



REFLECTIONS

SPRINGER NATURE JOURNALS EDITORIAL OFFICE

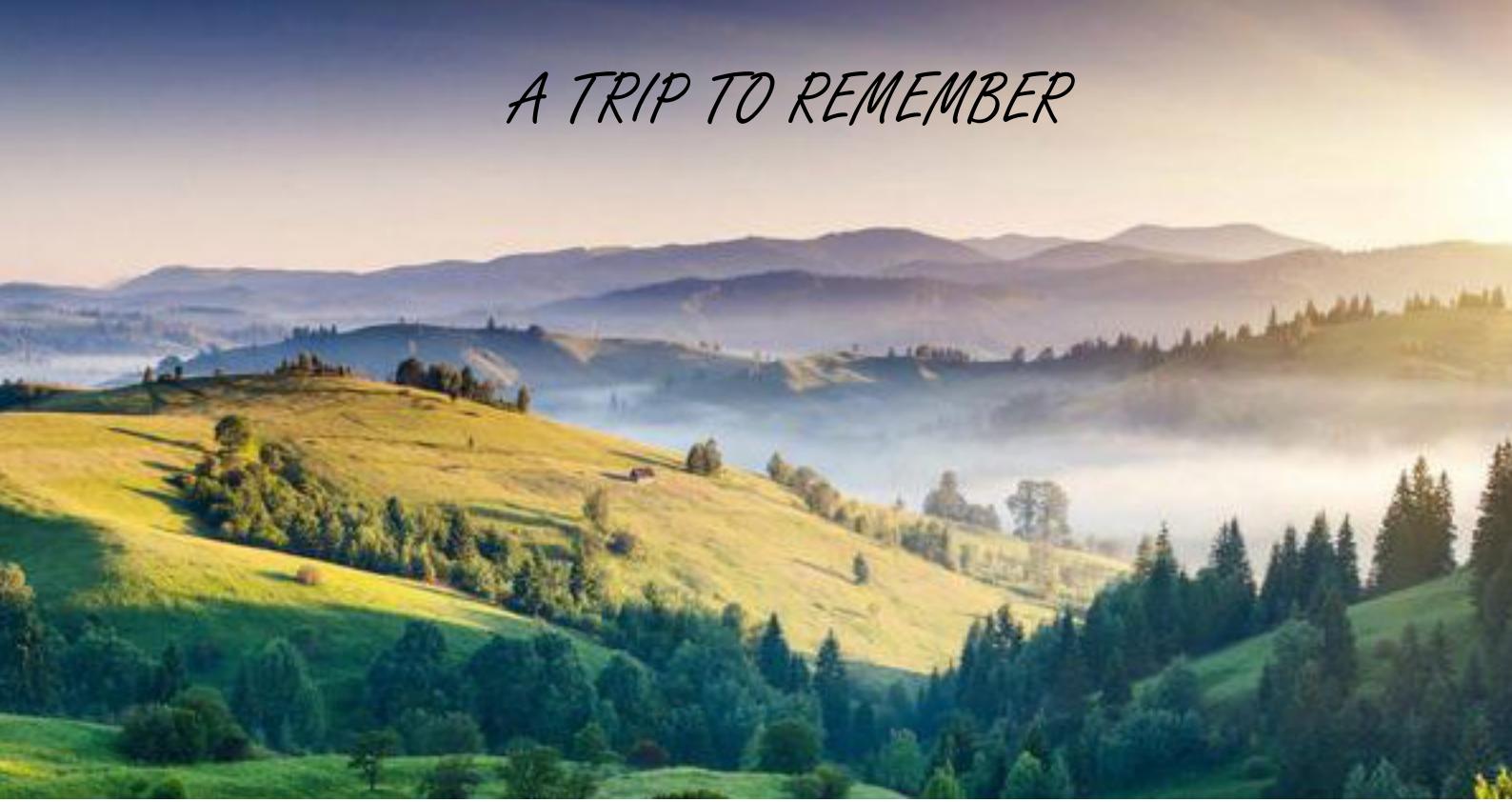
SEPTEMBER 2017



KODAIKANAL
PRINCESS OF HILL STATIONS



A TRIP TO REMEMBER



The SPS JEO management team went on a four day trip to Kodaikanal, a hill station in Tamil Nadu. This is certainly a milestone in the history of SPS JEO team, for we were able to accomplish this for the first time, thanks to my wonderful team. The journey to and from Kodaikanal was simply the best part as we had loads of fun, singing and dancing all the way around.

