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Combining science editors’ and clinicians’ efforts to advance writing and editing skills

Science writing and editing is evolving as a unique scientific discipline, and there are currently a few positive examples of how teaching research methodology and reporting at the undergraduate level can improve prospects of future researchers’ performance. Skilled journal editors, at the undergraduate level can improve prospects of how teaching research methodology and reporting skills. The importance of teaching research methodology and how to write scientific articles is becoming more and more emphasized. For instance, the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) annual congress, held on 25–28 May 2011 in London and which I had a privilege to attend, was a remarkable event that included a special session on composing articles, submitting them to the most suitable journals, and peer-review in rheumatology journals. The session was well attended by junior clinicians, researchers, and editors of the leading journals in the field of rheumatology. It included presentations by editors of Arthritis and Rheumatism (Joan M. Bathon), Annales of the Rheumatic Diseases (Tore K. Kvien), and Rheumatology (Robert J. Moots). The presentations were not overloaded with too much specialised information and, in a simple and attractive way, addressed the principles of writing original articles, choosing a target journal, and satisfying the requirements of demanding reviewers. All the presenting editors agreed on the need to include well-structured manuscripts representing sufficiently level of high evidence, i.e. original papers, reports of large trials, and systematic reviews. The editors of the journals, with annual submission rates well above 1000, gave surprisingly low priority to clinical case reports, small and preliminary reports. The session was a unique opportunity to learn the presenter’s attitude towards the editors’ credentials, which ideally should encompass not only their experience, mastery of language, and grammar skills. Importantly, the famous 2-day course “How to be a successful journal editor”, run by PSP consulting in Oxford, UK and elsewhere in Europe, was mentioned by the chief editor of Arthritis and Rheumatism (Tore K. Kvien) who attended it, as helpful for getting valuable skills and editing the most impacting journal in rheumatology.

Definitely, the successful example of the EULAR congress, incorporating an editors and authors meeting into the highly saturated clinical science programme, is not the only one. However, it once again emphasizes the importance of paying more attention to the clinicians’ scholarly writing and editing skills. Inspired by this example, many clinical meetings worldwide have arranged similar sessions, and, hopefully, it will pave the way for a tradition.

In conclusion, the EULAR 2011 congress in London was a successful clinical and scientific meeting of interest to the global community of rheumatologists, internists and science editors. It was a good example of how clinicians and science editors can cooperate and advance science communication.

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of phase I trial data for new molecular entities approved by the US Food and Drug Administration in 2006 and 2007 confirmed that women remain underrepresented.11 Despite increasing efforts to encourage women’s participation in clinical trials, investigators often fail to carry out gender analysis or do not report available data. Moreover, international guidelines and instructions for authors of scholarly publications do not specify how gender differences should be reflected in the submission of manuscripts, and thus original gender-specific guidelines can serve as a vital source of support for this cause. As Arzumano Monforte and colleagues emphasise in their recent opinion piece in AIDS “the incorporation of a recommendation for including women in clinical trials, investigating female subpopulations in research and guiding the development of guidelines towards clinical trials . . . CONSORT should also recommend that a minimum percentage of female participants be included in studies that are not related to sex-specific problems”.

Time for editorial action
Investigators, ethical review boards, funding bodies, the pharmaceutical industry, regulators, peer reviewers and journal editors should facilitate equal representation of women in studies. An active commitment in this direction is needed at all stages of research, from study design to the development of guidelines and reporting. Editors and publishers can play an active role through professional guidance. Guidelines on manuscript preparation, instructions for authors and peer reviewers set the bar for good standards of reporting, and inclusion of a policy on sex disaggregated data and gender analysis should not be amiss here.

Competing interests
SH is an employee of the International AIDS Society and her salary is partly provided by unrestricted educational grants from the following pharmaceutical companies: Abbott, Boehringer Ingelheim, Gilead, Merck, Pfizer, Roche, Schering Plough, Tibotec and Vifor Healthcare. MJC has no competing interests to declare.

References
Scientific publishing in a small country: an Estonian perspective

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Abstract
This article gives a brief overview of the history and present situation in the field of scientific publishing in Estonia, one of the smallest countries in the European Union. Two streams of scientific publishing in Estonia can be distinguished: (i) scholarly journals with high quality requirements striving to excellence (mostly in English) and (ii) scholarly publications reflecting the studies on national heritage and nature (mostly in Estonian). The publications of the second group are generally not listed in international databases, as are many but not all of the second group. The high-level peer reviewed publications demonstrate the potential of a country’s research and highlight the achievements of its research centres. These publications are also a part of quality requirements for public funding decisions. Thus, the journals of the first group reflect new scientific knowledge, while the second group, which is closely tied to the Estonian community, has beside its scientific value, also an important cultural aspect.

Keywords: national journals, cultural aspect of research, national funding decisions

Introduction
Scientific journals are the major resource for reporting and disseminating research. Initially, around the 17th century, academies started to report new scientific results. Later the professional societies and unions joined in and now there is an enormous number of scientific journals around the world. Although there are journals in many languages, the lingua franca is English. Some journals have gained a very high reputation through history, now generally supported by bibliometric indicators. The crucial factor for all the journals is that in principle a manuscript undergoes a strict peer review before it is published. It might be said that the reputation of a journal depends very much on how the process of peer review is organized but surely this is not all. The reputation of a journal or, in other words, its importance as a leading source of information, is also related to the reputation of its publisher, the pool of authors, management of the work, visibility and certainly also the language. However, new knowledge belongs to the whole of mankind, research is not the prerogative of larger countries (what is large?) and the diversity of the world must be supported. That is why questions about the importance of scientific journals in smaller countries (what is small?) are asked.

This paper describes the situation in Estonia, one of the smallest countries in the EU. It is quite clear that with its 1.35 million inhabitants, Estonia really is a small country. First a brief overview of how scientific research started in this part of Europe is given, followed by a brief description of the modern research structures. Then scientific publishing in Estonia is described and finally, its importance is discussed.

Brief historical overview
Formal scientific activities in Estonia began with the establishment of the University of Tartu by the King of Sweden, Gustavus II Adolphus, in 1632. After hectic changes in the 18th century due to Antigonus’ imperial wars, which passed over the Baltic countries rather lightly, Estonia, the University of Tartu gained an international reputation in the 19th century. Astronomer Wilhelm von Struve, the embryologist Karl Ernst von Baer, chemist Wilhelm Friedrich Hittorf and (in the 20th century) Otswald and other scientists all made fundamental contributions in their fields. Learned societies, the forerunners of the present Academy of Sciences, were formed during this period, as they were throughout Europe. In Estonia, these included the Estonian Learned Society (1858), the Literary Society of Estonia (1872) and the Estonian Naturalist’s Society (1853). The earliest scientific periodical published in Estonia was the Astronomische Beiträge (1806–1807). From the 19th century, the periodicals of Learned Societies are known, like Verhandlungen der Gelehrten Einzelnen Gesellschaft (1840–1943, 34 vols), Sitzungsberichte der Gelehrten Einzelnen Gesellschaft (1861–1898, 72 vols). As it was easily understood, the language of publications of that time was German.

