Digital Network of Writers Helps to Foster Spirit of Collaboration

Letter to the Editor

Klimas, J. (PhD, MSc)\textsuperscript{1,3}, Swan, D. (PhD)\textsuperscript{2}, McCombe, G. (PhD)\textsuperscript{4}, Henihan, A.M. (PhD)\textsuperscript{4}

1. School of Medicine and Medical Science, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland.
2. Inst. of Psychiatry, Kings College London, Addiction Sciences Building, Denmark Hill, London, United Kingdom
3. British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, St. Paul’s Hospital, 608 -1081 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC, CANADA, V6Z 1Y6
4. Graduate Entry Medical School, University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland.

Correspondence should be addressed to Jan Klimas, PhD, UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, Coombe Family Practice, Dolphins Barn, Dublin 8, Ireland. E-mail: jan.klimas@ucd.ie Telephone: 014730893, Fax: 014544469.

Keywords: medical education, scientific writing, dissemination, training, peer support
Nurse Liz Charalambous (2015) has shown how a Facebook group can really help boost writing (careers, June 3). We would like to take this idea one step further and argue that, contrary to a commonly held notion, ‘too many cooks do not spoil the broth’ when it comes to group writing. Instead, this approach fosters collaboration between writers, as Ms Charalambous suggests, and which has also been our experience. The University of Limerick and University College Dublin primary mental healthcare research writing group recently skyped bimonthly to discuss a short piece of research written by one of four post-doctoral members. The group read the sample in advance and discussed it with the author, facilitating her to think through her ideas in a supportive environment. Once the group reviewed and discussed the text, the author revised it, combined it with the rest of the article, and emailed it to the principal investigator. The principal investigator and the author then finished the paper and emailed it out for review to all named co-authors. This way, the authorship was clearly defined, managed and assigned as per the necessary guidelines. The broth was ready and we had all helped to cook it.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors thank Prof Walter Cullen for his guidance, advice and supervision.

FUNDING

Work on this paper was supported by research grants from the Health Research Board of Ireland HRA_HSR/2012/14, and the Elevate: Irish Research Council International Career Development Fellowship – co-funded by Marie Cure Actions (ELEVATEPD/2014/6). The funding agencies were not involved in the work reported in the manuscript or in the composition of the submission. The research (of group members) meets applicable ethical guidelines.

REFERENCES