

## ONLINE MEETINGS DURING THE ERA OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has had an impact on several aspects of science editing. For instance, due to additional daytime/nighttime duties, some editors, reviewers and authors involved in healthcare had to realign their duties on editing, writing and reviewing. Moreover, the increase in the number of research on COVID-19 and the large number of submissions on this topic have increased the demand for science editing. When this was transpiring, restrictions and lockdowns led to a shift from several face-to-face editorial activities to virtual alternatives [1].

For more than one year now, online meetings have become part of our lives. There are, of course, several disadvantages of virtual meetings. Nature pooled its readers regarding their experience with online scientific meetings [2]. Poor networking opportunities appeared as the biggest drawback of virtual conferences (69%), with time-zone differences being the second most reported drawback (12%). On the other hand, the readers also appreciated some of the advantages of virtual meetings. Accessibility (49%), lower carbon footprint (21%) and lower cost (19%) were appreciated the most about virtual meetings [2].

Disadvantages related to virtual conferencing can partly be overcome using appropriate strategies. In this respect, Baker and Murphy proposed a set of guiding principles and best practices with regard to conducting

virtual meetings and managing virtual teams [3]. Accordingly, 10 tips for better virtual meetings were offered: inviting only those who really need to attend the meeting, taking only the time required, assigning a person to take the minutes, delegating a gatekeeper to help maintain focus on the agenda topic, using visuals and webcams, sharing information before the meeting, stating the purpose of the meeting and setting the guidelines, appropriate management of the flow, using technology to increase engagement, and closing the meeting by stating the next steps and allowing the attendees to give comments [3].

Despite its challenges, the perceived positive benefits of videoconferencing make it likely to be continued after the COVID-19 pandemic [4]. Seventy-four percent of the readers who responded to Nature's pool think that conferences should continue to be virtual or have a virtual component after the COVID-19 pandemic [2]. A cross-sectional, internet-based survey evaluated physicians' attitude towards webinars and online education [5]. The researchers concluded that webinars should be regarded as complementing traditional in-person methods, instead of replacing them [5].

It appears that virtual meetings will continue to some extent in the future. In this regard, paying careful attention on how to conduct successful online meetings would increase efficiency.

## FUNDING

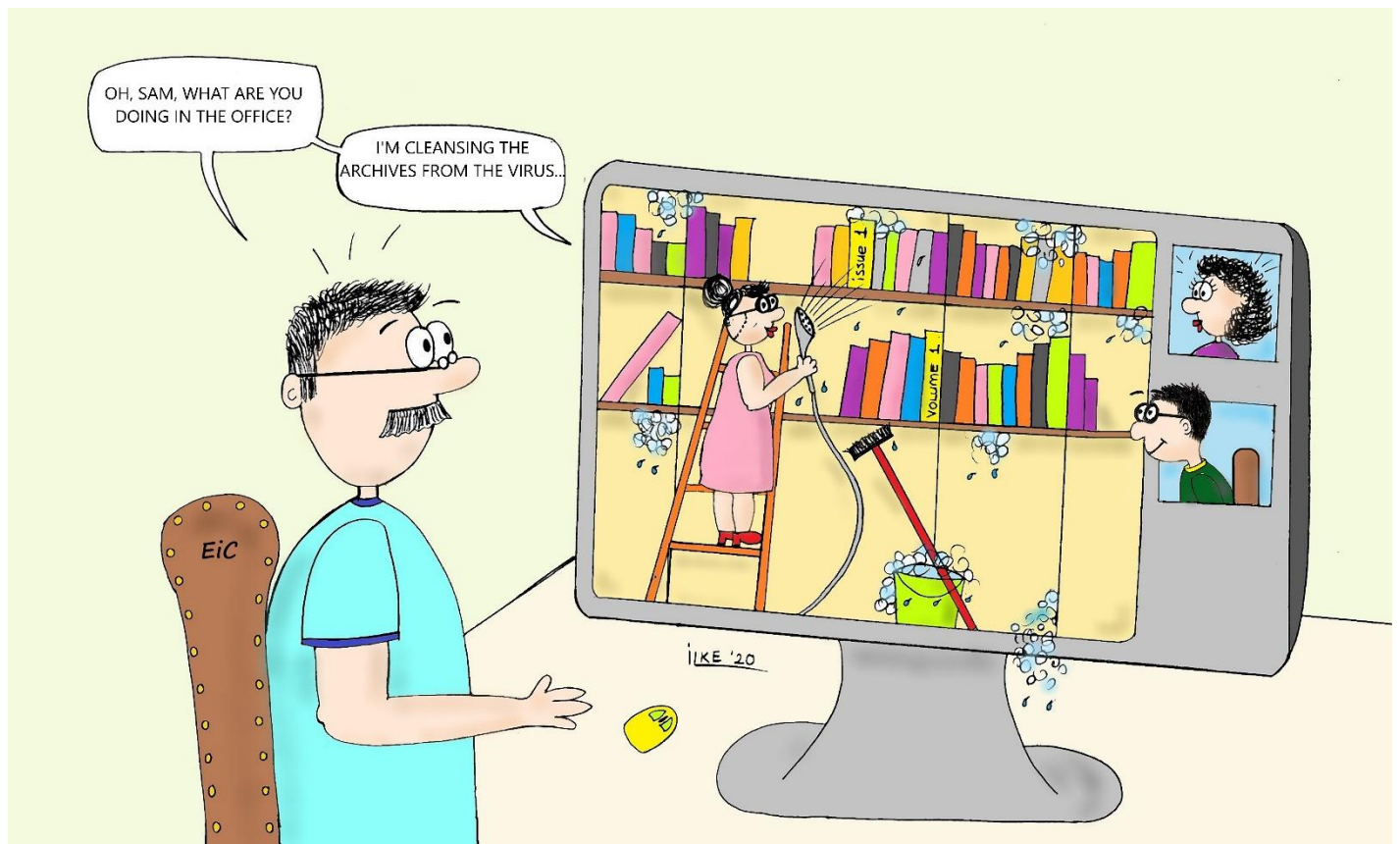
None.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this article.

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### COVID-19 ПАНДЕМИЯСЫ КЕЗІНДЕГІ ОНЛАЙН ІС-ШАРАЛАР

**Кілт сөздер:** COVID-19, онлайн білім, онлайн оқыту, пандемия, бейнеконференция байланысы

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### ОНЛАЙН-МЕРОПРИЯТИЯ ВО ВРЕМЯ ПАНДЕМИИ COVID-19

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