

# EASE Digest

[www.ease.org.uk](http://www.ease.org.uk)

In this issue of the *EASE Digest*:

Information and biographies of all the nominees for appointment to the EASE Council for 2021 – 2023 **PAGE 1**

The second part of *Christa Bedwin's* look at the joys of teaching engineers and consulting scientists to write **PAGE 14**

EASE activities introduces new strategy and topic committees, project groups and communities **PAGE 20**

**European  
Association of  
Science  
Editors**

**EASE**

**March 2021**

Published exclusively for EASE members

## Editorial Board

### Chief editor

Lynne Rowland  
easedigest@ease.org.uk

### Book reviews

Fiona Murphy  
fionalm27@gmail.com

### Meeting reports

Anna Sawicka  
anna.sawicka@cri-paris.org

### EASE-Forum digest

Are Brean  
Are.Brean@tidsskriftet.no

### Resources

Silvia Maina  
silma75@hotmail.com

### News Notes

Anna Sawicka  
anna.sawicka@cri-paris.org

### The Editor's bookshelf

Silvia Maina  
silma75@hotmail.com

### EASE Council

Ana Marušić (*ex officio*)

Contributions should be sent to the chief editor or the appropriate section editor. The *Digest* is published quarterly, free to paid-up members of EASE.

To advertise in this journal, or on the EASE website, please contact EASE Secretary, Mary Hodgson, secretary@ease.org.uk

*Disclaimer:* The views expressed by contributors are their own. The Association does not necessarily endorse the claims of advertisers.

Printed by Qwerty Ltd, The Markham Centre, Theale RG7 4PE ©EASE 2020

## In this issue

### EASE Council nominations 2021–2023

- 1 Information about the voting process and nominee biographies

### Meeting reports

- 12 The International FAIR Convergence Symposium (Fiona Murphy)

### Book reviews

- 13 Communicate as a professional (Yateendra Joshi)

### Resources

- 14 The joys of teaching engineers and scientists to write - part two (Christa Bedwin)

### Regular features

- 17 EASE Forum in brief: September – December 2020 (Are Brean)

- 18 The editor's bookshelf (Silvia Maina)

### EASE activities

- 20 Strategy and new topic committees, project groups and communities

### Inside back cover

15th EASE General Assembly and Conference

EASE training workshops



**15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and Conference**  
Promoting sustainability in scholarly publishing:  
the role of editors  
23-25 June, 2021  
Online

Three consecutive half-day sessions of presentations, case studies and discussions.  
Satellite events including Regional Chapter sessions, workshops, poster competitions and networking activities.

<https://ease.org.uk/ease-events/15th-ease-conference-2021/>

## EASE Council 2020–2021

**President:** Duncan Nicholas, UK; president@ease.org.uk

**Vice-President:** Ines Steffens, Sweden

**Members:** Ksenija Baždarić, Croatia; Yateendra Joshi, India; Rachael Lammey, UK; Bahar Mehmani, The Netherlands; Stephan Mertens, Germany; Pippa Smart, UK; Flaminio Squazzoni, Italy; Jadranka Stojanovski, Croatia; Sylwia Ufnalska, Poland; Cem Uzun, Turkey

**Past-President:** Ana Marušić, Croatia

**Treasurer and Company Secretary:** Roderick Hunt, UK

**Secretary:** Mary Hodgson, UK; secretary@ease.org.uk

## Letter from the EASE President

Welcome to the first issue of this year's EASE Digest – the second volume of our member-magazine, and the very first President letter to open it.

This is just one small aspect of all the big changes and developments that are taking place around our membership and Association. We hope that 2021 will be a big year for EASE, and the world – not least because there are the glimmers of easing towards normality again (pun fully intended, with apologies).

Over the last few months you have been hearing a lot from us on Council, calling on your opinions, advice, and contributions to aid our development plans. Your responses to both the Digest and Rebrand surveys gave us some very valuable insights, helpful direction and reassuring support to incorporate into the work we will be carrying out over the next few months and beyond. I wanted to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to everyone who has given us their thoughts in these initiatives.

In the very near future we will be calling on more of you to form new and improved topic committees that build on our discussions in the Get Togethers of last year, to make better use of our fantastic range of resources and to develop new ones, and of course, to attract new members and further expand and enhance the professionalism of all aspects of editorial work, under our unique umbrella.

That is the note I wanted to finish this letter on. To recognise the very unique role that EASE plays in the publishing community, in supporting and advocating for every editorial role, position, vocation and professional position in the network of scholarly communications.

I hope it is not tempting fate to feel optimistic and excited for the year ahead, but I am most certainly looking forward to it.

**Duncan Nicholas**  
EASE Interim-President

## EASE Council nominations 2021-2023

The nominations process for the EASE Council rotation 2021-2023 is underway, and members will have already received notification of the nominees proposed by the Nominations Committee in mid January.

All EASE members should consider these nominations carefully and now have the opportunity to submit suggestions for additional nominations to all Council roles ahead of the election in May 2021.

The Council is made up of a President, two Vice Presidents, a Treasurer/company secretary and a further six ordinary members. The immediate Past President, Secretary and the editors of the journal *European Science Editing* and the EASE Digest are ex-officio members of Council in addition to those being elected.

### *Member nominations procedure and timetable*

To nominate a candidate, members should follow these steps:

1. Ensure your proposed nominee is a paid up member of EASE for 2021 (or is willing to become one in order to stand for election)
2. Approach your proposed nominee and ask if they are prepared to stand for election. If they agree they should send a signed declaration to that effect to the EASE secretary.
3. Secure support for your proposed nominee from two further paid up members of EASE and ask them to send supporting letters to the EASE secretary.

These steps must be completed by 16 April 2021. Any new nominations received from EASE members will then be validated by the Nominations Committee, and if validated, will be added to the list of nominees originally proposed.

On 21 April the expanded list of nominees will then be presented to members in a direct email, on the EASE website and through social media channels.

On 12 May electronic voting will be opened for a three-week period, during which time bona fide members of the Association will cast their votes. Please be sure you know your username and password to access the electronic voting section of the EASE website. Contact the EASE secretary, [secretary@ease.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ease.org.uk) if you need assistance.

Members will be asked to vote for: one President, two Vice Presidents, one Treasurer/company secretary, six ordinary members of Council. If more candidates are nominated than there are places available, those with the largest number of votes will win. In the event of a tie, the outgoing President will have the casting vote.

On 2 June the voting will be closed and votes counted.

On 23 June the results of the election will be announced to the general membership at the General Assembly of the Association. Please contact the Secretary if you require any further information about the process or would like help making your nomination.



## President nomination

### Duncan Nicholas

Director, DN Journals  
duncan@dnjournals.co.uk

I am very excited to be standing for the role of EASE President in the 2021-2023 Council elections. The EASE community has been a hugely supportive, trusted and reliable network through my career, and as I have become more involved with the Association over the years, I have aspired to return the favour EASE has shown me; amplifying the activities, abilities and services of EASE members, working to develop new tools, resources, events and ideas to enhance our profession, and expand the reach and impact of the Association.

Since June I have been serving as Interim-President, and in this time we have launched several new operational and member-focussed initiatives that I would continue to develop and refine in an official term as President. Among these are our Virtual Conferences, web-meetings and skills-based training sessions to support our members, provide spaces to exchange expertise, opinions, and to keep in touch, in place of physical events.

I also look forward to establishing a Publications Committee to oversee development of our resources, ESE journal and EASE Digest, working to enhance these member benefits and engage with editorial research and activities around the world. I also aim to revise our entire offering of materials, making them more effective as reference guides and toolkits for everyone from new to experienced members of our profession and the wider editorial community. With the Council, and members of the Association, we have already set the wheels of several new initiatives in motion, and I am excited to see them come fruition in the coming years.

I believe EASE in a unique organisation that provides a hugely valuable service to the editorial world, and my aim is to ensure it is an increasingly effective and visible name within the publishing community – particularly as we approach its 40th anniversary next year!

#### Career summary

Duncan began his career in academic publishing with Taylor & Francis, where he set up the Journal Development team, to support individual titles, or identify and implement business-wide innovations across the company. He worked with T&F until November 2015 when he set up DN Journal Publishing Services. As well as his roles on EASE Council, Duncan is trainer for ALPSP, delivering their Advanced Journal Development course, and is an active member of the Peer Review Week organising committee. In 2017 and 2018 he chaired the Conference Organising Committee for the International Society for Managing and Technical Editors (ISMTE).

With DN Journals, Duncan provides independent editorial consultancy and training courses to societies, publishers, researchers and the wider scholarly community around the world. Duncan's editorial development work can take the form of ongoing, or longer term work with regular clients, of which he has several ongoing relationships, or one-off projects to address specific issues or goals. His workshops include topics such as editorial office management, journal publishing skills, peer review, journal metrics, open science, social media & promotion, publishing & research ethics, and copyright & licensing. He also developed the publicly available Publons Academy and IFIS Expert Guide to Journal Publishing.

## Vice-President nominations

### Dr Ines Steffens

Managing editor, ECDC  
ines.steffens@ecdc.europa.eu

I am Editor-in-Chief of *Eurosurveillance* ([www.eurosurveillance.org](http://www.eurosurveillance.org)), an open access, non-profit journal on surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases published by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in Stockholm, Sweden. Before becoming EIC 2011, I was the journal's managing editor from 2006 onwards.

