

13th EASE Conference, 10-12 June 2016, Strasbourg, France

Raising Standards Parallel session 4B: Sunday 12th June, 10:45-12:00

Editor certification and raising standards

Moderated by Duncan Nicholas, DN Journal Publishing Services, Brighton, UK

This session will have an emphasis on the role and scope of knowledge and competencies required of an Editor-in-Chief (EiC) of a journal. The current environment of publishing is becoming increasingly complex, and the EiC of a journal should not only be competent as a subject-area expert, knowledgeable about publication ethics, good publication practices and guidelines, and be aware of issues of publication on the global landscape, but they should be well-versed and competent in scholarly publication processes. Upon introduction to the session by Duncan Nicholas, Al Weigel will talk about the scope and need for editorial standards, what certification could look like, and what is its value. David Moher will then dive into the core competencies of an EiC and some of the fundamental internal process and landscape understanding required to assume the role of an EiC in guiding journal processes and its moral compass. Donald Samulack will address some of the external landscape issues that an EiC will need to understand to be able to guide the journal outreach so that it understands and can get close to its author community. The session will address some tell-tale signs of irresponsible, unethical, and in some cases predatory conduct of a journal that an EiC needs to be aware of, and will discuss similar irresponsible behaviours within the author community and of author services companies acting on behalf of authors.

Programme

Three talks of c.20 minutes, finished with a short panel discussion and questions (c.15 minutes).

Speaker abstracts

1. Understanding the value of certification for medical journal editors (Al Weigel)

This talk discusses the value associated with the development and implementation of a formal certification process for medical journal editors. The talk will explain what is meant by certification, why it is important, in addition to providing top line activities associated with the creation of a certification program. The results of a 2014 survey of members of International Society for Medical Publication Professionals (ISMPP) will be presented, demonstrating various impacts of ISMPP's credentialing program on its members and how it has positively influenced their profession. The talk will also provide rationale around important personal and professional benefits that medical journal editors will enjoy once they attain medical journal editor certification.

2. Towards an evidence-based core-competency program (David Moher)

Biomedical journals are the main route for disseminating the results of health-related research. Despite this, their editors operate largely without formal training or certification. This might be one reason the quality of published research is disturbingly bad. To our knowledge, no body of literature systematically identifying core competencies for scientific editors of biomedical journals exists. Dr Moher will discuss the development of a multi-stakeholder evidence-based core competency program for scientific editors of biomedical journals.

3. The editors' end-game: understanding, working with, and getting closer to the author (Donald Samulack)

In a world where irresponsible commercial publication practices are disrupting the integrity of the scholarly literature, for the Editor-in-Chief (EiC) and the editorial team – who are the ultimate gatekeepers of the journal brand – there are challenges on all fronts. However, increasingly, the end-game is the relationship with the author. This component of the panel session will focus on external landscape issues that an EiC will need to be aware of and understand to be able to guide the moral compass of the journal, and to deal with the integrity of what an author presents as a manuscript. Some of the tell-tale signs of irresponsible, unethical, and in some cases predatory practices targeted at authors will be discussed, as will irresponsible behaviours within the author community and of author services companies acting on behalf of authors – all leading toward the how and why an author gets caught up in schemes and scams, and ultimately present themselves as they do. Some industry-led initiatives to keep authors on track, such as the [Committee on Publication Ethics](#), [ThinkCheckSubmit](#), and the [Coalition for Responsible Publication Resources](#) will be briefly discussed.

Speaker Bios

David Moher, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada

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Dr David Moher is a senior scientist, Clinical Epidemiology Program, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, and Associate Professor, School of Epidemiology, Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa, where he holds a University Research Chair. Dr Moher has been recognized twice as one of the most highly influential biomedical researchers in the world by Thomson Reuters (The World's Most Influential Scientific Minds). Boyack and colleagues also recognized Dr Moher as a highly influential biomedical researcher (A list of highly influential biomedical researchers, 1996-2011. *European Journal of Clinical Investigation* 2013; 43: 1339–1365).

One of Dr Moher's research foci is journalology (publication science). He spearheaded the development of the CONSORT and PRISMA Statements, and has been involved with several other reporting guideline initiatives. He is leading a program to develop core competencies for medical journal editors. Finally, he is actively developing a program to investigate alternatives to current incentives and rewards in academic medicine.

Duncan Nicholas, DN Journal Publishing Services, Brighton, UK

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Duncan has 11 years of experience working in the journal publishing industry. Now running his own publishing services company, Duncan previously worked at Taylor & Francis where he was the founding member of the Journal Development Team; a department created to provide editorial development, best practice guidance, and deploy industry initiatives across the business. Duncan has been a member of EASE for several years, and was elected Council Member in September 2015. He has written articles for their *European Science Editing* journal, and is involved in the Membership strategy group for the Association.

Donald Samulack, Editage, Philadelphia, USAdonald.samulack@editage.com

As President of the U.S. Operations for Editage / Cactus Communications, Dr Samulack is actively involved in supporting the language editing and publication needs of the academic community, managing workflow across global time zones, and raising the level of awareness and professionalism of good publication practices, worldwide. As such, he understands the logistics of scholarly publication and the global outsourcing of language editing and author support services, and is a major player in shaping perceptions, defining workflows, and delivering quality. In the past year he has been active in addressing “irresponsible” commercial activities on the scholarly landscape and has mounted an industry-wide global call-to-action to build a Coalition for Responsible Publication Resources (CRPR; www.RPRcoalition.org; [@RPRcoalition](https://twitter.com/RPRcoalition)) to help authors identify ethical publishers and author services, and to help coordinate dialog across industries about predatory commercial practices in scholarly publishing.

Al Weigel, International Society for Medical Publication Professionals, New York, USAaweigel@ismpp.org

Al Weigel is President and CEO for the International Society for Medical Publication Professionals (ISMPP). Al joined ISMPP in November of 2013 with primary responsibility for implementing the strategic goals and vision of the Society, in addition to ensuring the Society meets established milestones for ongoing development, growth and success. Prior to joining ISMPP, Al led cross-therapeutic medical publication and scientific communication teams at sanofi-aventis, Boehringer-Ingelheim and Celgene Corporation.

Al earned his Masters of Education at the University of the Arizona and is a ISMPP Certified Medical Publication Professional (CMPP).

Further event details, booking information, programme and abstracts:

<http://www.ease.org.uk/ease-events/13th-ease-conference-strasbourg-france>