This outing provided us an opportunity to not only connect with nature but also helped attain better understanding amongst ourselves which I am sure would pave way for a great working relationship. Campfires, photoshoots in the forest, selfie spamming, cooking, huddling together in front of the television were just some of the many activities that we did together as a family, for indeed I realized that my team is my first family. We made so many memories together that I believe we would cherish for years to come.

I hope we will be able to continue this tradition in the forthcoming years and Srilakshmi (she is on her family way), don't worry we will not miss you out the next time.

Mr. Sivakani Jayaprakash,
JEO Manager, SPS, Chennai



PEER REVIEW WEEK 2017

CELEBRATIONS

11 - 17 SEPTEMBER

Peer review is the evaluation of work by a set of reviewers in the subject area. Peer review methods are employed to maintain standards of quality, improve performance, and provide credibility. In academia, scholarly peer review is often used to determine an academic paper's suitability for publication. Peer review is generally considered necessary to academic quality and is used in most major scientific journals.

Peer Review Week is a global event celebrating the essential role that peer review plays in maintaining scientific quality and this year it was celebrated in the week of 11 September. In 2015, the first Peer Review Week was celebrated. Each year the celebration has a theme with this year's theme being Transparency in Review.



As part of the celebration in SPS JEO, the entire department was decorated with concepts related to peer review. The notice board was taken care of by Sathish's team. A Rangoli expressing the theme was done by Devi's team. The work area was decorated by Deepan and Priya's team. Ramya Balu and team easily described the different peer review policies using Zoo Zoos.

The celebration started with a devotional song by Swathi and was hosted by Priyadharshini. The BMC team conducted games on peer review. A debate on whether reviewers should be paid was conducted. We had invited Mr. Rao and Mr. Rajesh to attend the celebration. Mr. Rao presented gifts for the winners. One of the events was a role-play in which the crowd was split into groups and different situations on peer review were given and each team acted out how they thought the situation would go. Finally the day was ended with tea and samosas. This was a fun day and I can't wait to celebrate this next year as well.



Ms. Ramya Thulasingam
Journal Editor, SPS, Chennai

TRANSPARENCY

PEER REVIEW WEEK 2017

CELEBRATIONS

11 - 17 SEPTEMBER

I am so delighted to have the opportunity to share my views about this peer-review celebration. We had planned to have the celebration towards the weekend. Pre-planning for this event was well organized and each team came up with different ideas to make the event knowledgeable and fun filled as well.

With peer review being the main theme, the BMC team decided to keep the participants active by conducting a quiz and various puzzles. To start up the event, Parthiban, the coordinator, gave Harry Potter names to each team. The focus of this event was mainly to make us aware of the facts of peer review that we were not likely to have come across. One such example is the name of the father of modern scientific peer review. It was an enjoyable event for us and I am sure each participant gained much knowledge.

Then it was Deepan and team who took over the stage to conduct a debate, coordinated by Swathi Alagesan on the topic 'Should reviewers should be paid'. The debate commenced by emphasizing the pros and cons of reviewers being paid and later the speakers took the topic to the next level by walking through each point and deconstructing the other side's arguments. Finally, our manager Mr. Sivakani concluded the topic with a note that when reviewers are paid they would probably start accepting more papers even if they are not an expert on the topic and this would visibly impact the quality of the review and it would also abuse the research field. Researchers should always be service oriented and not money oriented for the sake of their research field.

Finally, the event ended with a role-playing session and this was conducted by Devi and team. The event coordinator, Divya Ananthanarayanan, gave a scenario to each team that they should then act out. It was a change to see the JEO Assistants acting as authors, reviewers, and editors and really liked Anandhi and Magesh for their wonderful enactments as the JEO Assistant and Author which made the whole event very lively. Even if it was the last event, we thoroughly enjoyed it and the day went very well.



