



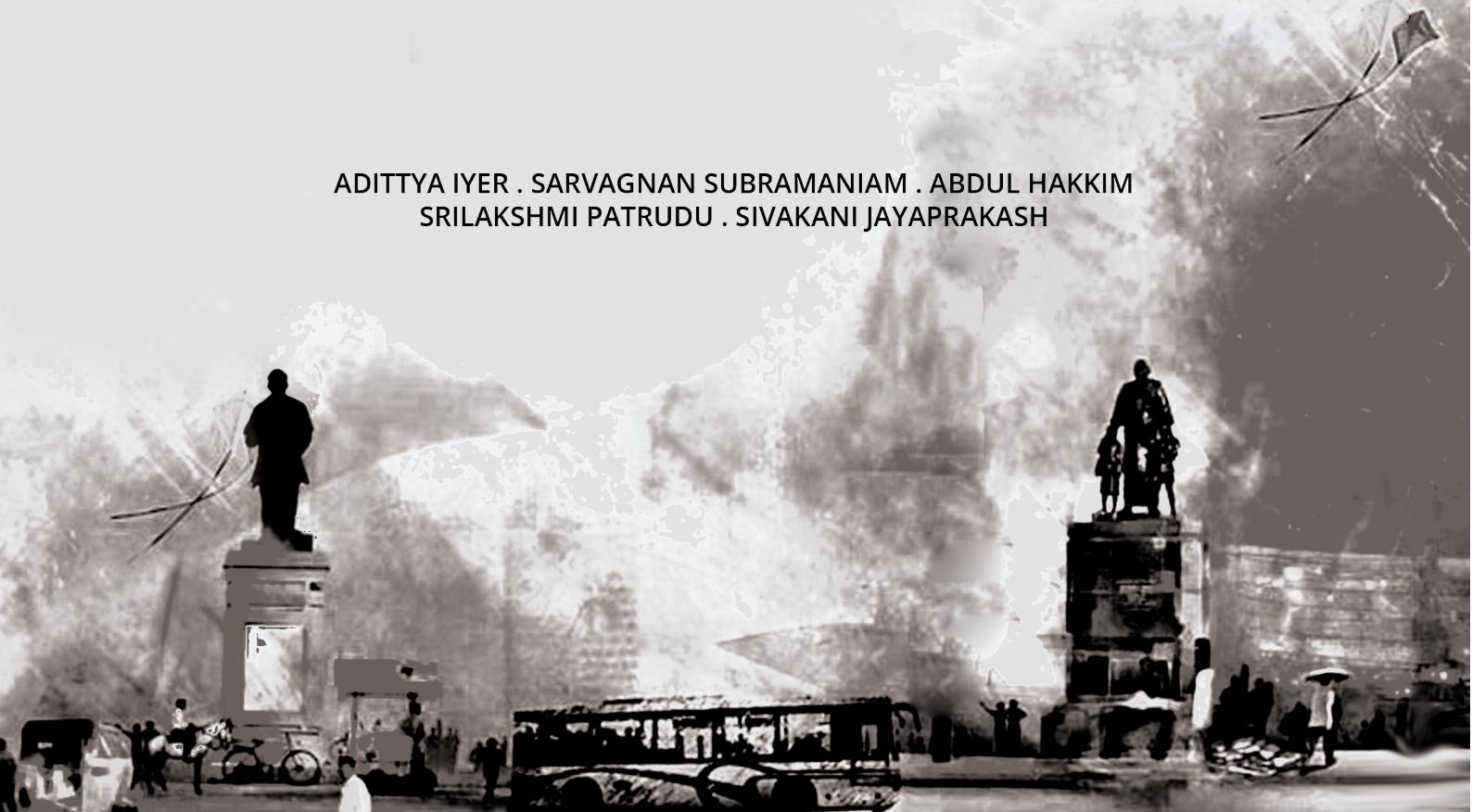
REFLECTIONS

SPRINGER NATURE JOURNALS EDITORIAL OFFICE

VICIOUS VARDAH

DECEMBER 2016

ADITTYA IYER . SARVAGNAN SUBRAMANIAM . ABDUL HAKKIM
SRILAKSHMI PATRUDU . SIVAKANI JAYAPRAKASH





Vardah, a severe cyclonic storm with winds reaching 140 km/hour, crossed the coast and hit Chennai on 12 December 2016.

Heavy rains lashed Chennai from the early morning with squally winds uprooting trees in several parts of the city. Power supply was suspended in many parts of the city as a precautionary measure. It also caused structural damage in many places making the city a mess with continued after effects being felt over the next couple of days.

A few of our SPS units were also damaged during this fierce cyclone and in the wake of Vardah, our offices shut down operations for 2 days.

SPS immediately took all the necessary steps to ensure that the jammed networks were restored. Management planned a quick meeting to discuss about emergency measures that were required.

With the power supply not restored and transportation services not running, it was difficult to make the offices function. Loads of planning was required in the meantime and our management ensured that all the necessary arrangements were in place without any chaos.

