The Development of a Publication Preparation Workshop Enhancing the Publication of African Paediatric Endocrinological Research
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Background
Sub-specialisation in Africa is a new development. There is much activity in Africa in paediatric endocrinology. The international societies, ESPE and IPEAID helped significantly in the development of paediatric endocrinology training, starting Paediatric Sections in their societies. Leu published a remarkable research study in Pediatric Research, but unfortunately the process of publication is challenging. Due to the pressure of clinical work in Africa most endocrinologists have difficulty in completing their research.

Objective
To devise a mechanism to increase the chances of the publication of African Paediatric Endocrinology studies.

Method
Calls went out for high-quality research projects which were at an advanced stage, with all the experimental work and data analysis completed. See CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS (in Box). The presenters produced a structured abstract for selection for the Publication Preparation Workshop, at the ASPE 2015 Congress. The presenters of the selected projects were requested to prepare an oral presentation of 20 minutes to be presented, as well as a draft article. See: Short Guide to Writing a Medical Article (in Box). These were submitted to the editor of the Journal of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes of South Africa (JEMDSA). Prof W Mollentze, who had agreed to be part of the workshop, at the workshop, after the presenter presentation, two discussions per paper discussed ways in which to improve it for publication. Thereafter there was a discussion from the floor.

The Congress
The ASPE 2015 Congress took place in the first week of May, at the Gaborone International Convention Centre, Gaborone, Botswana. We had a successful conference which was attended by 65 delegates from 9 countries across the globe. We had a very good scientific programme which started with a symposium on Overcoming Inequalities in the delivery of Health Care in Africa, with Prof Robert Robertson giving the plenary on the management of Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus. That was followed by perspectives from Africa, which enabled us to compare our practices to what is currently achievable by modern standards. A second symposium on the last day dealt with The Role of GH in the Lab. Prof Jeanne de Villiers, in the Laboratory Endocrine Conditions in Africa. Oliver Bartman gave State of the Art presentations on the new-born screening, laboratory testing and congenital hypothyroidism. Francois de Villiers spoke on Point of Care and Side Room Testing in Endocrinology, and other speakers dealt with African Endocrinology.

The seven presentations selected for the Publication Preparation Workshop are as follows:
1. Abed K, Robertson Kenneth, Laing Paul, Masyavu L. The glycemic control of children and adolescents with type 1 diabetes mellitus attending Minaga Medical Hospital, Zambia.
3. Flora-Wehe T, Odongkora S, Melhe E, Mbor M. Reasons for admissions among children with type 1 diabetes mellitus in Mulago Hospital Kampala, Uganda.
4. Ikebekwe M, Uwagwu O. Can limited joint mobility be used to identify subjects at risk for diabetic microangiopathy in a resource limited setting.
6. Mahate LE. Qualitative research in Paediatrics, east or otherwise: a survey among paediatricians in Nigeria.

Due to a number of unavoidable factors, including a lack of sponsorship from the various delegates, difficulties in obtaining visas and difficulties in transferring funds between countries, a large number of presenters did not arrive. The new Pharmacological Companies from sponsoring individuals has affected African doctors considerably as most of our institutions do not have training/travel grants to support conference attendance; as such one has self sponsor attendance at conferences. In a situation where the average salaried are already low, one can understand colleagues’ predicaments in non-attendance of the conference due to lack of sponsorships.

The programme had to be modified to accommodate this very disappointing development. Presentation number 5 was accordingly presented first, presentation number 4, and presentation number 6 was the last presentation. The Publication Presentation Workshop was a tremendous success and the general feeling of "YES" that it must become an integral part of our annual conference. Prof W Mollentze gave a talk on how to publish a research paper and we discussed three excellent papers, which were well received, and considered to be successful presentations. Prof Mollentze attended to some questions after the presentation, two discussions gave their perspectives. These discussions were in-depth, and contributed considerably to the audience. We believe they have been considerably different in their papers presented, and more importantly, what improvements and remedies were open to them. The consensus following discussion was that the quality of the research for those three papers was very high and that they need to be developed into full manuscripts. Kenneth Robertson suggested that a paper on "Joint mobility and diabetes" can be of interest to Paediatric Diabetes and he offered to contribute in any way possible.