In 1919, after Estonia became independent, professors of Tartu University started teaching in Estonian. Scientific journals in Estonian and the education of the Estonian people in their native language was developed. At the same time, scientific and scholarly research prospered in several fields. In the 1920s and 1930s Estonian research in astronomy, medicine, geobotany and oil-shale chemistry gained worldwide recognition. The periodical published by L.Püüep, a neurosurgeon with an international reputation, Folia Neuropathologica Estonica (1923–1939) was an excellent example of this. However, science publications in Estonia were not regularly the first journal in the world for this field of science. The period of World War II and the Soviet annexation until 1945 characterized by ideological pressure and therefore the publications of that time have a historical significance rather than showing the normal developmental progression of publications.

Present situation
The leading research centres in Estonia are the University of Tartu, Tallinn University of Technology, the Estonian University of Life Sciences and other public universities (see also together) and several specific research institutes like the Tartu Observatory, the Institute of the Estonian Language, and the National Institute of Chemical and Biological Physics. A country with a GDP of 2.4% of the EU (2009) from 2.4% of the GDP in 2009 (from Statistics Estonia), the public part was distributed mostly using peer review and quality requirements. Estonian researchers have been rather successful in the EU’s Framework Programmes and other international programmes, including the highly competitive Wellcome Trust grant scheme. The number of scientific papers authored by Estonian researchers and published in highly valued journals is constantly increasing. The research highlights are described in a special overview.

Scientific publishing
The brief overview above shows that there is a tradition of scientific publishing in Estonia and nowadays this tradition is continuing. The main publisher of scientific journals is the Estonian Academy Publisher (www.karj.ee) which acts under the aegis of the Estonian Academy of Sciences. The Publisher is funded from the State budget through the Academy and publishes: Acta et Commentationes Universitatis Tartuensis (1893) and Proceedings of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, Journal of Ecology, Estonian Journal of Earth Sciences, Estonian Journal of Ecology, Estonian Journal of Education, Linguistica Uralica, Oil Shale, Proceedings of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, Trames, A Journal of History and Social Science. This list is the result of several changes of publication policy in the Estonian Academy of Sciences during the 1990s when from the previous journals only the best were preserved and their profiles restructured, some with the cooperation of public universities. One of the essential changes was launching Trames in 1997 by merging Acta et Commentationes Universitatis Tartuensis (1893) and Proceedings of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences (1952). All of the journals, except Proceedings of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, are published together with main Estonian public universities and public institutions (mostly in English) and (ii) scholarly publications reflecting the studies on national heritage and nature (mostly in Estonian). The publications of the first group are all listed in international databases and many but not all of the second group follow the same mode. The high-level peer reviewed publications demonstrate the potential of a country’s research and highlight the achievements of its research centres. These publications are also a part of quality requirements for funding decisions. In general, beside the journals of the first group which reflect the new scientific knowledge, the second group is needed because of its cultural aspect. Taken together, all scientific and scholarly publications contribute to the enhancement of a vernacular terminology which in its turn is a basis for education of both scientists and non-scientists. It depends very much on the community how all these aspects (excellence in research, culture and heritage, terminology and education) are interwoven into a whole – knowledge.

Final remarks
In most European countries, large or small, scientific publishing started after the founding of academies or societies for fostering research. Beside scientific research, the intention was often to publish the results of studies on national heritage. Estonia followed the same track – periodicals of societies have been published since the mid-19th century. Now, in the 21st century, two streams of publishing can clearly be distinguished: (i) scientific and scholarly journals with high quality requirements structured to publish the results of studies on national heritage and nature (mostly in Estonian) and (ii) scholarly publications reflecting the studies on national heritage and nature (mostly in Estonian). The publications of the first group are all listed in international databases and many but not all of the second group follow the same mode. The high-level peer reviewed publications demonstrate the potential of a country’s research and highlight the achievements of its research centres. These publications are also a part of quality requirements for funding decisions. In general, beside the journals of the first group which reflect the new scientific knowledge, the second group is needed because of its cultural aspect. Taken together, all scientific and scholarly publications contribute to the enhancement of a vernacular terminology which in its turn is a basis for education of both scientists and non-scientists. It depends very much on the community how all these aspects (excellence in research, culture and heritage, terminology and education) are interwoven into a whole – knowledge.

References
Scientific Editing in Bosnia and Herzegovina: a personal journey

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The most encouraging aspects of being an editor are respect and honour, which can be achieved by devoted and highly professional or qualified work.

In scientific editing a quality is a life-long achievement and a result of continuous work for objectivity and clarity of publications. On the road towards qualification, an editor might find many supportive friends and "foes". The latter is inevitable when a journal editor reaches a certain level of proficiency and becomes more selective about what is published.

During my lifetime, editorial work has been an inseparable part of my professional activities on many occasions. Surprisingly for most, I learned how to edit in elementary school, then improved my editorial skills after high school, back in the early 1970s. I was involved in editing a school newspaper in grammar and high school, and, as a result, became one of the state's leading experts on standards of writing in my mother tongue.

In every young person's life there comes a moment when he/she must make a crucial decision. For me it was the choice of undergraduate studies at Sarajevo University. Despite my parents' advice to choose only one course, I was thinking about studying medicine, political science and journalism. Without giving up writing, my "true love". In the end, I opted for medicine and writing as a student. I paid much attention to rare and unique medical cases, trying to produce case reports.

Luckily, I was given a chance to edit a newsletter for students in 1974. It was a popular and highly informative newspaper Voice of medics ( Glas medicina) founded by my beloved University tutors back in 1961. Many similar editions are still published by other medical faculties in Sarajevo, Nis, Zagreb, (Zagreb), Medicinski podmladak (Belgrade), Medicinski razgledi (Ljubljana), Naučni podmladak (Niš), etc.

Publication of the student medical journal suffered interruptions, but despite the difficulties, I "revived" it several times. Unfortunately, it is no longer published, and perhaps awaits fresh enthusiasts with an understanding of its importance to students, future physicians, researchers and academic editors from Sarajevo and other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina and published something in this newsletter, which became a starting point for their later academic career. Unfortunately, all these authors feel bound to the first, and possibly key publications of their lives.

Later on, being passionate about editorial work and having a certain amount of experience, I founded a new journal, Medicinski Arhiv, Acta Informatica Medica, Materia Socio Medica, for 15 medical and dental faculties of the former Yugoslavia. The journal was successful for a long while, and continued to be published for four years after my term as editor. It was highly reputed among professional associations such as the World Association of Medical Editors (WASE) and the European Association of Science Editors (EASE).

Networking among local scientific editors is gradually increasing but there is still a lack of scientific and academic collaboration with colleagues from the mainstream science countries. More educational programs are needed for both novice and senior science editors.

