

Knowledge transfer of advances in applied health and science

Andrew John Macnab

Editor in Chief, Global Health Management Journal

*Corresponding author. Email: ajmacnab@gmail.com

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Advances in applied health and science should be shared. Knowledge transfer is possible in many ways – the International Conference on Applied Science and Health (ICASH) events and other conferences are examples, but ultimately the “gold standard” to aim for is publication in a peer reviewed journal. Peer review is used to determine an [academic paper suitability for publication](#); such reviews ensure that standards relating to the quality of your work and the way it is reported are maintained, and hence provide credibility for your work. Peer review involves evaluation of what you have written by one or more people with expertise in your scientific field, and knowledge of disciplines related to how data are collected and analyzed, and results are presented and conclusions drawn from them.

Based on such review the [editor-in-chief](#) decides whether the work should be accepted as it is, sent back for revisions, or rejected. As most papers can be improved for clarity or accuracy, return with suggestions for revisions is commonplace. It is important to read and respond to the all the suggested revisions carefully; most often, while time consuming this is straightforward to do, however, if you feel strongly that a change should not be made this must be fully explained.

Peer review has a long history and is by no means a perfect process, but in a world where knowledge transfer makes millions of pages of new information available each day, it is reassuring that at least a significant subset of what is reported has been critically examined [1].

Remember also that peer reviewers are experts qualified to perform an impartial review who volunteer their time. It is time consuming to provide a constructive review and the expectation is that any errors noted and suggestions made to improve the paper are attended to. Peer review contributes to academic quality and is used in most major scientific journals, but the process does not guarantee that all research published is valid. There are a growing number of journals, particular those who offer rapid open access for a publication fee, where reviews happen too fast or are too shallow for them to promote an acceptable standard of scientific integrity and merit. Standards are probably highest where peer reviewers are blinded to the authors’ names and institutional addresses, and remain anonymous, but open peer review is a growing trend, where the comments are visible to authors and readers, and the identities of the peer reviewers are also made available.

Setting out to write a report is always challenging. The sections conventionally required include an introduction to describe the problem the research is addressing, a description of the methods and population involved, the results which are often summarized in tables or graphs, and a discussion which summarizes what has been found and describes other related research. One way to make sure you provide all the information a reviewer and those who read your paper will want is to collect your ideas under the headings suggested by the respected scientific writer Asher [2] – these are drawn from the poem “The Elephant’s Child” by Rudyard Kipling:

*I keep six honest serving men
(They taught me all I knew):
They are What and Why and When,
And How and Where and Who.*

As Asher says: “Kipling's poem gives an admirable summary of the way we get most of our knowledge. Most scientific enquiry is based on these six monosyllables, and the orderly presentation of a scientific paper is helped by trying to answer the six questions they pose”.

Another interesting way of presenting your ideas for publication is in a Photo-essay. An article in this edition of Global Health Management Journal (GHMJ) describes how to combine a series of images with a brief text, and short reference list to create a visually engaging and informative short report [3]. Photo-essay is a novel and informative way to report on an applied health, social or scientific topic, and the concept comes from the discipline of photojournalism that uses images in order to tell a news story. Only a small number of journals accept submissions of photo-essays, but this format is an excellent one to use for a brief report, or to prepare a research presentation for a scientific meeting. Photo-essays can also be used as the basis for progress reports to project supervisors or funding agencies, and are a good format for young investigators to consider. GHMJ has a section for photo-essays and welcomes submissions for publications in this format.

Other articles in this edition of Global Health Management Journal include the following: Hafizh Muhammad Noor presents a review of how Carrageenans can be used in foods and for medical applications based on their biological activities [4]. These polysaccharides are extracted from certain red seaweeds; they are important as gelling, thickening and stabilizing agents, and advantages of their use include their ready availability and low cost. Hoang *et al.*, report the risks for HIV infection among people who inject drugs in Gia Lai province in Vietnam based on data from a 2014 cross-sectional survey [5]. The prevalence rate in this at risk group was 9.3%. Risk factors identified where harm reduction intervention and behavior change communication may be feasible include shared needles, injecting for more than 3 years and sexual intercourse with more than one commercial sex worker per month. Astuti and Kurniati assessed teenager's knowledge, attitude, perception, service access, and peer attitudes to LGBT issues with the aim of identifying factors relevant to efforts to prevent stigma towards LGBT individuals [6]. The principal causes of sigma were an individual's level of

knowledge about LGBT and their peer group attitudes; hence, counseling and/or education offer a means to reduce discrimination. Pujiyono and Budiyanti review issues surrounding selective abortion after preimplantation sex selection in Indonesia [7]. Their concussion is that it is an ethical, legal issue as well a medical one, and that it is appropriate for legislation to be introduced to guide decision making related to selective abortion after preimplantation sex selection.

Reading papers such as these, and looking at a wide variety of reports from different journals is the best way to get ideas about good ways to report your research. However you decide to share the advances in applied health and science that you have made, carefully follow the instructions for authors for the journal you have selected when preparing your manuscript. To prepare a good submission it is also important to keep what you write brief and to the point; make sure that you only include material under the headings introduction, methods, results and discussion that is meant to be in that section, and spell check the whole manuscript carefully. Then, as an important last step before submission have a mentor or supervisor read through your final version.

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