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Good Publication Practice – call for help

A call, as in “call for papers”; not a cry. About a decade ago, a team of editors led by Elizabeth Wager compiled a set of guidelines for Good Publication Practice. These are aimed primarily at people publishing clinical or preclinical information, especially when this information has been gathered, analysed, or written with support from a pharmaceutical, biotech, or medical device company.

Things have moved on, and while the need for guidelines is still there, the details have changed, so the International Society for Medical Publication Professionals (ISMPP) has launched GPP2. This will be led by Chris Graf of Wiley-Blackwell, who is co-chair of the ISMPP Standards & Best Practices Committee and Elizabeth (Betts) Field of Field Advantage Medical Communications. According to Chris, GPP2 will follow the mission laid out by the original GPP authors and “encourage responsible and ethical publication of the results of clinical trials sponsored by pharmaceutical companies”.¹ Like its predecessor, GPP2 will deliver “best practice” ethical guidance about peer-reviewed publications and presentations at scientific meetings, as well as recommendations for “non-peer-reviewed scientific communications”. New sections will provide guidance on recent developments in medical research and reporting, such as clinical trial registration and results disclosure.

They would like your help. They are looking for people

to comment on the first draft of the new guidelines, which will be available towards this end of this year.

If you would like to participate and have at least 10 years’ experience in three of the areas listed below, then please contact Chris.

- Setting publication policies in commercial organizations
- Design, conduct, and reporting of clinical trials
- Legal and regulatory requirements on conducting, registering, and reporting clinical trials publications as part of a clinical development programme
- Common editorial and journal practices, including peer review
- Scientific or medical writing and editing

Contribute to GPP2

Contact Chris Graf by email: chris.graf@wiley.com or phone: +44 1865 476 393

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Beyond medicine

Do the questions raised above concerning Good Publication Practice relate solely to medicine and particularly to clinical research, or are they relevant to other subject areas? In our discussions of the call for participation, Elise Langdon-Neuner raised the questions of ghost writing and guest authorship. These are addressed in the guidelines issued by the International Council of Medical Journal Editors. Ghost writing may be a problem that most people see as confined to medicine, but is this true? Do editors working in other fields come across papers written by paid professionals

who are not listed as authors? And guest authorship is common to all disciplines in the sense that it may occur in all disciplines. How common is it in the sense of frequent? Feedback on this would be useful, either via the EASE Forum or by submitting a response to *ESE* itself. It’s a topic that warrants consideration at our conference in Pisa next year and I’ll propose to the Programme Committee that we add a workshop on this. Volunteers to contribute are needed...

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