I have been editing three indexed journals out of the 14 medical journals published in my country, namely Medicinski Arhiv/Amadical/Archives (founded in 1947), Materia Socio Medica (founded in 1978) and Acta Informatica Medica (founded in 1993). Based on my experience, an article quality evaluation scale was developed and this template is now available on the website of the EASE editors and other journals.

The editors are asked to assess submissions using the scale which includes the following five components:

1. Scientific merit of a submission
2. Innovation, importance and potential impact
3. Originality of methodology and results
4. Technical quality
5. Quality of language

A major achievement was the adoption of an electronic editorial management system, which has been used to coordinate the submission, peer review and editing of these three journals.

For most local editors, the quality of the peer review and availability of highly skilled referees have been a major problem for decades. It has been an uphill struggle for most editors to find unbiased experts, both local and international, who are willing to accept responsibility for their comments. Editors are not yet used to receiving and giving feedback to authors in a timely manner. Authors and reviewers easily recognize each other, even when their identity is hidden. For our journals, most locally submitted articles are in Bosnian, Croatian or Serbian, which means that we cannot use reviewers from outside the country owing to the language barrier. Local submissions in English are still not up to a high standard, which also makes it difficult to use international reviewers.

A separate and significant issue is the qualification of local editors. Most editors have improved their knowledge and skills through trial and error, a few have joined international professional associations such as the World Association of Editing in Bosnia and Herzegovina: the first, and possibly key publications of their lives. Notably, most medical educators from Sarajevo and perhaps awaits fresh enthusiasts with an understanding of its identity is hidden. For our journals, most locally submitted articles are in Bosnian, Croatian or Serbian, which means that we cannot use reviewers from outside the country owing to the language barrier. Local submissions in English are still not up to a high standard, which also makes it difficult to use international reviewers.

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than 30 medical journals in various fields, special issues and translated journals. Turkey Citation Index is a large database built on Türkçe Kılavuz periodicals, designed to improve the quality and visibility of local publications. Since 2008, the archived issues of these periodicals feature 146 indexed medical journals.

Indicators such as “national impact factor” and “contribution value” are currently available. National impact factors reflect the impact factor in indexed journals. Contribution value evaluation cites of an indexed article to other indexed articles. To join the Turkey Citation Index, journals must be published regularly; i.e. at least twice a year. In some cases, these standards must be formatted according to the standard regulations. Turkey Citation Index also conducts studies on standardisation; e.g., Turkey Scientific Terms aims to develop a nomenclature of keywords based on the medical Subject Headings vocabulary of the US National Library of Medicine. Medical journals indexed by Turkey Citation Index each published, on average, 44 articles (range 5-350) in 2010. Nearly half of these were research articles (range 15-100).

Hacettepe Bulletin of Social Sciences and Humanity was the first journal indexed by the Institute for Scientific Information back in 1970.8 but it lasted only two years. Twelve years later, the Turkish Journal of Pediatrics was accepted for indexing by SCI-E, and remained the only Turkish journal listed in SCI-E until 1994. From 2006 - 2009, the number of Turkish journals indexed by this prestigious database rose from 8 to 69. Currently, 75 Turkish journals are listed in Thomson Scientific databases,9 with Energy Education Science and Technology as the highest-year JIF (8.333). SCI-E lists 56 medical journals, of which 34 are published in English. Journal Citation Report (ICR) 2010 listed 49 Turkish journals, of which 23 are medical journals, with Experimental and Clinical Transplantation having the highest 2-year JIF (0.873). The SCOPUS database includes 27 Turkish publishers.10 The number of Turkish medical journals in SCImago Journal and Country Rank is 84, of which 74 are current. Challenges with establishing a database as the 47th leading ones are shown in the Table. The majority of these journals are published in English. English is the predominant language in scientific publishing, so current trends of publishing high-quality and well-edited articles in international journals may adversely affect the prestige and productivity of local journals. At the same time, publishing local journals in Turkish may decrease the chances of these being indexed in international databases and attracting citations. In order to increase a journal’s quality, it is recommended to publish in English or in Turkish and English simultaneously. In any case, editors should encourage more submission of articles in either language to local journals. Publication of articles in international journals is the preferred route for research publication in Turkey unfortunately, it has a devastating impact on local publications. It is hoped that national indexing services will increase the visibility and prestige of Turkish journals. More extensive journal indexing in both national and international databases should be encouraged.

An important factor influencing the rank and quality of local journals is the credentials of the Editors, who are mainly from universities. Strengthening ties with international publishers and professional associations, as well as regularly organising training or editors, may become a powerful tool for improving a journal’s quality.

To increase the number and quality of research articles, local learned societies and science editors should cooperate and adopt international standards of scientific writing. More incentives should be offered to Turkish researchers to publish their best articles in local journals. Editors and publishers should also arrange more training. Editors should improve the design and readability of journals. English language editing should be done by native English-speaking experts. Internationalisation of authors, reviewers and editors pool should also be encouraged.4 Finally, the need for academic promotion need to be revised to credit publications in local journals.

Impact factors of some of the Web of Science-indexed Turkish medical journals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal title</th>
<th>2-year JIF</th>
<th>5-year JIF</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European Journal of Clinical Pharmacology</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td></td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Journal of Nephrology and Urology</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td></td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkish Journal of Urology</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td></td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkish Journal of Gastroenterology</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td></td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkish Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td></td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reports of Meetings

The seminar took place in the University Education Development Centre on 25 June 2011. It was well attended by academicians, researchers from Haematology and Cardiovascular Research Centres, Publication Centre of the University, editors of the Iranian Cardiovascular Research Journal, Iranian Journal of Radiology, Archives of Iranian Medicine, Journal of Dentistry of Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, and The International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

Continuous professional development of researchers and those involved in science writing and editing is of importance, especially for non-anglophone communities striving to advance in medical journalism. Though countries of mainstream research offer numerous academic courses and degree programmes on biomedical writing and editing, these are still not accessible for most novice researchers and editors from developing countries. Besides, there is still lack of scholarly communication between experts in science editing from developed and developing countries. Information on current standards on biomedical writing and successful editing is scarce and is not properly distributed and interpreted. With that in mind, a group of medical editors, supported by Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, arranged a seminar on hot topics in medical journalism.

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One of the invited lecturers, Prof. Armen Yuri Gasparyan, member of editorial boards of several high-rank Iranian journals and the chief editor of European Science Editing, gave a talk “Current Principles of High Impact Science Editing and Indexing Biomedical Journals”, outlining the issues of funding, improving the qualifications of editors, networking with colleagues from the European Association of Science Editors and other professional associations, and widening visibility of journals. The indexing criteria of different databases and their relevance to the local community of editors were also highlighted. Most issues touched on during the talk were of interest to the editors of small journals, struggling to get indexed by prestigious journal databases and libraries. Examples from the lecturer’s own editorial practice. Many points of the talk are elegantly presented in the recently published essay on journal editing.11

Dr. Karim Vossel, one of the most eminent radiologists, founder of medical journalism in Iran, Editor-in-Chief of Iranian Journal of Radiology and member of the Iranian Academy of Medical Sciences, presented a history of medical journalism in Iran and challenges with establishing and indexing journals in the Middle East. He was fascinated by the growth of science publishing and digitization in Iran and quite optimistic over the fate of local journals, some of which were indexed and succeeded under his guidance. Main points of his talk were discussed in an essay in European Science Editing.

