

The complex world of science editing

European
Association of
Science
Editors

EASE

ABSTRACTS

PLENARY LECTURES

What is science?

Professor Sir Tim Hunt, Cancer Research UK, London, UK

It is difficult to say exactly what “Science” is. To some, it’s a body of knowledge about the natural (as opposed to the supernatural) world. According to others, it’s simply a way of looking at the world (George Orwell) or a method to find out about the world (“Science as a way of knowing” according to the excellent, late John A. Moore). Scientific understanding is rooted in curiosity about how the world works, leading to the asking of questions about how the world works, and trying to answer those questions by observation, experiment and analysis. It is more about producing a conceptual framework for understanding the world than a list of facts, although facts have to be taken into account as evidence. Different scientists work in very different ways: physicists tend to ask different questions from biologists, even when they are studying the same things. And they seek different kinds of answers, although paradoxically, the answers are not incompatible with each other. For various reasons, science can be extremely difficult to understand, even when it’s well-understood by the specialists in a given field. It is very easy to get lost and bored, a big problem for school science.

Inter/multi/trans-disciplinarity: the challenge for publishing

Milena Žic Fuchs, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Croatia

HORIZON 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, introduces the notion of the so-called Societal Challenges. On one hand, these cover the huge span from the individual to the manifold global dimensions. On the other hand, they are implicitly inter/multi/transdisciplinary. It follows that research results (hopefully) will transcend disciplinary/domain boundaries and achieve the aims of HORIZON 2020 in the sense of “solving” the Societal Challenges. What does this mean for the future of publishing research results? If the results of HORIZON 2020 will truly be inter/multi/transdisciplinary, will the existing array of journals be ready to accept articles that go beyond the boundaries of their usually disciplinary orientation? Or will new journals appear? Apart from authorship, it will be the approach and the cross-domain content of articles that may open up “questions” for editors.

An example will be provided on the experience gained from the ESF Junior Summit “Water: Unite and Divide”, an experiment of bringing together 36 early-career researchers on a topic which does not have a history of inter/multi/transdisciplinary research. Eventually, the results appeared as an open-access variant of the *Journal of Water Resource and Protection* (<http://www.scirp.org/journal/jwarp/>). In the new publishing landscape,

will developments go in the direction of open-access journals becoming the main outlets for inter/multi/transdisciplinary research results? Will this induce a different balance between the open-access journal domain and “traditional” journal publications?

Research into peer review: how could peer-reviewed publications be more efficient?

Elizabeth Wager, Publications Consultant, Sideview, UK; Visiting Professor, University of Split Medical School, Croatia

Peer-reviewed publications have changed remarkably little in over 300 years. The format of most journal articles is essentially unchanged and many journals still view the printed version as the authoritative one. Similarly, the peer-review process, while taking advantage of electronic communications, is almost the same as that used in the 17th century. There has been little research into how publications are used and how they could be made more useful, but online publication and social media offer great potential for innovation. I will assess the traditional model, review developments and innovations, and consider what more could be done to improve the efficiency of the academic publication process and the usefulness of scientific research to a range of user groups.

Reporting guidelines: lessons for journal editors from the EQUATOR network

Doug Altman, Centre for Statistics in Medicine and EQUATOR Network, University of Oxford, UK

A fundamental principle is that readers of research articles need to know exactly what was done, and be given an accurate, complete and transparent account of what was found. They should not have to guess or assume what was done. Further, there should be enough detail to allow replication of the study in principle. Yet each year numerous new reviews of published research articles continue to demonstrate that a substantial proportion of journal articles are seriously deficient. Key information that readers need to appraise or use the findings is often missing. How can it be that none of the authors, peer reviewers or editors has detected that so many articles are substandard and, indeed, often unfit for purpose? Ensuring that journal articles are of maximum value to readers is clearly not a priority of many of those who write research articles, nor those who review them. Widespread deficiencies in research publications weaken the evidence-base for clinical practice. In the health research field many reporting guidelines have been developed in recent years, detailing the key elements of research that should be reported, with as yet modest success. I will consider what actions are needed by different stakeholders to help to raise standards more rapidly, in particular editors and peer reviewers. I will also consider the extension of these ideas beyond health research.

www.equator-network.org

PARALLEL SESSIONS

A: Social media and the journal as process not product
Moderator *Alun Salt, University of Leicester, UK*

Social media and the Annals of Botany
Alun Salt, University of Leicester, UK

The Annals of Botany is a company that publishes journals but it does far more than that. The striking feature of the Annals of Botany editorial meeting is that the editors are very proactive in relating to the field of Plant Science. Annals of Botany actively participates in conferences, providing grants and sponsorships, and works to highlight what it feels are important areas of plant science. Through the publication of special issues, it helps shape research agendas. A modern journal is more than a record, it is a participant in research. Social media is a new venue for the scientific process. It is neither publication nor conference discussion but has elements of both as well as novel aspects. Social media can be an outreach activity, but it doesn't have to be. The challenge for journals is to come up with new and useful practices for social media. Simply republishing press releases or abstracts is not sufficient. Journals have the opportunity to take elements of conference activity, like discussion, and engage in social media as a participant. This adds value to the fields they serve and can put published research within a wider scientific context. It means there is a future for discipline-based journals beyond simply a collection of "articles as homepage". This session will highlight the value Annals of Botany gives researchers beyond publishing individual papers, which serves as a relevant example for other journals with strong social links to their fields.

