

Editorial

The International Collaboration of Pharmacy Journal Editors (ICPJE) formally constituted to foster quality around clinical and social pharmacy practice research publications

Filipa Alves COSTA , Fernando FERNANDEZ-LLIMOS , Shane DESSELLE , Isabelle ARNET ,
Zaheer BABAR , Christine BOND , Maria CORDINA , Victoria GARCIA CARDENAS , Maguy S. EL HAJJ ,
Ramune JACOBSEN , Anandi V. LAW , Lotte S. NØRGAARD , Carlo POLIDORI , Natalia SHCHERBAKOVA ,
Derek STEWART , Fernanda TONIN , Anita E. WEIDMANN 

The Granada statements were a result of the need to strengthen clinical, social and administrative pharmacy practice as an area of knowledge that translates into practice, research and policy. As a response, a group of clinical and social pharmacy practice journal editors launched an initiative in Granada in 2022 to discuss ways to improve the quality of publications in this area, which culminated in the Granada statements. Eighteen statements were developed, clustered into six main domains: 1) the appropriate use of terminology; 2) developing impactful abstracts; 3) having the required peer reviews; 4) preventing journal scattering; 5) more effective and wiser use of journal and article performance metrics; and 6) authors' selection of the most appropriate pharmacy practice journal to submit their work. The full Granada statements have been published in 14 journals¹⁻¹⁴. These pioneering statements are rooted in similar endeavours undertaken by scholars in other health professions groups, fostering the concept of interdisciplinary consensus and advancing scientific paradigm^{15,16}. Various chief editors, associated editors, and publishers met again in June 2024, this time in Basel, Switzerland. Following a consensus approach to select a name that best reflected the group scope, mission and vision, the name of the International Collaboration of Pharmacy Journal Editors (ICPJE) was selected. The ICPJE was then born. During the meeting in Basel, the group discussed current issues relating to raising the quality of publications which among other things reflected a need to abate the discipline's need to reevaluate itself through papers examining the importance of pharmacy by other stakeholders. These were not cited by papers outside or even within pharmacy, which has been demonstrated by a more holistic examination of drivers of citations through original research¹⁷. The findings of this study highlight four main factors associated with citations, the paper's number of references, the year of publication, social media mentions and the topic area of research, namely outcomes associated with the actual provision of pharmacy services, and medication adherence (models and interventions more so than additional descriptive research). In the context of the discussion, it was emphasized that several previous studies across various disciplines including medical specialties, nursing and other allied healthcare professions have reported diverse findings. While some publications have concurred with the impact of social media highlighting its role in increasing visibility¹⁸, most publications have found the nature of the topic and the methodology employed to be highly relevant factors¹⁹. This corroborates with the findings of Shcherbakova et al and others who also pointed out the relevance of the journal reputation^{17,20}. Furthermore, it was highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic was found to boost citations²⁰. Another important determinant is innovation and multicentre or multidisciplinary studies. Some of the aforementioned studies have identified the number of references as a success factor; and this might be indicative of the paper having a more comprehensive literature review and discussion^{17,18}.

Additionally, the group did an analysis of the number of Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) used for indexation of clinical and social pharmacy practice articles compared to those in clinical medicine and similar areas and found a significantly lower number of terms. Furthermore, with full implementation of the automatic indexation by the National Library of Medicine in 2022, this problem was further exacerbated²¹. It has been determined that an essential area that the ICPJE should focus their efforts on is to promote the standardization of terms used in pharmacy practice articles. This can be achieved, for instance, by promoting use of preferred terms to describe systems of care in pharmacy. It will then help focus searches by researchers and maximize the likelihood of important papers in pharmacy being located. Finally, the ICPJE editors will help prospective authors utilize MeSH terms in article titles and abstracts to coalesce our efforts in raising the visibility of pharmacy practice research and ameliorating ambiguity around terms not fully recognized by scholars, particularly those outside the discipline. Whilst in Basel, those present reflected on the accessibility of the Granada statements if they were read without the underpinning justification included in the original paper. It was concluded that each statement needed to be accompanied by a few explanatory sentences, describing the underlying rationale and targeted at the audience for whom the statement was most relevant, i.e., publishers, editors, reviewers and most importantly authors. It was therefore considered crucial to include a wider audience in the revision of the statements and descriptions, embracing the concept of co-creation²². To achieve this, it was agreed that three subgroups should be convened. The first subgroup was tasked with composing short explanatory sentences to accompany each