The seminar took place in the University Education Development Centre on 25 June 2011. It was well attended by academicians, researchers from Haematology and Cardiovascular Research Centres, Publication Centre of the University, editors of the Iranian Cardiovascular Research Journal, Iranian Journal of Radiology, Archives of Iranian Medicine, Journal of Dentistry of Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

One of the invited lecturers, Prof. Armen Yuri Gasparyan, member of editorial boards of several high-rank Iranian journals and the chief editor of European Science Editing, gave a talk “Current Principles of High Impact Science Editing and Indexing Biomedical Journals”, outlining the issues of funding, improving the qualifications of editors, networking with colleagues from the European Association of Science Editors and other professional associations, and widening visibility of journals. The indexing criteria of different databases and their relevance to the local community of editors were also highlighted. Most issues touched on during the talk were of interest to the editors of small journals, struggling to get indexed by prestigious journal databases and libraries. Examples from the lecturer’s own editorial practice. Many points of the talk are elegantly presented in the recently published essay on journal editing.11 Dr. Farrokh Habibzadeh, Vice-President of the World Association of Medical Editors and founder of Editor of The International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Sciences, delivered highly educational lectures on peer review, plagiarism and impact factors. A large part of his lectures was based on his own publications.12,13 He described in detail the main steps in reviewing manuscripts, elements of success in the peer review and reporting the review results. The issue of plagiarism of words and ideas was also thoroughly discussed, and options to avoid this type of scientific misconduct, particularly by improving English language skills, were touched upon. In his final presentation Dr. Habibzadeh explained the meaning of the SCOPUS database and its limitations, uses and misuse of bibliometric parameters, journal and individual impact factors, including the journal weighted impact factor proposed by him and me14 and published in Current Index and Science. The lecture session of the seminar was followed by a panel discussion on authorship criteria chaired by Dr. Mohammad Javad Ziaeezadeh, the Editor-in-Chief of Iranian Cardiovascular Research Journal, who was the seminar moderator. The discussion was interactive. It addressed ethical concerns over “gift” authorship.

The seminar was a real success. Its scientific programme was quite saturated and targeted the needs of Iranian medical editors. It was also a good opportunity for networking with local colleagues and forging friendships with Dr. Armen Gasparyan who has visited Shiraz before and tasted traditional Persian hospitality.

It should be mentioned that Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (the former Pahlavi University School of Medicine, a sister association to the University of Pennsylvania, USA) is one
of the leading academic centres in the Eastern Mediterranean region. For decades, the University used English as its institutional language and accepted numerous visiting professors from top world universities. Most of its current faculty members are world-renowned specialists, who contributed to medical education and science growth in Iran and in the region.10 The University is also famous for its high standards in education and journal publishing. One of the oldest English-language publications, Forum Journal of Medical Sciences (formerly Pahlavi Medical Journal) was launched by the University, edited by Dr. Karim Vessal and was indexed on MedLine.2

After the seminar, Dr. Gasparyan attended a meeting at the editorial office of The International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, where Dr. Habibabadeh and Dr. Vesal presented several newly launched Iranian journals and discussed current trends in digitization, h-index and its variants, indexing and readability of medical journals. Dr. Gasparyan shared his experience of editing European Science Editing, Archives of Medical Science and several other journals, where he holds editorial posts. The atmosphere of the meeting was informal. The guest was surrounded by old and new friends, who, apart from scientific discussions, talked a few Persian words and expressions, proudly shared thoughts on Iranian culture and presented brilliant pictures of Iranian nature, landscapes and architecture.

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Science as a public enterprise

Public meeting organized by the Royal Society’s Science Policy Centre, London, 8 June 2011

Earlier in 2011 the Royal Society established a working group on the use of scientific information in ways that reflect public values. Some members of the working group discussed some of the issues behind this policy study in a Lancet article published in May, and others were among the speakers at “An Open Meeting on Open Science” organized by the Royal Society’s Science Policy Centre on 8 June. After the meeting had been opened by Sir Paul Nurse, Secretary of the Royal Society, and Sir Mark Walport, Director of the Wellcome Trust, addressed the question “Why should science be open?” He noted that it is a characteristic of a free and enlightened society that knowledge should be available to all, and that efforts to promote openness are not new: “the public has long been aware that the research paid for by the tax payers is the heritage of all.”

Sir Mark concluded by noting, however, that some of these arguments against open access are contestable, giving as an example the principle that the duty of care to human volunteers in drug trials and patients demands that the results should be published. He noted that there was no opposition to the publication of scientific results in this manner, which may indeed be the main function of science to function efficiently.

Following Sir Mark’s presentation, Professor Geoffrey Houlton (Regius Professor of Geology Emeritus at the University of Edinburgh, and Chair of the Royal Society’s Working Group) chaired a panel discussion including Stephen Emmott (Microsoft Research), William Dutton (Oxford Internet Institute), David Dobbs (freelance science writer), and members of an audience of about 50 people. A theme that was reinforced repeatedly was that science is “organized skepticism,” and that falsifiability and replicability were key features of science, so openness was essential for science to function efficiently.

Philip Campbell, Editor of Nature, suggested that action to promote greater openness needs to come from the funders of research. He noted that people should not be under any illusions that once research has been funded, it would be possible to control the way that they were used.

In a final session chaired by Professor Charlotte Waelde (Professor of Intellectual Property Law at the University of Exeter), Cameron Neylon (Science and Technology Facilities Council), and Timo Hannay (Digital Science) spoke about the need to go beyond the traditional metrics used to assign credit in academia, and noted the opportunity to learn from other fields where openness could be used for accountable ownership.

The report of the Royal Society’s Working Party on Science as a Public Enterprise is expected to be issued by summer 2012.

References

Jain Chalmers
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Acknowledgements in PhD theses

The literature provides plenty of advice on how to structure a PhD thesis but John Taylor had not been able to find anything on what was expected, or not acknowledged, in PhD theses.

The acknowledgements in a thesis he was editing were long and amounted to a hyperbolic eulogy of the student’s professors and lecturers. He wanted to know if there was anything he could do about the situation. He had researched the form it made clear that such acknowledgements are common in theses worldwide and the general feeling was that editors should only correct obvious language errors. Mary Ellen Kerans pointed to research in applied linguistics (e.g. by Ken Hyland) which showed that students followed their own whims when writing acknowledgements as well as local departmental ‘rules’. François Salager-Meyer added that Mohammed Nahar Al-Ali (University of Jordan) had written a paper on acknowledgements in PhD dissertations written in English by Arab writers where, she commented, Allah was frequently acknowledged as well. (Academic and socio-cultural identities in English dissertations acknowledgements of Arab writers. In ESP (English for Specific Purposes) Across Cultures. vol 6. 2009.)

