

# BANGLADESH

## FIVE STEPS TO SCIENTIFIC WRITING SUCCESS

*Excellent scientific writing practices help junior scientists grow and thrive. In Bangladesh, rigorous training and access to writing and statistical coaches ensure that staff have the skills to become independent scientists.*

Scientific writing can be difficult, but it's important to get it right. Good scientific writing is “how we communicate and participate in the global conversation,” says [Dr. Stephen Luby](#), former Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Country director in Bangladesh. How scientists present their work can have a direct effect on public health and policy decisions.

Thanks to a commitment to train and mentor junior scientists, excellence in scientific writing practices has become the standard. Lessons from Bangladesh can inform other countries looking to invest in the next generation of scientific leaders. Here are 5 STEPS to successful scientific writing in Bangladesh:

### 1. HIRE WELL

Staff in Bangladesh use a rigorous examination and interview process to screen candidates for critical thinking and English language skills, ensuring that only junior scientists with the highest potential are hired.

### 2. SET EXPECTATIONS

Everyone hired to conduct research must also write scientific protocols and manuscripts. Retention and promotion depend on productive scientific writing.

### 3. PROVIDE FOCUSED, PRACTICAL TRAINING

Junior scientists must complete 12 courses within two years. Participants learn about topics including data analysis, ethics and plagiarism, and how to give presentations.

### 4. STRUCTURE THE WRITING AND FEEDBACK EXPERIENCE

Authors start with bulleted outlines, which are concise and easier to review than full paragraphs. There is no ghost-authorship, and coaches do not rewrite manuscripts. Steve and a colleague, Dorothy Southern, developed a [guide](#) to easily provide feedback. The guide is available through Stanford University.

### 5. PROVIDE MENTORSHIP

Junior scientists receive extensive mentoring, meeting with their supervisor to make sure they stay on track. All of the researchers in the first course have produced first-authored manuscripts, and most have now earned their PhD or are working on their doctoral thesis.

According to Diana Diaz Granados, head of the Training Support Group at the Center for Communicable Diseases in Bangladesh, “The future for scientific writing in Bangladesh is bright. It is a big investment in time and requires a serious commitment to developing independent scientists, but the results are worth it.”

A new program, [Data for Health](#), will extend training for scientific writing in Bangladesh and improve the strategic use of data for policy, thanks to a partnership between the Bloomberg Foundation and the CDC Foundation.

*Scientific writing is how we participate in the global conversation.*



*Diana Diaz Granados, Head of the Training Support Group and Dr. Zaikul Hassan, Research Investigator.*

Read the full story: [http://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/healthprotection/gdd/stories/five\\_steps\\_bangladesh.html](http://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/healthprotection/gdd/stories/five_steps_bangladesh.html)