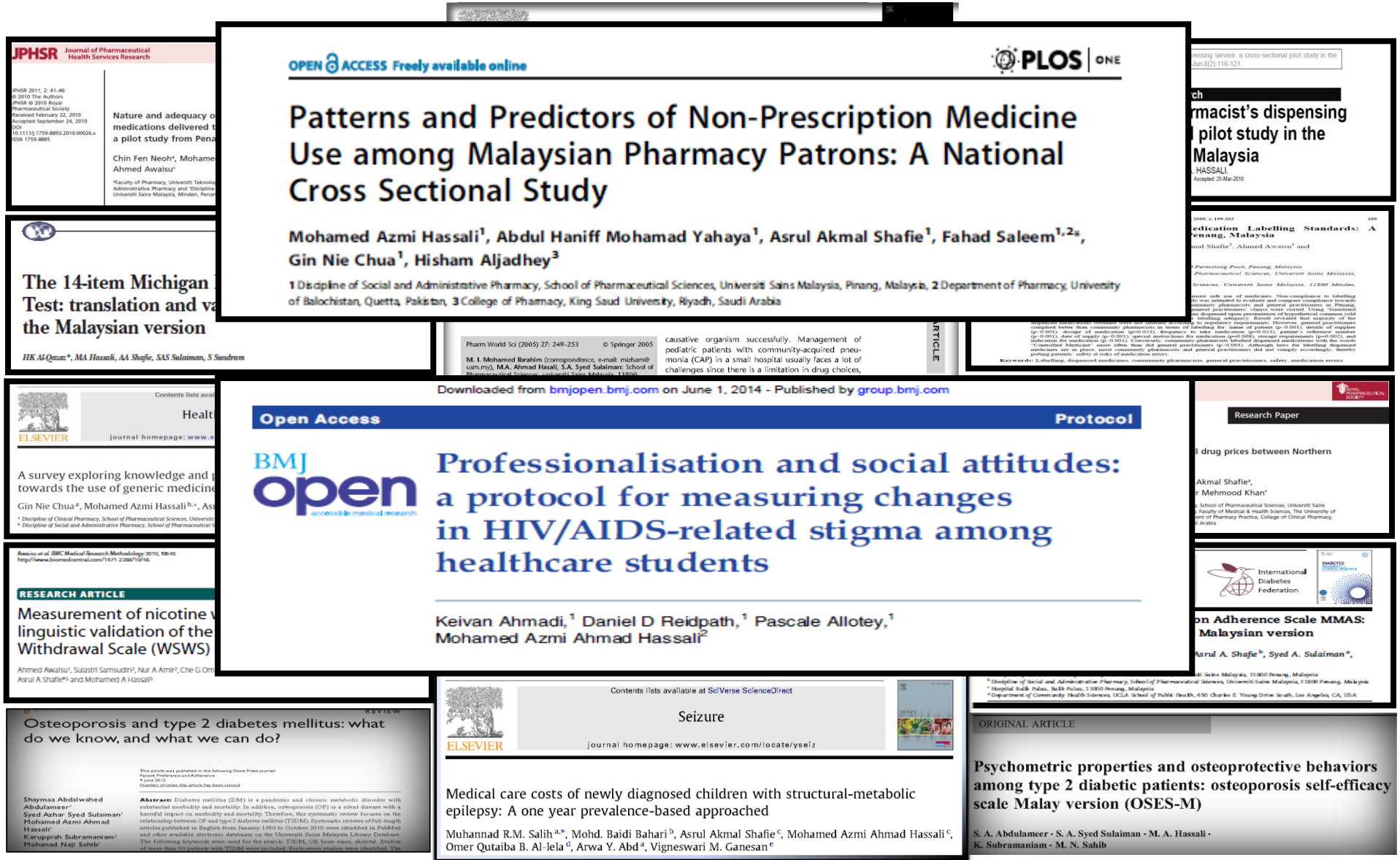
Personal Journey In Relation To Pharmacy Practice Research In Malaysia

USM
We lead



Example Of Published Research Articles

We lead



JPHSR Journal of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research

Nature and adequacy o
medications delivered t
a pilot study from Pena

Chin Fen Neoh[a], Mohame
Ahmed Awaisu[c]