Sylwia Ufnalska had also recently edited a paper (written by a Polish author) where about 30 people were mentioned in the acknowledgements, many she thought without good reason. She had explained to the author that when publishing results in English they would need to follow English rules of writing and advised them to correct this section in accordance with the http://www. easy.org.uk/guidelines for English academic writing.

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Placement of table and figure captions

“Does anyone know why the captions for tables appear above the tables and the captions for figures below the figures?” James Hartley asked this interesting question and their immediate afterthought. Tom Lang replied that William Playfair, who had created the concept of graphs, put the captions above the figures but he suspected that the location of captions had been determined by some aspect of early typesetting. Mary Ellen had wondered whether it made sense when the figures followed the tables and that some IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) journals put table titles ‘at the bottom’. Tom Lang agreed with Mary Ellen that there is no accepted rule and that a distinction between captions in tables and figures can be made.

Yateen had explored the topic some years previously and had suggested that Laurence Penney had provided the answer to Tom’s questions in the quote “In general, it is good practice and polite to introduce things before showing them in the reader‟s face. Tables, like sections in a book, particularly need an introduction since they are syntactic in nature and numbers abstracted away from their subject. A glance through a table is even less profitable than a glance through a block of text of that size. So tables need an introduction, hence a caption above them. But contrast figures and pictures usually serve as their own introduction. They are analogous to what they represent, there’s no change of mode. So it’s not very useful to put a very long figure caption in pages 53-55 of Hartley, J. (2008) Academic Writing and Publishing published by Routledge.”

You can join the forum by sending the one-line message “subscribe ease-forum” (without the quotation marks) to majordomo@helsinki.fi.

Be sure to send messages in plain text format.

EASE-Forum Digest: June to September 2011

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Be sure to send messages in plain text format.
Ammunition for going Open Access

With a view to persuading her journal to fully open Access (OA), Aleksandra Golebiowska asked which organizations required studies they had sponsored to be Open Access to the extent that projects within the European Union’s 7th Framework Programme had to be available free-of-charge after 6 months (a year at most) and Rene Melero provided the URL of a publication about OA in some developing countries (http://www.access2biko.org/ net/sites/access2biko.org/files/OASouthEurope.pdf), published as a result of a workshop held in Granada, Spain, to debate the OA landscape in those countries. She also gave a URL of a guide for a report published by Elsevier (http://www.driver- support.eu/pmwiki/index.php?n=Main.HomePage and COAR (Confederation of Open Access Repositories, http:// coar-repositories.org/). With this information Aleksandra hopes to be able to succeed in her mission.

Strengths of the study section

Tom Lang had encountered a section titled ‘Strengths of the Study’ before the usual ‘Limitations of the Study,’ in an article he had edited and wondered if anyone else had come across this heading. He thought the title was a valuable addition to the discussion, especially for large studies and systematic reviews, and asked if forum participants thought there was any value in promoting the use of such a heading throughout the biomedical literature.

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News Notes

News Notes are taken from the EASE Journal Blog (https://ease-bookshelf.blogspot.com). Please email items for inclusion to John Hilton (hilton.john@gmail.com) or Lionel Browne (lionel.browne@sfep.net), with “News Notes” as the subject.

TinyURLs may be given to save space and aid reading; full URLs (clickable links) can be found on the EASE Journal Blog.

Data centres as curators

There is much debate about mandatory versus optional policies for self-archiving or repository deposition. A new report from Research Information Network (www.rin.ac.uk) and JISC (www.jisc.ac.uk) takes a step back and looks at the usage and impact of data centres in the UK. Data centres supply research data to the academic community, and may also collect, store and/or curate the data. The report focuses on the curatorial role, with its benefits of quality assurance, preservation and applicability. The full report is available on the RIN website (tinyurl.com/RIN-data).

Interoperability options

The interoperability of institutional repositories has been rising steadily, but the real value lies in the potential to create a linked network of these repositories. The Confederation of Open Access Repositories (www.coar-repositories.org) is addressing the inevitable technical and organisational challenges that may prevent interoperability, defined as “the ability for systems to communicate with each other and pass information back and forth in a usable format.” COAR has published a paper (tinyurl.com/COARpaper) and is inviting stakeholders to contribute ideas.

ALPSP Awards

The Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP)’s Award for Contribution to Scholarly Publishing has gone this year to Cliff Morgan of John Wiley & Sons, in recognition his long-standing contributions to digital preservation, article metrics, article versioning, and many other projects. The new best journal award went to Chemical Science, published by RSC Publishing (pubs.rsc.org), with a highly-commended certificate going to Bioanalysis, published by Future Science (www.future-science.com). Publishing innovation was recognised with an award for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s Better Life Index (www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org), an elegant, interactive tool that has increased accessibility of OECD’s data sets.

From MathML to MathJax

Presenting mathematical formulae correctly has always been tricky for publishers, whatever the language. MathML’s especially difficult when you are delivering a range of mathematical content via multiple online platforms. An article in the October/November issue of Research Information (www.researchinformation.info) reports on the development and progress of MathJax, a universal standard and open online display of mathematical formulae. It enables all web browsers to display Mathematical Markup Language (MathML) more easily. Future plans include and enhanced interface and line wrapping of equations, as well as third-party contributions and integration with other software.

Edited news is good news

Another boost for editors: readers prefer news articles that have been professionally edited. The research, sponsored by the Americas Copy Editors Society (ACES; www.copydesk.org), also found that readers were more concerned about professionalism and grammar than style or structure. Fred Vilee of Wayne State University, USA, presented the findings at the ACES annual conference and indicated that his future work will address the question of whether readers would stop visiting a website because of poor editing.

DOIs as URL

CrossRef (www.crossref.org) has announced a new format for the display of digital object identifiers (DOIs). All organisations are now encouraged to use the URL format http://dx.doi.org/doi wherever a DOI appears. This makes DOIs more user-friendly, more appropriate for mobile devices and more easily machine-readable. To address concerns that the URL string is longer than the previous format, CrossRef also recommends that publishers consider using the ShortDOI service (shortdoi.org) to shorten existing DOIs.

How to measure OA

There’s no shortage of facts and figures about the growth (or lack of growth, depending how you read the numbers) of open access publishing. A recent post (30 Sep 2011) on the Imaginary Journal of Poetic Economics blog (poeticeconomics.blogspot.com) presents an impressive array of data and milestones. But the European Commission is looking for a more sustainable way of measuring OA. It has published a call for proposals for a study to develop tools and indicators to measure open access. The aim is for monitoring of the growth of open access literature from 2000 onwards within the European Research Area (ERA) and beyond. The EC sees OA as a key part of the “single market for research and innovation in which researchers, scientific knowledge and technology circulate freely.”

