

Third Regional Conference on Medical Journals

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Shiraz, Islamic Republic of Iran, 27–29 January 2006



World Health Organization
Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

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World Health Organization
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1. Introduction

The Third Regional Conference on Medical Journals in the Eastern Mediterranean Region was held in Shiraz, Islamic Republic of Iran, 27–29 January 2006. It was organized by Shiraz University of Medical Sciences and the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (WHO EMRO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Eastern Mediterranean Association of Medical Editors (EMAME). The meeting was also supported by the British Council, the Iranian Academy of Medical Sciences, UNICEF/UNDP/WHO/World Bank Special Programme on Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO).

The conference was preceded by a one-day meeting in Farsi on medical journals in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The morning session was devoted to presentations dealing with peer-review, online publishing and open access, obstacles to international indexing and editorial office infrastructure. The afternoon session was devoted to an open discussion on the journal evaluation system introduced by the Iranian Ministry of Health and a session was devoted to open discussion on the problems faced by Iranian editors in upgrading the quality of their journals with an emphasis on presenting possible solutions for solving the problems.

The conference was attended by around 200 participants. The first day of the conference comprised four parallel workshops on editorship, peer review, e-journalism and evidence-based medicine.

The programme of the meeting and the list of participants are given in Annexes 1 and 2 respectively.

The objectives of the conference were to:

- Raise awareness of editors of regional medical journals of key issues relating to development and quality of medical journals in the Region and to develop skills in that regard;
- Review the situation of medical journals in the Region and discuss ways to take regional journals forward, including finalizing a voluntary code of publishing ethics for regional medical journals;
- Promote collaboration and networking among editors of regional medical journals, and the role of the Eastern Mediterranean Association of Medical Editors (EMAME) in this regard;
- Review the trends of medical journals publishing based on bibliometric studies of subjects, authorship, geographic distribution, etc.
- Review status of electronic publishing and open access of medical journals in the Region

The meeting was opened by Dr Mohammad Hadi Imanieh, Chancellor of Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, who welcomed the participants and expressed his hope that the conference would contribute to improving and increasing capacity of medical journal editors in the Region and for increased collaboration through networking.

HE Dr Kamran Bagheri Lankarani, Minister of Health and Medical Education, Islamic Republic of Iran, referred to the Islamic belief that science is light and the most valuable human heritage. Science, he said, is not the product of any one society. Developments in science are the product of all nation's efforts in the past and present. In medicine, for example, current knowledge is based on the work of Muslim physicians over 800 years ago. Science in general, and medicine in particular, does not belong to any particular group but to those who need it and those who can use it wisely. Dr Lankarani said that there was a wide gap between nations' capacity to produce knowledge. The Islamic Republic of

Iran, as a developing nation, was seeking to fill that gap as rapidly as possible. In the medical sciences Iran had progressed in the fields of biotechnology and nanotechnology and now had the ability to isolate and culture stem cells, which are being used. Another gap existed in developing countries between critical thinking, research documentation and research utilization, the process by which knowledge is communicated to the members of a social system to achieve a desired outcome. This begins with learning how to write and present research reports. Publication is the door to the world of science, the path to communicate knowledge to the rest of the world. Dr Lankarani concluded with the hope that all the efforts that were being taken along that path would lead to rapid improvements in the medical journals in the Region.

Dr Najeeb Al-Shorbaji, Coordinator, Knowledge Management and Sharing, WHO EMRO, referred to the dream of recognized, quality journals that this and the previous regional conferences on medical journals represented. The establishment of EMAME reflected the sharing of this dream among editors across the Region.

Dr Mohammad Reza Panjehshahin, Conference President, referred to the high quality of facilities in Shiraz University of Medical Sciences and the high quality of the research conducted there. He pointed out that most researchers tended to seek to publish their results in international journals, posing a problem for national journals, a problem shared by other universities in the Region. He expressed his hope that the exchange of experiences at the conference would result in practical solutions for getting more regional journals indexed so that the Region might play a larger role in knowledge generation at the global level.