Granada statement. The second group was tasked with proposing a methodology to create an Early Career Researcher Advisory Board (ECRAB), defining their tasks and duties. The ECRAB will include authors and reviewers from different pharmacy practice journals and will act as a sounding board for the ICPJE, with an initial task to comment on short explanatory statements to accompany the Granada statements and eventually support any rewording needed. Similar initiatives have been proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, with the creation of the Youth4Health special initiative, which aims to amplify and embed youth voices and perspectives into all areas of its work (<https://www.who.int/europe/initiatives/youth4health>). The ICPJE truly believes that this ECRAB has enormous potential to contribute to the external visibility and promotion of clinical and social pharmacy practice research paradigm. Finally, the third subgroup is focused on embedding the statements into university curricula and part of its duties will be creating a methodology to engage the Higher Education Institutions with the ultimate goal of increasing awareness about the statements and their influence and use starting at the undergraduate level. Even though the remit of the ICPJE expands way beyond Europe, the recent revision of the European Directive on minimum training requirements for pharmacists (and other healthcare workers)²³ may be an excellent opportunity to ensure adequate knowledge and skills of scientific writing within the context of some of the new compulsory topics, such as pharmaceutical care, clinical pharmacy and public health, as a means to contribute to disseminate and promote knowledge and thus influence policy and practice. In summary, the ICPJE was born from an initial small group that met previously in Granada to advance the visibility and quality of research in clinical, social and administrative pharmacy practice. Even prior to its formal naming, the group had made some progress in the past couple of years, although it recognizes the need to consolidate its work. The group is dedicated toward strengthening clinical, social and administrative pharmacy practice, not only as a discipline, but the entire profession, including the patients served by its clinicians and researchers. The ICPJE was founded by a select group of journals; but ultimately it is a group that is open to any other journal in the field. Each journal is represented by a vibrant group of individuals, including the editors and publishing companies. The ICPJE will be reaching out to various stakeholders seeking collaboration and insights from fellow scholars and practitioners throughout the world.

About the authors

Filipa Alves da COSTA is professor University of Lisbon, Portugal and Associate Editor of International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy.

Fernando FERNANDEZ-LLIMOS is professor at University of Porto, Portugal and Associate Editor of Journal of Hospital Pharmacy and Health Services.

Shane DESSELLE is professor at Touro University California, United States and Editor-In-Chief of Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy and Exploratory Research in Clinical and Social Pharmacy.

Isabelle ARNET is professor at University of Basel, Switzerland.

Zaheer BARBAR is professor at University of Qatar, Qatar and Editor-In-Chief of Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice.

Christine BOND is professor at University of Aberdeen, Scotland and Editor-In-Chief of International Journal of Pharmacy Practice.

Maria CORDINA is professor at University of Malta, Malta.

Victoria Garcia CARDENAS is professor at University of Granada, Spain and Associate Editor of Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy.

Maguy S. EL HAJJ is professor at College of Pharmacy, QU Health, Qatar University, Qatar and Associate Editor of Exploratory Research in Clinical and Social Pharmacy.

Ramune JACOBSEN is professor at University of Copenhagen, Denmark and Associate Editor of Exploratory Research in Clinical and Social Pharmacy.

Anandi V. LAW is professor at Western University of Health Sciences, USA and Associate Editor of Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy.

Lotte S. NØRGAARD is professor at University of Copenhagen, Denmark and Associate Editor of Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy.

Carlo POLIDORI is professor at the University of Camerino, Italy and Associate Editor of European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy.

Natalia SHCHERBAKOVA is professor at Western New England University, USA.

Derek STEWART is Editor-In-Chief of International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy.

Fernanda TONIN is a researcher at University of Granada, Spain and Associate Editor of Exploratory Research in Clinical and Social Pharmacy.

Anita E. WEIDMANN is a researcher at Faculty for Chemistry and Pharmacy, University of Innsbruck, Austria and European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy.

This editorial is being co-published by all journals of the International Collaboration of Pharmacy Journal Editors.