Ms. Swetha Rajendran,
Journal Editor, SPS, Chennai

PEER REVIEW WEEK CELEBRATIONS

11 - 17 SEPTEMBER



First of all, I would like to thank Mr. Sanjay Deepak, the HR manager, and Mr. Sivakani Jayaprakash, the JEO manager, for providing me the opportunity to take part in this peer review celebration. I would also like to convey my best regards to the entire crew from SPS JEO who made this event informative and entertaining. The celebration started with a prayer song and was followed by a set of games which was conducted by the BMC team. The first game was a puzzle. Each team was provided with 3 sets of alphabets and were asked to form words related to the peer review process within 10 minutes. I observed the co-ordination between the team members and the enthusiasm among them. Two teams went to the next round which was a crossword puzzle. Both the teams actively took part in the game and as everyone expected, Deepan's team snatched the prize.

The next event was a debate on the topic, "Should reviewers be paid ". The team who chose to speak for the reviewers explained why the reviewers must be paid, however the team whose opinion was that reviewers must not be paid seemed more plausible.

At the end, Mr. Sivakani precisely concluded, as reviewers are in the learning process, they could enhance their skills rather than holding out for money. He also added that they would paid well once they become an experienced and versatile editor. I would like to conclude by saying that learning is the key to success and I learned a lot in this event.

Kudos to everyone in JEO for making this celebration a great success.

Rajesh, Recruiter
Human Resources, SPS

Peer Review Week celebrations were organized in the Journal Editorial Office in the middle of September. As part of the celebration, I was given the opportunity to attend a session conducted for the FSV team about the peer review process.

The session covered how the Peer Review process takes place from the manuscript submission till acceptance. A lot of information was put on display, which really helped us understand the terminologies used in this Process.

I liked the way the workflow was depicted in a new form using flowers. This was the first time I had ever seen something like this and it attracted the attention everyone present.

I thank Mr. Sivakani, the JEO Manager, and Mr. Deepan for organizing such a wonderful and informative session.

Satheesh Kumar, Team Lead, Dataset
Springer Journal Typesetting, SPS





NAVEEN PARTHIBAN



SELVARANI GNANADURAI

BEST PERFORMERS JAN - JUN 2017

Recognition of one's work is the best appreciation an employee could look for. They thrive at the workplace when they realize their contributions have a meaning. One such recognition is the Best Performers Award, and this time it was given to Selvarani Gnanadurai and Naveen Parthiban who won it for the first half of 2017.

Selvarani is such a dedicated worker and completes any work assigned to her within the scheduled time with no compromises in quality. She has managed her team in the absence of her team lead effectively managing the team work as well. She is one of the few people who can, and does, finish any given project well before the stipulated deadline. She is always active in the work environment and takes ownership of her work.

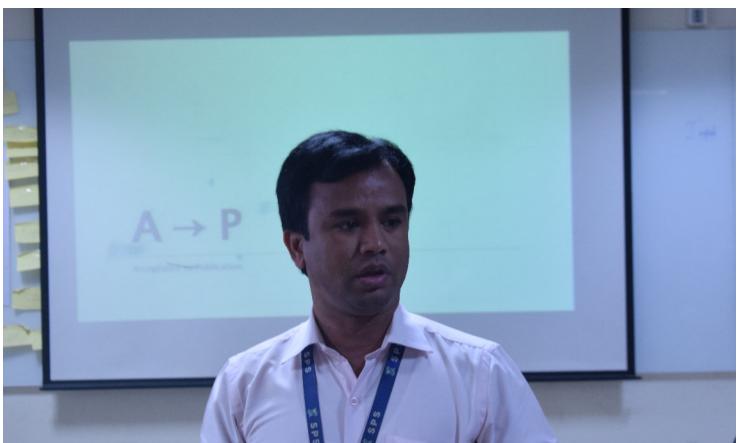
Naveen has been in the team for just a year and 3 months but I have been amazed by his commitment towards his work. He never says no for any work passed on to him and he can be counted on at any time with no doubt. His determination and urge to complete his work are notable attributes. Naveen is supportive and is adaptable to any situation to help the team during times of need. He always carries a smile and I have never seen him with a gloomy face during work.

This time both winners are from the team of Priya Balamurugan who helped them to achieve this honor by supporting them so that they could mold themselves to reach greater heights.

I am glad that they received the award for this quarter and that their hard work has been acknowledged. I wish them success in their upcoming years with us.

**Ms. Devi Shanmugam,
Journal Coordinator, SPS, Chennai**

Photo Gallery





FUTURE OF PEER REVIEW

Mr. Venkatesan, the Associate Director of SPS, had conducted a training program on 09 September 2017 for the JEO team. There were 23 participants in this session and was very useful for all the members who had the opportunity to attend. The session was all about the future of e-publishing.