Dr Ahmed Jamal, Vice-President of the Eastern Mediterranean Association of Medical Editors (EMAME), conveyed the greetings of the President of EMAME, Dr Basim Yaqub, who sent his apologies for being unable to attend, as well as the greetings of the EMAME Executive Council members. He said that the first conference on medical journals in the Region, held in Cairo in October 2003, had resulted in an expressed need to continue the task of promoting the quality of medical journals in the Region, by strengthening cooperation and communication between the editors in this area. A task force to establish EMAME had been endorsed in the first conference, and the interim executive council endorsed in the second conference, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in October 2004. The EMAME structure had since then been strengthened, and all delegates who attended the first and the second conference were considered founding members of EMAME. There were now more than 250 members. During 2005 nominations were sought and members appointed to the EMAME committees: editorship, education and training, publication ethics, e-journalism and evidence-based medicine. Dr Jamal said that gathering individual efforts in an organized manner would be much more successful than solitary activities. EMAME would work to boost the quality of regional journals and this would be enriched by links with the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME) and the Forum for African Medical Editors (FAME). Dr Jamal closed by calling for continued cooperation to strengthen EMAME and towards producing high quality medical journals to promote health care.

Dr Mubashar Sheikh, WHO Representative, Islamic Republic of Iran, delivered a message from Dr Hussein A. Gezairy, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean. Dr Gezairy said that medical journals played an important role in health care delivery and served a variety of purposes, among the most basic and important being the improvement of patient care and of systems for delivery of care and continuing education of health care personnel. Documentation of evidence on best practices, which constitutes evidence-based medicine, could only be found in medical journals. Health professionals looked to the journals to take the lead in demonstrating how research translates into practice and what the evidence is for making change in established practice. Bridging the knowledge gap, now often termed the 'know-do' gap, had become more feasible and possible through better publishing of and better access to medical journals. Dr Gezairy said that for the past 10 years the

WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean had supported and promoted the development of medical journals in the Region in a variety of ways and some 23 such national training workshops had been held in ten countries between 1997 and the end of 2005 on scientific writing and medical journal editing. Since the second regional conference an initiative had been started to add the abstracts to the Index Medicus for the Eastern Mediterranean Region, which would increase the visibility of medical journals from the Region on the Internet and in searching international databases. A portal for regional electronic medical journals had been launched which allowed, for the first time, one-stop access on the Internet to medical journals published in the Region. Agreement had been made to allow searching of the content of the Index Medicus and electronic medical journals through Google Scholar. This would enable equal visibility of the regional journals with international journals indexed in international indexing and abstracting services. The Regional Office, said Dr Gezairy, looked forward to continued collaboration with the Eastern Mediterranean Association of Medical Editors (EMAME) as well as to sharing experiences and collaboration with other organizations, such as the Forum for African Medical Editors (FAME).

Dr Farhad Handjani, Conference Organizer, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Organizing Committee.

2. Conference sessions

The various sessions of the conference covered the following topics: research and medical journalism in the Region; editorship; biomedical e-journalism, regional biomedical journalism; peer review; indexing and evaluation systems; ethics in biomedical journalism; and evidence-based medicine. These included 40 oral presentations and 10 poster presentations. Panel sessions were held on how to improve editorship skills; how to establish regional journals; how to improve the peer review process in the Region, and collaboration between EMAME, the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), and the Forum for African Medical Editors (FAME).

3. Panel sessions

3.1 How to improve editorship skills

Moderator: Harvey Marcovitch, BMJ Publishing Group

Discussions focused on improving and increasing readership of small journals in particular and what editors might do in this regard. Suggestions included making journals more attractive and interesting to readers by including more variety in the content; more appreciation of the work of editors from publishers and readers; encouraging more female editors; greater collaboration between editors; improving the administrative office; and provision of guidelines and training for editors. Finally editors were reminded of the lessons that can be learned from journalists in regard to clarity and the need for good teamwork in producing a journal.

