

## **Preparation for the 1-day course about writing scientific articles in English, 29 January 2013**

**Read** the attached articles “Getting what you want from your scientific writing”, tips for writing clearly” by Michele Arduengo and “The abstract and the elevator talk” by Thomas Annesley. Read the abstract in this link: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045\(11\)70270-4/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045(11)70270-4/abstract) and make notes about how it (including the title) could be shortened and written better.

**Bring the abstract and your notes to the course.**

**Write** 200 words of background information about your research, which ends with a hypothesis (the research question), and includes the most important references (and a list of them). It may be too early in your research process to decide a title for a journal article, but suggest a title from what you know at the time of the course. Refer to this 2nd edition of the BMJ book "Evidence-based medicine toolkit" about how to ask answerable questions <http://eprints.kmu.ac.ir/2227/1/Evidence-Based%20Medicine%20Toolkit%20-%202nd%20Edition.pdf> . Use the "Template for asking answerable clinical questions" on page 6 when you develop your research question. When you write about your project, bear in mind what you learned from the 2 articles in the “Medical Writing” journal. **NB! Bring 3 paper copies of the text you have written!**

**Identify** guidelines which seem to be relevant for your own research from the following website: <http://www.equator-network.org/>.

**Find and bring to the course:**

- 1) One or more documents in which at least part of your project idea is described with the purpose of either a) informing or providing basis for an agreement with collaborators who may become authors of articles, or management within the institution where you work or b) to obtain funding. If some of the project ideas are presented in a published article, the purpose of presenting an idea for a project could be to propose continuation of previous work (perhaps you can find such an article). These documents could be written in any language, but ideally English. The purpose of bringing such a document to the course is to get an idea of when your project idea was first conceived by whom – a question you may need to answer to disclose information about conflicts of interest.
- 2) A letter to an editor about any study, written by anyone. The purpose of bringing this is to assess the type of content within it during a course discussion.
- 3) 5 titles and abstracts of articles which are relevant for your own project. The purpose of bringing these is to discuss why the titles attracted your attention and whether you think they conveyed the right impression of article content after you had read the abstract.