Publishing means making information available to the public and Mr. Venkatesan clearly described the changes that have happened in the publishing industry through history till date. In the past it was done mainly through issuing printed copies of documents but now there are many more options such as websites, print, DVD, e-publications, and various applications. Apart from ensuring value for money, the challenge is to choose publication channels that support a publication's status and attribution, as well as ensuring that the publication reaches to the right audience.

He also spoke about 3D Printing which he predicted would have a great impact in the world of publishing. The information which he gave was very interesting and helped us gain a great deal of knowledge. 3D Printing accurately describes how this technology works to create objects. This actually deals with the consecutive addition of thin layers between 16 to 180 microns or more to create a particular object. They construct an object layer by layer to create different complex shapes. He also added that it would be possible to make pizzas at home with the help of 3D printers.

He has also mentioned that Amazon is one of the best and fastest competitors when it comes to the publishing industry. Nowadays, social media has one of the highest impacts in the publishing sector and the message also reaches people rapidly. He concluded by saying that the future of publishing should be standardized better than its current situation. The future of publishing is about having connections to readers and the knowledge of what those readers want. This has to be preached by all of the publishers.



Ms. Helen James,
Journal Editor, SPS, Chennai

ART FROM THERMOCOL

People say the best is saved for last. "Art from Thermocol", the last event for the year, was indeed the best. I am happy that I have been given an opportunity to share my thoughts on an awesome event. The name seems simple but once we dug in we were bursting with ideas.

On the day of the event all the participants gathered in the office cafeteria where the event was held. Every team enthusiastically started creating their art. Everyone was filled with curiosity to watch the output of their art (Hard) Work and that of the other teams too. As one of the contestants, I was trying hard along with my team members to shape a rocking guitar. The whole place was jam-packed with tiny pieces of thermocol that even our coffee mugs could not escape. It was a perfect arena to bring out our hidden talents and creativity.

Though we were competing with each other, we had been sharing the art materials and things among the teams. We came to the end of the event and it was amazing to see the final art of each team ---- the winning team's traditional Games vs recent games, the artistic fountain, abstract art, the locker, a model of old and current Madras, and our guitar. Mr. Venkatesan, Associate Director, judged the thermocol models and two members from each team explained about their art to him. Finally he announced the Priya Balamurugan's team as the winning team.

Later, the rest of our friends joined us and we were taking photos with all the thermocol models, especially people posing like rockstars with the guitar. Overall it was a fun filled day with an overload of memories. We placed the models in our workplace to remind us of the fun we had that day.

Ms. Priyadharshini Samidurai
Journal Editor, SPS, Chennai





CSQ REDESIGN PROJECT

The **CSQ Redesign Project** is an ongoing pilot project in the Indies journals to streamline the submission questions pertaining to the declarations section. It has been initiated on 13 September 2017 and the pilot batch includes one of the journals handled by SPS JEO – Journal of Translational Medicine.

Checking the 'Declarations' section is mandatory in the Indies journals. The manuscript should not be processed unless all the seven declaration statements – Ethical Approval and Consent to Participate, Consent for Publication, Availability of Data and Materials, Competing Interests, Funding, Author Contribution and Acknowledgment – are present in the manuscript file before the reference section. However, as the authors overlook at least one of the above statements in the initial submission, the manuscripts are usually sent back to include them. The main objective of the CSQ project is to reduce the turnaround time due to this and to better assist the author in completing the section during the initial submission without the need for further corrections. This is achieved by redesigning the submission questionnaire which was previously vague and did not provide much information to the author to let them know that all seven statements are mandatory.

The second important change in this project is the redesign of the clinical trial question shown during submission. All clinical studies reporting on health care interventions on human participants must be registered in an appropriate registry prior to the submission of the manuscript and the trial registration number should be provided along with the date of registration and the name of the registry. However, as the previous submission question was not clear, the authors usually entered the ethical approval number in this field and proceeded with the submission. It then becomes the responsibility of the JEO Assistant to verify if the study is a clinical trial prior to the editorial assignment and this caused unwanted delays while this was being clarified. The new submission question is redesigned to clearly state that the trial registration number is the information being requested and this has subsequently cut down on the number of submissions being held at the new submissions stage.

