



**International
Science Council**



AuthorAID Research Writing Workshop for LIRA 2030 Researchers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 17 and 18 February 2020

Overview

Participants: Early career researchers who are in the process of writing a paper for publication.

Workshop approach: Interactive and participatory sessions with a mix of lectures, guided group discussions, and practical group work.

Learning outcomes: By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Balance different factors to select an appropriate target journal for their research paper
- Define the focus and contribution of their paper
- Write a working title and abstract for their paper
- Develop the body of their paper using an appropriate structure
- Formulate a strategy to achieve publication success

A note for participants: Please bring your laptop along with any writing drafts and data from your current research project.

Lead facilitator: Ravi Murugesan, AuthorAID project at INASP

Co-facilitator: Mariamawit Yonathan Yeshak, Addis Ababa University
(See the last page for biographies)

Workshop Agenda

Day 1: Morning session – Preparing to write your research paper (9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.)

1. Introduction and context setting (9 to 9.30 a.m.)
 - Participants' and facilitators' introductions
 - Outline of the workshop
2. Getting published – Sharing experiences and challenges (discussion) (9.30 to 10 a.m.)
3. Navigating the international research and publishing landscape (lecture and discussion) (10 to 10.40 a.m.)
 - Overview of publishers, open access models, types of peer review, Impact Factor (its use and misuse), copyright transfer, and digital tools and platforms for researchers

Break: 10.40 to 11 a.m.

4. Accessing and reading research publications (lecture and discussion) (11 to 11.30 a.m.)
5. Identifying suitable journals for a research paper (lecture and discussion) (11.30 to 12 p.m.)
6. Identify journals for publishing your transdisciplinary work (individual / small-group activity) (12 to 12.30 p.m.)

Lunch: 12.30 to 1.30 p.m.

Day 1: Afternoon session – Writing and publishing your research paper (1.30 to 5 p.m.)

1. Writing a research paper (lecture and discussion) (1.30 to 2.30 p.m.)
 - Writing the different sections of a research paper
 - Preparing effective figures and tables
2. Improving writing style and avoiding plagiarism (individual activity) (2.30 to 3 p.m.)

- Correcting errors in diction, word choice, and syntax
- Identifying plagiarism

Break: 3 to 3.20 p.m.

3. Giving credit to co-authors and contributors (discussion) (3.20 to 3.40 p.m.)
4. Maximizing chances for a respectful reading of your paper (lecture and discussion) (3.40 to 4 p.m.)
 - Exploring language editing services
 - Writing a strong cover letter
5. Dealing with peer review (lecture and discussion) (4 to 4.30 p.m.)
6. General discussion (4.30 to 5 p.m.)

Day 2: Morning session – Writing practice (9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.)

1. PLOS Ten Simple Rules collection (reading activity in small groups) (9 to 10 a.m.)
 - Focus: [section on scientific communication](#)
2. Writing an effective title (individual activity), followed by feedback at the small-group level (10 to 10.30 a.m.)

Break: 10.30 to 10.50 a.m.

3. Intensive writing (individual activity): Choose one of the options below. (10.50 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.)
 - Writing or revising the abstract or a section in the body of your paper (if you have sufficient results from your research project)
 - Defining the focus and contribution of your future paper (if you are at an early stage of your research project)

The facilitators will be available to respond to your questions while you write.

Lunch: 12.30 to 1.30 p.m.

Day 2: Afternoon session – Publication strategy (1.30 to 4.30 p.m.)

1. Raising the visibility of your publications (lecture and discussion) (1.30 to 2 p.m.)
 - Creating or updating your profile on Google Scholar / ORCID (individual activity)
2. Developing a strategy to achieve publication success (lecture followed by small-group activity) (2 to 3.30 p.m.)
 - Developing a balanced view on getting published in reputable, ethical journals
 - Reaching the right audiences
 - Steadily building your publication record

Break: 3.30 to 3.50 p.m.

3. Wrap up (3.50 to 4.30 p.m.)
 - Overview of the AuthorAID website: mentoring program, blog, forums, resources; upcoming AuthorAID online courses in research writing; closing Q&A.

About INASP

INASP is a capacity development NGO based in Oxford working with a global network of partners to improve access to, production and use of research information and knowledge, so that countries are equipped to solve their development challenges. INASP has more than 25 years' experience of supporting research and knowledge systems in 28 countries, working with a range of partners including universities, think tanks, ministries, parliaments, and NGOs. We strongly believe in promoting equity by actively addressing the needs of both men and women across all our work.

We specialize in designing, delivering, and evaluating complex, multi-layered capacity building programs. We have extensive experience in developing learner-centered curricula, implementing Training of Trainers approaches and facilitating peer learning networks. We are specialists in assessing and employing relevant training approaches such as workshops, online trainings, delivering Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and facilitating mentorship schemes.

For more information visit www.inasp.info. Examples of our projects can be found at www.inasp.info/projects

Facilitator Biographies



Ravi Murugesan

Ravi Murugesan earned a master's degree in electrical engineering with a research specialization in applied physics from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. In 2011, he joined the AuthorAID project at the International Network for Advancing Science and Policy (INASP). As a trainer, he has developed and facilitated face-to-face and online programs aimed at improving the research communication skills of academics in developing countries. He has facilitated workshops in many countries in Africa and South Asia, including Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nepal, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia. He is also closely involved with INASP's online learning platform as a course developer and technical administrator. Ravi is based in South India.

[Google Scholar profile](#)



Dr. Mariamawit Yonathan Yeshak

Dr. Yeshak is group leader of the pharmacognosy research group at Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Pharmacognosy at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. She is also Vice Chair of the National Young Academy of Ethiopia, a former Next Einstein Forum Ambassador (2015-2017), and a Fellow of the African Science Leadership Program. Last year she gave the keynote speech at the Society for Scholarly Publishing (SSP) Annual Meeting in San Diego entitled "Scholarly Publishing in Africa: Impact Factor vs Societal Impact."

[ORCID profile](#)