SPS JEO inched back to normalcy on 14 December 2016 and we were moved to Unit 1, a secondary location, to ensure that the large volume of mails received were not kept pending. All the JEOAs, along with the support of our management, worked hard to meet the urgent requirements.

As a first task, the JEOAs worked on the sensitive cases which required immediate attention along with other high priority e-mails, after which the system e-mails were worked upon. The entire team approached this task proactively and was so supportive during this crisis period.

With the JEO Mantra of smart work the total volume of e-mails was completed within 3 days and we registered strongly once again that nothing is impossible with determination and focus.

I really thank each and every team member for their support and would like to extend my gratitude to the management for their arrangements.

We are already back in our own offices and look forward to the new year celebrations.

Ms. Devi Shanmugam, Journal Editor, SPS



REFLECTIONS OF MY TRIP TO CHENNAI

What a great pleasure to be back in India again to meet my friends at SPS. Last time, I had the privilege to travel on my own. After the trip I went home and raved about all the hospitality and friendliness I received. Words spread. This time, seven JEO and QA colleagues visited SPS and experienced the same warm atmosphere.

We covered a lot in these two days. On the first day, after a detailed and very interesting summary on JEO SPS work, we discussed current topics as well as what to expect and where to focus in the coming months. We learned about reporting options, worked on QA improvements and exchanged experience about the recent BMC journal migrations.

On the next day, we talked about iMacro options, our integrity goals and how to improve case reports.

And of course there was the option for each of us to sit next to a JEO Assistant to be impressed by how professional and well organized your colleagues perform their daily tasks.

Thanks Sivakani, for having us. Thanks for showing us around and for inviting the BMC colleagues to your home after the official agenda.

And thanks to Mr. Bala for his slides introducing us to SPS as well as to Chennai (with one of the largest beaches in the world). And of course for the splendid evening at the roof top terrace.

Looking very much forward to seeing the friendly SPS people again soon. Keep up the good work.

Mr. Uwe Schwab, Manager JEO, Springer Nature Germany

VISITING SPS

I was pleased to visit SPS in October and grateful for a very friendly welcome. With only two days visiting the office it was quite a flying visit but it gave me the opportunity to learn a lot. As this was my first visit to SPS, it was good to learn more about the company, what they do and how big the operation is. For me, what was most interesting was spending some time with the JEO Assistants actually seeing what the day-to-day work is like and how it's done. I was amazed by how thorough and fast the work was – not an easy combination to achieve! Seeing the other side of the process was really valuable.

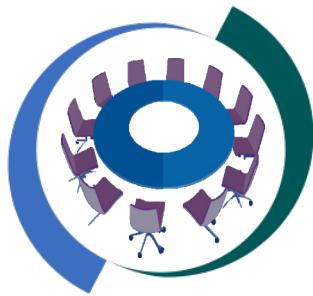
The discussions about the journals and the processes, looking at how they work and how they can be adapted and improved, were interesting and useful and I look forward to more of those in future. It was lovely to see how passionate and engaged with the journals everyone was.

I also have to say that with the combination of the time difference and an overnight flight I developed a real appreciation for the Indian coffee.

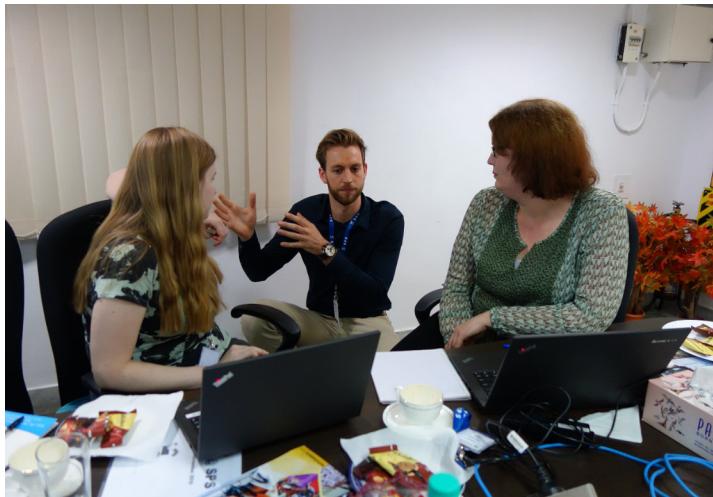
Ms. Isobel Martin

Editorial Performance Manager, BMC Series





BioMed Central



On 09 November 2016, we were visited by the Global JEO and BMC teams. Being the newest addition to the BMC team at SPS, I was naturally a little nervous with how this meeting would go.

The office was decorated with a customized floral kolam and the team arrived at around 9:30 am. A meeting was scheduled for 2:30pm during which a session on the workflow of BMC journals in general was planned and any questions we might have towards handling journals would be clarified.

The meeting started with some ice breakers to get us into our comfort zones and Ms. Samantha Wright proceeded with a presentation on updates and an evaluation of the SpringerOpen and BioMed Central journals migration project. This was followed by a presentation from Mr. Felix Grun with regard to the general workflow for the BMC Series journals and the ways this differed from the subscription journals.