3.2 How to establish regional journals

Moderator: Najeeb Al Shorbaji, Coordinator, Knowledge Management and Sharing, WHO EMRO

Discussions focused on whether a regional online general medical journal was needed, whether the experience exists in the Region to achieve that and how to go about establishing such a journal. It was emphasized that a regional peer reviewed online journal should cater to as many audiences as possible. English need not, and should not be the only language. Articles should be accepted in at least two and if possible up to five languages of the Region (Arabic, French, Farsi, Urdu and English) and perhaps other national languages also. Abstract should be in more than two languages. International standards

should be followed in this regard, for example by using at least two languages for the abstract, title and keywords to ensure wider indexing. Funding would be major issue to address. It was suggested to seek creation of a regional fund for research and development to support this and other research initiatives.

3.3 How to improve the peer review process

Moderator: Farrokh Habibzadeh, WAME, Jane Nicholson (WHO EMRO), Shaukat Jawaid (Pakistan), Peush Sahni (WAME)

Peer review was defined, simply, as “asking your peers [colleagues, equals] to review your work”. This of course led to the inevitable question of “who is a peer?” which was harder to define. The peer review process could be “blind” (in which identity of authors is hidden from reviewers and vice versa) or an open system where identity is not hidden. It was noted that an open system is easier to operate in a large journal and seems to make no difference in quality of reviews, but that for small journals a blind system, though imperfect, might avoid some bias. The issue of age of reviewers was discussed in regard to quality of reviews received, and it was noted that the experience of different journals varied in this regard. What was more important was the time available to reviewers and the current phase of their career. It was noted that it is important for editors to be very clear in their instructions to reviewers by providing a set of structured questions; to show appreciation for their time and effort; to involve the editorial board; to pay attention to statistics; to avoid bias; to use more female reviewers; to encourage and involve younger reviewers; and to educate authors as to the importance of selecting the right journal, among other things, to ensure a fair review. Any review system that results in better papers is a good system. It was concluded that peer review is not an ideal system but is the best available system at present.

3.4 WAME, EMAME, FAME: a vision to the future

Moderator: Farhad Handjani (EMAME), Peush Sahni (WAME), Siaka Sidibe (FAME)

Dr Farhad Handjani, representing EMAME, led the discussion and expressed interest in collaboration between the three associations and invited Dr Peush Sahni, President WAME, to introduce WAME and its activities and the potential for collaboration. Dr Siaka Sidibe, Chair FAME was also available at the meeting. The participants expressed their gratitude that he had travelled such a long distance from Mali to be in Shiraz and represent FAME at the Conference. Dr Sahni briefly described the activities of WAME and emphasized that WAME strongly supported regional activities in principle and members were happy to be approached for such support. However, like EMAME, WAME membership was free and it had no finances and therefore financial support had to be found from other sources. It was suggested that the three associations cooperate to adapt the WAME Statements to regional needs, and that a regional trust fund be established somehow to support journals in the Region.

4. Workshop

4.1 Editorship

Facilitators: Harvey Marcovitch, BMJ Publishing Group; Peush Sahni, WAME, Farrokh Habibzadeh, EMAME

Dr Peush Sahni, then President of the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME) started the workshop with talk on the skills medical journal editors need. Dr Harvey Marcovitch, Syndication Editor of the BMJ publishing Group and Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) continued the session with presentations entitled “readers and how to keep them interested” and “authors and how to keep them contributing”. The workshop concluded with a discussion on “editors and how to keep them out of (too much) trouble” and a number of real scenarios that every editor may face during his career, led by Dr Farrokh Habibzadeh, Chairman of the Editorship

Committee of EMAME, and Director-at-large of WAME. During these sessions the audience—mostly editors of regional biomedical journals—did some exercises, explained their experiences and shared their points of views through their lively comments. Some 40 participants attended.

4.2 Peer review

Facilitators: Rajendra Kale, BMJ; Karen Shashok, Mediterranean Editors and Translators; Jane Nicholson, WHO EMRO

Ms Shashok gave an illustrated talk on ways in which to help authors through the review process. Ms Nicholson provided a checklist and practical examples of how to improve accuracy in papers, whether by authors, or in the review and editorial processes. Dr Kale discussed what editors want from reviewers and provided illustrative examples of typical reviews that indicated the need for reviewer education and clear instructions to reviewers.