Since 2018, I have been EASE Vice President after becoming a member of Council in 2015.

My first contact with EASE was at the EASE conference in Pisa in 2009, and I joined as a member shortly hereafter. I was a long-term active member in the EASE Gender Policy Committee (GPC) following its establishment in 2012. Working with the GPC has been enriching and the SAGER guidelines developed by the GPC were an important milestone. The very positive experiences with the GPC and during EASE conferences heightened my interest to become more engaged with EASE and I became a member of Council in 2015. Aside from general EASE matters, as Council member I was chiefly involved in organising the EASE conferences and acting as GPC liaison. Having



been one of the two EASE Vice Presidents since 2018, I have supported the President(s), Pippa Smart and then Duncan Nicholas, in strategic thinking and ideas for the future development of the organisation.

What I particularly like about EASE is the exchange with other members during and between the conferences. Being part of a network in which many highly knowledgeable and resourceful editors meet and exchange experiences and views, has been beneficial for me professionally and personally. I learned a lot thanks to EASE.

Now I would like to continue assisting EASE and its' President for another term, with personal engagement as well as a creative and critical mind. I bring the perspective of someone who works in a scientific, multicultural, international governmental organisation. My special interests include publication ethics ie quality and transparency of science reporting, the work of the GPC, capacity building and editorial support/incentives for data sharing.

### **Cem Uzun**

Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey  
cemuzun@yahoo.com

Cem Uzun is Professor of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery at Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey. He has published more than 100 articles and serves as editorial board member or reviewer for more than 20 scholarly journals on a range of topics. He worked as a postdoc scholar at the University of Copenhagen with a Danish Government scholarship and at the Miami Ear Institute of the University of Miami with a Fulbright scholarship.

Cem was elected as a Council Member of EASE for 2018-2021 and is the Chair of the EASE Turkish Regional Chapter, which is one of the most active chapters (read more about the Chapter's activities on the EASE Blog).

He was elected to the Journal Selection Committee of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey in 2018. He has been Co-Editor, Editor in Chief and the Editor at Large of the *Balkan Medical Journal*, which is the only journal from medical schools in Turkey indexed in SCIE and Medline. Cem has organized more than 20 webinars, workshops, symposiums and conferences on scientific writing, editing, reviewing, journal management and publication ethics.

He was a member of the Programme Committee for the 14th EASE Conference, Bucharest 2018 and president of "How to become successful authors and editors of scientific journals – 3rd International Symposium of Scientific Journals of Trakya University", which was endorsed by EASE.

Cem organized one of the Pre-Conference Events of EASE Virtual Conference 2020 and a Panel Discussion at "Peer Review Week 2020", which received great interest from academicians and publishers in Turkey. Cem updated the Turkish translation of the EASE Guidelines for Authors and Translators of Scientific Articles to be Published in English. With Orhan Yilmaz and colleagues, he translated the *Handbook for Journal Editors* into Turkish. He also translated the EASE SAGER Guidelines into Turkish with Muge Atakan.

Cem is a Board Member of *European Science Editing* and a member of EASE Training Working Group. Cem is willing to continue to serve on the Council to contribute to promotional, educational and meeting activities and to distribute the knowledge and experience he gains within Eastern Europe.



## **Treasurer nomination**

### **Matt Hodgkinson**

Head of Editorial Policy and Ethics, Hindawi  
matt.hodgkinson@hindawi.com

I am pleased to accept the invitation of the nomination committee for the position of Treasurer. I spoke at the EASE conference in 2016 and was due to present this year before the pandemic moved proceedings online; I enjoyed the virtual meeting and live-tweeted the sessions. I have been a scientific editor at open access journal publishers since 2003, and I have often consulted EASE resources and its journal. I have experience on committees, including currently serving as chair of the membership subcommittee on the council of the Committee on Publication Ethics, and previously a volunteer and trustee for a local charity, a committee member of local branches of a political party, and treasurer of a university college society as a graduate student.



#### *Career summary*

I am Head of Editorial Policy and Ethics at Hindawi, London, UK. My work involves review of editorial policies, proposing initiatives and policies to ensure robust peer review, and resolving complex editorial and ethical issues. Previously, I was Head of Research Integrity at Hindawi, responsible for management of publication ethics policies and processes, including retractions, corrections, and contacting institutions, and managing the Research Integrity team. I trained as a biologist

at Oxford, then Cambridge, before starting my editing career at BMC, progressing to Public Library of Science where I finished as a Senior Editor at *PLOS ONE*. I am a volunteer mentor for AuthorAID, I contribute to various blogs, and have presented at several international editing conferences, including EASE in Strasbourg, the World Conference on Research Integrity, COPE, ISMPP and ISMTE.

## Council members seeking re-election

### Rachael Lammey

Head of Special Programs, Crossref (UK)

rlammey@crossref.org



#### *Summary of contributions to EASE*

I am pleased to stand for re-election to EASE Council for the 2021-2023 rotation. I was introduced to EASE a colleague when I started at Crossref, who recommended attending the 11th EASE General Assembly and Conference in Tallinn. I became a member of EASE in 2012 and presented on CrossCheck (now Similarity Check) and Crossmark in a parallel session at this conference on Digital Tools on Detecting Misconduct.

I became a member of the EASE Council in 2015, and have participated in lots of enjoyable EASE activities since then, running a session on Data Sharing and Citation in Bucharest, writing for the ESE Journal and blog, and now being on the Editorial Board of the journal. I've been impressed by the dedication of the EASE Council, their work on standards and best practice, and the great, friendly conferences they run – especially the sessions they ran online in 2020.

In my role at Crossref I often get the opportunity to catch up with EASE members and to promote the organisation in different countries and to different audiences around the world. EASE provides a wealth of valuable materials for editors and authors and the forum, blog, digest and newsletter are always worth reading! I hope to be involved with EASE and participate in council activities so that I can continue to support its valuable work.

#### *Career summary*

I have been working at Crossref for eight years, working with a broad range of Crossref members; publishers, funders, editors, universities, librarians, metadata users, preprint servers and more. I'm currently Head of Special Programs which focuses on specific industry initiatives that we are giving attention to in order to implement technically and support awareness, adoption, rollout and development.

Prior to that, I was Head of Community Outreach and have also been a Product Manager at Crossref. Both of these roles involved learning about and supporting Crossref services, via international outreach, webinars, the Sponsoring Organizations program and more. CrossRef is a small company so being flexible is key!

Before working at CrossRef I was a Publishing Manager at Taylor & Francis (where I worked for 6 years, starting as a Publishing Editor). These roles involved overseeing the rollout of ScholarOne Manuscripts and Editorial Manager across the full-suite of Taylor & Francis Journals, and supporting those journals who adopted these online submission systems. The Publishing Manager role involved managing the implementation and support team, and also trialing and advising on new editorial processes like Similarity Check and the acceptance of other media, like video, into the peer review process.

### Dr Bahar Mehmani

Reviewer Experience Lead, Elsevier

bahar.mehmani@elsevier.com

I joined the EASE Council in 2017 with the primary goal of sharing my knowledge and expertise with both the Peer Review and the Sex and Gender working groups.

In my capacity as the co-chair of the organizing committee of the 2019 Peer Review Week I reached out to EASE and encouraged them to support the initiative, and this continued in 2020, with many EASE members and several EASE Chapters participating and contributing. I was also able to involve EASE in the 'events and international outreach' committee of 2020 Peer Review Week.

As a member of STM I have included EASE members in several workshops including the STM-ALLEA-GYA 2020 workshop on the future of peer review ([link](#)) and the STM peer review taxonomy working group. I reached out to EASE members for feedback on the taxonomy much of which is now incorporated in the document, available [here](#) and [here](#).

I was a member of the organizing team for the 2020 EASE conference which could not go ahead in Valencia, Spain as planned because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a believer in the urgency of climate crisis and the role of the academic community in raising awareness I was the primary driver in encouraging the organizing committee to create EASE's first



virtual event. I organized and moderated a panel discussion at the Conference on the role of preprints and independent peer review services during times of crisis, which was well received by the EASE community ([link](#)). I am looking forward to developing the environmental and sustainability theme with the 2021 conference organizing team.

I will take over as chair of the Peer Review working group in June 2021 (I'm currently co-chair), and I am looking forward to working with passionate EASE members to create peer review resource materials for our members and specifically for the EASE chapters.

#### *Career summary*

Dr Bahar Mehmani is Reviewer Experience Lead in the Global STM journals at Elsevier. She works on several peer review initiatives and projects, all of which are designed to recognize reviewers' contribution to the progress of science. Bahar is co-chair of Peer Review Week 2020 Events and International Outreach committee, Vice-chair of the peer review committee and council member of the European Association of Science Editors (EASE). She received her PhD in Theoretical Physics from the University of Amsterdam (UvA) in 2010. Before joining Elsevier, she was a postdoc researcher at Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light (MPL).

