

Short Communication

The Role of Private Medical Practitioners in Medical Literature : Benefits, Challenges and a Roadmap

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Abstract

At first look, switching from the field of clinical medicine practice to that of medical literature publishing may appear like an attribute unrelated to a doctor's core responsibility. However, the true impact of their experiences can be augmented by publishing and disseminating their keen observations. By translating these experiences into the written word, practitioners not only contribute to the collective understanding of diseases and treatments but also provide a platform for fellow professionals to learn from real-world scenarios. It promotes professional growth and patient trust by sharing medical knowledge and adds to medical advancements. Medical journals, online platforms, and social media provide diverse channels for Private Medical Practitioners to contribute. The dispersion of information allows practitioners to become authors, sharing their stories, wisdom, and insights with a Global audience.

Key words : Ethics, Journal, Research, Private Medical Practitioner, Publication.

Becoming an expert in their field is not the only important aspect of one's professional development. In reality to become a world-class expert today, one must also be able to disseminate his/her knowledge through the publishing process with skill and speed, as well as writing with clarity and accuracy. At first look, switching from the field of clinical medicine practice to that of medical literature publishing may appear like an attribute unrelated to a doctor's core responsibility¹. However, the true impact of these experiences can be augmented by publishing and disseminating one's keen observations². This paper aims to shed light on the significance of this transition and the profound benefits it shows to both practitioners and the medical community at large.

Importance of Publication :

Private Medical Practitioners, having years of clinical experience, encounter a multitude of cases with a wide spectrum of medical conditions. Some cases are often imbued with nuances that textbooks fail to capture, and it is these intricacies that form the basis of invaluable insights. By translating these experiences into the written word, practitioners not only contribute to the collective understanding of diseases and treatments but also provide a platform for fellow professionals to learn from real-world scenarios. It promotes professional growth and patient trust by sharing medical knowledge and adds to medical advancements³. The influence of medical publications isn't limited to the immediate circle of practitioners. The ripple effect is far-reaching, extending to institutions,

Editor's Comment :

- Private medical practitioners possess a wealth of real-world clinical experience that can significantly enrich medical literature when systematically documented and shared. Their active participation in academic publishing can enhance professional growth, strengthen evidence-based practice, and ultimately improve patient care. Encouraging collaboration, ethical research practices, and scientific writing can help practitioners translate clinical experience into meaningful contributions to medical knowledge and ultimately patient-centered care.

researchers, and healthcare systems Worldwide. This collects evidence regarding the current understanding of a health problem. A meticulously documented case study might offer insights that inform medical guidelines, shaping treatment protocols across borders^{4,5}. A well-drafted review article introduces a novel perspective on previous research⁶. In essence, sharing one's experiences through literature has the capacity to go beyond the individual and benefit the entire medical sector.

Opportunities and Hurdles for a Private Practitioner :

The path of a Private Medical Practitioner is both difficult and lucrative in the constantly changing field of modern medicine. Daily interactions with diverse groups of patients, challenging diagnoses, and intricate treatment plans impart rich shades of experiences. These experiences carry far-reaching potential beyond the confines of the hospital and clinics. They possess the power to shape the extent of medical knowledge and practice on a broader scale through the journey of academic publications⁷. From challenging diagnostic dilemmas to innovative treatment approaches, the stories from the practice hold the potential to revolutionize conventional thinking. As we navigate the digital age, the avenues for sharing experiences have expanded significantly. Medical journals, online platforms, and social

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media provide diverse channels for Private Medical Practitioners to contribute⁸. The dissemination of information allows practitioners to become authors, sharing their stories, wisdom, and insights with a Global audience. This dispersion, in turn, fosters diversity in thought, enriching the pool of medical knowledge and improving patient care on a Global scale.

There are some unique set of challenges that Private Medical Practitioners may face when trying to do research and publish their findings, such as time constraints, financial constraints, ethical and regulatory hurdles, limited access to research resources, data collection challenges, or lack of writing skills⁹. They may have a large dataset but have little knowledge to make it presentable and draw meaningful inferences. Maintaining a balance between clinical responsibilities and research activities can be difficult at times. They have to manage their time effectively and prioritize their roles.