OA search engine

JISC, the UK organisation that promotes information technologies in academia, has developed a search engine for open access content. The engine, developed by the Open University’s Knowledge Media Institute, enables users to navigate papers held in open access repositories. You can try the search at core.kmi.open.ac.uk. The system stores downloads of previous searches, enabling access even if the originating source is offline.

Twitter styles

Interestingly, the traditional journal article is only part of the mosaic of outputs that can relate to a research project. Researchers also blog, talk at conferences, share data online, contribute to guidelines or networks, and so on. All of these can be disseminated via Twitter. The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)’s Impact of Social Sciences blog (blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences) includes useful guides to using Twitter for research projects and the different styles of tweeting.

EMWA Journal changes

The European Medical Writers Association’s quarterly journal The Writer magazine was launched in 2012 as Medical Writing. The newly branded journal will be published by Maney Publishing (www.maney.co.uk) and will be available online via IngentaConnect.

More calls for access to data

An article in PLoS ONE (2011;6:24357) by John Ioannidis and colleagues noted that not enough journals have policies on data availability, and that authors don’t adhere to policies that are in place. The article was the focus of a news story in Nature (14 September 2011), which addressed the need for better standards and incentives to share, both of which could address the question of why scientists don’t share more. Focusing on clinical data, The Cochrane Collaboration (www.cochrane.org) issued a statement calling for free access to all data from clinical trials, to avoid selective reporting and ultimately reducing risks for patients.

Apps for Libraries

The Apps for Library Ideas Challenge was set up by Elsevier under the banner “Know what your users need but not how to build it?” and sought innovative application ideas from libraries using Elsevier’s SciVerse platform. Ten finalists were selected, including, enabling access even if the originating source is offline.

Journal Ranking

Faculty of 1000, the post-publication peer review service, has been looking at a new alternative to the journal impact factor. The F1000 Journal Rankings (f1000.com/rankings) are based on the evaluations provided by the site’s contributors. The approach is based on qualitative judgements and uses an algorithm developed collaboratively. The biggest problem seems to be whether to permit evaluations by editors of articles in their own journals.

Proofreading tips

John Hilton
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EC consults on scientific information

In September, the European Commission completed a consultation on scientific information in the digital age. The EC will then set out its plans for open access to publications and the context of research projects funded by the Union budget, including detail specific actions for individual member states. You can follow progress on the EC website (tinyurl.com/6hu2ny).

ORCID progress

The ORCID (open researcher and contributor ID, www.orcid.org) project has raised sufficient funds from its 44 founding organisations to start the first stage of development, under the interim leadership of CrossRef’s Geoffrey Bilder. The project will use Thomson Reuters’ ResearcherID code under a royalty-free perpetual license, and further funds are being sought.

Guiding the guidelines

At the 2011 Strategic MedComms Forum, held in London on 14 September, John Hilton, editor of the journal devoted to the various guidelines used by the pharmaceutical industry and the medical communications community to improve standards, transparency and trust in their publication strategy. Part of the discussion focused on the role of journals in ensuring compliance with guidelines, and raised the question of whether journals should be more active in upholding best practice, and whether they should focus less on fraud and plagiarism, which are less common in industry-funded research. You can read more in the conference report at www.medcommsforum.com.

EASE GUIDELINES IN TRANSLATION

The EASE Guidelines for Authors and Translators are now available also in Czech and Hungarian. Thus they have now been translated into 17 languages from the original English. The Bosnian and German translations are underway, so the total number of versions will soon reach 20. A definite success story for EASE.

List your publications

Are you aware that the EASE website has a page where members can list their publications – either recent or not-so-recent? Your contributions are welcome - www.ease.org.uk
ECONOMICS

Frantyvag J.E. The size distribution of open access publishers. First Monday 15(12) - 6 December 2010. This study highlights the fact that a large number of small publishers publish the majority of OA journals, and that 90% of these publishers publish only a single journal. These data are compared to similar data about toll access publishing, and suggest that small-scale operation of OA publishing is economically inefficient and that it should be best organized in larger publishing institutions.

Houghton JW, Oppenheim C. The economic implications of alternative publishing models. Prometheus 2010;28(1):41-54. This article focuses on the costs and potential benefits of three alternative models for scholarly publishing: subscription publishing, open access publishing and self-archiving. It summarizes the findings of a study undertaken for the UK Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and concludes that more open access to findings from publicly funded research would have substantial benefits for research communities.

O'Dowd A. Peer review system needs thorough evaluation, MPs hear. BMJ 2011;342:d3046. The UK parliamentary science and technology committee carried out an inquiry into the peer review process in science. Several medical and scientific journal editors appearing before the committee in May spoke of the many merits of the peer review system, but they raised some concerns about the variability of its quality and a lack of adequate evaluation to confirm its value. They agreed that the process should be improved. doi: 10.1136/bmj.d3046

Sprouse G. Editorial: Redefining length. Physical Review Special Topics-Physics Education Research 2011;7(020001). The APS Editor in Chief announces that in an effort to streamline the calculation of the length, the journals will no longer use the printed page as the determining factor. Instead the journals will use word counts to determine length. This new method will be easier for authors to calculate in advance, maintaining the quality of concise communication that is a virtue of letters and short papers.

doi: 10.1103/PhysRevSTPER.7.020001

ETHICAL ISSUES

Brysaert M, Smith S. Self-enhancement in scientific research: the self-citation bias. Psychologia Belgica 2011;52(2):129-137. Self-enhancement and self-citation biases are well-documented phenomena in the social psychology field. This article examines the number of self-citations in articles published by four journals and the reasons why authors cite themselves. Such citations in articles are sometimes included because authors wish to promote and praise themselves and their findings. Then, self-citations have more to do with self-promotion than with the advancement of science.

Fang FC, Casadevall A. Retracted science and the retraction index. Infection and Immunity 2011;79(10). Overall, manuscript retraction appears to occur more frequently, although it is uncertain whether this is a result of an increase in misconduct or simply in detection due to enhanced vigilance. The authors developed a novel measure, the “retraction index”, by dividing the number of retractions by the total number of papers published by 17 journals ranging in impact factor from 2.00 to 53.484 in the years 2001 to 2010. They found that the frequency of retraction varied among journals and showed a strong correlation with journal impact factor.

doi: 10.1128/IAI.00661-11

Harmon K. Impact factor: can a scientific retraction change public opinion? Scientific American March 4, 2010. This article discusses the effect that scientific retractions have on public opinion. After initial findings are published, some of the readers will not change their mind even if the paper is retracted. The recent retraction of a paper proposing a link between childhood vaccines and autism has widened the societal divide on this issue. The number of retractions has been increasing, but they are just the tip of the iceberg: one study showed that about 2% of scientists admitted to fabricating, falsifying, or modifying data or results at least once.

