

Editorial**Marching Towards Achieving Quality Research Papers for Medical Journals****Arambam Giridhari Singh**

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The very encouraging message we are getting at this moment of time is that, medical care has been improved beyond recognition for the past half century or so, the important contribution to this being the information funnelling through clinical research. It is also a fact that health research, medical education and clinical practice are the three pillars of modern-day medical practice. It is not to be taken as a luxury but as an essential need that every nation has to accept. Health research only provide important information about disease trends and risk factors, outcomes of treatment or public health interventions, functional abilities, patterns of care, and health care costs [1-2]. At this very juncture, I will congratulate all the faculty members of the medical colleges in the country for being authorized researchers and authors who sometimes be called scholars in their own fields. Now, it can be presumed that the responsibility of maintaining a quality health care system in the country is at their hand.

Writing for publication in scientific journals is the most important means for communicating scientific research findings, publication, complement teaching, training and clinical care. The most compelling reason for running after published paper by many of the professionals is to fulfil their specific job requirements that include promotion to an academic position and improving prospect of success in research grant. Publication can also be regarded as an asset that enables authors to gain recognition and acknowledgement as experts in a particular field at national and international levels. Publication in peer-reviewed journals also gives international recognition for an individual, department, university and institutions. In some cases where a topic of major global importance is included in a publication, the author's country, and even the region, may also get a greater recognition. But, while writing such scientific paper, a medical author must always strive to be original, honest, innovative, organized, careful, clear, modest, fair minded, frank, persistent, rigorous and realistic [3-4].

In connection with the title of the editorial, if we asked to ourselves as quoted "Are we serious enough for the marching towards achieving quality research papers", the answer may not be yeast the moment, it may be kept as yet to be answered; because, we don't know any hidden technique if used, by the researchers while collecting their data. Also, we have come to know that, our international scientific society has been rocked already by a number of serious cases of research misconduct, an unbelievable example being the publication of two articles with ground breaking results in Science by Woo Suk Hwang, a Korean stem cell researcher in 2004 and 2005. Both articles later, revealed to be fakes. Many other examples of such cases have been reported from different corners of the world including USA. This type of activity from among the researchers, now named as Research Misconduct, has come out to be one the greatest challenges facing by the medical journal editors.

The office of science and technology policy (OSTP), Washington DC, USA, defined research misconduct as fabrication, falsification or plagiarism in proposing, performing or reviewing research or in reporting research results. Fabrication, means, the making up of data or results and reporting them,

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falsification, the practice of manipulating research material, equipment or process or omitting data or results such that the results is not accurately represented in the research record and plagiarism, the appropriation of another's idea, results or words without giving proper credit to the real author in proposing, performing or reviewing research or in reporting research results. This definition is known as federal definition of research misconduct and meant for federally funded researches only [5]. Royal college of physicians of Edinburgh, UK, defined research misconduct as any behaviour by a researcher, whether intentional or not that fails to scrupulously respect high specific and ethical standards and accordingly, they made their own list of misconducts [6]. A last updated a list was prepared jointly by peer reviewers and World Association of Medical Editors (WAME) in 2018 [7]. If we reshuffle the research misconducts listed separately by OSTP, Washington, Royal college of physicians of Edinburgh, UK and the last updated list of peer reviewers and WAME, we get a longer list, which can be rewritten as (1) Fabrication, (2)falsification, (3) plagiarism, (4) Self plagiarism, (5) problematic data presentation or analysis, (6) failure to obtain ethical approval by the research ethics committee or to obtain the subjects informed consent, (7) Inappropriate claims of authorship, (8) Duplicated publication, (9) undisclosed conflicts of interest, (10) Failure to comply with legislative and regulatory requirement, (11) Violation of generally accepted research practices, (12) Failure to support validation of one's own research, (13) Failure to respond to known cases of unsuccessful validation attempt and (14) Inappropriate behaviour in relation to suspected misconduct. Any one of these misconducts listed, the first three in particular, if detected as research misconduct in scientific research programs in developed countries like USA, it may be considered as crime and for that, there may be imposition of severe punishment with fines or loss of funding eligibility or even imprisonment [8]. If the international scientific body decides, the same can be expanded for implementation in all the programs in the developing countries.

While concluding, the author will like to open this topic of misconduct to all the researchers as it being a challenge to our editors and the title of this editorial on the other side facing each other. A joint decision should be taken for an answer of the question still yet to be answered. The answer should be 'yes' because, many of our young researchers are competent enough for promotion to the next higher posts and for that, they need published papers. Scientific researches using advance techniques must keep ongoing by availing all the safety measures manageable at the institutional level including the detection of plagiarism by our own computerised detector, to be supported by the author's declaration of non-indulgence to any type of misconduct mentioned in the list. The covering letter to be attached, while submitting article by the author to the editor for publication, should be designed in such a way that, all the declarations be there in it, well positioned, as its normal components. Otherwise also, the author will be fixed as to be held responsible for any type of allegation, if arises, before or after publication.

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