

Starting small in research is a big step

Ashok Shyam^{1,2}

One of the biggest hurdles in doing anything is starting it successfully. Many things fail to reach their potential because they fail at the first hurdle. Academic career is one such thing that would need a motivation of early success to carry it for a long time. Specially in country like India where research and publication are mostly sustained by personal motivation. I believe starting small in research and publication is best step for MOA members too.

Although most of us will aspire to publish in top journals like JBJS or CORR, it is difficult and tedious process. With lack of infrastructure and university funding in our country, it is not an easy task even to get published in a smaller journals. This leads to rejection of articles and then disillusion of many potential authors. Specially the young surgeons and trainees take these rejections very personally and many of them never attempt to publish again. This is a huge academic loss.

To counter this, I believe that academic careers should be started with small steps and small successful publications. I think case reports are one of the best starting points for academic career. Most of us have seen and treated complex cases that are unique. Writing and reporting them would most of the time achieve successful publication. Even in Journal of Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery, we have a high acceptance rate of case reports. This is specially advisable for the post graduate students and trainees. The second step would be a retrospective case series of certain complex trauma. Again most medical colleges or institutes would definitely have short series of complex trauma cases treated over the year. A retrospective review provides good insights specially into complications and outcomes. Also such article is easy for data collection and also easy from writing point of view. Retrospective case series have problem in being accepted in high journals so MOA members can aim their initial case series for MOA Journal. Most of the articles that we have published in MOA Journal are retrospective case series and we would urge our members to submit more of these with us.

Both case reports and retrospective case series have high acceptance rate in MOA Journal. The success of publication is important in initial career of an academician. It not only provides them with recognition but also makes them familiar with process of article submission, article review, revision and publication etc. This makes them more confident in terms of planning better studies and submission to higher journals in a stepwise manner. I believe this will also help retain the motivation for continued academic excellence among all researchers.

Dr Ashok Shyam

Editor: Journal of Trauma Surgery

¹Sancheti Institute for Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation, Pune, India

² Indian Orthopaedic Research Group.

Address of Correspondence

Dr Ashok Shyam

Sancheti Institute for Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation, Pune, India

Email: drashokshyam@gmail.com

How to Cite this Article

Shyam AK. Starting small in research is a big step. Journal of Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery April - June 2019;14(2):1.

Conflict of Interest: NIL

Source of Support: NIL