Ms. Fiona Routley then conducted an interactive session in which we discussed the difficulties faced while working with BMC journals as compared to subscription journals. We agreed on and debated many points raised in this session. The end result was that we had a much clearer idea on the things that needed to be done in BMC journals than we had going in.

The visit continued for another day and a field visit was arranged for them to see us working on the journals. The visit was hosted by Srilakshmi, Ramya, and Renuka from the SPS BMC team. The global team in turn got a look at the work ethic and practices followed at SPS.

I believe we did reasonably well and showed our BMC colleagues that we are capable of handling more journals. I also found this session transformative as I have the least experience in working with both subscription and BMC journals and I believe that this will go a long way in my improvement as a part of the SPS BMC team.

**Mr. Parthiban Gurusamy
Journal Editor, SPS**

JEO TRAINING SESSION

Theoretical knowledge is imparted in classroom training to be applied on the job. However, due to the monotonous work schedule we begin to neglect certain key parts of procedures. This makes it essential to provide another round of training to refresh the knowledge of the employees after a period of time. Employees who joined in the last ten months made their way to the training rooms on 01 October 2016 for one such event conducted by SPS JEO.

The training session was about the procedures that were to be followed in the day to day work of a JEO assistant. We had four wonderful trainers for this session, namely Helen, Srilakshmi, Saraswathi, and Devi. Helen gave us an introduction to the JEO in Springer and SPS using an easy to understand presentation which provided updated versions of the information present in the training modules. Srilakshmi and Saraswathi then explained the features of the author, reviewer, and editor menus in Editorial Manager, including many features that were easy to miss. We also learned some interesting terms and information regarding editor assignment. Devi then concluded the session with a discussion of the JEO policies that should be followed on a regular basis.

The training was useful to all the employees and we offer our sincere thanks to the trainers for sharing their experiences with us and providing us with the opportunity to improve our knowledge of Editorial Manager. I hope that this session results in the development of more employees who can act as trainers in future sessions.

Mr. Parthiban Gurusamy
Journal Editor, SPS

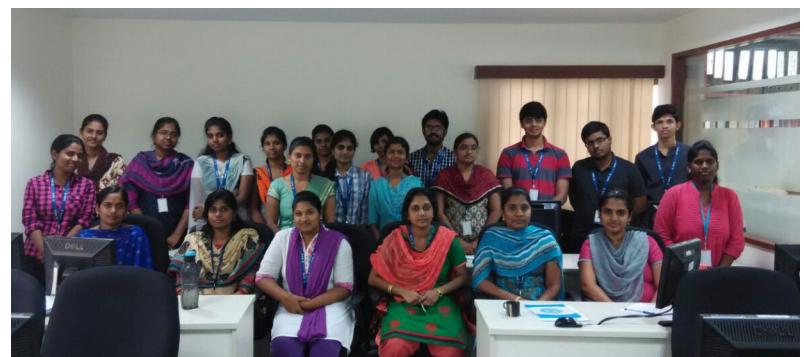
MY FIRST EXPERIENCE AS A TRAINER

I will never forget my first experience as a trainer. The session that I was to conduct was about the author's menu, which is very simple so I had prepared well.

Most of the participants were trainees so I had planned on concentrating on them. I was scared to face the crowd and proceed with the session but the crowd was fabulous and interacted very well with me. Moreover, I had prepared with the assumption that I was to teach, but it turned out to be a great session of discussion which kept everyone involved. I was bombarded by questions from the trainees which made it an amazing experience to talk to such energetic people.

I once read that learning opportunities promote one's self esteem. Similarly, this training session has greatly increased my self-confidence. I can't wait for the next one.

Ms. Renuka Nidhi,
Journal Editor, SPS





THE REAL WINNERS

ABILITY REDEFINED

Sports is an essential part of everyone's childhood. It teaches us the importance of the hard work and training required to achieve success and at the same time imparts the lessons of sportsmanship in the face of failures.

For most, sports is all about being competitive, but for some the spirit of the games is more dear than winning or losing.

This was showcased by the kids from Premavasam when they participated in a sports meet at Kanchipuram District organized by Adhiparasakthi Engineering College. They took part in various events organized which included running race, wheel chair rolling, shotput, potato gathering, tricycle race etc., and came out with flying colours. The events were chaired by the National Rehabilitation Officer and District Superintendent of Police.

It was a pleasure to see the pure joy on the face of the children gathered there, the elation at every victory and the friendly pats on those who lost, all taken in the right spirit with the one goal, to just enjoy and participate in as many games as possible.

Sometimes a little bit of love and encouragement goes a long way in building confidence in a child to excel and exceed. Kudos to the winners...Kudos to the children of Premavasam.

We hope to see them participate and shine in many such events in the future.

Mr. Sathish Srinivasan, Journal Editor, SPS
Responsible for CSR activities in the JEO team