It is to be hoped that the incentive of publication in an international journal will yield a hundred completion percent rate. There is no doubt that the presenters who were selected, but were unable to come, lost out on developing their papers under expert guidance.

Conclusion
This is a wonderful opportunity for people in underdeveloped countries to enhance their research. The offer of Prof Mollentze and JEMDSA is unique and highly commendable.

CALL FOR PRESENTATION
Dear Researcher and Prospective Participant,

The ASPE 2015 Congress takes place from 6 to 10 May 2015 in Gaborone, Botswana. This is a call for you to present your research, to share your ideas and knowledge. We would like you to present your research, whether it is small, not yet complete, or a longer multi-national study.

Interim papers are presentations that are interim to a full article.

For original research, and the presentation of interesting cases from around Africa, the idea is to have three Interim - The Publication Presentation Workshop. Oral Presentations and Poster Presentations. The main advantage of this format is to allow for a faster publication. For interim presentations, there will be ten discounts per paper which will have 10 minutes to present the paper in order to improve its publication. Therefore there will be 5 minutes from from the floor. Prof Mollentze, the editor of JEMDSA Journal of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes of South Africa, together agreed to draw an interim focus in the journal in our Congress, as our work is up to standard. This will include publication of the best of the interim papers! This is a wonderful opportunity for people to publish their research which it is at an advanced stage, but which for whatever reason has not yet been published.

The call for abstracts now have open. You can apply:
1. Complete an abstract, and submit it to Dr Joel and myself (Prof FVR de Villiers), or to be selected, you can send your abstract to (Prof FVR de Villiers). If you feel that the abstract is good, I do not know the reasons why.
2. Submit a Statement of Intent in which you indicate what you intend to do, and when your abstract be ready. This should also be submitted to me (Prof FVR de Villiers).

More details about the Publication Presentation Workshop
The Publication Presentation Workshop is searching quite new. It is hoped to have eight good-quality research projects which are as yet an advanced stage. It would be ideal if all the presenters are present, to participate in the publication process. In time, we would like to have eight good-quality research projects which are as yet an advanced stage. The presenters will then present oral presentations in Power-Point slides, lasting approximately 20 minutes at the Congress. After each presenters presentation, there will be ten discounts per paper who will have 10 minutes to discuss the paper in order to improve its publication. Therefore there will be 5 minutes from the floor.

As mentioned before, Prof Mollentze has kindly agreed to draw an interim focus in the journal in our Congress, as our work is up to standard. This will include publication of the best of the interim papers! This is a wonderful opportunity for people to publish their research which it is at an advanced stage, but which for whatever reason, has not yet been published.

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Short Guide to Writing a Medical Article
Prof Francois de Villiers

1. A medical article is 2500 to 3500 words long. A short report is 1000 to 1500 words. The background includes objectives comprises 15%, the methods, 15%, the results 45%, and the discussion 25% of the article.
2. Begin with objectives. State one or two broad objectives in the form of. The objectives were to do the following... If you are trying to shorten a longer work e.g. a PETCA research report or an MPhil dissertation, you may have to dump some of your research.
3. Write the methods. State clearly what you have done to whom, and how they were selected.
4. Write the results. It is assumed that you have applied whatever statistical analysis is required. It is usual to use Tables and Figures to organise the results. You are usually allowed a maximum of five tables and two figures. Do not duplicate information in the tables and the figures. Use figures only if the information is graphically interesting, e.g. an increasing or a decreasing graph, or maybe a biocidal description. The results should be those that directly answer the issue raised in the methods.
5. Write the discussion. For every finding in the results, write some discussion, as follows: explain what it means, and compare it with the literature in your country, Africa and the world. Do not repent the truth that it is self-evident. If you can integrate your results, or if your results answer to every section, do not be concerned, because it makes the article more readable, even if every paragraph doesn’t sound the same as the others. Finally, you write: in conclusion we found for it is important to note.... Give only one or two paragraphs.
6. Now you write the background/introduction/literature review. Introduce the problem and then give a wided perspective, then name the research. The offer of Prof Mollentze and JEMDSA is unique and highly commendable.

7. Write the structured abstract. Check the prescribed length and headings. The abstract must be written in a structured format. The abstract must be written in complete sentences. Proof read and review.

8. Use the Vancouver system for references in medical journals. These days journals do not want too many references. Twenty to 30 would be enough for this article of this length.