VIMS Journal of Physical Therapy

[EDITORIAL]

Copyrights

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Definition and its Importance

Copyright is the legal process of safeguarding any form of intellectual or artistic creations from illegal imitation or usage, with the rapid globalization and advanced scientific developments in all professions, "Intellectual Capital" has become one of the significant hallmarks of progressive and scholarly growth for any individual or any organization / institution. As a sector dedicated in resolving complex health problems, healthcare industry thrives on novel scientific findings and developments. This leads to many innovations providing the best possible solutions for complex health issues. Therefore, the healthcare professionals are obligated to protect the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR's) related to their original innovative products and solutions to ensure their exclusivity and ingenuity. Registration under Copyright Act will protect any form of artistic creations or Intellectual property. It gives both the Economic & Ethical Rights to the original creator. Copyright, as provided by the Indian Copyright Act, is valid only within India to secure the Indian works in foreign countries, India has become a member of the following international conventions on copyright and neighbouring (related) rights:

New knowledge and intellectual capability

Healthcare profession is one of the most evolving disciplines in the challenging health scenario. This leads to creation of invariable new knowledge to understand the disease pattern thereby paving way for better diagnosis and treatment. This new knowledge and information is a synthesis of intellectual capability of the author and he / she deserves exclusive intellectual rights of the particular works. Most of the health care professionals strive hard and intellectually contribute to the discipline by their findings but they miss out to make their works exclusive.

Authorship and Author's rights

Copyright is the most common IPR apart from patents, trademarks and trade secrets. Copyright (or Author's right) is a form of intellectual property law, protecting the original works of authorship including literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works. The **Copyright Act 1957** (as amended by the Copyright Amendment Act 2012) governs the subject of copyright law in India.

Procedure and exclusive rights

Copyright is one of the simple and easiest method by which health care professionals shall gain exclusive rights for their authentic works. The health care professionals shall file for copyright for many of these similar works which are originally made by them – professional text books, clinical scales, survey questionnaires, new treatment protocols, standard operating procedures, rare clinical case images, and videography of rare medical procedures. The Government of India has simplified the entire **copyright procedure** in an online platform with nominal charges for each copyright. The process starts with filing of application along with fee, issue of diary number, mandatory waiting period for objection, scrutinization for discrepancy and finally registering the work. The entire work flow is clearly mentioned in the website www.copyright.gov.in maintained by the department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

Exclusive ownership

The owner of copyright will be considered as an exclusive scholarly individual who drives the profession towards excellence and will be regarded high in the professional networks. Hence it is highly recommended that every healthcare professional involved in treating patients and academics should explore in this direction of intellectual property right bringing value to their professional career and the organization.