

## In Praise of the Academic Publishing Course

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This is a thank you letter to the editorial board of Acta Medica. I had the privilege of attending the course you organized entitled 'Academic Publishing' that took place in May 2014. The aim of the course was to give academics at the beginning of their careers, such as myself, an opportunity not only to improve their skills in writing and publishing but also to increase basic knowledge on tools that are vital when evaluating data, such as the SPSS® programme and also when citing an article, such as the EndNote® programme.

The course began with the lecture 'How to write a manuscript', now one maybe skeptical as to what a talk like this could add to a group that have already began to write and publish articles. However, the lecture gave me a whole new perspective on the way I write an article from the importance of a memorable title to ending with a great conclusion which will allow you to have the final say on the issues you have raised in your paper and to summarize your thoughts. Additionally, we received informative advice on what should be highlighted in each part of the manuscript. With the support of the editorial team we critically reviewed two manuscripts that had been written by two of the participants but had been formerly rejected by other journals. The difference between the original and final drafts of the manuscript was extremely interesting to see. This part of the course showed us what a reviewing team would look out for when evaluating our papers.

In the afternoon session we were briefed on the different project opportunities supported by Hacettepe University Technopolis. The course then continued with a lecture on Endnote®, which as is well-known, is a software tool for publishing and managing bibliographies, citations and references during manuscript preparation. Although I had been using the programme for a few years this short lecture added to my knowledge and has improved my use of the program.

The course ended with a brief lecture on the use of SPSS® the software package used for statistical analyses. Although biostatistics is vital for any academic we receive very little formal education in this field. Biostatistics is only part of the medical school curriculum in Phase 1, which is a time that we do not realize its importance and receive no further training either during our residency or sub-specialty training. Therefore even a lecture as brief as the one given during this course greatly aided my understanding of the simple procedures I was previously not able to achieve.

To conclude, I would like to thank the members of the editorial board of the Acta Medica for organizing this course. I believe I have benefited from it greatly. I hope the course is offered on a regular basis so that more aspiring academics can benefit from it as I have.