

# Medical publishing: how does it affect you?

**W**riting and publishing are an integral part of doctors' training alongside their clinical work with patients. This issue sees the start of a new series of articles for doctors covering various aspects of publishing and accessing information (p. 736). Here, over the next few months, you will be able to find expert advice on topics as diverse as writing a grant application, publishing a CD-ROM and finding health information on the Internet.

### WHY RUN THE SERIES?

The idea for the series originated in the Publishers Association (PA) Medical Group, whose members include representatives from the principal UK medical publishers. The series was devised by Dr Jack Tinker and the editorial team at *Hospital Medicine*, together with Peter Richardson, Managing Director of the Royal Society of Medicine Press, and a former Chair of the PA Medical Group.

There are close links between the publishers in this group and medical authors and customers, and a mutuality of interest between authors and publishers in ensuring the widest possible dissemination of medical writing. In addition, the Royal Society of

Medicine, through the Royal Society of Medicine Press, sponsors and hosts the Society of Authors Medical Book Awards each year.

### WHAT WILL THE SERIES CONTAIN?

The first two articles deal with finding health information on the Internet, and are by Robert Kiley, one of the UK's leading experts on this subject. He is the author of several books, including *The Doctor's Internet Handbook*, and is editor of *Health Information on the Internet*, a bimonthly newsletter. Articles follow on how to get a book published, by Peter Richardson, and how to be a journal editor, by Rebecca Linssen, Editor of *Hospital Medicine*.

Later in the series, Robin Fox, editor of the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* and former editor of *The Lancet*, dispenses pithy advice on writing case reports, and Elisabeth Paice, Dean Director of Postgraduate and Dental Education for North Thames, tackles the thorny subject of how to write a good peer review. Other articles will offer guidance on a range of other subjects, such as writing grant applications, publishing research papers, and writing for the popular press.

We hope that doctors, especially those in training, will find the series contains some useful pointers to help them in their careers, and we would welcome any feedback from readers, including suggestions for other topics. Please contact Rebecca Linssen at the address below if you have any comments. **HM**

**Peter Richardson**

Managing Director

Royal Society of Medicine Press

[Peter.richardson@rsm.ac.uk](mailto:Peter.richardson@rsm.ac.uk)

**Jack Tinker**

Editor-in-Chief, *Hospital Medicine*

[Jack.tinker@rsm.ac.uk](mailto:Jack.tinker@rsm.ac.uk)

**Rebecca Linssen**

Editor, *Hospital Medicine*

Mark Allen Publishing

Croxted Mews

London SE24 9BY

[hmed@markallengroup.com](mailto:hmed@markallengroup.com)

### USEFUL LINKS

**Publishers Association**

<http://www.publishers.org.uk/>

**Royal Society of Medicine Press**

<http://www.rsmppress.co.uk>

**Health Information on the Internet**

<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/healthinfo>

**Society of Authors**

<http://www.writers.org.uk/society>

**Hospital Medicine**

<http://hospitalmedicine.co.uk>

### Medical publishing series

This series will include:

- How to write a grant application
- How to publish a research paper
- Writing case reports
- How to write a review article
- Being a journal editor
- How to write a good peer review
- Writing for the popular press
- Writing/editing a book
- Getting a book published
- Writing a CD-ROM
- The future of journals
- Finding health information on the internet (health professionals)
- Finding health information on the internet (consumers)
- Publishing on the internet