Kesselheim AS, Lee JL, Avorn J et al. Conflict of interest in oncology publications. A survey of disclosure policies and statements. Cancer 2011, epub 29 June. The authors examined disclosures related to conflict of interest that accompanied papers published in major oncology journals in order to compare the nature of the information requested with the information provided. This analysis reveals a range of disclosure policies and practices: most but not all of the journals required some disclosure of potential conflicts of interest, but relevant standards and definitions varied considerably. doi: 10.1002/cncr.26237

Tarnow E. Ethics authors don’t follow guidelines. APS News 2011;20(7):4. Ethics training at least in medical publishing seems to lead to worse behaviour. Young researchers find out just how they are expected to behave, which turns out to be... unethically.

INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

Piwowar HA. Who shares? Who doesn’t? Factors associated with openly archived raw research data. PLoS ONE 2011;6(7):e18657. This article aims at investigating who openly shares raw research data, who does not, and which initiatives are correlated with high rates of data sharing. Regarding one particular type of data - biological gene expression microarray intensity values - researchers on those published in Bosina and Herzegovina and indexed in Medline. It provides a comparative review of the outcomes from various funding organizations' acknowledgment, references, and places to submit a research manuscript. These steps can also be applicable to editorialists and commentaries.


Masic I. How to search, write, prepare and publish the scientific papers in the biomedical journals. Acta Informatica Medica 2011;19(2):68-79. This article focuses on the methodology of preparation, writing, and publishing scientific papers in biomedical journals. Authors are sometimes included because they raised some concerns about the potential benefits of three main medical publishing institutions.

Pitti J. New trends and future applications/directions of institutional repositories in academic institutions. Library Review 2011;60(2):125-141. This review of recently published literature, and future applications of institutional repositories (IRs) includes the benefits and obstacles of setting up an IR. This report can serve to persuade different stakeholders at institutions, including management, as to the value of open access (OA) and the importance of establishing OA institutional policies. doi: 10.1108/0025531111113078

LANGUAGE AND WRITING

Gasparyan AY, Avaryan L, et al. Writing a narrative biomedical review: considerations for authors, peer reviewers, and editors. Rheumatology International 2011 July 29. Writing and properly structuring a review article requires the author's deep knowledge and expertise in a specific field of science. The aim of this article is to analyze the main steps in writing a narrative biomedical review and to consider points that may enhance the chances of successful publication and future impact. Points related to authorship, title, abstract and keywords, introductory notes, search methodology, search results, acknowledgments, references, and places to submit a manuscript. These steps can also be applicable to editorialists and commentaries.


PUBLISHING

Andre F, Creppy R, Barthet E et al. OA report in 2010. Madrid: FEYCT. This report arises from the activities of the Southern European Libraries Link (SEEL), which represents library consortia of six countries (France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and Turkey). One of its main goals is to promote the policies towards information acquisition and provision. Experts in each country promote the opportunities to be open access to move towards common policies for open access to science.

Cambron-Thomsen A, Thorisson GA, Mahle L for the BRIF workshop group. The role of a bioresearcher on the review impact factor.

doi:10.1038/ng.831

Bioresources need to be easily accessible to facilitate advancement of research. A Bioresource Research Impact Factor (BRIF) could promote the sharing of bioresources by creating a link between their initiators or implementers and the impact of the scientific research using it, and the efforts behind establishing and maintaining it. Specific requirements for citing bioresources are lacking in the *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals* (URM). A BRIF working group has been recently established.


This article investigates the awareness of scholarly authors toward open access repositories and the factors that motivate their use. The findings indicate that despite good understanding and appreciation of the ethos of open access in general, differences arose between authors from differing disciplinary backgrounds in understanding the validity of open access repositories and their subsequent motivations for depositing articles in them.

doi:10.1080/13614535.2010.518851

Davis PM, Walters WH. *The impact of free access to the scientific literature: a review of recent research.* *British Medical Library Association* 2011;99(3):208-217.

This paper reviews recent studies evaluating the impact of free access (open access) on scholars, clinicians, and the general public in developed and developing countries. It assesses the impact in terms of reading, citation, and related forms of use. The authors consider factors such as journal reputation and the absence of publication fees when submitting their work, but free access is not a significant factor. There is clear evidence that free access leads to an increase in article downloads, although its impact on article citations is unclear and needs further research.

doi:10.3163/1556-5050.99.3.008


Results of a study on the development of open access (OA) journals registered in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) showed very rapid growth in the period 1993-2009. Since 2000, the average annual growth rate in the number of journals has been 18%, and for the number of articles it has been 30%. Three major phases of OA development suggested are the Pioneering years (1993-1999), the Innovation years (2000-2004), and the Consolidation years (2005-2009).

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0020961


This review includes 81 reporting guidelines, most of which have been developed in the last 10 years, classifying 58% of them as new guidelines. The guidelines indicate that a more rigorous approach is necessary for developing reporting guidelines. The findings indicate that guideline developers provide little information about the guideline development process that would be useful to assess the robustness of the recommendations made. An assessment tool could be developed to help authors and editors create and evaluate specific reporting guidelines. doi:10.1016/j.cej.2010.09.013


Results of this study indicate that authors are increasingly publishing in open access (OA) journals, and they appreciate library funding initiatives and believe that impact factor and readership are strong motivators for OA publishing. Specific recommendations for publishers include timely indexing in PubMed and other databases, promotion of OA articles through press releases, and access to statistics on a regular basis.

Tagler J. *Biomedical Publishing 101: an overview from the Chicago Collaborative.* *The Serials Librarian* 2011;60(1-4):114-123.

Challenges and opportunities posed by the migration from print to digital are addressed. The author explores the role of publishers in the scholarly communication process, and the various roles and responsibilities of the key players in the scientific publishing chain.

**RESEARCH EVALUATION**


According to the authors, the current fashion of ranking people, papers, and journals is anything but harmless. They suggest measuring the “fertility” of individual researchers - with respect to their ability to foster quality in terms of kinship (the k-index) rather than measurement through personalized indices (the h-index). A chart of elective kinship, produced through the transmission of scientific theory, methodology, know-how, competence, and even culture, could then be realized.


Thanks to John Glen, James Hartley and Penny Hubbard.

Anna Maria Rossi (compiler) Publishing Unit, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome annamaria.rossi@iss.it

We are sad to report that Margaret Coofter has retired from her position as Production Editor of EASE. Margaret has done a fantastic job over the years, chasing copy, laying out pages, editing where necessary and managing a team of proof readers to ensure a journal fit for an Editors’ Association. She is now going to devote more time to her other projects, including a Masters in Visual Art at Camberwell College of Art. Unfortunately, no one from the membership was willing to take on the job at this time, so we have appointed Lynne Rowland, a colleague of Mary Hodgson, who is not an editor but does have experience in page layout and design.