Social media and The Lancet group
Sarah Linklater, The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology, London, UK

The Lancet group has developed its social media strategy as a means to engage its readership and enhance their experience of published content, rather than simply as a marketing tool to drive website traffic. The Lancet group also uses social media as a platform to raise awareness of and promote discussion around the many global health issues to which The Lancet group is committed. I will give a brief overview of The Lancet group's social media strategy and touch on a few points that should be considered when embarking on a new social media strategy for any journal.

B: Sustainable quality and usability in biomedical translation: issues and approaches to problem solving
Moderator *Mary Ellen Kerans, Mediterranean Editors and Translators, Spain*

Over the past 12 years or so, biomedical journals and The Cochrane Collaboration have accumulated a great deal of experience with large-scale translation – going well beyond the basics of titles and abstracts for indexes. Behind-the-scenes discussions of how to manage such translation have raised questions about process, quality, sustainability, costs and whether editorial goals are being met. A certain degree of public discussion has also taken place. This parallel session will showcase information from some of these discussions for the benefit of editors, translators and managers of large and small projects. Speakers will review motivations behind into-English translation (mainly, a strategy to gain international visibility while retaining original research reports for national

journals read by clinicians) and translation into national languages (mainly, to gain the attention of local-language readers – such as clinicians, policy makers, patients or students). New developments in the practical, sustainable management of large-scale, long-term translation projects will be described. We plan to leave time for panelists to interact and for participants to join the discussion, so interested EASE members should bring their questions and concerns.

Why quality can be difficult to define, achieve and sustain: what an editor who recruits translators needs to know and answers to FAQs about multilingual publishing
Mary Ellen Kerans, Freelance editor and translator, Barcelona, Spain

Developments in full-text journal translation in Brazil, since reported in 2008 (METM08, Split)
Claudia Buchweitz¹ and Denise Arend²
¹Scientific Linguagem, Brazil, and freelance editor, *Revista Panamericana de Salud Publica/Pan American Journal of Public Health*; ²Scientific Linguagem, Brazil, and Production Editor, *Revista Brasileira de Psiquiatria*

Sustainable large-scale translation of Cochrane Reviews for local language users: finding an approach to support productivity and quality control
Juliane Reid and Harriet McLehose, The Cochrane Collaboration, UK

Presenting translated plain language summaries of Cochrane Systematic Reviews to the public: adapting format and presentation and observations about uptake
Livia Puljak and Irena Zakarija-Grkovic, The Cochrane Collaboration, Croatian Branch

The Croatian Branch of The Cochrane Collaboration started translating plain language summaries of Cochrane Systematic Reviews from English into Croatian in 2012 after receiving its first grant from the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sport for the 'popularization of science'. Initially, the plain language summaries were posted only on the Cochrane Summaries web site but to reach a wider audience, we opened a Facebook page in March 2013. We saw some differences in patterns of usage of the plain language summaries on the Cochrane Summaries site and the Facebook page. For example, the most popular topics on the Cochrane Summaries page are related to acne, stroke, cancer and diabetes, while topics related to pregnancy and childbirth generate the most page views on our Facebook page. We will focus on our experience with plain language summaries and also mention differences between these and two other types of translation we are doing: 1) the longer translations of Cochrane Systematic Reviews for two Croatian professional medical journals and 2) the PEARLS (Practical Evidence About Real Life Situations). PEARLS are succinct summaries of Cochrane Systematic Reviews and provide guidance on whether a treatment is effective or ineffective; they are aimed at primary care practitioners. The translated PEARLS are published monthly in a journal that is distributed to all licensed doctors in Croatia.

Updated EASE Guidelines: points of particular interest to translators in the 2014 edition
Sylwia Ufnalska, Freelance science translator and editor, Poznań, Poland

On MET's guidelines for choosing an English language consultant
Mary Ellen Kerans, Continuing professional development chair, Mediterranean Editors and Translators

C: A common standard for sex/gender policies in research reporting and journal management – an open consultation with EASE members
Moderators Shirin Heidari and Tom Babor

Sex and gender differences are too often unaccounted for in scientific research, although these variables can be important determinants of health and well-being. This applies to disciplines other than health research. The impact of, for example, environmental contaminants, interventions and innovations cannot be fully assessed if sex and gender dimensions are not accounted for in research, and will not be known if they are not systematically reported. In addition, there is an increasing awareness of the gender bias among authors, reviewers, editors, and editorial board members, and a growing recognition that a more gender-balanced science structure will benefit science and innovation. In 2013, the Gender Policy Committee of the European Association of Science Editors (EASE) conducted an electronic international survey in order to map existing sex and gender editorial policies in a wide variety of scholarly journals. The survey probed not only for current practices, but also for opinions regarding sex and gender policies in scientific journals and publishing houses. The Gender Policy Committee is leading the development of Common Standards for gender considerations in scientific publishing and journal management. The Common Standards provide guiding principles on how to implement gender policies in journals, and serve as a model for editors and editorial societies across a wide range of disciplines. At this session, the draft Common Standards will be presented for public consultation. Delegates are encouraged to provide feedback on the draft recommendations, share experiences from their discipline and/or journals, and engage in constructive dialogue about the importance of gender policies in scholarly journals.

