

Quality of Research Publications

This issue of RJPS is my last as Editor-in-Chief. I have pleasant memories of last two and a half year since our team took over the responsibility. Now we are set to lay office and pass on the responsibilities to a new team of enthusiasts. The experience of editing this journal has been fantastic. Therefore, in this farewell editorial I wish to focus on the challenges of scientific publications and quality assurance in scientific journalism.

Research publication is the most authentic means of apprising development in a particular field. Scientific research implies more value in terms of commercialization and service products for community. Whatever we see around us as processed goods or machineries and equipments are the outcome of research done by experts in the field. However, as with all walks of life standards and qualities are deteriorating day by day and me too research/me too paper is becoming order of the day. Pharmaceutical research is also not an exception. Number of research journals is increasing or in other terms opportunities for publication are abundant. Number of published research papers are also increasing steeply, but quality of publication and translation of research into product in market do not match the stride in publication or keep pace with the volume of publication. This is a matter of concern and needs International initiative to monitor quality of scientific papers and journalism.

The scientific value of every published research paper must be assessed and judged to weed out me too papers which are abundant. The quality assurance criteria alone can improve the quality of research articles being published. The system of peer review and impact factor has its own flaws and fails to assure quality in a foolproof manner. This problem has been deeply researched and vented for quite sometime. As a result, papers get published here or there and keep diluting the standard of research as well as quality of communication. The rules for good quality scientific paper should include merit of (i) knowledge gap in the research filed; (ii) appropriateness of approach of research; (iii) authenticity of findings; (iv) justification for the conclusions; (v) scientific/research value of the work; (vi) application/commercial/extension value of the findings. This approach for maintaining standard and quality of research will demand active involvement of retired scientists to scan papers of their field and write critique or letter to Editor so that published paper is no more the last word, rather it is beginning of scientific research communication and only those which withstand postmortem will be creditable paper.

Finally, I must express my deep appreciation to the editorial adviser and editorial board, whose smart, dedicated and able approach had made my task absolutely easy. I also thank all the researchers who opted to publish their research in this journal, the peers who critically reviewed the manuscripts. I had privilege of enjoying the services of numerous experts from India and abroad at various levels in finalizing the manuscripts which helped in maintaining quality of production. My special thanks to all of them. I wish all the best to the new editorial team.

Dr. R. S. Thakur

Editor-in-Chief

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