

**Why Write?**

**APAME**  
ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL JOURNAL EDITORS

**Asia Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors**  
**1st National Medical Writing Workshop**  
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I believe I have no financial or other (including personal) relationships, intellectual passion, political or religious beliefs, and institutional affiliations that might lead to a conflict of interest in making this presentation.

**DISCLOSURES**

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**“Writing, like life itself, is a voyage of discovery”**

Henry Miller

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**At the end of this session, you will learn:**

- **Some reasons for writing,** starting where you are in taking your place in the history of scholarship
- **The advantages of medical writing**
  - career benefits
  - professional benefits
  - institutional benefits
  - practical benefits

**OBJECTIVES**

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**Why I WRITE PART ONE**

one of many Demons

you misspelled "traumatic"

How else can I take all of my Life's Demons, mess-ups and embarrassments – and use them to create the ultimate **“Do-Over”**

Re-writing Life is ONE reason I write.

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ARTICLE

Publication

AUTHOR AUDIENCE

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## Why Write?


### The Author (YOU)

**Personal motivation    Professional Motivation**

Enjoyment	Academic advancement
Personal growth	Contribute to the knowledge of the discipline
The need to share	Build and develop the professional skill base
Fame and fortune	

Clearihan Lyn. Writing for Publication. Monash University, Melbourne. Available from: <http://www.phcris.org.au/conference/2005/workshops/clearihan.pdf>

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## Why Write?

### Common Barriers to Writing

I don't have time  
I have nothing important to say  
I can't write  
It is too hard  
I am not interested

Clearihan Lyn. Writing for Publication. Monash University, Melbourne. Available from: <http://www.phcris.org.au/conference/2005/workshops/clearihan.pdf>

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## Why Write?

### Tips for Reducing Barriers

The 'nibble technique'  
Keep an ideas "book" handy  
Keep pieces of writing in a scrap book  
Have a camera (phone?) handy  
Discuss ideas with colleagues

Clearihan Lyn. Writing for Publication. Monash University, Melbourne. Available from: <http://www.phcris.org.au/conference/2005/workshops/clearihan.pdf>

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## Why Write?


“If you have an apple and I have an apple  
and we exchange these apples  
then you and I will each still have an one apple.

But, if you have an idea and I have an idea  
and we exchange these ideas,  
then each of us will have two ideas”

George Bernard Shaw

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## Why Write?

### Start Where Your Are: Taking Your Place in the History of Scholarship

“Similar to others who write, (historians and poets),  
scientists and those involved in medical research  
need to write ...  
to leave behind a documented legacy  
of their accomplishments.”

Peh WCG, Ng KH. Effective medical writing (Pointers to getting your article published): Why Write?. Singapore Med J 2008; 49(6):443.


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Why Write?

**Start Where Your Are:  
Taking Your Place in the History of Scholarship**

“A successful researcher is usually a **good communicator** who has the ability to maximize the transmission of research findings to his or her chosen **audience.**”

Peh WCG, Ng KH. Effective medical writing: the nuts and bolts (editorial). Singapore Med J 2008; 49:369.


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Why Write?

**Start Where Your Are:  
Taking Your Place in the History of Scholarship**

“While ‘doing’ the research is important, ‘writing’ about why and how it was done, what was found, and what it means is far more important as it serves as a permanent record of scientific work that has been completed and accepted by peers.”

Peh WCG, Ng KH. Effective medical writing (Pointers to getting your article published): Why Write?. Singapore Med J 2008; 49(6):443.


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Why Write?

**Start Where Your Are:  
Taking Your Place in the History of Scholarship**

“In short, research, no matter how ‘good’, is incomplete, until it has been published.”

Peh WCG, Ng KH. Effective medical writing (Pointers to getting your article published): Why Write?. Singapore Med J 2008; 49(6):443.


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Why Write?

**Start Where Your Are:  
Taking Your Place in the History of Scholarship**

“Publishing” means to make something public. By making ideas public, scholars provide each other with the opportunity to build on each other’s contributions create dialogue (sometimes heated!) with one another join the documented and ongoing history of their field


Publish, Not Perish: The Art and Craft of Publishing in Scholarly Journals. University of Colorado 2006. Available from <http://www.publishnotperish.org> Accessed 24 April 2008.

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“How do I know what I think, until I see what I say?”

E.M. Forster

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Why Write?

**Setting the Stage:  
Advantages of Medical Writing**

“The altruistic doctor writes for the pleasure derived from the creative activity of writing and intellectual sharing, and the desire to advance knowledge and benefit mankind.

writing may act as a channel for expressing the joy of scientific discovery, and may even be regarded as a leisurely pursuit.”

Peh WCG, Ng KH. Effective medical writing (Pointers to getting your article published): Why Write?. Singapore Med J 2008; 49(6):443.

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**Why Write?**

**Advantages of Medical Writing:**  
**Professional Benefits**

- attainment of a certain standard of scholarly endeavour by prestigious invitation-only international academic societies.
- applications for, extension of, and further research funding
- increases depth of knowledge in a particular subject that complements and hones clinical skills, and enables better teaching of students, clinical trainees and postgraduates.

Peh WCG, Ng KH. Effective medical writing (Pointers to getting your article published): Why Write?. Singapore Med J 2008; 49(6):443.

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**Why Write?**

**Advantages of Medical Writing:**  
**Institutional Benefits**

“Publication in peer-reviewed journals is arguably the most important means to achieve international recognition for an individual, department, hospital, and university.

The author’s country, and even the region, may also derive benefit from published work, particularly if it is on a topic of major importance.”

Peh WCG, Ng KH. Effective medical writing (Pointers to getting your article published): Why Write?. Singapore Med J 2008; 49(6):443.


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**Why Write?**

**Advantages of Medical Writing:**  
**Practical Benefits**

“The most important practical reason... the benefit derived from the inherent training gained during the process of manuscript preparation.”

Peh WCG, Ng KH. Effective medical writing (Pointers to getting your article published): Why Write?. Singapore Med J 2008; 49(6):443.

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**Why Write?**

**Advantages of Medical Writing:**  
**Practical Benefits**

“discipline of performing a thorough literature search, collating and analysing data, and drafting and repeatedly revising the manuscript.”

“Authors who have had their own manuscripts accepted and published will be much better positioned to appreciate what is written in journals and other publications.”

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**Why Write?**

**Advantages of Medical Writing:**  
**Practical Benefits**

“With the huge amount of information available in journals and in other forms, it is vital ... to be able to judge the quality and reliability of published work.”

“If one has published, and appreciates the writing, reviewing and editing process, then one will be better positioned to critically read and evaluate articles.”

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*I’m deep inside a funny mood again,  
like to brood again, if I could again  
I feel like walking on a cloud again,  
think aloud again, write and then ...*

*See my thoughts and feelings fill the paper,  
seems I’ll never, never really know  
Why when other people talk and chatter,  
I would rather, rather, rather write  
a song...*

Lapeña JF. “I’d rather write a song.” (Music and Lyrics). 1979.

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