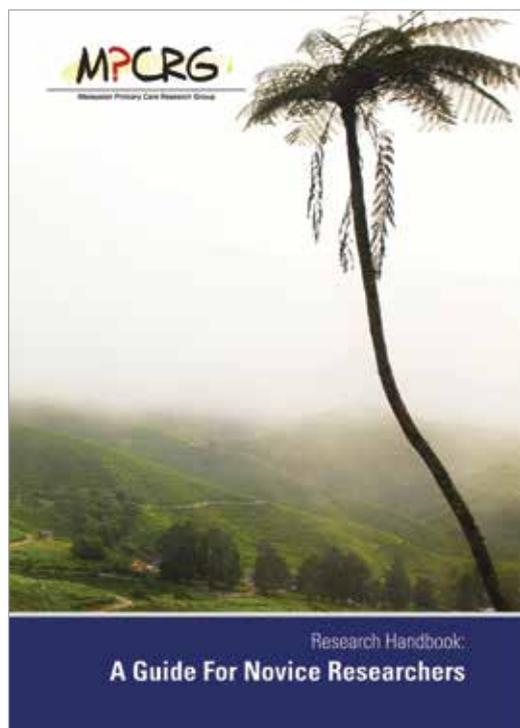


Research Handbook: A guide for novice researchers

By the Malaysian Primary Care Research Group (MPCRG) 130 pages, Kuala Lumpur: The Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia (AFPM), 2012. ISBN: 978-983-43922-1-5

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Novice researchers are often unaware of the research process and, more importantly, the principles and ethics behind research and publications. The Research Handbook: A Guide For Novice Researchers represents the experiences of the Malaysian Primary Care Research Group (MPCRG), which consists of experienced primary care researchers and clinicians in Malaysia. This practical handbook covers a wide ranging topics that are particularly relevant to novice researchers who are embarking on their first few research projects. Although the handbook was developed by the primary care researchers, the content is suitable for researchers from all disciplines.

Each chapter of the handbook has been written by one or more experienced primary care researchers; some authors have written their chapters with a Malaysian flavour taking into consideration our diverse languages and cultures.

Both quantitative and qualitative methodologies are covered, with a little more emphasis on quantitative research. The handbook also covers topics that are often challenging for novice researchers: defining the purpose of the research, developing research questions and objectives, conducting systematic literature review and preparing a research proposal. In addition, research designs and their interconnectedness with specific research questions, survey questionnaires and pilot studies are included. The handbook also includes chapters on how to present the research findings (texts, tables and graphs) and writing them up for publication in academic journals. The chapter on ethics will be especially useful for researchers to understand the importance of respecting patient autonomy and rights in research.

This research handbook is a good effort put in by the MPCRG and it should be a key reference guide for novice researchers embarking on health research.

* This book can be purchased online at the MPCRG website: www.mpcrg.net or contact the Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia at email: afpm@po.jaring.my or telephone: 03 40251900.