

HBKU Press and Nature Masterclasses host joint workshop titled *Elements of Exceptional Published Research Papers*

Doha, Qatar: Hamad bin Khalifa University Press (HBKU Press) and *Nature Masterclasses*, a service of Nature Research, hosted a largely successful joint workshop titled *Elements of Exceptional Published Research Papers* this past Thursday, May 11th, 2017 at Hamad bin Khalifa University.

The event, for which spaces were reserved weeks in advance due to the high response rate among local researchers, was yet another initiative targeting researchers in Qatar in an effort to further support their contribution to the global exchange of information and the dissemination of their work in the community and beyond. HBKU Press regularly hosts such initiatives as a part of their commitment to help develop the academic and literary landscape of the local and regional community.

“With this workshop, HBKU Press aims to support local researchers by providing them with the knowledge they need to get their work published by a world-class publishing house founded on international best practices, excellence and innovation,” explains Dr. Alwaleed Alkhaja, Senior Editor at HBKU Press. “Our partnership with Nature is exemplary of our high standards and our commitment to bringing the best resources that the world has to offer to local researchers in Qatar.”

The full-day workshop catered towards researchers who are beginning to publish their work in scientific journals. It focused on the writing process and what to include in each section of the paper whereby participants developed strategies to structure and edit manuscripts, improve figure presentation and how to put this into practice. Using examples submitted by the participants, the editors also performed a ‘live edit’ where they dissected and examined an abstract to the group.

Dr. Pep Pàmies, Chief Editor at *Nature Biomedical Engineering*, and Dr. Alison Stoddart, Chief Editor at *Nature Reviews Materials*, both of whom have a combined 20+ years of experience in editorial experience, led the workshop of around 30 participants with an extremely positive reception.



“For us, we gauge whether an event is successful based on the participant’s engagement and if they gain any practical and valuable knowledge from the session,” explained Dr. Stoddart. “At the end of the day, we work with organizations [like HBKU Press] in order to help support solid research output.”

She goes on further to explain the positive reception of the participants throughout the workshop, saying, “The participants were keen to get the most out of the day and kept [Dr. Pep Pàmies] and I ‘on our toes’ by asking some insightful questions and making useful comments. There was a good level of understanding about the world of publishing which made it easier to talk about more complex topics, like double-blind peer review.”

Dr. Noora Al Kaabi, the Assistant Program Director of the Community Medicine Residency Program at the Primary Healthcare Centre and the Senior Medical Manager and Hospital Research Officer at Hamad General Hospital, came to the workshop in the hope to further her skills in writing research papers and to gain the knowledge and skills to apply to her responsibilities at work.

“I am currently working on my own research and I really benefitted from the session. It was well-organized and I found that there are many things that were discussed that I can apply to my own written research.”

Majdah Al Rushaidi, who works for the Ministry of Health in Oman, also felt that the workshop could advance her own personal work. “I was a co-author of a paper in the past and I am now writing a research paper as the main author and I really want to know how to make my paper stand out to journal editors,” she explained. “I feel that the things I learned here, how to write an abstract and the importance of the title with regards to search engines and databases, will really help me as I prepare to write my own research paper as the main author.”

Hamad bin Khalifa University Press will continue to host workshops and other new and innovative initiatives to support the skills and development of researchers in the academic community in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030.

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ABOUT HBKU PRESS

Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press (HBKU Press), formerly known as Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Publishing (BQFP), launched its program in 2010 as a world-class publishing house founded on international best practices, excellence and innovation. HBKU Press strives to be a cornerstone of Qatar’s knowledge-based economy by providing a unique local



and international platform for literature, literacy, scholarship, discovery and learning. Headquartered in Doha, Qatar, HBKU Press publishes peer reviewed journals, monographs, reference books, fiction and non-fiction titles for adults and for children. Aiming to promote the love of reading and writing, HBKU Press is helping to establish a vibrant scholarly and literary culture in Qatar and the Middle East.

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