

Doing the Write Stuff: Raising the bar on medical research publishing

By Rea Uy-Epistola*

Medical writing is more than a craft; it is a skill. Like any skill, strong and good medical writing must be constantly honed and sharpened. An advocate of this principle is the Philippine Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines Journal (PIDSPJ), which conducted a successful second-run of its Medical Writing, Peer Review and Editing Workshop last January 2013 at the Hyatt Hotel, Manila.

In partnership with the Philippine Association of Medical Journal Editors (PAMJE) and the Asian Pacific Association of Medical Editors (APAME), the one-day course was conducted through a seminar-type meeting with break-out sessions to give way for group exercises. The attendees, who are medical professionals, both writers and those performing editorial functions, were given hands-on experience on editing manuscripts and on writing systemic reviews. The course mentors included established medical journal editors and experienced scientific writing trainers who included Dr Wilfred Peh (Executive Vice-President, APAME), Professor Jose Florencio Lapena, Jr (President, PAMJE), Professor Cecilia Maramba – Lazarte (Editor-in-chief, PIDSPJ), and Dr. Xenia Fabay (Associate Editor, PIDSPJ).

The positive responses from the attendees and their lively interaction during the workshop served as inspiration for PIDSPJ to develop a more intensive training program in the future and offer it on a regular basis.

The PIDSPJ would like to thank its mother organization, the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines (PIDSP), which made the success of the workshop possible. The continued support to this endeavour from the medical community and overwhelming response from medical professionals serve as heart warming testament to PIDSPJ's commitment to do the right stuff: to publish high-quality and peer-reviewed research



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