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

PLOS ONE

Patterns and Predictors of Non-Prescription Medicine Use among Malaysian Pharmacy Patrons: A National Cross Sectional Study

Mohamed Azmi Hassali[1], Abdul Haniff Mohamad Yahaya[1], Asrul Akmal Shafie[1], Fahad Saleem[1,2]*, Gin Nie Chua[1], Hisham Aljadhey[3]

1 Discipline of Social and Administrative Pharmacy, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Pinang, Malaysia, 2 Department of Pharmacy, University of Balochistan, Quetta, Pakistan, 3 College of Pharmacy, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

rmacist's dispensing
l pilot study in the
Malaysia
HASSALI.
Accepted: 25-Mar-2010

The 14-item Michigan
Test: translation and va
the Malaysian version

HK Al-Qazaz*, MA Hassali, AA Shafie, SAS Sulaiman, S Sundram

Pharm World Sci (2005) 27: 249–253 © Springer 2005

causative organism successfully. Management of pediatric patients with community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) in a small hospital usually faces a lot of challenges since there is a limitation in drug choices,

edication Labelling Standards: A
enang, Malaysia

Keywords: Labelling, dispensed medicines, community pharmacists, general practitioners, safety, medication errors.

Contents lists avai
Healt
journal homepage: www.e

A survey exploring knowledge and p
towards the use of generic medicine

Gin Nie Chua[a], Mohamed Azmi Hassali[b,*], As

Downloaded from bmjopen.bmj.com on June 1, 2014 - Published by group.bmj.com

Open Access Protocol

BMJ open accessible medical research

Professionalisation and social attitudes: a protocol for measuring changes in HIV/AIDS-related stigma among healthcare students

Keivan Ahmadi,[1] Daniel D Reidpath,[1] Pascale Allotey,[1] Mohamed Azmi Ahmad Hassali[2]

Research Paper

l drug prices between Northern

Akmal Shafie[a],
r Mehmood Khan[c]

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Measurement of nicotine v
linguistic validation of the
Withdrawal Scale (WSWS)

Ahmed Awaisu[1], Sulastri Samsudin[2], Nur A Amir[2], Che G Om
Asrul A Shafie*[3] and Mohamed A Hassali[3]

International Diabetes Federation

on Adherence Scale MMAS:
Malaysian version

Asrul A. Shafie[b], Syed A. Sulaiman[a],

Osteoporosis and type 2 diabetes mellitus: what do we know, and what we can do?

Shaymaa Abdalwahed Abdulameer[1]
Syed Azhar Syed Sulaiman[1]
Mohamed Azmi Ahmad Hassali[1]
Karuppiah Subramaniam[2]
Mohanad Naji Sahib[1]

Abstract: Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a pandemic and chronic metabolic disorder with substantial morbidity and mortality. In addition, osteoporosis (OP) is a silent disease with a harmful impact on morbidity and mortality. Therefore, this systematic review focuses on the relationship between OP and type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM). Systematic reviews of full-length articles published in English from January 1950 to October 2010 were identified in PubMed and other available electronic databases on the Universiti Sains Malaysia Library Database. The following keywords were used for the search: T2DM, OP, bone mass, skeletal. Studies of more than 50 patients with T2DM were included. Forty-seven studies were identified. The

Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

Seizure

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/yseiz

Medical care costs of newly diagnosed children with structural-metabolic epilepsy: A one year prevalence-based approached

Muhannad R.M. Salih[a,*], Mohd. Baidi Bahari[b], Asrul Akmal Shafie[c], Mohamed Azmi Ahmad Hassali[c], Omer Qutaiba B. Al-lela[d], Arwa Y. Abd[a], Vigneswari M. Ganesan[e]

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Psychometric properties and osteoprotective behaviors among type 2 diabetic patients: osteoporosis self-efficacy scale Malay version (OSES-M)

S. A. Abdulameer · S. A. Syed Sulaiman · M. A. Hassali · K. Subramaniam · M. N. Sahib

Personal Journey In Relation To Pharmacy Practice Research

We lead

- **Editorial Board Member**
  - American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education (AJPE)
  - Pharmacy Practice
  - Journal of Pharmaceutical Health Service Research
  - Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice
  - Archives of Pharmacy Practice
  - Journal of Pharmacy and Alternative Medicine
- **Invited Reviewer**
  - BMJ Open
  - Plos Medicine
  - International Journal of Pharmacy Practice
  - Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy
  - International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy
  - Journal of Clinical Pharmacy and Therapeutics
  - BMC Health Service Research
  - Health Policy
  - Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety
  - Value in Health
  - Journal of Public Health
  - Drug Safety
  - Annals of Pharmacotherapy

Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety Best Reviewer

We lead

Pharmacoepidemiology AND DRUG SAFETY

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Professor Brian L. Strom M.D. M.P.H.
Chancellor, Rutgers Biomedical & Health Sciences
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
65 Bergen Street, Suite 1535
Newark, NJ 07105
Phone: (973) 972-4400
Email: bstrom@rutgers.edu

June 6, 2014

Dear Dr. Azmi Mohamed Hassali,

We write to thank you for the exceptionally fine quality of your peer reviewing for *Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety* of manuscripts submitted during 2013. The strength of our journal, like all peer-reviewed journals, depends in large measure on our reviewers' abilities and efforts. As editors, we weigh your comments carefully.

While a superb review is the product of both expertise and commitment, it is also a remarkably anonymous accomplishment. The editors and the author of a paper appreciate the help a good critique provides, but under the present peer review system the author rarely knows the identity of the reviewer, and deans, departmental chairs, division chiefs, and tenure and promotion committees are often totally unaware of the amount and quality of this important academic work. We would like to offer you the opportunity to change this.

Not all reviews and reviewers are of the same high quality. We grade each review, and we know our best reviewers. You are one of them. The quality and timeliness of your review for *Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety* placed the work you did for us among the best of all reviews in 2013. We thank you, and wish to inspire you to sustain your high standards. Further, because we are interested in giving more credit to reviewers like you who provide exceptional service to medical science in this important role, I would encourage you to send a copy of this letter to others who should be aware of it, and to note on your curriculum vitae (CV) the honor conveyed by it.

Again, many thanks for your fine help. Not only have the editors and authors benefited, but so have the journal's readers and, ultimately, medical science.

Sincerely,

Brian L. Strom
Editor-in-Chief

Joerg Hasford
Regional Editor for Europe

Sean Hennessy
Regional Editor for the Americas

Byung Joo Park
Regional Editor for Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Oceania

International Invitations

We lead

Potential Publication Avenue For Local Pharmacy Researchers

We lead

Malaysian Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences

PENERBIT USM

.: Journal Menu

- Journal Home
- General Information
- Editorial Board
- Full Text Articles
- Guidelines for Authors
- Subscription Form
- Contact Us

.: Related Links

- Universiti Sains Malaysia
- Universiti Sains Malaysia Press
- ScholarOne™ Manuscripts

Published by
Universiti Sains Malaysia Press

Print ISSN: 1675-7319
Online ISSN: 2180-429X
Frequency: Bi-annual (May/June; Nov/Dec)
Current Issue: Volume 11, No. 2, 2013
Abstracting/Indexing: MyAIS, DOAJ and CAB Abstracts

USM has extended content delivery format for its journals' publication in print and PDF to include ePub, to address the growing need for more mobile accessibility.

:: Home

Malaysian Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences is an open-access, peer-reviewed international pharmacy journal published under Universiti Sains Malaysia Press. Established in 2003, it welcomes original, scholarly contributions from all disciplines of pharmacy:

- Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry
- Pharmacology
- Pharmaceutical Technology
- Clinical Pharmacy
- Social and Administrative Pharmacy
- Pharmacy Education

The emphasis is on publishing quality articles from Malaysia and around the world, and making them freely available to academicians, researchers and pharmacists worldwide. Accepted articles are published as original research articles, short communications and reviews.

Why publish in Malaysian Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences?
Benefits to Authors

View content online

[Current Issue]

[Early View]

Submit HERE

ScholarOne Manuscripts Log In

User ID:

Password:

Log In

Thank you

We lead

Mohamed Azmi Ahmad Hassali
B.Pharm (Hons), M.Pharm (Clin Pharm) (USM), PhD (Monash, Aust)
Deputy Dean (Student Affairs & Networking),
School of Pharmaceutical Sciences,
Universiti Sains Malaysia,
11800 Penang, Malaysia
Tel:+604-6534085 Fax:+604-6570017
Email: azmihassali@usm.my