4.3 e-Journalism

Facilitators: Pippa Smart, INASP; Najeeb Al Shorbaji, WHO EMRO

The e-journalism workshop was run by Dr Najeeb Al-Shorbaji and Mrs Pippa Smart. It was attended by 22 participants who had interest in this topic. 15 participants had some experience with electronic publishing as their journals are published on the Internet. The workshop was a mix of presentations and sharing of experience with participants. The part that was covered by Dr Al-Shorbaji included the following topics: electronic publishing and the value it carries; situation of electronic medical journals a global and regional level; economics of electronic journal publishing; tools and technologies used; examples of electronic medical journals from the Region; discussion of proposal for electronic publishing of medical journals on EMRO's website using the BIREME model; and discussion of proposal for electronic publishing (digitization) of medical journals on Google. The part that was covered by Mrs Smart included models for full text journal online publishing and planning of online migration which included a detailed discussion of a planning checklist for any journal going online. The session tried to provide answers to the following questions: why are you going to publish online? what are you going to publish? how are you going to publish? and where are you going to publish it? The session covered additional issues including costing of online publishing, promotion of electronic journals, potential opportunities for journals in the Region and discussion/exchange of experience.

4.4 Evidence-based medicine

Facilitators: Zbys Fedorowicz, UK Cochrane Centre, Bahrain Branch; Amani Ali Al-Hajeri, UK Cochrane Centre, Bahrain Branch; Mona Nasser, Tehran University of Medical Sciences

The workshop was conducted by three Cochrane authors. The scope of the workshop covered the context of 'evidence' in EBM, the significance of hierarchical levels in 'evidence' and the process of searching for and identifying and quality assessing of the differing levels of evidence. Concepts of randomization, blinding and allocation concealment and their relevance to study design were clarified. Participants were asked to handsearch several journals to help improve their skills in identifying and differentiating between randomized and quasi-randomized controlled trials. Quality assessment of the identified trials was then performed against several checklists. The differences between narrative and systematic reviews were described and participants were asked to evaluate and critically appraise the different forms of systematic reviews.

5. Closing session

Dr Abbas Sadri, Director, ISESCO Regional Office, Islamic Republic of Iran, expressed his hope that the conference had met its objectives. He said that ISESCO had always supported member countries'

development in educational, scientific and cultural issues, and that educational and scientific programmes in the field of medicine were among its priorities. It was also keen to encourage research in health systems and services. He noted that as a result of its achievements in science and technology and especially in medical sciences, mankind was now able to combat a tremendous variety of diseases. At the same time, globalization necessitated development in different areas and, in particular, greater attention to development of information and the use of information technology in the medical sciences. The role of IT in a knowledge-based society was crucial and it was essential, he said, to upgrade health service delivery systems, as well as the level of public health and health awareness in order to protect the future generation. He said it was important to continue to conduct such conferences, training workshops and seminars and ISESCO had been pleased to support this conference. The role of journals in medical science was crucial to the exchange of views, upgrading of delivery systems and improvement of patient care. At the same time consideration of moral values in the context of Islamic societies would continue to be essential.

Dr Mohammad Reza Panjehshahin closed the conference, noting the very interesting presentations and discussions that had taken place. The conference participants thanked the organizers and sponsors, in particular the host, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences and the team that had organized the conference.

6. Conference recommendations

1. EMAME with support of WHO EMRO to pursue the feasibility of establishing a regional peer reviewed online medical journal.
2. WHO EMRO to look into the possibility of establishing a repository for article titles submitted to medical journals in the region, for use by editors in order to reduce the problem of duplicate submission.
3. EMAME members are encouraged to be reviewers where feasible and a database of potential reviewers (membership voluntary) established on the EMAME website for all journals to access.
4. WHO EMRO to pursue inclusion of SCI data in abstracts included in the IMEMR.
5. EMAME to pursue enhanced collaboration with WAME and FAME.
6. WHO EMRO to strengthen the IMEMR to cover all journals in the Region and include abstracts of articles.