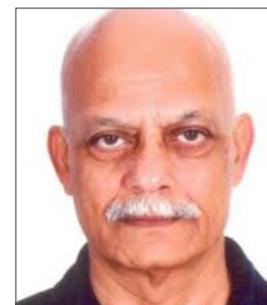
#### **Yateendra Joshi**

Freelance copy editor and trainer  
yateendra.joshi@gmail.com

One of the first things I did on switching from being a researcher in agricultural sciences to becoming a manuscript editor was to join EASE, which was more than 30 years ago. EASE has helped me grow professionally, and serving it as a member of the Council has helped in some small way to repay that loan as it were. I am pleased to stand again for re-election.

I hope to speak for manuscript editors, all the more so with Sylwia Ufnalska stepping down. I plan to focus on training and to play an active role in the training initiative EASE has launched recently, beginning with a series of webinars. Style manuals are a particular interest of mine, and I also plan to be involved in shaping the *Science Editors' Handbook* so that it adequately serves the current needs of both journal editors and manuscript editors. Typography and information design interest me greatly, and although they are peripheral to editing, I think of them as representing the last-mile connectivity between the author and the reader.

By way of career summary, I worked for a short time on a farm soon after taking a bachelor's degree in agriculture (from Pune, India); taught plant pathology for two years (1976–78) after obtaining my master's from College of Agriculture, Dharwad (India); worked for a decade (1978–88) as a scientist with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and then made a career switch to join the publishing arm of TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute) in New Delhi. During my 15 years (1989 – mid 2005) with TERI, I also worked for about a year as Senior Editor with ICRISAT, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (Hyderabad, India), and then moved to Pune and worked for WISE, the World Institute of Sustainable Energy, until 2015. Since then, I have been on my own, working as a freelance copy editor and academic trainer (teaching academics how to write, publish, and present).



#### **Professor Jadranka Stojanovski**

Associate Professor at University of Zadar, Zadar  
Research librarian at Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb, Croatia  
jadranka.stojanovski@irb.hr

I've been a member of EASE for over seven years, and I am currently a member of EASE Council with responsibility for coordinating the EASE Regional Chapters. My research interests include advancements in scholarly communication and scholarly publishing, open science (open research data and open access to publications), and ethical concerns in scholarly publishing. I find the EASE community very motivating and a friendly environment for exchanging opinions, ideas and experience. With the help of EASE experiences and resources, we recently established the Croatian Association of Scholarly Communication, serving Croatian journal editors from 470 Croatian Open Access journals. I also contribute to the EASE Croatian Regional Chapter as an active member and lecturer.

As all my work is related to scholarly communication, I can continue contributing to the EASE mission and new initiatives. With the expertise in the Open Science infrastructure at national and European level, digital archives and repositories, interoperability among different information systems, and advancements in the scholarly communication, I think I can contribute to various EASE activities. Furthermore, my good insight into Croatia's scholarly publishing community can contribute to the more inclusive engagement of the EASE journal editors. As a librarian, I understand the importance of good cooperation between publishers and the libraries.

I am willing to serve as a member of EASE Council in the next period and to increase and enrich the activities of the EASE regional chapters. I will participate in EASE publishing activities, meetings, webinars, and training workshops. Because



of my intensive collaboration with different stakeholders: libraries, editors and publishers, researchers/authors, students, funders and policymakers in Croatia, I would continue to bring different perspectives and approaches.

#### Career Summary

Jadranka Stojanovski is an Associate Professor at the University of Zadar and research librarian at Ruđer Bošković Institute in Zagreb. Jadranka has more extensive professional experience designing and creating scholarly publications management systems, focusing on the open access to the knowledge produced by Croatian academic and research community. Previously, she worked as the library director at the Ruđer Bošković Institute. Jadranka has an interdisciplinary background in physics and information sciences gained during MSc studies in Physics and MA studies in Information Sciences at the University of Zagreb and an educational background in information sciences gained during PhD studies in Information and Communication Sciences at the University of Zagreb.

Jadranka is actively engaged in the several national projects: Croatian Scientific Bibliography CROSBIB, Who's Who in Science in Croatia, ŠESTAR – a repository of scientific equipment, HRČAK repository of Croatian open access journals, DABAR – Digital Academic Archives and Repositories, and others. These projects' primary goal is to collect comprehensive data on research in Croatia and provide unrestricted access. As a Croatian Open Access journals repository HRČAK Advisory board member, she collaborates closely with many Croatian journal editors from all disciplines.

Jadranka is the national coordinator of several international projects concerning different aspects of scholarly communication: Horizon 2020 projects OpenAire2020 – Advancing Open Scholarship, TRIPLE (Transforming Research through Innovative Practices for Linked interdisciplinary Exploration), National initiatives for Open Science – NI4OS Europe, OPERAS-P “Preparing open access in the European research area through scholarly communication”, TD COST Action TD1306 New Frontiers of Peer Review (PEERE) and CA COST Action CA15137 European Network for Research Evaluation in the Social Sciences and the Humanities (ENRESSH).

Jadranka serves as the Croatian delegate at ERAC Standing Working Group on Open Science & Innovation, member of the Publishing Committee of the Croatian Ministry of Science and Education, and National Point of Reference for Open Access to scientific information (EC) for Croatia. She published more than 60 papers and her bibliography can be found at <https://bib.irb.hr/lista-radova?autor=184776>.

## Council member nominations

### Dr Davies Adeloje

Co-editor in chief, Global Health Resource Network  
bummyadeloy@gmail.com

Adeloje Davies is a medical doctor and epidemiologist working at the Centre for Global Health, University of Edinburgh, UK. He received his medical degree (MBBS) from the University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria, followed by a Master of Public Health from the University of Leeds, UK, then a PhD degree in Population Health Sciences 2015 from the University of Edinburgh under the prestigious Charles Darwin International Fellowship. Dr Davies then returned to Nigeria to lead a small group in epidemiology of non-communicable diseases, focusing on Nigeria and sub-Saharan Africa. His main research interest is global epidemiology of chronic respiratory diseases, including COPD, asthma, allergies and lung cancer. Dr Davies has received several international awards, including the US Carnegie fellowship, American Association for Cancer Research for African researchers, and the African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer emerging leaders' award. He is a Co-Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Global Health Reports* and co-Director of the International Society of Global Health.



### Dr Shahul Ameen

Editor, Indian Journal of Psychological Medicine  
shahulameen@yahoo.com

Shahul Ameen is a Consultant Psychiatrist in St. Thomas Hospital, Changanacherry, Kerala, India, having been awarded an MD (Psychiatry) from the Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi, one of the premier psychiatric institutions in India, in 2003. He is Editor-in-Chief of the *Indian Journal of Psychological Medicine*, and past Editor of the *Kerala Journal of Psychiatry* (2014-18). Dr Ameen has 41 publications indexed in Google Scholar, plus nearly 200 articles on mental health in Malayalam, the language of Kerala, India. He has co-edited a research primer published by the Indian Psychiatric Society and contributed regular columns in two major periodicals. Dr Ameen has created various websites. He regularly conducts workshops on research, academic writing, and publishing.



If elected to the EASE Council, he is willing to share his expertise in peer review and academic writing for committees / training programs of EASE and to make EASE popular amongst the editing and publishing community in India.

### Clarinda Cerejo

Vice President, Content & Community, Cactus (India)  
Editage/Cactus Communications  
clarindac@cactusglobal.com



I'm delighted to have been nominated to serve on EASE Council.

I've worked closely with authors and editors for over 14 years, starting out as an academic editor for biomedical research manuscripts; moving on to training new editors and conducting quality checks on edited manuscripts; and eventually serving as Editor-in-Chief of *Editage Insights*, a global learning and discussion platform for researchers, which I helped build from the ground up in English, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean.

I've been a member of EASE for over 7 years. The first EASE conference I attended in 2014 shaped my first impression of EASE as a warm, welcoming, close-knit community of passionate scholarly publishing professionals who were out to do great things. Over time, I've only grown fonder of EASE and more appreciative of its mission to improve global standards of science editing and serve an underrepresented community of science editors. I've very much enjoyed and benefitted from EASE resources over the years, and I've tried to give back in small ways.

Should I be elected to Council, I'd be more than happy to dedicate the time and effort required to contribute substantially to EASE meetings, forums, and outreach and training activities. Because of my Indian origin and my extensive work with researchers and publishing professionals in China, Japan, Korea, Saudi Arabia, and India, I believe that I would be able to bring unique perspectives and strategic inputs to EASE Council discussions. It would really mean a lot to me to have the opportunity to use my expertise with content creation, publishing, and training to further EASE's mission. I hope you will give me this opportunity.

#### *Career summary*

Clarinda Cerejo is Senior Director, Thought Leadership, at Cactus Communications, in Mumbai, India, aiming to deliver content that brings about positive changes in the research culture and the way research is communicated and consumed globally, both in academia and the Life Sciences/Pharma industry. She has worked closely with authors and editors for over 14 years, starting as an academic editor for biomedical research manuscripts; moving on to training new editors and conducting quality checks on edited manuscripts; and eventually serving as Editor-in-Chief of *Editage Insights*, a global learning and discussion platform for researchers, which she helped build from the ground up in English, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. The platform provides high-quality content on a range of topics related to academic publishing and researcher success, from manuscript preparation and the publication process, to hot topics in the global scholarly publishing industry, such as publication ethics, peer review, and open access.