D: Publication ethics: case studies from COPE
Moderators Irene Hames, UK, Mirjam Curno, Switzerland, and André van Steirteghem, Belgium; Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)

The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE, <http://publicationethics.org/>) provides advice to editors and publishers on all aspects of publication ethics, along with the support and resources they need to implement good publication practice. It holds a quarterly Forum to which its members (there are now more than 9000, from over 80 countries) can bring challenging cases for discussion and advice. Over 17 years, COPE has built up a searchable database of more than 500 cases, covering a wide range of issues in research integrity and publication ethics, such as duplicate publication, authorship disputes, and plagiarism. In this interactive workshop, a number of cases based on real-life examples brought to COPE, and covering some of the most pressing problems currently faced by editors and journals, will be discussed. The new COPE Case Taxonomy, comprising 18 main classification categories and 100 keywords, will be introduced, and an analysis of the cases presented.

E: Publication metrics
Moderator Paola de Castro, Istituto Superiore di Sanita, Rome, Italy
Publishing metrics have a strong influence on science communication and directly affect the different actors of the process (mainly authors, readers, funding agencies and institutions). This

session will cover traditional and alternative metrics, including a general introduction to the challenges associated with metrics, communications from the European and Mexican Associations of science editors, and the implications of a new metric for measuring the impact factor of bioresources, BRIEF.

Metrics, what metrics?
Remedios Melero, Spanish National Research Council, Valencia, Spain
Research articles have traditionally been measured by the proxy measure of the journal Impact Factor, developed by Eugene Garfield in the 1960s. Subsequent advances in technology, media, and ways of scholarly communication have made it possible to trace the impact of an individual article that is published digitally. We have progressed from Gutenberg to the post-Gutenberg era, from print to the digital age, from bibliometrics to altmetrics/ cybermetrics/ webometrics. What do these terms mean? In brief, altmetrics combines data from traditional science dissemination channels and citation counts with data collected from places where scientists, students, policymakers and members of the public talk about science online - e.g. blogs, Twitter, Facebook, Google+, or scholarly networks such as ResearchGate or Academia.edu. Altmetrics expands the meaning of impact, well beyond citations. An article becomes a complex digital object that can be de-constructed into its constituent parts that can also be traced and followed themselves (datasets, audio, video, supplementary material). Examples from the Public Library of Science, Almetric.com, ImpactStory and ReaderMeter among others will illustrate how these new metrics are applied to scientific publications and their components.

EASE's view on publication metrics and the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment
Arjan Polderman¹ and Chris Sterken²

¹*Pharmaceutisch Weekblad, the Netherlands;* ²*The Journal of Astronomical Data (University of Brussels)*
This presentation will give an overview of EASE's activities concerning the use and misuse of the Journal Impact Factor. The 7th EASE Conference of 2000 devoted three workshops and the closing plenary session to this topic and it was suggested that EASE should take action to discourage improper use. This resulted in the EASE statement on inappropriate use of impact factors in November 2007. The Statement met with a lot of sympathy and some scientific societies endorsed it, but the impact was low. In December 2012, at the Annual Meeting of The American Society for Cell Biology in San Francisco, a group of editors and publishers decided to issue the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA). EASE was asked to support the initiative, which we did, because the DORA has the same purpose as the EASE Statement: eliminating journal-based metrics as a tool in assessing research quality and consequently in career and funding considerations. Some aspects of the DORA will be elaborated.

Behavior of obsolescence in Mexican public health journals
Magda Luz Atrián Salazar¹ and Salvador Gorbea Portal²
¹*AMERBAC, Mexican Association of Biomedical Journal Editors, Mexico;* ²*Institute of Library and Information Research, National Autonomous University of Mexico*

The rapid growth of information is reducing the usefulness of the scientific literature. The bibliometric regularity known as obsolescence of information comprises a chronological noise in the system of scientific communication. Furthermore, its behavior is measured in multi-synchronous studies from

the time the references were used in articles published in scientific journals. This presentation will describe a study to determine the loss of usefulness in information published in three Mexican Public Health journals, with the purpose of measuring the level of obsolescence in scientific literature in Mexico. Measurements concerning the factors in aging, loss of usefulness, average life span and the current level of the journals showed that relevant data were available for making decisions on editorial policy of the journals studied.