7. Report of the first EMAME General Assembly

The first EMAME General Assembly was held in Shiraz in the conference hall on the morning of 29 January. The General Assembly was attended by 74 participants comprising both EMAME members and others who were interested. Dr Ahmed Jamal, Vice-President (Acting President), EMAME, presented the report of the Interim Executive Council. He said that an EMAME Strategic and Management meeting was held on 26 and 27 January at which the Interim Executive Council reviewed the Constitution and discussed outstanding issues. It agreed to make minor amendments to the Constitution to speed up the process of confirming new members, reducing bureaucracy and keeping business as simple as possible. In keeping with this principle the Council also decided for the present not to pursue registration of the Association as an independent body, a step that would alter its relationship with WHO and increase administrative work, particularly if subscriptions were introduced.

Dr Farhad Handjani, Secretary-General, presented his report. He noted that there were now approximately 262 members, including around 200 founding members and over 50 new members who had registered during 2005. However it was noted that many founding members had not confirmed their membership by filling in an application form and they would be asked again to do so, if they wished to retain privileges of voting and standing for office. Non-members would remain on the listserv. He said that the Interim Executive Council had discussed the issue of whether to admit members from outside the Region and had decided for the present to retain the current provision of the constitution in this regard and not to admit either nationals of the Region residing outside the Region covered by the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, or editors of journals in countries outside the Region. Members would be asked to update their membership every two years to ensure up-to-date membership records. The Assembly noted that the membership rights of editorial board members were unclear. It was agreed to amend the constitution in this regard to the effect that editorial board members were eligible for associate membership, in general, and full membership if they had full editorial duties. Journal editors were asked to clarify this issue in their journals. For example, editorial board members with clear editorial duties should be named as editors or associate editors in the journal. Applicants for membership in EMAME would need also to clarify this issue if they were unclear which type of membership to apply for.

The progress of the EMAME committees was presented. It was noted that during 2005 nominations for committee members had been solicited through the listserv and members appointed. The committees had defined their objectives and were working on setting plans. EMAME members who wished to join any committees were welcome to nominate themselves and if additional members were needed the Executive Council would consider their nomination.

Dr Daa Rizk, Chairman, Research Ethics and Scientific Misconduct Committee, presented his report, noting that the Interim Executive Council had decided for the present that the scope of the committee should be limited to publishing ethics and not encompass research ethics which was an altogether wider issue provided for in other forums. The committee would therefore be renamed Publishing Ethics.

Ms Jane Nicholson, Chairman, Education and Training Committee, presented her report, noting that the immediate priority of the committee would be to develop, with the support of WHO, practical training modules for editors.

Dr Maqbool Jafary, Chairman, Evidence-based Medicine Committee described the actions taken so far to initiate this committee.

Dr Farrokh Habibzadeh, Chairman, Editorship Committee presented his report, stating that bylaws had been developed and the immediate priority would be to conduct a needs assessment.

Dr Najeeb Al-Shorbaji, Chairman, e-Journalism Committee, said that this committee would be activated as soon as possible, particularly in light of the feedback from the workshop held at the conference and the subsequent discussions.

Mr Shaukat Jawaid, Chairman, Research and Scientific Committee, said that this committee had been newly established by the Executive Council. He noted that the scope of this committee had still to be finalized but that its duties would include contribution to organization of future regional conferences and its membership would be drawn from the Executive Council.

The Assembly suggested the addition of a committee on peer review and the Council agreed to consider this, possibly as part of the scope of the Editorship committee.

Dr Najeeb Al-Shorbaji, WHO EMRO, affirmed continuation of WHO support for and cooperation with EMAME, editors of medical journals being considered an important community of practice within the context of knowledge management and sharing. He said that efforts to provide administrative support to EMAME could be made in future should the need arise, and that in the meantime a backup of the membership database would be established.

It was noted that the EMAME listserv and website, hosted by WHO, had been established in 2005. Members were encouraged to take active part in the listserv discussions, and to contribute useful material and links to the website. The council had agreed to admit non-EMAME members from within the Region to the listserv, but all listserv subscribers would be encouraged to join EMAME. It was also noted that the Council had decided at its meeting that the administrative secretary would be responsible for notifying eligible members when there is need for voting and that the listserv would not be used for that purpose. This will ensure a) that the listserv is maintained for discussion purposes only, b) that non-members can remain on the listserv and c) that any voting is administered separately and by the administrative secretary.