Clarinda's mission is to improve the research culture and the way scientific research is published and shared globally. She has led various content and research projects, resulting in 10 journal/book publications, including a survey on publication-related challenges researchers face that was covered in *Nature* and well-received at several international conferences on scholarly publishing. Clarinda has been an active member of EASE for over 7 years, presenting at EASE conferences, proofreading pieces for *European Science Editing*, and participating in listserv discussions.

### Iva Grabaric Andonovski

Editor, Food Technology and Biotechnology journal  
igrabaric@pbf.hr



I am very grateful for the nomination to become a member of EASE Council and thankful for all the support I have received so far. I have met many great people at EASE throughout the years from whom I have learned a lot.

In Croatia we have a strong open access publishing community and I am very proud to be part of it and to be one of the signees of the Croatian Open Access Declaration. However, I am aware that we lack formal training and support at national level, so I would like to change that in years to come. These were the main reasons why I have joined PUBMET conference organisation committee and took the roles of secretary of Croatian Association for Scholarly Communication (CROASC) and the chair of EASE Croatian Regional Chapter. I am proud to say that we have organized several very successful conferences, workshops, panel discussions and webinars, and acted as a liaison between the editors and various institutions (Ministry of Science and Education, SRCE, DOAJ, Sherpa/Romeo). By combining all

these functions I hope that I can contribute to the EASE goals to give a stronger support to the local and regional editors. Besides providing education and training to young editors, especially on how to adjust to the online surrounding, I would like to promote open peer review and new trends in scientific publishing.

#### *Career summary*

I joined the Food Technology and Biotechnology editorial team in 2003, first as an editorial assistant, then as an assistant editor and in 2013 I became the editor. Throughout the years I have learned all the aspects of the editorial work, from processing submissions, handling peer review, plagiarism checking to editing, proofreading, managing metadata, applying for grants, handling finances, *etc.* During the years I have tried to improve my editor skills as much as possible by finishing postgraduate study in food management and attending many courses and workshops (on writing skills, presentation of research results, introduction to innovation, intellectual property, entrepreneurship, internet security, data protection, web design, metadata management, etc) and conferences.

I have also held lectures, organized several panel discussions and workshops, and coauthored conference reports, editorials and a chapter on scientific journal financing in the book about Croatian scientific journals. I have been an EASE member since 2014, an organizing committee member and the secretary of PUBMET conferences since 2016, the secretary and board member of Croatian Association for Scholarly Communication (CROASC) since 2020 and the chair of EASE Croatian Regional Chapter since 2020. I am also a member of the Croatian Society of Biotechnology.

#### **Dr Maria Koltowska-Häggström**

Medical director, Proper Medical Writing  
maria.koltowska-haggstrom@propermedicalwriting.com

I have been always interested in writing, literature, publication, anything that deals with spreading a word in its “solid” form. For one reason or another, I became a medical doctor but practiced just for the first 10 years after graduation from medical university. After that I moved to the pharmaceutical industry, getting closer and closer to real-life data research and ... writing peer-reviewed publications which I did for almost 15 years. Having left my permanent employment in 2013, I felt that I should do what I always had in the back of my mind, and got to the publication business. I started my own medical writing agency and since then I support authors in publishing their research. I became an active member of the European Medical Writers Association (EMWA), got involved in their journal, and became associate editor of BMC Endocrine Disorders.

Here we are... How can I contribute to the development of EASE? I have a few ideas, for example, I can

- use my medical experience to support medical journal editors
- enable collaboration with EMWA
- explore possibilities of interaction with pharma industry
- contribute to the ongoing strategic developments to make EASE position in the scientific publication world even stronger
- plan activities to attract young editors and editors-to-be

#### **Delia Mihaila**

Chief Executive Officer, MDPI  
mizdelia@yahoo.com

I am very honored to be nominated for the EASE Council. Given my extensive expertise in open access, I would be delighted to advise members on the transition to the OA model. I can share my experience in launching and developing open access journals in a financially sustainable manner. I hope I can work closely together with other EASE members interested in open access to find solutions meant to help the community of editors and small scientific publishers to adopt the open access model for their journals.

I could also contribute to the Training and professional development working group, based on my experience in hiring and training big teams of editors in various countries in the recent years. I would be open to contribute to other working groups such as peer-review, publications and resources.

#### *Career summary*

Delia Mihaila is the Chief Executive Officer of the Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute (MDPI AG), Basel, Switzerland. She has overall responsibility for representing the company, driving the internal and external strategy, policy and decision-making process, and ensuring the sustainable growth of the company (approx. 60% growth per year on average). Since joining MDPI as a Managing Editor in 2013, Delia has been responsible for developing and launching Open



Access journals and improving editorial processes. She has improved the quality of the services provided to the scholars, through rigorous training of in-house staff, including opening new offices several countries across three continents.

MDPI acted as a driver of the open access movement worldwide, and Delia personally acted as an advocate of this model internationally, especially with learned societies. She also set up a Research & Development department to accelerate innovation activities in scholarly communication. Previously, Delia worked in her native Romania, then did a Master's degree in International Publishing at Oxford Brooke's University, UK, before working for John Wiley & Sons as a Journal Publishing Manager. Delia spoke at the EASE Conference in Bucharest, Romania.

### Dr Fiona Murphy

Cofounder, Partnerships & Community Development, MoreBrains Cooperative Ltd  
 fiona@morebrains.coop  
 fionalm27@gmail.com

I'm delighted to have been nominated for the EASE Council elections.

I've been a member of the publishing and editing community for over 20 years, first as an assistant editor (and freelance proofreader) at Oxford University Press while completing my DPhil in English, then with a range of publishers, including Bloomsbury Academic and Wiley, before setting up my own consultancy in 2015. Last October, I officially joined forces with three others to form MoreBrains Cooperative Ltd. We work chiefly on international research and e-infrastructure projects, including the FORCE11 *Reimagining Educational Practices for Open*, and the Knowledge Exchange *Openness Profile* projects.



I became the Book Reviews Editor, first for the EASE journal *European Science Editing*, then as part of its new sister publication *EASE Digest*, nearly two years ago. I've been enjoying the shift from publishing journals to contributing to their running! (I also review/am on the Board for several other titles, including *Learned Publishing* and *Data Science Journal*). Since joining EASE, I've been so impressed by the way the EASE members have supported your publications and other communication channels – from volunteering to review books, to conducting lively ethics discussions via the listserv, and attending the conference and online sessions. This is a creative, knowledgeable, friendly community which delivers high-quality services to its clients and employers, and which deserves to continue to grow and prosper. I would like to become even more involved with this process.

If elected to serve on Council, I'm keen to use my remote events, training, and community development experience to enhance members' enjoyment and benefits of EASE. Where required, through updating toolkits, articles or webinars, I can help plug gaps in understanding around emerging scholarly communications issues such as open science, FAIR data, persistent identifiers. I'm also aware that these issues play out very differently in the sciences from the arts, and across various global regions. As well as giving out information, we need to listen to members' experiences and needs, and to build upon what we hear through improved supporting materials, conference topics and training.

### Career summary

Since completing a DPhil in English Literature, I have held a range of scholarly publishing roles with Oxford University Press, Bloomsbury Academic and Wiley. As Publisher for Earth and Environmental Sciences at Wiley, I began to specialise in emerging scholarly communications with particular emphasis on Open Science and Open Data. I could see that these developments represented huge opportunities for increased access, re-usability and transparency of research. At the same time, they were causing seismic disruptions; to workflows, administrative burdens, cultures, technical and infrastructural requirements, and skills.

In response to these shifts in requirements, I set up my own consultancy, MMC Ltd in 2015. As well as advising institutions, learned societies and commercial publishing companies, and writing and presenting widely on scholarly communications topics, I was an Associate Fellow at the University of Reading between 2015-20. Last October, with three others, I set up MoreBrains (website pending at time of writing). An official member of the Cooperative movement, MoreBrains models the behaviours and values that we're seeking to encourage in the research landscape: including openness, accountability, inclusivity, community-orientedness, and curiosity.

Meanwhile, I have been contributing actively to research, open scholarship and publishing initiatives. I have Co-chaired several Research Data Alliance Working Groups (including Data Publishing and Exposing Data Management Plans), I'm on the Steering Committee for the Force11 Scholarly Communication Institute (FSCI), Vice Chair of the Board of the data repository, Dryad, and an Editorial Board Member of the *Data Science Journal*. In the next few months, I will be running the Lightning Posters Sessions at the forthcoming Researcher to Reader Conference (I'm also on the Advisory Board), and will be presenting at PIDapalooza and teaching at the next FSCI summer school.

**Dr Stefania Romano**

Elesvier

stefromano@yahoo.it

I am delighted to stand for election to the EASE Council. My particular areas of interest are training, peer review, author guidelines, ethics and plagiarism in scientific publication. I am also interested in new potential areas such as artificial intelligence, organoids and new experimental method not animal based investigation, promotion and improvement.

I would like to help EASE to encourage students, early careerists and novice entrants, to benefit from being part of the EASE community and to profit from all the resources it has to offer.