An impact factor for bioresources

Laurence Mabile¹, Elena Bravo², Alessia Calzolari², Ann Cambon Thomsen², Federica Napolitani², Anna Maria Rossi², Paola De Castro²

¹Inserm, Université Toulouse III–Paul Sabatier, Toulouse, France; ²Istituto Superiore di sanità, Rome, Italy

The Bioresource Research Impact Factor (BRIF) project is an ongoing international initiative to create suitable methods to recognise and measure the use and impact of biological resources in scientific/academic work, in order to maximize access by researchers to collections of biological materials and attached databases, and to recognize efforts involved in their maintenance. The goal is the adoption of a biobank unique identifier for easy and reliable retrieval of biobank-based research. The BRIF and journal editors subgroup undertakes multi-sectorial activities involving both researchers and science editors, to foster the definition of a standardized citation format for bioresources in journal articles. The European Association of Science Editors has actively participated in many of the subgroup initiatives, including the workshop held in June 2013, organized to discuss the best strategies to promote a standardized bioresource citation. This presentation will describe recent initiatives of the subgroup, in particular those involving the National Library of Medicine (NLM) and concerning the Medical Subject Headings, which is the NLM controlled vocabulary thesaurus used for indexing articles for PubMed, and the NLM Citing Medicine, which provides instructions and guidelines for authors, editors and publishers for formatting citations to different types of material.

F: Professional development for editors

Moderator Pippa Smart, PSP Consulting, UK

What skills does an editor need, and how can you be sure that you are maintaining currency with a changing publishing environment? Increasing ethical awareness and exposure of fraudulent publishing practices have led to criticism of editorial practices and increased the need for editors to pre-empt problems before publication. How do editors maintain up-to-date knowledge of their environment and ensure that they are working optimally? This session aims to provide a snapshot of available support in different regions of the world. Speakers will discuss available resources and development opportunities, and reveal if editors are aware of what is available, and how willing they are to invest time and effort in taking advantage of the opportunities.

What editors want and what they get

Pippa Smart, PSP Consulting, UK

Reporting on the results of a survey undertaken in early 2014, this talk will provide a summary of what professional training editors receive, what they want, and what they are aware of. The survey was completed by over 150 editors from around the world and will provide feedback on topics they would like to know more about, and how much support is provided by their publishers, editorial (and other) associations, and

how much time they are willing to invest in developing their editorial skills and knowledge. The survey also reports on what publishers provide to their editors, to identify if there is a mismatch between what the publishers think their editors want, and what the editors themselves report.

Education resources by editors and for editors

Clarinda Cerejo, Editage, India

The Internet has made learning and development easy, yet few online platforms allow learning and information exchange among editors. While editor-exclusive forums like WAME and EASE certainly help journal editors exchange ideas for their professional development, there is a distinct lack of forums allowing editors to share ideas and information with both authors and other editors. I will discuss how Editage Insights, an online learning and discussion platform for authors and journals, developed and run by authors' editors, can help journal editors increase their journal's reach and recommend journal best practices through interviews, exchange ideas on new developments in the industry through thought-provoking articles, and understand the pain points authors encounter in the publication process through case studies and questions submitted by authors themselves.

How INASP helps strengthen the quality and visibility of developing country research

Sioux Cumming, Journals Online, INASP, UK

INASP is an international development charity working for 20 years with a global network of partners to improve access, production and use of research information and knowledge, so that countries are equipped to solve their own development challenges. Support for journal editors in developing countries is a vital component of this work and is achieved in a variety of ways. The Journals Online platforms were developed for journals which had previously been available only in print and which had therefore been largely invisible to the global research community. During the process of moving online, the editors were offered training in the use of the Journals Online (JOL) websites, which also included training on editorial best practice. More recently our focus has been on assisting the editors to meet the international publishing standards for their journals, through the provision of resources, workshops, small grants and individual mentoring. Recent workshops in Sri Lanka, Honduras and Nepal have already led to improvements. We are also collaborating with African Journals Online to develop a set of journal seals or tiers which will indicate different tiers of publishing quality for the journals on the JOL sites. The AuthorAID project at INASP also provides support to editors by providing a service for their authors so that the submitted manuscripts are of a higher quality.

How can a publisher support its Editors? A perspective from BioMed Central

Maria Kowalczyk, BioMed Central, UK

BioMed Central is a publisher of over 250 online, open access journals across biology and medicine. Many of the journals are managed by in-house teams, but most are managed by external academics in various roles: editors-in-chief, section editors and associate editors. BioMed Central provides support for these external editors in a variety of forms. Editors have access to a dedicated website that includes resources such as editorial policies; advice on using our systems; handling manuscripts and making editorial decisions; developing journals and our Code of Conduct for Editors. We have recently launched an online distance learning course with five modules: editors' role

and editorial policies; dos and don'ts of peer review; peer review: how to make a decision; post publication issues; and publication and research ethics and misconduct. Each journal has a dedicated in-house contact for external editors who are able to answer most of the queries of their day-to-day work. More complex or problematic issues can be escalated to the Publisher or to the Biology and Medical Editors. The latter are a team of five experienced editors dedicated to maintaining best practice in peer review across all journals, as well as consistency in advising on all aspects of research and publication ethics. The Biology and Medical Editors are responsible for defining BioMed Central's editorial policies and work closely with the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) to ensure that the journals' editorial processes are consistent with recognized best practice in scholarly publishing.

