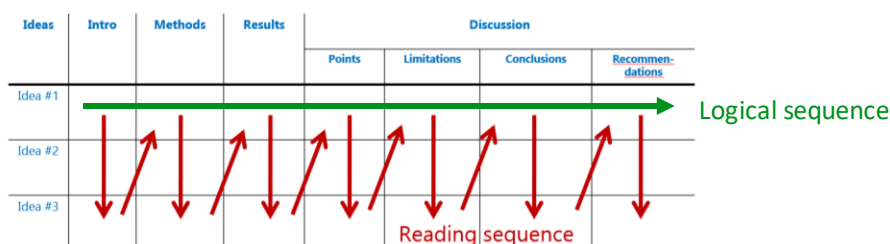


Scientific writing

This webinar was the 5th session based on the Global Laboratory Leadership Programme, and focused on fundamentals of Scientific writing. In the first part of this session we presented the argument matrix, a framework to prepare the high level outline of a manuscript. We explained the IMRaD (Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion) structure as an organised way to articulate the various pieces of information in the sections in a manuscript. The matrix provides a way to identify themes / ideas that can cut across the section in a logical, sequential way. We also brainstormed the challenges of not knowing where to start. Answering 3 questions can help: These are (1) what was known before? (2) what does the study add? and (3) what are the implications? The high level outline is also a less intimidating way to start..



In the second part of the session, we talked about writing styles. Language used must communicate the ideas of a manuscript efficiently and effectively. We went through each of the stages of the seven 'S' of scientific writing, exploring examples of best practices and some common errors to avoid.

The seven "S" of scientific writing

1. Simple words and concepts
2. Specific language
3. Sequential developments
4. Short
5. Strong verbs reflecting the key ideas
6. Systematic vocabulary
7. Structured ideas

We also heard from Dr Susan Norris, who shared her experience working with a very broad range of audiences and levels of experience, and some challenges her audiences met when writing publications, such as getting entangled in the details and losing sight of the overarching broader picture, repetition, and inherent issues

faced when writing in a non native language, and gave us some peer review tips and advice, such as when answering to reviewer's comments also address those in the manuscript itself. She offered some insights into building capacity not only in terms of writing but also as working as a mentor and/or technical writing editor, highlighting the importance of a two-way dialogue and always keeping in mind transparency, honesty and integrity.

Useful links (click on blue text)

Webinar recordings: [AR](#)- [EN](#) – [FR](#) – [RU](#) – [PT](#) – [SP](#)

Presentations: Dr Yvan Hutin- [Argument matrix](#) - [Writing style](#)

Questions answered by the presenters: [EN](#)

Additional resources: [The Pathway to Publishing: A Guide to Quantitative Writing in the Health Sciences](#)–
[Biomedical Sciences chapter](#) – [Manuscript diagnosis sheet](#)

Arabic, English,
French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish*

1243 Participants
registered



146 Countries

61% female, 38%
male, 0.2% non-
binary, 1% prefer
not to say



12 Questions
asked

Speakers

Dr Yvan Hutin- WHO EMRO

Dr Susan Norris (Guidelines
Development Expert, USA)

To contact us:

PHLabs@who.int

Visit our website [HERE](#)



**Writing under the protection of god
Thoth, the god of the scribes in Egypt:
The best style is no style**