**Career summary**

Dr Stefania Romano, MD works as a specialist radiologist at the Department of Diagnostic Imaging in “Santa Maria delle Grazie” Hospital, Pozzuoli, Italy.

Her main field of interest is abdominal and gastrointestinal radiology in elective and emergency conditions, with more than 150 publications, and she has been an invited speaker at many international meetings. Dr Romano teaches at the Brno Masaryk University in the Czech Republic as visiting Professor of Radiology and has reviewed Research Project Proposals for the Minister of Health of the Czech Republic since 2018.

She has been a member of and Chaired the European Congress of Radiology (ECR) Gastrointestinal Subcommittee.

She is a Fellow of the European Society of Gastrointestinal Radiology, and has served on the International Committee and Membership Committee of the American Association of Women Radiologists. For the Radiologic Society of North America, she has been a member of the Radiographics Selection Committee and the Education Exhibits Awards Committee, and was their International Visiting Professor in Thailand in 2019. Dr Romano has been Editor-in-Chief of *European Journal of Radiology Open* since March 2014. She was the Associate Editor of the *European Journal of Radiology* (2006-2017) and has been an Editorial Board member, Guest Editor and peer reviewer for a range of international professional Journals in the field of Clinical Radiology.

**Elena Tikhonova**

Deputy Editor-in-Chief and Head of editorial team, “Journal of Language and Education”  
etihonova@gmail.com

I'm very glad to have been nominated to serve on the EASE Council.

The issues of research activities and the correct presentation of their results in the format of articles and monographs attracted me from the first days of my career. It would be no exaggeration to say that I have devoted 20 years to working as an editor and working with editors and authors of scientific publications. I have progressed from the role of junior editor at a journal through to founding a new journal published in English (“Journal of Language and Education”). The practical experience I have accumulated allows me to consciously and meaningfully create a platform around the journal for scholars' genuine scientific communication, designed to promote the development of the best examples of academic culture, following global best practice in this area.



EASE has had a huge impact on my personal development as an editor. The Association allows you to feel the true unity of its members, their harmonious desire to develop a high-quality space for scientific communication. The EASE mission to build a community of like-minded people capable of continually improving international scientific editing standards and to support the ethical activities of authors and reviewers is more important than ever. Of utmost importance to me personally is the sense of scientific editing culture, the culture of mutual support that EASE gives to its members.

The resources created by EASE and made available to all members of the editorial and publishing cycle are in great demand as they act as optimal tools for interaction. EASE events (in all their formats) enable one to consider many of the discussed problems from new angles, opening up new perspectives. A trusting and supportive atmosphere of communication involves all event participants in communication. I am a devoted follower of the EASE philosophy and I believe that its values need to be disseminated widely among editors, reviewers and authors around the world, thereby contributing to the formation of an objective science without falsification and distortion.

If I am elected to the Council, I will make every effort to maximize the promotion and development of EASE initiatives, both through participation in its meetings and events, and in the context of its educational and tutoring activities.

I sincerely believe that the activities of scientific journals' editors have the most significant impact on the development of genuine academic culture in all its manifestations, at all levels. I would be more than happy to create a committee to research and support the influence of scientific journals' editorial boards on the development of academic culture globally. Scientific journals around the world are undergoing a major transformation today, abandoning the siloed approach and striving for effective communication at the global level.

It really means a lot to me to be able to use my experience in the creation of scientific content, publishing and teaching to fulfill the EASE mission.

I sincerely hope that the distinguished members of EASE will give me such an opportunity.

#### *Career summary*

Elena Tikhonova is the Founder, Head of the Editorial team and Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Language and Education, Moscow, Russia. She also works as the Head of the Centre of Scientometrics and Publication activity at the Moscow State University of Food Production, under the auspices of which a number of scientific journals are published. The objective of the Centre is to provide content that leads to positive changes in research culture, and in the way that research is communicated and consumed around the world. She has dedicated her career to interacting with authors, reviewers and editors. For 20 years, starting as a scientific editor of manuscripts, she has been purposefully developing the competencies necessary for the most effective development of scientific publications. The journals published under her management are characterized by a desire to comply with all the requirements for the ethics of research publication activity, both at the stage of manuscript preparation and at the stage of interaction of all actors of the editorial and publishing cycle. The Journal of Language and Education actively publishes articles on significant topics in the global scientific publishing industry, such as publishing ethics, meta-reviewing, post-reviewing, and open access.

Elena's mission is to improve the culture of research and the way research is published and disseminated around the world. She leads a number of research projects aimed at optimizing scientific publishing and developing a genuine academic culture. Elena is an active member of EASE and participates in EASE conferences and discussions. Since 2020 Elena has been the Head of the Russian Chapter of EASE.

#### **Michael Willis**

Senior Manager, Researcher Advocate, Wiley  
miwillis@wiley.com

I have worked within academic journals publishing for over 20 years, most of them at Blackwell and then Wiley. I have collaborated with journal editors, peer reviewers and authors, developing initiatives to support researchers in the peer review process. My experience is multidisciplinary although mostly in health sciences. As Researcher Advocate I explore how Wiley can improve the value of the service we provide to researchers. As a long-standing member of ISMTE, I am concerned to define and improve best practice in journal and journal editorial office management.



#### *What can I offer to EASE?*

I have collaborated on projects and resources relating to all aspects of the author submission and peer review process, especially the latter, in which areas of interest I have also published a few articles. I already contributed a chapter to the EASE Handbook, relating to journal editorial office management. I could contribute articles to future EASE resources including ESE and any possible future updates to the Handbook. I would be happy to be consulted by fellow members on any aspect of author interaction with publishers, especially in the processes prior to acceptance of manuscripts.

The Peer Review Committee would be a natural fit for me, and indeed I have already collaborated with a few existing members of the Committee on different research projects. I am also active on social media, especially Twitter, where I could promote EASE activities and resources, as well as 'keep an ear to the ground' on industry developments and initiatives that are of relevance to EASE members.

As a longstanding member of ISMTE, including being President in 2016/7, I would be keen to foster good collaborative relations between EASE and ISMTE, as I believe each organisation can benefit from the expertise and resources of the other. I already helped to establish this close relationship including facilitating joint conferences.

Finally, I could act as an advocate for EASE resources, such as the SAGER guidelines, within the community of publishers, in the interests of improving the quality of research that is submitted and published.

## Meeting reports

### The International FAIR Convergence Symposium

30 November – 4 December 2020, virtual conference; session recording: <https://vimeo.com/499271357>

Nominally taking place Paris but of course an entirely virtual event, the International FAIR Convergence Symposium took place between 30 November and 4 December last year. The main aim of the conference was to provide a unique forum for advancing international and cross-domain convergence around the FAIR Data Principles<sup>1</sup> first developed in 2016 of Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability, and will convene a global community with an interest in combining data across domains for a host of research issues - and in the face of major global challenges such as those relating to the SDGs or the COVID-19 pandemic.

The symposium's outcomes were designed to help with improving alignment with parallel and emerging data initiatives around the world, amplify the lessons learned during the virus outbreak in relation to international research data sharing, and embed the understanding and implementation of FAIR. These include the CODATA Decadal Programme 'Making data work for cross-domain grand challenges' and the GO FAIR community's convergence towards bottom-up development of the Internet of FAIR data and services globally.

Participation was encouraged from and open to ALL researchers, data experts, funders, and science policy makers.

The programme was organised around four themes: **CRISIS REDUCTION, FAIR SPECIFICATIONS, FAIR SOCIETY, FAIR STEWARDSHIP**, and consisted of parallel sessions of various formats (paper sessions, workshops, interactive practical sessions and demos), a plenary poster session, and a plenary panel discussion.

#### The Session

I was one of the co-organisers of 'Teaching FAIR Data Skills'. Part of the stewardship strand, our objective was to 'bring people together who are delivering FAIR Data skills and training to share experiences, reflect on lessons learned and develop concrete next steps'. We had 120 minutes, and 80 attendees from a range of countries – mainly European but also some from Australia, Asia and North America.

In order to make the event as engaging as possible, we held divided the two hours into several mini-sessions around how we got to where we are, what is currently happening, and then the key challenges and next steps that the group could meaningfully ascribe to. We used Mentimeter to collect ideas from attendees, and actively managed the chat window, capturing comments, questions and references. Given the extent of the event, and links to the presentations and session recordings are given below, I will give a flavour of its content by picking out three of the presentations, one from each of the three sub-sessions.

Using the diffusion of innovations model (Rogers, 1963), Shelley Stall, Senior Data Director at the American Geophysical Union, recounted her experiences working

with funders and societies to connect communities and build incentives to try and change research culture.

The chat and comments from attendees expressed a wide-ranging frustration with the status quo – with the fact that data are often preserved in static, inaccessible ways, and that researchers do not customarily receive adequate data management training. There was recognition that a static version is useful for the scientific record but a properly archived version is required for interoperability and re-use (the 'I' and 'R' of FAIR).

As many of the organisers and attendees had roles involving data training, there was a fruitful discussion about how moving online-only for 2020 had made for even more difficulties. Other challenges mentioned included: resourcing within lower and middle income countries (LMICs), different languages, finding curriculum frameworks and materials, developing assessments, and sufficiently professionalising the training role itself.

