ACADEMIC VISIT TO JAPAN: MEDICAL WRITING AND PUBLICATION ETHICS

Received: March 2, 2024
Accepted: March 22, 2024

Akerke Auanassova* https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3952-1650
1Department of Biology and Biochemistry, South Kazakhstan Medical Academy, Shymkent, Kazakhstan

*Corresponding author:
Akerke Auanassova, Master of Medical Sciences, Senior Lecturer, Department of Biology and Biochemistry, South Kazakhstan Medical Academy, 160000 Shymkent, Kazakhstan;
Twitter handle: @AAuanassova; E-mail: dr.auanassova@gmail.com


Scientific articles are crucial for scientific research, networking and discovering new fields of knowledge [1]. A good medical or any other scientific work should effectively convey scientific ideas and be clear, concise, accurate and honest [2]. Publication ethics is crucial in addressing these issues, but researchers and journal editors, especially from non-English speaking countries, may encounter several acceptable and unacceptable publication rules [3].

Medical research is a global event, and non-English-speaking researchers are equally crucial in the scientific community. However, publication in medical journals in English can be a severe problem for those for whom this language is not their native language. To participate in clinical research or write for a medical or scientific journal, it is necessary to thoroughly understand what behaviour is considered unethical [4]. Authors who do not speak English may understand plagiarism differently, which can lead to unethical publications and refutations. To solve this problem, it is helpful to conduct training on this topic and make more extensive use of modern software to combat plagiarism, which would help to close the knowledge gap and meet the demand for such resources [5].

We recently had the privilege of attending an Academic Visit in Medical Writing and Publication Ethics at Tokyo Medical University's Center for International Education and Research. This experience was enlightening and a testament to the value of such training programs. The bustling capital city of Japan, Tokyo, provided the perfect backdrop for this transformative journey. The program was led by a team of seasoned trainers, each an expert in their respective fields, ensuring a comprehensive experience.

Figure 1. Lecture by Helena Akiko Popiel: Dr Bekzhan Permenov, Dr Akerke Auanassova, Dr Helena Akiko Popiel
The meeting commenced with Professor Kojima’s keynote speech, underscoring the paramount importance of ethical standards in publications when conducting medical research. The speakers reiterated the need for transparency, honesty, and integrity in the research process, emphasizing the pivotal role that publishing plays in upholding the quality and credibility of research. This reminder of the crucial role of publication ethics should inspire all of us to adhere to these standards rigorously.

Professor Kojima generously shared her knowledge in the field of publication ethics. We have reviewed the guidelines on publication ethics and their latest revisions, which will help ensure the integrity of scientific research. These guidelines serve as a basis for authors, reviewers, and editors to adhere to high ethical standards in scientific publications.

I especially liked the part about discussing artificial intelligence’s (AI) role in scientific publications. The world of scientific publications is constantly evolving, and with the development of technology, the role of AI in the editing process is becoming increasingly important. AI can help at various stages of the editing process, from checking language and grammar to more complex tasks such as identifying scientific errors or inconsistencies. Professor Kojima drew particular attention to the importance of using AI tools in combination with human editors since the accuracy and effectiveness of these tools are limited. By combining the capabilities of AI and human editors, we can ensure the highest quality of scientific publications and their accessibility to a broad audience.

The Center’s in-house medical editor and instructor, Helena Akiko Popiel, gave an informative lecture on editing scientific publications. Using the manuscript as an example, she focused on several points that require special attention.

One of the most important topics of the meeting, which aroused great interest, was the need to support researchers who do not speak English. As the introductory statement suggests, medical research is a global event, and non-English-speaking researchers play an equally important role in the scientific community. However, publication in medical journals in English can be a severe obstacle for them. Therefore, it is essential to provide the necessary support to ensure the effective dissemination of their research results.

Stepping outside the training, Tokyo welcomed us with open arms. The city, a harmonious combination of modernity and tradition, fascinated me with its architecture, culture and people. The warm hospitality of the Tokyans made me feel at home, leaving me with a desire to return. My visit to Tokyo was full of unique experiences. From exploring iconic landmarks to enjoying delicious Japanese cuisine and diving into the bustling shopping districts, every moment was filled with excitement and curiosity. The trip also allowed me to learn about Japanese work ethics and culture. The Japanese people are known for their discipline, punctuality, and attention to detail, which were also evident in the training program. The program was well-organized, and everyone was punctual and professional.

Overall, the Academic Visit in Medical Writing and Publication Ethics was a valuable opportunity for me to gain knowledge and learn from the experience of leading experts in this field.

I am deeply grateful to Professor Armen Gasparyan for his continued support and encouragement throughout the application process and whose faith in my potential to represent our team and institution played an essential role in my participation. This visit gave me a remarkable opportunity to learn from and interact with other specialists in the field. I now feel confident in my ability to contribute to the development of medical research.

I express my special gratitude to Professor Takako Kojima, Head of the Center for International Education and Research, for the time and effort spent organizing this visit and for sharing her experience and insight with us. Her commitment to fostering a culture of academic
excellence is truly inspiring, and I am honoured to have the opportunity to learn from such a professional.

Figure 3. With Professor Kojima during the official presentation of certificates

References

АКАДЕМИЧЕСКИЙ ВИЗИТ В ЯПОНИЮ:
МЕДИЦИНСКОЕ ПИСЬМО И ПУБЛИКАЦИОННАЯ ЭТИКА