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WRITING FOR SCIENCE

24 Sept/1 Oct/8 Oct 2021

15:30 - 18:30

COURSE PRESENTATION

Although English has been the lingua franca of science for over a century, young researchers often find it difficult to produce a manuscript for an international journal in a style acceptable for publication. An easily readable text, devoid of repetitions or contradictions, which presents in logical sequence the author's findings and comments, is a great wild card to rapid publication of the work done in the laboratory or in the clinical ward. This short course, which requires a good knowledge of English, is dedicated to the technique of scientific writing, in particular in the medical and biological fields. The video lectures address the common grammatical errors of morphology and syntax that are often encountered while editing manuscripts. Specific areas being covered include use of pronouns, punctuation and dangling participles. Next come specific issues of technical writing, such as abbreviations, units of measure, and choice of standard scientific terms. A video lecture is dedicated to the different types of scientific publications and the logical sequence of presentation of the work done in the sections of the article. Finally, practical examples of text editing are used to deal with finer points of style, such as how to organize the text in paragraphs, and how to avoid redundancy, elegant variation, or ambiguous phrasing.

OUTCOME

- to organize scientific data for publication;
- to acquire expertise in scientific/technical writing;
- to learn international standards of text composition;
- to edit scientific text according to international standards.

PRE-REQUISITES

Good working knowledge of English.

SYLLABUS

1. SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION

Primary sources of scientific information
Literature repositories
Valid vs. non-valid publication
Organizing Research
Choice of Journal
Scientific Article Layout
How to arrange the Summary
Introduction: context & purpose definition
Materials & Methods
Audiovisual Aids and tables
Results and Discussion
Ethics
References
Review Articles
Letter Writing

2. ISSUES OF GRAMMAR AND STYLE FOR SCIENTIFIC WRITING

Punctuation, run-ons, comma splice
Connectors
Hyphens
Capitalization
Units of Measure, Numerals, Temperature
British & American Spelling
Paragraphs
Collectives, Participles
Misplaced modifiers
Elegant variation
Jargon and formal writing

3. PRACTICAL SESSION ON MANUSCRIPT REVISION

Drafts of scientific manuscripts will be edited live by participants with a view to improve and standardize the text in terms of layout and style. A final version of each draft, including possible alternatives, will be produced.

4. FINAL TEST