Melissa Cragin, of the San Diego Supercomputer Center, UCSD, gave a presentation on how institutional policies and collaborative innovations have actually made considerable progress in the last year. Key to this achievement has been an increased understanding of that the policy landscape is complex, and that as well as training, scholarly communications, governance, and funder requirements themselves also need to be re-examined and adapted. Research data needs to be viewed as a long-term asset, with service requirements. Career paths in the academic space must be broadened in scope to include data skills (as there is currently a haemorrhage of data science and software science experts to industry). There is a need for new organisational entities that can support the whole research process. Questions such as: what happens to research assets as they're developed and managed over their life cycle, need to be answered.

Finally, Natasha Simons, of Australian Research Data Commons, wrapped up the session and led a discussion on possible next steps based on the points raised by presenters, and on the menti and chat window. There was a general agreement that more people need to become involved, and more support is required from institutions, funders and policy makers. In the meantime, there are opportunities to learn more, via a range of societies, courses, and events, and the silver lining of the COVID-19 situation is that more of these have become accessible remotely, with lower charges and therefore the bar to entry is diminishing.

#### Reference

- 1 Wilkinson M, Dumontier M, Aalbersberg I, *et al.* The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship. *Sci Data* 3, 160018 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2016.18>

Fiona Murphy  
fiona@morebrains.coop

## Book reviews

### Communicate as a professional

Carel Jansen, Leon de Stadler, and Aline Douma (eds.), Amsterdam University Press, 2019, ISBN-13: 978 94 6298 810 1

The title of the book captures its approach, contents, and readership concisely: how to be professional in communicating, no matter what your profession is—which is not quite the same thing as communicating as a communications professional. Comprehensive and up to date in drawing upon relevant literature, lucid in phrasing its message, and systematic in presenting it, it is apparent why the book, in its original Dutch avatar, has run into seven editions and benefitted from ‘the many generations of Dutch students who have provided useful feedback’ since it was first published in 1979. I hope the book’s bulk (436 pages) does not daunt its potential readers: it is mainly due to the dozens of examples used throughout the book to supplement its text. Incidentally, the book also has a companion website, [www.communicate.amsterdam](http://www.communicate.amsterdam), which provides answers to the assignments that form part of the print version and also offers further explanations and additional practice material.

The book’s aim and target readers are clearly set out in the foreword: it offers ‘to the professional (or prospective professional) ... tried and tested strategies to bring various communication tasks to a successful conclusion.’ And the strategies are sometimes ‘microstrategies’, as the following two excerpts show: ‘The first line [of a paragraph] should ideally be indented to the right (use the tab key for this, not the space bar)’ and ‘If you find it difficult to remain silent in front of a room full of listeners, try to find something to do during the moment of silence: Take a sip of water or re-arrange your papers.’

The subject matter is divided into ten chapters, each opening with a full-page colour reproduction of a painting from the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam directly or indirectly related to that chapter and followed by a separate table of contents, occupying half a page, for that chapter. The lower half of the page is given to a brief description of the painting and a line or two about the aim of the chapter. The body of the chapter is followed by a summary of its key points and assignments.

The introductory chapter, Communication, sets out the goals of communication not only as set out by the sender but also as perceived by or decided by the receiver – the two sets are not always identical – and what makes for effective informational, instructional, and persuasive communication. The chapter also deals with giving and receiving feedback.

The next three chapters, Structure, Argumentation, and Style, advise on how to organize a communication, mostly through the printed or electronic word (Structure), how to check the logic (Argumentation), and how to present it using the appropriate tone (Style), formal and informal, and keeping in mind the objective (to inform, to instruct,

or to persuade). Although these are all abstract notions, the book succeeds in making them concrete through numerous examples of writing to illustrate informative, instructional, and persuasive communications and tips on the choice of words and syntax to achieve any of the above three aims. The next chapter, Visualization, deals with the visual appearance of text (typography and layout) as well as with presenting data as tables and as charts. However, the treatment of charts and graphs is basic and cursory, and this is reflected even in the suggested readings for this chapter, which are mostly focused on text: there is nothing on data visualization, nothing on handling quantitative expressions (the correct use of SI units, for example), and the expression ‘big data’ does not occur even once in the whole book.

Chapters 6, 7, and 8, unlike the other chapters, are mostly about academic and technical communication through the written word and titled, respectively, as Reading and Summarizing, Writing—the Process, and Writing—Reporting.

The last two chapters focus on the spoken word: Chapter 9, Oral Presentations and Chapter 10, Professional Conversations. Most books on communications cover presentations but rarely include anything on conversations, a surprising omission considering how much time any professional spends conversing vis-à-vis writing or presenting—yet another evidence of the practical aim of the book, namely to present tried and tested strategies. The chapter on presentations, for example, even covers ‘elevator pitch’ and ‘pecha kucha’, a term totally new to me. Thanks to the book, now I not only know what it means but also how to say it (‘pronounced peh-cha-koo-cha, with equal emphasis on each syllable’).

The end matter consists of recommended readings (given separately for each chapter), references, and an index. Although more than 150 references are given, all of them are to books.

Readers of *European Science Editing* are unlikely to read the book from cover to cover, and it offers little to editors of journals but those who teach writing will certainly find the book useful and may even recommend it to their students—and all those who deal with words should dip into it: they will not be disappointed.

**Yateendra Joshi**

[yateendra.joshi@gmail.com](mailto:yateendra.joshi@gmail.com)

[Communicate as a Professional is largely based on a Dutch communication textbook: Steehouder, M., Jansen, C., Van Gulik, L., Mulder, J., Van der Pool, E., & Zeijl, W. (2016). *Leren communiceren* [Learning how to communicate] (7th, rev. ed.). First published in the Netherlands by © Noordhoff Uitgevers B.V., Groningen/Utrecht, The Netherlands]

## Resources

### The joys of teaching engineers and consulting scientists to write - part two

**Christa Bedwin**

*ChristaBedwin@gmail.com*

#### 12 Tips for Teaching Engineers and Scientists to Write

In the last edition of the EASE Digest, I discussed the Joys of Teaching Engineers and Consulting Scientists to write. Here, I offer you 12 useful strategies and an example of how to apply them.

##### 1) *Speak functionally and be prepared for analysis.*

Engineers and scientists love to know how things work. For example, one tool I advise for making long client reports more readable is to break up pages of text with white space. I have found that if I just tell them white space is good, they don't do it. If I explain *how* white space helps to highlight the important points by reducing reader fatigue and distraction, and give some examples to demonstrate it, then practically-minded clients are way more likely to jump on that train and employ the methods.

Guidelines are good, too, but I have many times experienced now that if you recite a lot of rules to a group of scientifically-minded people without backing them up with good reasons, these folks are likely to analyze themselves out of using your rules. (Seriously, they do – the coffee room conversations to contort logic to break grammatical rules can be fascinating.)

Therefore, *since engineers WILL analyze, by nature, choose to participate in the analysis.* (If you can't beat them, join them!) Sometimes we need to take a step back ourselves. If we are asking people to follow rules that we can't back up with sound logic, functional science, and a history of how that rule came into being, then maybe there's something wrong with the rule!

##### 2) *Use examples.*

Examples teach like theory never can. Great teaching (or style guides or instructions for projects) includes both examples and theory.

Let's say that someone in your class, or in a company that you edit for, has brought up the case of putting one or two spaces after a period. Some writers do not like the fact that this rule has changed in their lifetime, and they have plenty of reasons not to follow the new rule. (It is incredible how logical and credible they can make these wacky rules sound.)

If you don't tell them *why* they should only use one space after a period, you may find that you have a low compliance rate. (And some editors choose to avoid this argument and just fix it after the fact – it may depend on your work flow as to whether you can get away with that, but this article focuses on teaching.)

If you explain that two spaces was appropriate when we used typewriters, but that computer programs are designed to use just one space, and that it will look wonky if they use

two, that will get a lot of converts. Engineers and practical scientists definitely understand changing technology and modernization.

But you will still have some holdouts. So try an authority-based viewpoint. "It's what we do in the publishing industry. You may notice that every book in the bookshop and every journal you ever submitted a paper to, strip out the extra spaces."

That might get you a few more converts.

Next, you might try a second, even more intricate functional argument: Double spaces on word processing programs create large white spaces between sentences, which will lead to rivers of white space between sentences. These rivers of white space have been proven in multiple controlled experiments by readability experts to make readers' eyes wander and get distracted from the reading at hand.

##### 3) *Load yourself up with knowledge (and maybe a little wisdom), not arrogance.*

As the spaces-after-period example shows, sometimes you just need to patiently have more information than they can possibly contradict.

And then you have to even more patiently accept that some of them are still going to disagree and keep using two spaces after a period, the way they were taught in 1973. Don't sweat it. Just add it to a standard editing task you do on that person's papers when you receive them.

##### 4) *Share your experience.*

Through participating in professional associations and conferences, I have gathered a lot of apparently random information about how various editors and publishers address issues of readability. (You probably have, too – if not, then go forth and do that!)

