

# Conferences for Medical Journal Editors

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Editors perform multiple tasks in bringing out issues of the journal. They are not only as leaders by providing vision and developing and executing policies but also educate authors and peer reviewers. Most of the editors are not formally trained in the art and science of medical journalism but out of interest and dedications many have achieved high standards by receiving impact factors. While this may be the case still many editors do need training in fulfilling the responsibilities entrusted upon them in relation to bringing out the medical journal. Editors usually do not receive any monetary benefit and work is done voluntarily in addition to their other responsibilities. It therefore seems an uphill task to ask them to join any formal full time training program on medical journalism.<sup>1</sup> Currently no formal training program exists in Pakistan to train medical journal editors. It is therefore important that editors actively participate in workshops and conferences meant for medical journal editors to update them regarding issues in medical journalism.

Pakistan Association of Medical editors (PAME) is a representative body for medical journal editors. It has been organizing many educational activities for promotion of research and publication. Its role in this regard is far ahead of many medical colleges and universities. PAME has conducted short courses for editors as well and is planning to start a certificate course in medical journalism.<sup>2</sup> All these activities from PAME platform are done without any grant from the government. Funds are generated by individual members and their participation is also on voluntary basis.

Recently PAME held its third national conference in Lahore where delegates from neighboring countries also participated. The rich educational program included many workshops and seminars, free papers and open forum for discussing issues related to medical journals and editors. Responsibilities of editors towards authors and peer reviewers were debated in great depth. The

participation on this occasion was not limited to medical journal editors but many medical students, faculty members, residents etc also participated. This activity provided an opportunity for mutual exchange of ideas and learning on many aspects related to conducting and reporting research as well as emphasis on ethical aspects of medical journalism, the most neglected area. It is hoped that editors in future will identify their own learning needs and will actively seek how to fulfill them.

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