G: Reporting guidelines: a tool to increase the quality of health research published in your journal

Moderator Iveta Simera, EQUATOR Network, Oxford, UK

Substantial evidence continues to demonstrate widespread, serious deficiencies in research publications. Journal editors have power to considerably improve the reporting quality of research papers they publish. This session will summarise major deficiencies in health research publications, give an overview of available reporting guidelines to aid the completeness and transparency of research papers, and discuss practical aspects of implementation of these guidelines in journals.

Deficiencies limiting reliability and usability of published research papers

Doug Altman, Centre for Statistics in Medicine, University of Oxford, UK; Chair of EQUATOR Network Steering Group

Current electronic methods of scientific publishing offer increased opportunities for publishing all research studies and describing them in sufficient detail. Yet the health research literature still suffers from many shortcomings that seriously undermine the value and utility of research publications and waste scarce resources invested in the research. In recent years there have been several positive steps aimed at improving this situation, such as a strengthening of journals' policies on research publication and the wide requirement to register clinical trials. I will outline key deficiencies identified in the current health research literature, discuss causes of these shortcomings and highlight the consequences of inadequate reporting of research. I will also discuss some possible solutions to improve transparency and usability of research papers, including the use of reporting guidelines, defining core outcomes, and registration of studies.

Making sense of reporting guidelines

Iveta Simera, Centre for Statistics in Medicine, University of Oxford, UK; Head of Programme Development, EQUATOR Network

Although the ultimate responsibility for the design, conduct and accurate publication of research studies lies with the researchers, editors "should take all reasonable steps to ensure the quality of the material they publish" (COPE Code of conduct). Guidelines for reporting health research are important tools to facilitate this task. They specify a minimum set of items needed for a complete and clear account of study methods and subsequent findings. Adherence to reporting guidelines improves the accuracy, transparency and usability of publications. Recent years have seen many new reporting guidelines motivated mainly by the insufficient quality of published reports. This creates a rather confusing situation for editors who need to

know which guidelines exist and decide which to support and recommend authors to follow. The EQUATOR Network is an international initiative that works towards improving this situation. The EQUATOR team collates resources facilitating the reporting of health research, provides education about the available guidelines, and supports the development of new reporting guidelines. The EQUATOR website (www.equator-network.org) is a valuable source of information for authors, journal editors, peer reviewers, and guideline developers. The site currently provides links to over 200 reporting guidelines and other useful resources relating to good publication of research studies. This presentation will introduce key reporting guidelines and resources hosted on the EQUATOR website and suggest where journals can use them to achieve high standards in the reporting of research they publish.

Towards the successful implementation of reporting guidelines at biomedical journals

Jason Roberts, Managing Editor, Headache: the journal of head and face pain, USA

The evidence of both the need for, and effectiveness of, reporting guidelines at biomedical journals is compelling. This practical presentation provides a template for the successful preparation and launch of a comprehensive reporting standards policy. It does so by demonstrating how individual journals can incorporate reporting guidelines into routine submission and review procedures in an effort to improve content quality. The presentation will review the steps needed to devise a reporting standards policy, then to implement the policy, both in terms of launching and then maintaining the programme from an operational perspective. Barriers and potential confounders to the effective deployment of a policy will be considered and potential solutions proposed. Finally, and of particular use to busy editorial offices, a simple 9-step guide to implementing the use of reporting guidelines at a journal will be described. Evidence from actual implementation efforts will be used to demonstrate a successful strategy, while also recognizing potential problems and how they can be overcome. The presentation is designed for editors, publishers and editorial office staff. All the proposed implementation steps can be applied to journals large and small and are designed to be submission system agnostic. The primary learning goal of the presentation is to outline proven practical steps towards implementation, while ensuring standards can be effectively raised without placing burdens on all journal stakeholders (authors, editors, reviewers). Following the presentation, attendees will be able to adapt, and utilize, the steps outlined at their own journal.

H: Evaluating editorial research and collaboration among editors' associations

Moderator Ana Marušić, Journal of Global Health and University of Split School of Medicine, Croatia

How can editors assure the quality of their work? Where is the evidence base for editorial policies and procedures? What is editorial research? This session will present experiences from different editors around the world and explore possible ways of collaboration among editorial organizations in research into peer review, journals and scientific communication.

The Mexican Association of Biomedical Journal Editors

Magda Luz Atrián Salazar, President, Asociación Mexicana de Editores de Revistas Biomédicas, A. C., Mexico

The Mexican Association of Biomedical Journal Editors — Asociación Mexicana de Editores de Revistas Biomédicas (AMERBAC)— is a voluntary association of biomedical editors

from Mexico who seek to foster national cooperation among editors of peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed biomedical journals. AMERBAC works to facilitate this cooperation by providing a forum twice a year for editors to analyse journals and discuss editorial issues with their peers. AMERBAC also fosters broader communication among members and disseminates information about organizations such as WAME, EASE, ICMJE and COPE. In AMERBAC, we think editors can assure the quality for their work by sharing experiences, identifying common problems and looking for accessible solutions. We think editorial research is the methodology that will allow us to identify the elements that guarantee the quality of scientific publications, but also facilitate the development of tools to support the job of reviewers or check lists to facilitate the work of the authors. Even though AMERBAC does not perform editorial research by itself, we motivate Mexican editors to conduct research and share their results.