For example, in one conference session long ago I learned that an ESL publisher uses narrower columns, particularly readable fonts, and more white space to maximize text readability. In another session, I learned that Canadian grant proposals are often delivered to the committees as multiple boxes of printouts just before Christmas vacation. Sharing tidbits of information like that with clients can help them to understand why it is important to trim their words and not stretch their column widths, reduce their font sizes, and put in every detail of their research for the proposal. Judicious choice of what the committee wants to hear and a readable presentation, possibly with an illustration or two, will entice exhausted committee members far more than 300 extra words can ever do.

I have also learned, almost by accident, that sharing these apparently randomly gathered bits of esoteric editing

information gathered from diverse sources during your career, your studies, and conversations with other language-expert colleagues around the world, inspires confidence in you as someone who knows their stuff and has been around the block a few times. This helps to establish your authority in a group of highly intelligent and driven peers.

Time working on the 38th floor of an office tower of an oil company taught me about what matters to the stressed-out people at the top. Practical readability methods are useful for explaining *why* the executive summary is so crucial in a report. The higher up the ladder someone is, the more exhausted they are – and hence, the lower their reading ability and the tinier the errors they can get hung up on.

Sharing a light-hearted but undeniably true story or two about crazy high-level executives drives the point home about why simplifying the presentation of complex ideas and hiring an eagle-eyed editor can be the difference between acceptance and rejection of a project at the high level. Because consulting scientists are somewhat motivated by success and money, they are extremely attentive to these clues we can share from our linguistic expertise to help them garner project acceptance.

#### 5) *Stand firm in your authority.*

I have found that editors can shy away from standing up to take authority. A strong-minded group of scientific consultants will be very happy to have you be firm in your instructions, once you have established your street credibility, and shown your willingness to explain, with rigour, as needed. Become a strong, firm member of a team that is driven to succeed in the marketplace. Being flexible and willing to debate and explain does not equate to being weak.

However...

#### 6) *Be humble.*

You probably know a lot, but always remember to listen while you're talking, too. Laugh at your own mistakes (such as writing the wrong word on the board, or having a typo in your materials) rather than getting uppity. Consider this strategy (if we ever progress to post-Covid times, that is!): Take along small wrapped chocolates (or, I have found that home-made banana bread is a real winner as an ice breaker!) to share with students who point out your mistakes. It keeps class lively and students engaged.

#### 7) *Be flexible.*

Remember that each class of students has different needs, so your teaching should flex to fit those needs. A great teacher never teaches two classes exactly the same, or two individuals exactly the same, though the core material may be similar. Though we may edit to the same standards and rules for all clients, we might need to explain those edits differently to different clients, depending on their background, audience, and needs.

### **How do you know that you're teaching with any success?**

A good indicator of success is when people ask follow-up questions.

You can deliver all the information in class or a webinar, and even have people work through examples, but the real learning happens when the consultants are back at their desks, working on the writing they get paid to do. When they email with questions on how to apply the principles taught in the course—for example, how to make something more readable, or how to add more white space to five dense pages of report—then I know they are processing what they learned.

#### 8) *Meet them where they are at: Be practical, not theoretical.*

There's no need to train report writers extensively on English grammar terms (antecedents and prepositions and the like), though I have encountered editors who insisted on sitting engineers and scientists through full days of such lessons. Many of the students reported frustration at this approach, as it was rules-based rather than functional, and did not seem applicable to their needs.

Teach them what they need to know in terms that interest them. Not because they can't learn the grammar terms, but because it is more interesting for them to focus on how and why to do what they actually need to do – communicate with clients and/or peers – than to load the course with abstract grammar terminology.

*Chacun à son goût!* To turn this on its head, in a scientific office, you might hear long chatty discussions around the water cooler about, say, thermodynamics equations using the Greek alphabet, with the people apparently enjoying it. I have seen some editors adore grammar the same way, just enjoying rolling the terms conditional tense and compound adjective around in their mouths like whisky. Good teachers learn not to expect others to love the same things they themselves groove on.

#### 9) *Be prepared to repeat yourself.*

If you are working within a company context, you will have the opportunity to teach through weekly emails, communication in chat applications, commentary in document edits, and daily conversations, not just in classes. Don't expect everyone to understand, process, and instantly apply every point that you teach. Be patient when you need to reteach something or remind people now and then.

#### 10) *Use the "textbook in the room."*

If you can get senior and intermediate people to come to your corporate courses, or even to comment on your social media posts, your teachings will have much more ongoing impact for the juniors in that company.

Make it well known that you respect and want to hear from those people. Each company has its own rules and styles. Involving people in the conversation who can speak intelligently about how the company has traditionally done things, client needs, and challenges particular to their company, is valuable if you can manage it. You will have more success with the juniors if they see the seniors welcoming you and including you as part of their formula for success.

#### 11) *Have good teaching resources.*

Having industry-specific exercises and examples to place in front of your class (even if virtually) makes the class more engaging and applicable. Ask senior members of new clients if they can share “bad” or “good” examples with you, then adapt them to remove any identifying characteristics. Work to focus on issues that senior consultants in the industries you work with have identified as particular writing issues in their own teams or industry.

Feel free to ask me to share my ebooks to give you a start. I wrote them by request, with plenty of input from senior consultants in a global engineering & environmental company I used to work with. They’re focussed on the specific writing needs those senior consultants had noted in their careers for engineering and consulting science writing. Just as they were glad to share that information

with me and all who I teach, I am always pleased to share them along as well.

Also be ready to recommend extra reading, and discuss the various style guides your audience may have heard of, from the Chicago Manual of Style to Scientific Style and Format or the APA Style Guide, and why you do or don’t recommend following those sources.

#### 12) *Keep them engaged.*

Put pens and paper in their hands – or, if you’re teaching on zoom, break up the sessions with actual participation. There’s no better way to learn than by doing, so get them working. Break up your informational sections of the lesson with examples and exercises to try, and the course will fly by. (Some of these are available in the PDFs I can share with you, but you may wish to make client-specific ones based on identified needs, as mentioned above.)

Most of all, to teach successfully, enjoy what you do. Teaching engineers and scientists to write is really fun. Do know your stuff, inside and out, but go prepared to debate and analyze and say “you’re right” now and then, without any worries or egos in the way. Enjoy learning new things from the discussion that arises.

Love your clients, and they’ll love you right back!

## EASE Membership

### Member sponsorship scheme

For many years EASE has operated a sponsorship scheme, whereby those more affluent members of EASE have supported the subscriptions of less well-off members, particularly those in low income countries, by paying their EASE subscription for them. This scheme has run very successfully with a number of members being supported over the years, many of whom have gone on to support their own subscriptions once their sponsorship has ended.

We have a comprehensive application procedure to ensure that the most worthy candidates receive support. The cost of supporting an EASE member for 2021 is £47. If you would like to generously offer your support in this way, please contact me ([secretary@ease.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ease.org.uk)) and I will try to match you with a sponsoree.

We are also looking at ways in which we can support those from low income countries to attend our 15th EASE

Conference in June. If you would like to support the registration fee of any one in particular, or just someone in need, then I can arrange for that too.

### 2021 subscriptions

Many thanks to those of you who paid your 2021 subscription promptly. We are pleased to say that our membership numbers have seen a small increase despite the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We recognise that times are difficult for some members, particularly freelancers who have been affected by COVID-19 themselves, or might be balancing caring responsibilities on top of their day jobs. We want to be sure that we can support those in need, so if you require help to pay your subscription, please do get in touch as we are able to offer several options to spread the payment, or be sponsored by another EASE member.

### History of EASE - search for an author/editor

Next year, in 2022, EASE will celebrate its 40th anniversary – quite a milestone! With this in mind, we would like to consolidate the wide range of documents and resources that we already hold on the history of EASE, look to plug any gaps in the information and then create various articles to be published during 2022 in a range of media.

We are seeking a volunteer to compile and edit these resources. If you think this would be an interesting project, which you have time to dedicate to it, please get in touch with the EASE Secretary.

Mary Hodgson – Secretary; email: [secretary@ease.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ease.org.uk); web: [www.ease.org.uk](http://www.ease.org.uk)

## EASE forum in brief: September – December 2020

*The forum is open to members only. To subscribe, configure your preferences, and read the archives, go to <https://mail.lib.irb.hr/mailman/listinfo/ease-l>*

The discussions in September centred around two themes. The first was introduced by Małgorzata Wiesner-Spyrczyńska. She was working with a client on journal development. The client had proposed changing the journal name from “Journal of Rare Cardiovascular Diseases” to “Journal of Rare and Cardiovascular Diseases”. From Małgorzata’s point of view, this change would make the name ungrammatical. Advice on this was not hard to find: Grammar and language questions are unfailingly popular with editors of any kind. An abundance of suggestions were given, and the case was extensively debated (“We ‘we opened a bag of worms here”, Judith Baggott wrote at some point). In the end, Małgorzata concluded that she could go back to the journal with more suggestions and a wider perspective.

The second theme in September was introduced by Yateendra Joshi, noting that journals seem to differ in their preference for excluding or repeating as keywords for a given paper the terms found in the title of the paper. Some journals insist that those terms be excluded as keywords; some recommend that they be used as keywords; and most are silent on the matter. “What are the pros and cons?”, she asked. Alan Hopkins advocated for using the keyword list to complement, not duplicate, the terms used in the title, given that most journals impose a limit on the number of keywords. Tom Lang saw no reason to NOT allow the repetition, while Jadranka Stojanovski noted that the most used “subject search” or “topic search” in the bibliographic databases is looking for the query in three fields: article title, abstract and keywords. Therefore, repeating the words already in the title in keywords is redundant. To conclude September in the discussion list.