We also regret that Dario Sambunjak has resigned from the Publications Committee, following his resignation from the Editorial Board of the Croatian Medical Journal. Dario is now Director of the Croatian Branch of the Cochrane Collaboration, and his career is taking him away from editing, so he felt it was no longer appropriate to be on the Publications Committee. Dario has been responsible for the “Editing around the world” section, and we are grateful for both the interesting articles he has commissioned for this section and his overall contribution to the journal. Anyone interested in joining the Publications Committee should contact Armen Gasparyan or Joan Marsh.

**Nominations for EASE Council 2012-2015**

At the AGM in Tallinn in June 2012, a new Council will be elected. The following members of the existing Council are standing down:

**Vice Presidents:** Alison Clayson, Reme Melero

**Ordinary members:** Petert Osscarsson, Edward Towsip, Felecia White, Shirin Heidari; Richard Hurley; Moira Johnson; Ana Marusic; Pippa Smart; Christian Sterken; Sylvia Ufnalska.

**Publications Committee**

From left to right: C. Mary, J Marsh, A Edelman, P Chatelot, J Lichtfouse, R Carol, F Sheppard. The participants came for the lunch from cities far from the Paris Maillot Conference Centre; Montpellier, Besançon, Dijon, Lyon, Malakoff; Juvissy and London! And, astonishing for a French event, all of us arrived in advance or on time!

**EASE luncheon in Paris strikes a perfect balance**

Taking advantage of EASE President Joan Marsh’s attendance at a psychiatrist congress in Paris, EASE members in France gathered at Paris Maillot for an informal lunch on 5 September, as they have done regularly for several years. The date coincided with back-to-school for the kids, so a few members were unable to join us. We were eight and had a nice discussion around diverse editing topics.

Two new participants were welcomed: Catherine Mary, who is a freelance science journalist and works for prestigious journals, and Philippe Chatelot, from INRA, Montpellier, working in plant biology and editing papers. They presented their activities to the other participants (Rachel Carol, Frances Sheppard, Alex Edelman, Eric Lichthouse), and to Joan who shared the latest EASE news and encouraged everyone to “spread the word” about EASE’s big conference in Tallinn, Estonia, in June 2012, on the theme of “Publishing in a Digital Age”. It looks as if most of us will attend.

Hervé Maisonneuve
Forthcoming Meetings, Courses, and BELS Examinations


STM E-Production Seminar 1 December; London, UK http://www.stm-assoc.org/events/

STM Innovations Seminar Enriching Content: deeper, smarter, better 2 December; London, UK http://www.stm-assoc.org/events/2012

7th International Digital Curation Conference 5–7 December 2011; Bristol, UK http://www.dcc.ac.uk/events/ddc11

American Association for the Advancement of Science: Annual meeting 16–20 February 2012; Vancouver, Canada http://www.aaas.org/meetings

STM Annual Spring Conference 1–3 May 2012; Washington DC, USA http://www.stm-assoc.org/events/stm-spring-conference-2012/


Council of Science Editors Annual Meeting 18–21 May 2012; Seattle, USA http://www.councilscienceeditors.org/

11th International Symposium on Landslides and Engineered Slopes 2–8 June 2012; Banff, Alberta, Canada http://www.is-nsl2012.ca/

European Association for Health Information and Libraries Health information without borders 4–6 July 2012; Brussels, Belgium http://www.eahil2012.be/

1st IUBS General Assembly and Conference on Biological Sciences and Bio-industry 5–9 July 2012; Suzhou, China http://www.iubs.org/iubs/nextGA.html

COURSES

ALPSP training courses, briefings and technology updates Half-day and one-day courses and updates Contact Amanda Whiting, Training Coordinator, Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers, Tel: +44 (0)1865 247776; training@alpsp.org; www.alpsp-training.org

Publishing Training Centre at Book House, London Contact: The Publishing Training Centre at Book House, 45 East Hill, Wandsworth, London SW18 2QZ, UK. Tel: +44 (0)20 8874 2718; fax +44 (0)20 8870 8985, publishing.training@bookhouse.co.uk www.train4publishing.co.uk

Society for Editors and Proofreaders SEfP runs one-day workshops in London and occasionally elsewhere in the UK on copy-editing, proofreading, grammar, and much else. Training enquiries: Tel: +44 (0)20 8785 5617; trainingenquiries@sefp.org.uk

Other enquiries: SEfP, Eric House, 93–99 Upper Richmond Road, Putney, London SW15 2TG, UK. Tel: +44 (0)20 8785 5617; administration@sefp.org.uk; www.sefp.org.uk

Society of Indexers workshops The Society of Indexers runs workshops for beginners and more experienced indexers in various cities in the UK. Details and booking at www.indexers.org.uk; admin@indexers.org.uk

University of Oxford, Department for Continuing Education Courses on effective writing for biomedical professionals and on presenting in biomedical, science, and technology Contact Leanne Banns, CPD Centre, Department for Continuing Education, University of Oxford, Little gate House, 1617 St 88eb Street, Oxford OX1 3PT, UK Tel: +44 (0)1865 286953; leanne.banns@conted.ox.ac.uk www.conted.ox.ac.uk; cpd@personaldv

BELS - Board of Editors in the Life Sciences examination schedule (www.cels.org/becomeeditor/exam-schedule.htm)

EASE MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New individual members Professor Mohammad Abdollahi Tehran, Iran Dr Anna Maria Rossi, Rome, Italy annamaria.rossi@usi.it Cristina Hagmann, Bonn, Germany ampans.hagmann@gmail.com

Prof. Izet Masic, Sarajevo, Bosnia imasic@olol.ba

Mr Andrew Mulley, Tallinn, Estonia amulley@acedit.eu

Mrs Sara Nash, St Albans, UK sara.nash@scienceviews.co.uk Ms Francis L Gardiner, Shrewsbury, UK powierrygardiner@goooglemail.com

New corporate members Taylor & Francis Ltd - Katie Chandler katie.chandler@tandf.co.uk

University of Chicago Medical writing, editing, and ethics are among the many courses available. Graham School of General Studies, The University of Chicago, 1427 E. 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637, USA. Fax +1 773 702 6814. http://grahamschool.uchicago.edu

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, VISIT WWW.EASE.ORG.UK

European Association of Science Editors Tallinn, Estonia 8 – 10 June 2012

ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE Editing in the Digital World

Plenary sessions

National journals in an international context Open access and digital models Social media tools and academic publishing

The editorial office

Parallel Sessions

From national to international: benefits of the digital era for regional journals Publishing data Science translation, editing and readability Digital tools for detecting misconduct Improving peer review management reporting Local assistance of scientists and institutes by journal editors

Workshops

How to be a successful journal editor Effective computer-aided translation software: memoQ Readability: 10 strategies for improving flow in translated or non-English speakers’ texts

Abstracts for presentations related to the sessions listed above will be considered for either short talks, if there is time in the session, or posters. These should be about 200 words and should be submitted by 1st March 2012 at the latest. Abstracts for posters only may be submitted up to 1st April 2012.

‘Early Bird’ registration at a discounted rate - BOOK BEFORE 1st May 2012

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, VISIT WWW.EASE.ORG.UK

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