References

1. Fernandez-Llimos F, Desselle S, Stewart D, et al. Improving the quality of publications in and advancing the paradigms of clinical and social pharmacy practice research: The Granada Statements. *Res Social Adm Pharm.* 2023;19(5):830-5. doi: 10.1016/j.sapharm.2023.01.007
2. Fernandez-Llimos F, Desselle S, Stewart D, et al. Improving the quality of publications in and advancing the paradigms of clinical and social pharmacy practice research: The Granada Statements. *Int J Clin Pharm.* 2023;45(2):285-92. doi: 10.1007/s11096-023-01550-8
3. Fernandez-Llimos F, Desselle S, Stewart D, et al. Improving the quality of publications in and advancing the paradigms of clinical and social pharmacy practice research: The Granada Statements. *Explor Res Clin Soc Pharm.* 2023;9:100229. doi: 10.1016/j.rcsop.2023.100229
4. Fernandez-Llimos F, Desselle S, Stewart D, et al. Improving the quality of publications in and advancing the paradigms of clinical and social pharmacy practice research: The Granada Statements. *Int J Pharm Pract.* 2023;31(2):119-25. doi: 10.1093/ijpp/riad017
5. Fernandez-Llimos F, Desselle S, Stewart D, et al. Improving the quality of publications in and advancing the paradigms of clinical and social pharmacy practice research: The Granada Statements. *Eur J Hosp Pharm.* 2024;31(5):483-8. doi: 10.1136/ejpharm-2023-003748
6. Fernandez-Llimos F, Desselle S, Stewart D, et al. Improving the quality of publications in and advancing the paradigms of clinical and social pharmacy practice research: The Granada Statements. *J Pharm Policy Pract.* 2023;16(1):43. doi: 10.1186/s40545-023-00527-2
7. Fernandez-Llimos F, Desselle S, Stewart D, et al. Improving the quality of publications in and advancing the paradigms of clinical and social pharmacy practice research: The Granada Statements. *Farm Hosp.* 2023;47(3):133-8. doi: 10.1016/j.farma.2023.01.006
8. Fernandez-Llimos F, Desselle S, Stewart D, et al. Improving the quality of publications in and advancing the paradigms of clinical and social pharmacy practice research: The Granada Statements. *Ars Pharm.* 2023;64(2):161-72. doi: 10.30827/ars.v64i2.27182
9. Fernandez-Llimos F, Desselle S, Stewart D, et al. Improving the quality of publications in and advancing the paradigms of clinical and social pharmacy practice research: The Granada Statements. *Pharm Educ.* 2023;23(1):109-17. doi: 10.46542/pe.2023.231.109117
10. Fernandez-Llimos F, Desselle S, Stewart D, et al. Improving the quality of publications in and advancing the paradigms of clinical and social pharmacy practice research: The Granada Statements. *Rev Bras Farm Hosp Serv Saúde.* 2023;14(1):913. doi: 10.30968/rbfhss.2023.141.0913
11. Fernandez-Llimos F, Desselle S, Stewart D, et al. Mejora de la Calidad de las Publicaciones y Avance en los Paradigmas de la Investigación en Farmacia Práctica Clínica y Social: La Declaración de Granada. *Pharm Care Esp.* 2023;25(2):65-99. doi: 10.60103/phc.v25i2.816
12. Fernandez-Llimos F, Desselle S, Stewart D, et al. Improving the quality of publications in and advancing the entire paradigms of clinical and social pharmacy practice research: The Granada Statements. *J Pharm Clin.* 2023;42(2):53-60. doi: 10.1684/jpc.2023.0523
13. Fernandez-Llimos F, Desselle S, Stewart D, et al. Mejorando la calidad de las publicaciones y avanzando en todos los paradigmas de la investigación de la farmacia asistencial, clínica y social: Las Declaraciones de Granada. *Farm Comunitarios.* 2023;15(4):31-8. doi: 10.33620/fc.2173-9218. (2023).23
14. Fernandez-Llimos F, Desselle S, Stewart D, et al. Improving the quality of publications in and advancing the paradigms of clinical and social pharmacy practice research: The Granada Statements. *J Pharm Health Serv Res.* 2023;14(3):237-43. doi: 10.1093/jphsr/rmad039
15. Biglan A. The characteristics of subject matter in different academic areas. *J Appl Psychol.* 1973;57(3):195-203. doi: 10.1037/h0034701
16. Holmes ER, Desselle SP. Is scientific paradigm important for pharmacy education? *Am J Pharm Educ.* 2004;68(5):118. doi: 10.5688/aj6805118
17. Shcherbakova N, Desselle S, Bandiera C, et al. Drivers of citations in social pharmacy and practice research articles. *Res Social Adm Pharm.* 2024;20(7):590-6. doi: 10.1016/j.sapharm.2024.03.004
18. Vaghjiani NG, Lal V, Vahidi N, et al. Social Media and Academic Impact: Do Early Tweets Correlate with Future Citations? *Ear Nose Throat J.* 2024;103(2):75-80. doi: 10.1177/01455613211042113
19. Bano JM, Rate WRt, Civiletti MD, et al. The Top 100 Most Impactful Articles on the Achilles Tendon According to Altmetric Attention Score and Number of Citations. *Orthop J Sports Med.* 2024;12(3):23259671241232711. doi: 10.1177/23259671241232711
20. Choinski KN, Smolock CJ, Phair JP. The Top 100 Most-Cited Articles in Venous Disease and Management. *Ann Vasc Surg.* 2024. doi: 10.1016/j.avsg.2024.05.028
21. Fernandez-Llimos F, Negrao LG, Bond C, et al. Influence of automated indexing in Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) selection for pharmacy practice journals. *Res Social Adm Pharm.* 2024;20(9):911-7. doi: 10.1016/j.sapharm.2024.06.003
22. Vargas C, Whelan J, Brimblecombe J, et al. Co-creation, co-design, co-production for public health - a perspective on definition and distinctions. *Public Health Res Pract.* 2022;32(2). doi: 10.17061/phrp3222211
23. Commission Delegated Directive (EU) .../... of 4.3.2024 amending Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the minimum training requirements for the professions of nurse responsible for general care, dental practitioner and pharmacist. Published March 4, 2024. Accessed October 1, 2024. https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14045-Recognising-the-professional-qualifications-of-nurses-pharmacists-dental-practitioners-updated-training-requirements_en