International Association of Veterinary Editors

Mary Christopher, Founding Coordinator, International Association of Veterinary Editors

The International Association of Veterinary Editors (IAVE) is an informal association of 291 editors from 206 veterinary journals in 49 countries. Veterinary medicine has parallels with human medicine; journals range from general to speciality and from species-specific to comparative. IAVE's mission is to foster international interactions; support continual professional development of editors; improve editorial standards, ethical practices, and peer review; enhance the quality of scientific writing; promote editorial independence; and encourage research in editorial and publication practices. IAVE has met annually since 2004 in conjunction recently with EASE and the Peer Review Congress. A major effort of IAVE was the 2010 publication of consensus reporting guidelines for animal ethics, the first to address client-owned animal patients. The guidelines have been adopted by several journals and continue to be refined as veterinary schools adopt ethical standards for clinical research. The Nottingham Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine led a survey in collaboration with IAVE on the awareness, policies, and views of veterinary editors on reporting guidelines (BMC Vet Res 2014;10:10). The editor of the Australian Vet Journal conducted a survey of IAVE editors on editing processes and workflow. Individual members of IAVE and EASE collaborated on a bibliometric study to assess geographic trends in veterinary research output, species specialization, and interdisciplinary relationships (BMC Vet Res 2013;9:115). Veterinary journals have much in common with other biomedical journals and small research communities and veterinary editors bring unique expertise and an important perspective to animal research. The IAVE welcomes opportunities to strengthen liaisons with other organizations and contribute to research collaborations of mutual interest.

Committee on Publication Ethics

André Van Steirteghem, Secretary, Committee on Publication Ethics
Quality assurance of editorial work requires evidence-based evaluation of editorial policies and procedures. As of 2008 COPE offered its members the possibility to apply for research grants and has supported several projects, many of which have been published or presented at meetings. These include research on retractions; a systematic review on authorship definitions in major bibliographic databases from different scientific disciplines; an international survey on authors' awareness of publication ethics; a study on the prevalence and

attitudes towards plagiarism in biomedical publishing; a survey of journals' instructions to reviewers on how EQUATOR guidelines are followed by reviewers; use of CrossCheck guidance to detect plagiarism in different disciplines; cross-disciplinary analysis of published data; a study of whether there are specific characteristics of clinical trials primarily designed for the purpose of marketing; and public disclosure of clinical trial data. The number and quality of applications has decreased, therefore COPE is now considering whether to set up a "research commissioning programme" which will be elaborated during the next COPE Strategy Meeting (July 2014).

Mediterranean Editors and Translators

Mary Ellen Kerans, Continuing Professional Development Chair, Mediterranean Editors and Translators Council

Mediterranean Editors and Translators (MET) set out to be a forum where wordface workers doing mixed-skill tasks (manuscript editing, translating, teaching and more) could discuss issues that concerned us and our employers or clients. We are the people who work in a myriad of ways for editorial board editors, publishers, authors and institutions, and whenever we attended other associations' meetings, we had to extrapolate to draw lessons for our own varied situation. So when starting MET, we did not replicate what others were doing, but we did not start from scratch either. We watched other associations and chose to collaborate with them rather than compete for members; we have also tried to contribute to others' programmes. Some of the groups whose organization we studied are SENSE in the Netherlands and several of the highly egalitarian English teaching associations. From groups like EASE, WAME, and a host of applied linguistics associations and journals, we took knowledge about practices, issues, and attitudes. We also noted how translators' associations organized their training. MET's focus is on peer training that is firmly structured to combine practical know-how with "light theory" from a variety of fields. Only about 10% of presentations at MET meetings deal with new research, usually related to applied linguistics. Research on journal editing has sometimes been presented but is more likely to be referred to in panel discussions and workshops that review published research. We have no proof that this approach leads to better work quality among wordface workers, but Council recently discussed why we feel it has. I will briefly sketch out MET's first 10 years' experience and tell something of Council's views of this approach so far.

POSTERS

How open is your journal?

Remedios Melero and Josep Manuel Rodríguez-Gairín

HowOpenIsIt is a web application based on a guide created in collaboration by SPARC, PLoS and OASPA. Its aim is to help authors make informed decisions on where to publish, on the basis of journal editorial policies and on how open they are. The variables that define the spectrum of a journal from restrictive to open are reader rights, reuse rights, copyright, author posting rights, automatic posting, and machine readability. These new aspects extend the concept of "open" and take into account the interoperability of the journal. This web service is a simple application that, through questions and answers, determines how open a journal is, expressed as a percentage calculated from the scores assigned to the selected options from 0-4. This helps authors move beyond the seemingly simple question, "Is this journal open access?" towards a more productive alternative.

