in the field of editing and publishing. Several initiatives were discussed and proposed during the deliberations. It was heartening to note that several of these steps have already been initiated and implemented by JPGM (Table 1). The journal intends to continue its journey towards improving its performance and matching it with the best in the “business”. The journal would now proceed with digitalisation of its issues right from 1956, so that scientists can access articles published since the journal’s inception. The journal would also like to act as a catalyst for the installation of institutional archive at Seth GS Medical College and KEM Hospital that would archive the research work and publications emanating from the institution and that would be accessible to anyone and everyone around the globe. If all the attendees initiate similar steps in their own institutions and spheres, the conference would have well served its purpose.

The success of the conference

The delegates in their feedback congratulated the organizers for arranging a conference on a topic relevant to them. The audience participation made the proceedings lively and the interaction would benefit the scientists and editors who participated in the conference. There is no doubt that the conference has succeeded in informing and sensitising the delegates about various issues involved in medical writing, editing and publishing. We believe that the success of a conference of this nature is not assessed only on the basis of number of delegates attending the conference, or number of overseas faculty participating or number of research papers presented. It would also be measured on the basis of actions that scientists, authors and administrators take to ensure that the quality of papers published is improved, access to information is widened and is not decided on the basis of the scientist’s, institution’s or community’s ability to pay. Not at least when the information is expected to improve the health of individuals by protecting them from disease, disability and death. Thus, the conference would be judged as truly successful if it provides an impetus to the “open access initiative” and the organizers would feel gratified if the meet has succeeded in stimulating scientists and administrators of colleges and universities to act for the furthering the objectives of the Open Access Initiative.

JPGM GoldCon from the eyes of a student

The Journal of Postgraduate Medicine (JPGM) organised a conference aptly entitled “JPGM GoldCon” to commemorate 50 years of its existence. Stealing four days from our busy internship training, we managed to attend “JPGM Goldcon”, an international conference on medical writing, editing and publishing. This was the first conference we were attending and it was just the type of event we were looking for. It initiated us in the art of medical writing, which we are hardly exposed to in our undergraduate medical career. The conference covered a wide array of subjects and sensitised us to the various aspects of medical research and medical writing, ranging from the concept of a good research question to the use of the right research design; from conducting literature search, to arranging funds for research and in selecting an appropriate journal for publication. And all this was done with the help of specialists who were not only experts in the field but were also great communicators. They skilfully managed to cater to the needs of a range of delegates, from “neonates” like us to the experienced connoisseurs in the field. The concepts were vividly presented with a good mix of humour that kept us very much involved. The conference also provided us with an opportunity to meet distinguished personalities. The entire experience of this conference cannot just be summed up in a mere 300 words. More such conferences and workshops must be conducted to give a positive thrust in the field of medical research. This conference has inspired us and armoured us, the young generation, with weapons of knowledge for good medical research and better medical writing.

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