The Clinical Trial Phase: Year Two of the Michigan Journal of Medicine

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http://www.michjmed.org/editors.html
“Clinical trials are research studies that explore whether a medical strategy, treatment, or device is safe and effective for humans. These studies may also show which medical approaches work best for certain illnesses or groups of people.”

https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/studies/clinicaltrials
Three factors

Medical students pitched journal

Faculty member wanted more student training in writing/editing

Medical school restructured curriculum
Restructured Curriculum (the administration)

“Earlier exposure to patient care, plus leadership training, inter-professional education and expanded, enhanced learning space greet new class”

http://curriculum.med.umich.edu/updates/new-way-learn-medicine

Year 1: (Too?) ahead of the curve
Year 2: Changing schedule = confusion
Year 3: Full(er) integration into curriculum?
Medical Writing and Editing (the curriculum)

Year 1: Finding our way, seeking balance between academic/disciplinary and practical considerations

Year 2: Focused, strong program but inaccessible

Year 3: Exploit technology where reasonable while protecting in-person, focused connections
Objectives for 2016-2017

Students will...

- Improve their understanding of good scientific writing.
- Improve their understanding of good scientific data display.
- Learn about the selection and editorial processes standard in science publishing.
- Gain a greater understanding of ethical issues surrounding scientific publishing.
- Learn about establishing and improving their online publication profile (ORCID, metrics, etc.)
Selections from 2016-2017 Syllabus

- How to prepare a manuscript (Med school)
- Introduction to good and bad medical writing (Med school)
- (Writing) medical textbooks (Med school)
- Critiquing data visualizations (Library)
- Data in publication (Library)
- Data repositories and services (Library)
- Ethics in medical publishing (guest speaker from RetractionWatch)
- How to edit a manuscript (Med school)
- Copyright and author agreements (Library)
- Overviews of editorial practices/processes/professional opportunities at NEJM, JAMA (Med school)
- Introduction to ORCID (Library)
- Introduction to Altmetric (Library)
Michigan Journal of Medicine (the journal/the lab)

Year 1: Starting from scratch, substantial training

Year 2: Building on year one; training slightly sidelined

Year 3: Consistency!
General conclusions

- Agree on the goal: focus on the local and on the student experience
- “Gaps” between disciplinary and publishing expertise = what students need most (peer review guidelines)
- Conflicts around culture, schedules: from number of issues/year to frequency of meetings to hours willing to meet
- It’s vital that this is driven by the medical school (and by multiple areas within it!)
Thank you!

The Michigan Publishing team

Shannon Cramm, outgoing Editor-in-Chief, and Alisha Lussiez, incoming Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Michael Mulholland, Chair of Surgery, University of Michigan Medical School

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