The nominations for the Executive Council were presented by Dr A. Jamal to the General Assembly. The nominations comprised members of the Interim Executive Council (endorsed by participants at the second regional conference on medical journals in Riyadh in October 2004) who were willing to continue, and additional nominations for positions of Vice-President at Large. The Assembly endorsed the nominations of the Interim Executive Council, which became Executive Council for 2006-2007, as follows:

President	Basim Yaqub, Saudi Arabia
President Elect	Ahmed Jamal, Bahrain
Past President-	(vacant)
Secretary- General/ Treasurer	Farhad Handjani, Islamic Republic of Iran
Vice-Presidents	Maqbool Jafary, Pakistan Jane Nicholson, WHO EMRO Ahmed El- Morsy, Egypt
Vice-Presidents-at-large	Mahdi Shamad, Sudan Muayad Khalid, Qatar Walid Maani, Jordan Shaukat Jawaid, Pakistan

The General Assembly noted that a considerable amount of work had been achieved since the first regional conference and approved the report and recommendations of the (interim) Executive Council. Nominations to the Council for 2008-2009 will be sought in 2007 for endorsement by the Assembly at the next regional conference.

In conclusion, the General Assembly expressed its deepest thanks and appreciation to the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Islamic Republic of Iran, and to Shiraz University of Medical Sciences for hosting the conference. Thanks were extended to all those who helped in the organization of this important event, in particular Dr Farhad Handjani and his team. EMAME members also expressed thanks to WHO EMRO for its support and to Saudi Medical Journal for its continuous secretarial support. The Assembly thanked the EMAME President, Dr Basim Yaqub, and Administrative Secretary, Ms Susan Douglas, for their hard work, as well Interim Executive Council members and committee chairpersons for their work.

The Assembly agreed to hold the fourth regional conference in Bahrain in 2008 and the fifth regional conference in Pakistan in 2010.

Annex 1

Programme

Thursday, 26 January 2006

8:00-12:30	Achievements and challenges of medical journalism in Iran (in Farsi) Lectures
14:00-18:00	Achievements and challenges of medical journalism in Iran (in Farsi): Practical Session

Friday, 27 January 2006

14:00-18:30	Workshop sessions at conference venue
19:00-20:30	Opening ceremony

Saturday, 28 January 2006

Research and medical journalism in the Region

8:00	Biomedical research in the developing world: new insights into an old problem	Diaa Rizk	United Arab Emirates
8:10	Accept, modify or reject? a pilot scheme for assessing and deciding on manuscripts submitted for publication	Hassan Bella	Saudi Arabia
8:20	Research publication in Iran and the Eastern Mediterranean Region: a scientometric perspective	Arash Etemadi	Islamic Republic of Iran
8:30	The status of qualitative research in articles in approved Iranian medical journals	Abbas Heydari	Islamic Republic of Iran
8:40	Where to publish our research: national, regional or international?	Mohammad Hadi Bagheri	Islamic Republic of Iran
8:50	Research in developing nations: a double jeopardy	Farrokh Habibzadeh	Islamic Republic of Iran
9:00	Open discussion		

Editorship

10:30	Challenges in publishing a high-quality journal with limited resources	Fatema Jawad	Pakistan
10:40	The editor of a local journal	Yousef M. Abdulrazzaq	United Arab Emirates
10:50	Middle East Journal of Emergency Medicine: 5 years of experience	Muayad Khalid	Qatar
11:00	Starting as an editor: the skills you need	Peush Sahni	India
11:20	Lebanese Medical Journal: a tale of achievements, problems and challenges	Adel E. Berbari	Lebanon
11:30	Bahrain Medical Bulletin: survival issues	Jaffar M. Al Bareeq	Bahrain
11:40	What do (BMJ) editors want?	Rajendra Kale	United Kingdom
12:00	Hints on the history of the Journal of Faculty of Medicine	Dhafir Ibrahim El-Yassin	Iraq
12:10	Panel discussion: How to improve our editorship skills?	Moderator: Harvey Marcovitch	

