

EADPH Workshop on Reviewing Papers and Research Proposals

Roxana Oancea¹

¹PhD, DDS. Lecturer, Dental Faculty, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Timisoara, Romania.

Introduction

The fourth workshop organised by the European Association of Dental Public Health (EADPH) was held at the First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, Prague, on 2 and 3 November 2012.

Aim and Objectives of the Workshop

The aim of the workshop was to help participants to improve their abilities to review abstracts for scientific conferences, papers and reports submitted to peer-reviewed journals, and grant applications. There were 21 participants representing academic and scientific staff involved in providing oral health services across Europe.

The objectives were to help the participants to:

- Improve their understanding of the importance of accurate analysis of scientific work through systematic evaluation
- To become familiar with the methodology used in the evaluation of scientific papers and project proposals
- To apply the knowledge through practical work on reviewing papers and project proposals.

These objectives were achieved through a series of multimedia presentations, break-out sessions, questions, answers, and small-group working.

Welcome to the Workshop

At the beginning of the workshop, all the teachers and participants spoke briefly and introduced themselves to each other.

Training Activities

The training activities took place in four sessions. The first two were presented and facilitated by Professor Kenneth Eaton, Editor-in-Chief of *Oral Health and Dental Management*. The first session dealt with reviewing abstracts for scientific conferences and the selection of key words and Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) terms. After a brief pres-

entation on how to use a check-list for abstracts and how to select MeSH terms, the participants split into three working groups, which reviewed abstracts and selected both key words and MeSH terms for these abstracts. This was followed by a plenary session in which each small group reported back and their findings were discussed by all the participants.

The second session focused on reviewing papers and reports for peer-reviewed journals and assessing their quality through a four-stage approach involving a preliminary read, a slower more comprehensive read, detailed analysis, and synthesis understanding. During the presentation at the beginning of this session, participants were shown how to use a 49-point check-list to evaluate a research paper. They then again split into three small groups, which used the check-list to review two research papers. The working groups then reported their findings in a plenary and discussed them.

In the third session, the emphasis was on reviewing grant applications to dental companies and national public bodies such as Governments and Research Councils. Dr Martina Vagaska of GABA International gave a presentation on reviewing grant applications to dental companies. Dr John Galloway, who worked for the Medical Research Council in London for many years, then gave a presentation on reviewing grant applications to a national public organisation. The participants then divided into four working groups, two of which wrote a synopsis for a grant application to a dental company starting from the objectives that were given. The other two working groups were asked to review a grant application that had been submitted in 2010 to a public body in the United Kingdom and to comment on its content and whether or not it should receive funding. All the working groups reported to a plenary and discussed their work with the facilitators and among themselves.

The fourth and final session was facilitated by Dr Vladimír Albrecht from the Technology Centre of the Association of Science of the Czech

Republic. It considered the goals, topics, funding and project proposal assessment of research funded by the European Commission, within the Framework programmes and the forthcoming Horizon 2020 programme. After presenting a history of the Framework programmes, Dr Albrecht gave a detailed description of the process by which the European Commission evaluates grant applications.

Throughout the workshop, the participants discussed their understanding of the different types of review and its application to their own duties.

Future Work

A number of the participants have attended all four workshops, each one of which has been made

possible by generous sponsorship from GABA International. It is hoped to hold a further workshop in 2013, which could be on the topic of planning and monitoring a multi-national collaborative study and then developing a bid for such a project to the European Commission.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks were given to Professor Zdenek Broukal for organising the workshop in Prague, to the Dean of the First Medical Faculty of the Charles University for enabling it to take place in the Medical Faculty, and to GABA International for their generous funding which enabled many of the participants to take part.



The workshop participants at the end of the workshop.