Author education strategies beyond cultural boundaries

Roohi Ghosh and Clarinda Cerejo, Editage, India

Education on topics such as manuscript preparation, the publication process, good publication practices, and new developments in the publishing industry can play a critical role in helping English-as-a-second-language (ESL) authors stay ahead in the race to publish in reputed international journals. Drawing on our long-standing experience with author education in Japan, South Korea, and China, we will share insights on a successful author education strategy that traverses cultural boundaries. We will discuss different training platforms that can be used for educating ESL authors, such as webinars, workshops, lectures, and written resources. The poster will use success and failure stories to talk about the acceptability and reach of such platforms, learner and faculty profiles, participant interaction, topic preferences, feedback collection methods, and language of training delivery. We will also share insights on similarities and differences in the teaching approach to be adopted for authors in Japan, South Korea, and China. We hope that other professionals involved in author education can use these insights and practical tips to develop a successful training plan.

Experiences of the reviewing process in a biotechnical field: Chemical and Biochemical Engineering Quarterly journal

Tamara Jurina and Želimir Kurtanek, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, Croatia

This work presents the experiences of a young editor on the journal *Chemical and Biochemical Engineering Quarterly*. The challenges are to find peer-reviewers with broad scientific interests and the necessary experience in such broad and diverse research area. The editorial and reviewing process is conducted in several stages. The first stage is editor evaluation to check the aim and scope of the submitted manuscript. In the second stage, the manuscript is evaluated by a voting process by 14 members of the international editorial board (Austria, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia). The decision is made by a majority of positive votes. In the third stage, the manuscript is submitted to peer review by at least two international experts in the field. Experts are selected using the Web of Science database with the keywords from the submitted manuscript. The last stage comprises metrological, English language and technical revisions of the accepted manuscript. On average, each year the journal receives about 300 manuscripts, of which 85 % are rejected. Based on this experience, guidelines for editorial work are given in order to meet the future needs for biotechnical sciences.

The role of international collaboration among publishers associations: the Mexican chapter of EASE is born

Magda Luz Atrián Salazar and colleagues

The aims of the international collaboration in scientific publishing and editorial management experience between AMERBAC and EASE are:

1. To promote quality scientific publications that may allow the exchange and development of knowledge, both nationally and internationally.
2. To strengthen the role of the editor in order to improve the national and international visibility of Mexican scientific publications.
3. To offer face-to-face and virtual training programmes.
4. To disseminate information about AMERBAC and its editorial practices in *European Science Editing*.
5. To disseminate information about EASE and to publish Spanish translations of *European Science Editing* abstracts in the AMERBAC newsletter as well as on the EASE website.

6. To facilitate the presence of EASE representatives in AMERBAC seminars and congresses.
7. To encourage the presence of AMERBAC in EASE seminars and conferences.
8. To register AMERBAC editors as EASE members and European and Latin American editors as members of AMERBAC, thereby fostering mutual collaboration opportunities.

Annual of Social Work 40th anniversary

Lucija Vejmelka and Ksenija Švenda Radeljak, Faculty of Law and Department of Social Work, University of Zagreb, Croatia

In 2014, the *Annual of Social Work/ Ljetopis socijalnog rada* celebrates its 20th anniversary. The poster presents the achievements of the only scientific journal with a core interest in social work in Croatia. The journal occasionally publishes contents from related disciplines of importance to social work practice and translations of selected documents especially useful for the understanding of modern social work. The journal regularly publishes reviews of conferences, books and journals. Since 1994, the journal has been through four phases of development, and the main characteristics of each will be pointed out. We will display the editorial process of the journal from submission of the article to the publication of an issue. Publication process and policy will be analysed by criteria for publication, peer review process, data on the editorial board, ethical requirements and information about thematic issues and guest editors. Accessibility and international presence, open access of the contents, relevance and visibility plus the future aspirations and perspectives will be mentioned.

Respecting copyright in the use of psychological tests

Krunoslav Matešić, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb

Psychological tests are divided into research instruments and psychodiagnostic instruments. The latter, when newly developed, usually constitute independent publications, produced by test publishers as a core activity. Despite the fact that many research instruments are in the so-called public domain, there are still versions published in journals which require full copyright acknowledgement. Following the Psychological Practice Act (NN 88/2003), the Croatian Psychological Chamber has accepted the A-B-C categorization model for the classification of existing psychological instruments. The laws of the Republic of Croatia forbid the unauthorized copying of psychological instruments. However, awareness of the need to respect publication and authorship rights has been slow to develop. Numerous journals are publishing papers presenting results of illegally acquired instruments. A series of professional associations have established numerous standards, guidelines, recommendations and statements regarding psychological testing practices and protection of the actual tests, with the aim of improving the quality of psychological practice, protection of test subject rights as well as the protection of moral and material rights of the author and test publisher. The International Test Commission has initiated a public discussion regarding research instruments, see www.intestcom.org/upload/statement_on_tests_for_research_20131203.pdf. The proper use of research instruments and psychodiagnostic tests can be achieved through education and active interaction in the academic community in order to explain all aspects of copyrights.