Once you have crossed the hurdles and decided to indulge in research and medical publishing, you need to be well-versed with some rules of this specialized process.

Ethical Considerations :

To safeguard participants' rights the research process needs to be scrutinized beforehand. You have to make a research protocol according to guidelines and produce it to the Ethical Committee for approval¹⁰. Ethical Committee members will scrutinize your proposal and give approval or advice on some corrections in the research protocol considering the safeguard of participants and weighing different aspects of the research process. Ethical clearance can be obtained from the Hospital Ethical Committee in existence. In the absence of such an establishment, ethical clearance can also be obtained from a nearby institute having such a committee. For example, freelance private practitioners may apply to a nearby Medical College or a big institute for ethical clearance. One should ensure obtaining ethical clearance before the recruitment of the first participant in the study. It should be followed in all studies be it observational or interventional.

Patient Consent and Privacy :

You have to ensure maintaining patient confidentiality, obtain informed consent for data collection, and seek permission to use their data in publications. A participant can't be forced to participate in a study and any data or picture should be used only after their written informed consent.

Conflict of Interest and Financial Disclosure :

This is also a very important aspect of research and publication. Authors have to declare a conflict of interest if any and also financial support obtained in the conduct of research.

Relevance to the Practitioner's Specialty :

The topic chosen should be relevant to the practitioners. They can collaborate with another specialty as per requirement.

Collaborations and Networking :

The benefits of collaborating with other practitioners and researchers are many. You get opportunities for multi-center studies, enhancing your knowledge, publication quality, and impact on scientific society¹¹.

Types of Publications :

Research articles may be of different types. It may be an original research work addressing a particular research question. It may be a description of some rare case report or a collection of some peculiar cases called case series. It may be a review article which is actually a compilation of findings of several studies to answer a particular research question.

Journal Selection :

Once you are done with your research process you have to pen it down as an academic draft. This draft or manuscript preparation needs various factors to consider. You have to choose the target audience, journal scope, and other specifications. Journal indexing and Impact factors are among the top criteria. It is advised to avoid predatory journals.

Writing and Submission Process :

Writing : Emphasize clear, concise, and evidence-based writing. Outline the structure of a scientific paper (Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion).

Submission: Go through the process of submitting a manuscript to a journal. There are standard international guidelines, but some journals may have a few peculiar requirements.

Peer-review process: Once you submit your manuscript to a journal for publication consideration, they have a system of reviewing the manuscript for suitability for publication¹². Some journals have a policy to have a primary editor's check once they get a submission. At this stage, they may reject it or send it for peer review. According to the feedback provided by reviewers, a further decision is taken about accepting, revising, or rejecting the manuscript. Now the corresponding author is informed about the decision and further step is completed accordingly. Satisfactory revision and required corrections in the manuscript pass it to the publication process.

Promoting Publications :

Once published, you should produce it to a large target audience. The use of social media and professional platforms in sharing publications is very helpful.

Communicate your findings to both medical and non-medical audiences.

Benefits and Rewards :

There are a number of benefits to oneself and to society. They include but are not limited to enhanced professional reputation, contribution to the medical community, opportunities for speaking engagements and collaborations, career advancement, continual learning, financial benefits, improving patient care and personal satisfaction. etc.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the journey from medical practice to literature is not a departure from the core essence of a Private Medical Practitioner. Instead, it is an expansion—an extension of the commitment to patient care and the pursuit of excellence. By documenting experiences, translating insights, and participating in the discourse of medical literature, practitioners can truly amplify their impact. While there are many benefits to academic publication for Private Medical Practitioners, it's essential to recognize that it can be time-consuming and challenging. Balancing clinical responsibilities with research and writing can be demanding. The stories from the clinic have the potential to shape the narrative of medicine, leading us into a future where knowledge flows seamlessly from practice to literature and back again, enriching the lives of patients and practitioners alike. Medical publishing is a skill that should be learnt under the guidance of an expert to produce scientific and accurate evidence.

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