



News and Notes from the World of Medical Writing

The 3rd Philippine Association of Medical Journal Editors Annual Convention opens with AMWA-EMWA-ISMPP Joint Position Statement on Medical Publications, Preprints, and Peer Review

The Philippine Association of Medical Journal Editors, Inc. (PAMJE) held its 3rd Annual Convention on September 20-23, 2021, with the theme, "Upholding Research Integrity in the Time of Pandemic." The virtual event was attended by 392 participants from all over the country and some participants from Singapore, Australia, USA, Canada, and Switzerland. The conference held six scientific sessions, discussing the importance of research integrity amidst the infodemic that accompanied the COVID-19 outbreak.

The plenary session opened with the AMWA-EMWA-ISMPP Joint Position Statement on Medical Publications, Pre-prints, and Peer Review discussed by Dr. Dikran Toroser, Director of Publication Planning at Takeda. He was joined by Dr Art Gertel, Principal

Consultant of MedSciCom, LLC (and an active EMWA and AMWA member); Dr Peter L Munk, Professor of Radiology, Orthopedics and Palliative Care at the University of British Columbia, and Dr Nicholas Talley, Laureate Professor and Editor-In-Chief of the Medical Journal of Australia, as panelists. Issues on the challenges of increased use of pre-prints and increased pressure to accelerate publication due to the urgency to disseminate information during the pandemic were discussed. The sudden surge of COVID data has also brought about the infodemic and its rampant misuse and misinterpretation in social media.

The convention also addressed the importance of maintaining image integrity to counter fabrication, falsification, and image manipulation in scientific publications. A review

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of the updated guideline Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA 2020), and the correct way of doing a systematic review were also presented. Other important topics discussed were the impact of the infodemic on healthcare in the Philippines (especially in the fight against COVID-19) and the Philippine Action Plan for Plan S Initiative for open access publishing.

The full virtual event can be viewed in PAMJE's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/PAMJE2011>.

The Oxford Climate Journalism Network

Created to support journalists interested in covering climate change and aiming to rethink how journalism and the news media approach one of the most pressing issues of our time, the Oxford Climate Journalism Network¹ is a new project from the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford.

The network is open to all working journalists, with the aim of helping them to develop their coverage of climate change through their offering of online courses, leadership programmes, journalist fellowships, and original academic research. Their first online course will start in January 2022, although the deadline for enrolling will already have passed by the time you are reading this. Nonetheless, there are more resources on the network's "about page",² such as links to podcast episodes, books, and online articles.

Even if you're not a journalist, I think this project may expand to other areas in the future, as climate and health continue to overlap. Besides, it is always good to know more about climate change and how to better communicate its challenges. As stated by The Lancet,³ "*climate change is the greatest global health threat facing the world in the 21st century, but it is also the greatest opportunity to redefine the social and environmental determinants of health.*"

References

1. The Oxford Climate Journalism Network. Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism [cited 2021 Oct 30]. Available from: <https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/oxford-climate-journalism-network>
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3. Romanello M, McGushin A, Di Napoli C, et al. The 2021 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: code red for a healthy future. *The Lancet* 2021 Oct;398(10311):1619-62.

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