Editors educating young scientists: the Czech example

Eva Baranyiová, Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague

The global science scene has been changing dramatically and one worrying observation is the increased frequency of phenomena

such as misconduct, fraud, predatory journals, manipulation of data, plagiarism, forging, retraction. There are too many low quality manuscripts that result from poorly designed studies and lack of novelty, often a product of multiple institutional pressures. Scientific journal editors, besides editing the manuscripts, have a unique chance to educate our authors, reviewers, and editorial board members. EASE has been instrumental in these endeavours not only in providing excellent materials but also in organizing workshops and lectures for authors and editors all over the world. This has often been done in cooperation with publishing houses and universities. EASE resources, including immediate information from EASE conferences and articles published in *European Science Editing*, can also be used in other educating models. I will present my own experience in teaching scientific writing at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in the Czech Republic, acquired during the last decade at four universities, in courses for Ph.D. students organized by the Czech Academy of Sciences, and other institutions. A special lecture is always devoted to academic misconduct and its consequences. The written evaluations submitted by the course attendees and discussions report a positive learning experience, often indicating their first encounter with unacceptable practices in science. This educating model for students and young scientists may contribute to prevention of unacceptable practices in science.

Analysis of evaluation items for scholarly journals supported by Korean Federation of Science and Technology Societies based on item response theory

Geum-Hee Jeong and Sun Huh, Hallym University, Chuncheon, Korea

The Korean Federation of Science and Technology Societies (KOFST) has supported science journals published in Korea since 1971. From 2012, KOFST began to evaluate candidate journals with 35 evaluation items. We have assessed the usability of each item, using item analyses based on item response theory. This may provide information to KOFST about how best to support journal publication. Item analyses were applied to 35 items for 540 candidate journals. Analyzed contents were difficulty parameter based on Rasch model and difficulty parameter based on two-parameter item response theory. Journal history, full text XML, permanence of paper, author's check list, and editor training showed higher difficulty parameter based on Rasch model. Editor training, journal history, full text XML, and page charge showed higher difficulty parameter based on two-parametric item response theory. Since description of journal history, editor training and full text XML are selected as difficult items using both the Rasch model and the two-parametric item response model, editor training should be provided more frequently and full text XML production should be encouraged for better visibility of journals.

Ten Tips to keep in mind when writing articles

Sung-Tae Hong, Journal of Korean Medical Science, Korean Academy of Medical Sciences, Seoul, Korea

Writing a good quality scientific article takes experience and skill but the process can be helped by following basic principles. I propose 'TEN Tips' that editors can encourage authors to use to improve their manuscripts. These have been developed to facilitate reader-friendly scientific communication and citation. They may help peer review or editing as well as writing. The Ten Tips have a culinary flavour. It is strongly recommended to write the first draft rapidly, then allow it to cook slowly, tasting repeatedly. During the drafting and slow cooking, prepare and

trim the manuscript following the Ten Tips:

1. Keep to a clear plan for the article: plan the article carefully before writing, including contents, conclusion, target journal, authorship and references
2. Keep to the formatting requirements of the target journal
3. Keep consistency: prepare the manuscript using a consistent flow of contents or items
4. Keep scientific confidence: all authors must be confident of their results and conclusion
5. Keep your story: write the manuscript to tell a scientific story
6. Keep sentences sexy: make sentences simple and short
7. Keep in mind Rule of Ten 1: only 10% of people who read the title go on to read the abstract, so an informative and attractive title is essential
8. Keep in mind Rule of Ten 2: only 10% of people who read the abstract go on to read the text
9. Keep the Rule of First and Last: begin the text with a topic paragraph and close it with a resolution paragraph. Begin each paragraph with a topic sentence and close it with a resolution sentence
10. Keep connecting words: connect sentences by repeating keywords within a paragraph.

Mentoring for publication in a Master's degree programme in hospital pharmacy

Louise Mallet, Université de Montréal, and Julie Méthot, Faculté de pharmacie, Université Laval, Canada

In 2011, a 1-credit course on writing a scientific publication and on the peer-review process for scientific articles was launched. This course is given to the residents enrolled in the Master's degree programme in hospital pharmacy in the Université de Montréal's Faculty of Pharmacy. To pass the course, the residents have to submit an article to a peer-reviewed journal. Data pertaining to the communication course were compiled in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. These data concerned the number of teams, the selected journals, and the type and number of articles published. The results concerning the articles accepted and published will be presented. The pharmacy scientific communication course has enabled all the residents to experience writing a scientific article, to receive peer-review comments for improving their article, and to submit it to a peer-reviewed journal. We hope that this experience will inspire this new generation of pharmacists to publish in scientific journals.

Golden rules for science editors: a draft for discussion

Sylwia Ufnalska and Arjan Polderman

We propose a brief list of "golden rules for science editors" and welcome feedback for further development.

1. Be aware of your target audience.
2. Ensure a fair peer review process.
3. Pay due attention to ethical issues: data fabrication or manipulation, plagiarism, authorship, and conflict of interest.
4. Inform authors about progress and delays as soon as possible.
5. Do your best to ensure that publications are complete, concise, and clear, with correct citations.
6. Make sure that the abstract properly summarizes vital information (background, objectives, methods, results, and conclusions) and contains major keywords.
7. Ensure safe long-term storage of publications and documentation of the editorial process.