Biomedical eJournalism

14:00	Utilization of eJournals and internet as sources in postgraduate medical studies in Sudan	Elsheikh Badr	Sudan
14:10	On line edition: A great source of manuscripts and regional cooperation?	Maqbool Jafary	Pakistan
14:20	ParsMedline eJournals system: construction of a low-cost and web-based editorial management and electronic publishing tool for Iranian biomedical journals	Omid Beiki	Islamic Republic of Iran
14:30	Online publishing: strategies and issues	Pippa Smart	United Kingdom

Regional biomedical journalism

15:00	Mediterranean Editors and Translators (MET), a new continuing professional development organization for communications facilitators	Karen Shashok	Spain
15:15	How can the Middle East succeed in biomedical journalism?	Karim Vessal	Islamic Republic of Iran
16:00	Panel discussion: How to establish regional journals?	Moderator: Najeeb Al-Shorbaji	

Sunday, 29 January 2006

Peer review

8:00	Peer review among young doctors	Ahmed Mohamed El- Hassan	Saudi Arabia
8:10	Characteristics and quality of reviewers	Shaukat Ali Jawaid	Pakistan
8:20	Journal of Tropical Nephro-Urology: a new trend in the medical literature	Hussein M. Al-Kaff	Yemen
8:30	Panel discussion: How to improve the peer review process in the Region?	Moderator: Farrokh Habibzadeh	
9:00	EMAME First General Assembly		

Indexing and evaluation systems

10:30	Iranian Journal of Biotechnology: a successful experience in development of a quality journal in the Region	Abdolamir Allameh	Islamic Republic of Iran
10:40	National criteria for the Egyptian medical journals	M.Farid El-Asmer	Egypt
10:50	Five-year activity at a glance: Iranian Journal of Medical Education	Tahereh Changiz	Islamic Republic of Iran
11:00	Quality is our aim	Ahmed Said El Morsy	Egypt
11:10	Palestinian Medical Journal	Fawzy Khalil Sharaf	Palestine
11:20	Bibliometric indicators from Index Medicus for the Eastern Mediterranean	Najeeb Al-Shorbaji	WHO/EMRO
11:30	Cochrane Collaboration	Zbys Fedorowicz	Bahrain

Ethics in biomedical journalism

11:50	Publishing ethics	Harvey Marcovitch	United Kingdom
12:20	Sending a paper simultaneously to more than one journal: challenges and clarifications	Mohammad Bagher Rokni	Islamic Republic of Iran
12:30	Ethical issues in biomedical publishing: EMHJ experiences and responses	Ahmed Ezzat Abdou	WHO/EMRO
12:40	Copyright and issues of rights in journal publishing	Pippa Smart	United Kingdom

Evidence-based medicine and other topics

14:00	Do we really need EBM in developing countries? What are the obstacles?	Mohammad Tarawneh	Jordan
14:10	Birth of an article	Chemao El Fihri	Morocco
14:20	Hand-searching of the Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal for reports of randomized controlled trials by the Bahrain branch of the UK Cochrane Centre	Amani Ali Al-Hajeri	Bahrain
14:30	Authorship for scientific papers	Hassan Al Hail	Qatar
14:40	Why a history of medicine journal?	Abdul Nasser Kaadan	Syrian Arab Republic
14:50	Regional scientific journals: a developing process	Mohammad Reza Masjedi	Islamic Republic of Iran
15:00	Panel discussion: <i>WAME, EMAME, FAME: A vision to the future</i>	Peush Sahni Ahmed Jamal/Farhad Handjani	WAME EMAME
16:00	Poster summaries and presentation of best poster award	Siaka Sidibe Karen Shashok Peush Sahni	FAME Spain WAME
16:10	Recommendations and closing ceremony	Abbas Sadri Najeeb Al-Shorbaji	ISESCO WHO/EMRO
		Farhad Handjani	Islamic Republic of Iran /EMAME
		Mohammad Reza Panjehshahin	Islamic Republic of Iran

Poster presentations

Publications status in Isfahan University of Medical Sciences	Amir Zargarzadeh	Islamic Republic of Iran
Review the situation of Maternity and Child Welfare Association of Pakistan Journal of Mother & Child	Zahur Iqbal Khan	Pakistan
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Parsmedline: establishment of a web based bibliographic database related to Iranian health and medical research	Omid Beiki	Islamic Republic of Iran

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