The project is still in the pilot phase and would hopefully be implemented across the other journals in the Indies portfolio if the feedback received from the authors and the journals is positive.

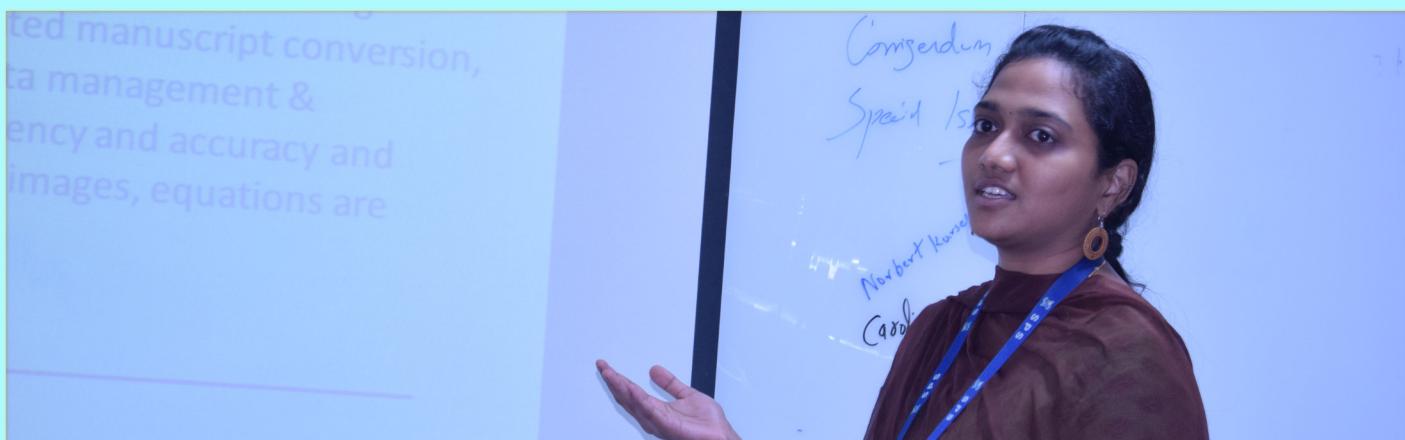
Mr. Parthiban Gurusamy
Journal Editor, SPS, Chennai

TRAINING SESSION: TRIL UNIT

An event to felicitate the Best Performers for the first half of 2017 was held on 27 September 2017. A training session was held around this event to provide the members of SPS JEO with a view of the current protocols that are in place and also to the general happenings around the department.



The first session of the day was about the technical check procedures and was given by Ayshwarya Ganesan. She first went through the importance and reasons for the technical checks and followed that up with the list of checks that we were supposed to do. After going through the protocols in place in the subscription journals, she went through the open access procedures which was eye opening as most of the attendees were not aware of the checks that were being done for these journals.



The next session was about the ACDC workflow and was given by Ashi Asokan. This was short, as the protocols that we follow are simple, but the information about the possible ways forward with this protocol was very interesting.



A session about the Custom Submission Question project was given by Parthiban Gurusamy in which he outlined the history, aims, and implementation details of this project. He brought a hands on perspective to this presentation as one of the journals he handles is part of this pilot.



Our manager, Mr. Sivakani Jayaprakash, gave a session describing the history of JEO with much information on when various aspects of our jobs was implemented and the processes that go into making decisions that affect the team. He also went into his travel to BUSI Editorial Board and Global JEO meetings and the various decisions that are made there.



The next two sessions brought a view into case sheets and the roles and responsibilities of the various members of the JEO team and were given by Deepan Selvaraj and Sathish Srinivasan respectively. Deepan's presentation was packed with information due to his experience with working on case sheets on a daily basis. He went through the various mistakes that people make when filing case sheets and described the entire procedure associated with case sheets as well. Sathish's presentation went through what the various members of the team were expected to do. One part of his presentation that was new to many people was the jobs that were done by the team leaders. This helped bring into focus how things are managed in the department.



The last session for the day was by Abdul Hakkim which went through the Authorship Changes Workflow. He described the reasons for the implementation for this workflow and contrasted how this was handled by subscription and open access journals.

Not only did we get to appreciate our peers with the Best Performers event, we left the day steeped in knowledge about the department. This session helped us get a perspective of SPS JEO that we rarely see and helped us better prepare for our daily work.