October started with a query from Peter Matthews, wishing to update an institutional Newsletter mailing list for a print newsletter. However, the institution refused to reveal the address list to the committee, resulting in hard copies being sent to no longer existing mailboxes around the globe. Pippa Smart had a similar problem, and proposed inserting a banner into the print issue, stating that the subscriber had to update their email address electronically to receive further newsletters. Andrew Davis added that the correct legal handling of the conflict with the institution would depend on which country the institution was based in. In this case, the country turned out to be Japan. Several others added useful tips for handling the situation. And, for those among us that wondered about just that, Peter revealed that; “It seems that none of the researchers, administrators, and publication support staff have any direct experience with modern electronic subscription systems”. Next up, Estelle Jobson asked for tips about how to handle conflict of interests in scientists and institutions in social media, especially Twitter. Duncan Nicholas then gave a long list on

useful resources on the subject, among them the BMJ Social Media Policy. An talking about hat tips: Ed Hull invited all EASERs to an upcoming “Responsible Research webinar” hosted by Nikki Osborne.

Pippa Smart then asked how to get a journal indexed by Google Scholar. The EASE list community was, as always, almost quicker in their answers than the Google search engine itself, giving much good advice. And to conclude the month of October, Fiona Murphy asked for, and got, a reviewer for a new book, as well as invited everyone to an upcoming webinar on science communication.

At the beginning of November, Andrew Davis raised an important issue: Should editors encourage citation of references that are relatively easy to find. Or perhaps discourage references that will be difficult to find (such as limited circulation reports, references to rare journals and to material behind pay walls)? This sparked much debate, along the way taking us to unexpected sources like Apicius and Linnaeus (!) However, agreement seemed to be unanimous on that the first and foremost obligation of the author (and the editor) is to make sure that the source is correctly referenced, so that other can find them, and that both books or articles not necessarily available on the internet, as well as even “grey” literature, could be cited as references in the right context. Then Pippa Smart told us of an interesting initiative with the University of California library to work collaboratively with institute journal editors to build a network and link them with faculty and early career researchers. She asked if anyone else had heard of something similar. Peter Matthews and Laura Wilkinson had, and gave a range of good examples. And Eric Lichtfouse exemplified why this sort of initiatives is important: In France, he wrote, editors seem to be viewed mainly as “the guys who reject papers and take our money”. Then Pippa Smart directed the EASERs in the direction of a survey on predatory journals and conferences – something which started a discussion on the use of the word “!predatory”), before Sylwia Ufnalska ended the month of November with some good news: Five new translations of the EASE Quick-Check Table had been added, so it can be downloaded as Word files in a total of 12 languages.

December was a month of tranquillity in the discussion list. Clarinda Cerejo invited us to a survey on copyright permissions for reuse of published figures. Rike Zietlow asked an interesting question (that surprisingly enough was left unanswered) about authorship disputes and retraction. Karin Zelano asked for advice with regards to special issues, and Ivana Štětinová shared her experiences on this. Duncan Nicholas followed up on his ongoing project on language editing with a survey, inviting everyone to participate. And then the holiday season set in, concluding a busy, instructive and interesting 2020 in the EASE discussion list.

**Are Brean**

are.brean@tidsskriftet.no

## The editor's bookshelf

*Bookshelf was compiled by Silvia Maina. You can join the EASE journal blog at <http://ese-bookshelf.blogspot.co.uk>*

### EDITORIAL PROCESS

Hamilton GD, Fraser H, Hoekstra R, Fidler F. **Meta-Research: Journal policies and editors' opinions on peer review.** *eLife* 2020;9:e62529 DOI: 10.7554/eLife.62529

This study explored a series of peer review policies across a range of scientific disciplines ecology, economics, medicine, physics and psychology. Two surveys were conducted on 322 journal editors: the first survey contained questions about peer review policies and practices; the second one covered five issues related to publication ethics. Results showed that only 49% of the journals checked all manuscripts for plagiarism, and that less than 6% used a form of open peer review. One of the most interesting result of this study is about the practice of editors altering reviews: the 91% of editors identified at least one situation where they considered editing a review acceptable. The survey provides an overview on peer review policies and practices currently used by editors.

Nieminen P. **Ten points for high quality statistical reporting.** *Applied Sciences* 2020; 10 (11):3885 (doi: 10.3390/app10113885).

Statistical reporting plays an important role in medical publishing and failure to report analysis methods or inadequate data presentation could lead to inaccurate inferences. The objective of this paper was to develop a reliable tool to assess the quality of statistical reporting and data presentation that was applicable for a wide variety of medical and healthcare research forums. A checklist-type tool was developed by selecting and refining items from previous reports about the quality of statistical reporting. The authors

identified nine items, or numbered questions: by summing the nine items a total score, ranging from 0 to 10, is obtained. The composed scale from 0 to 10 assessed the selected reporting characteristics in the reviewed articles. A high value suggested that an article had a good presentation of findings in tables and figures and that the description of analysis methods was helpful to readers. This instrument aims to improve the quality of empirical research in scientific fields where statistical methods play an important role.

Kataoka Y, Taito S, Yamamoto-Kataoka S, Tsujimoto Y, Yamazaki H, Furukawa TA. **Background styles in systematic review articles are not related to the publication in high-impact-factor journals: A meta-epidemiological study.** *Medicine* (Baltimore). 2020;99(51):e23801. doi:10.1097/MD.00000000000023801

This cross-sectional study focuses on the Background section systematic review (SR) articles examining the methods the authors use in order to delineate their novelty with regard to the existing literature. Authors included original SR articles published in top 50 journals in MEDICINE, GENERAL & INTERNAL category in Journal Citation Reports 2018. Results show that number of included articles, number of authors, and presence of appendix were related to the publication in high impact factor journals. ON the contrary, the Background Section style is not an important determinant in submission by authors and/or acceptance by journal editors.

Oska S, Lerma E, Topf J. **A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Views: A Triple Crossover Trial of Visual Abstracts to Examine Their Impact on Research Dissemination.** *J Med Internet Res.* 2020 Dec 4;22(12):e22327. doi: 10.2196/22327. PMID: 33275112; PMCID: PMC7748957.

Visual abstracts – a graphic summary of a research article's question, methods, and major findings – are increasingly used to accompany scientific articles and are then posted on various social media platforms that rely on image-based communication. This prospective case-control crossover study aimed to examine the influence of graphical abstracts on articles citation and dissemination. It was conducted using 40 research articles published in the *American Journal of Nephrology*; dissemination was measured via retweets, views, number of link clicks, and altmetric scores. This study demonstrates that the addition of a visual abstract increases the attention that an article attracts on social media, thus supporting the adoption of visual abstracts by journals willing to improve the online visibility of their papers.

### PUBLISHING

Flanagan A, Fontanarosa PB, Howard Bauchner H. **Preprints Involving Medical Research—Do the Benefits Outweigh the Challenges?** *JAMA.* 2020;324(18):1840-1843. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.20674

Preprints, ie a complete manuscript posted by authors before peer review and publication, can be useful to obtain comments on research before submission. Preprint servers are increasing in number, and are supported by many different kind of financial models, ranging from support from professional societies to large publishers. This Editorial describes benefits and challenges of medical preprints. On the same *JAMA* issue there are two other articles on the same topic: Mario Malički and colleagues describe preprint servers' policies, submission requirements (*JAMA.* 2020;324(18):1901-1903. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.17195), while Krumholz *et al* examine medRxiv, one of the most active preprint server for clinical and health science (*JAMA.* 2020;324(18):1903-1905. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.17529)

Brown L, Schonfelddec RC. **The State of Not-for-Profit Publishing Today.** The Scholarly Kitchen. 15, 2020. Available at: <https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2020/12/15/not-for-profit-publishing-today/> The scientific publishing landscape - open access, preprints, and changes in the editorial process - has greatly changed over the last years. While commercial publishers have been able to change their models and strengthen their position in the market, this has been much more challenging for the not-for-profit publishers. This article, based on interviews, examines the current state of university presses and scholarly societies and ways they are considering to reinvent their business model for the future.

Subramanian K, Nalli A, Senthil V, Bhat A. **Pharmaceutical industry-authored preprints: scientific and social media impact.** *Curr Med Res Opin.* 2020 Dec 9:1-11. doi: 10.1080/03007995.2020.1853083. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33206000. Preprints in medicine are becoming more popular, and offer a way to disseminate research findings before a manuscript undergoes peer review. Considering the wide ramifications of pivotal healthcare research, preprints might pose an ethical dilemma for medical publication professionals. The authors of this paper evaluated the trends in pharma-authored research published as preprints and their scientific and social media impact by analyzing citation rates and altmetrics. A total of 498 preprints were identified across the most important preprint servers (bioRxiv, PeerJ, F1000Research, Nature Precedings, Preprint.org, Wellcome Open Research preprint and medRxiv). Roche, Sanofi and Novartis contributed 56% of the retrieved preprints. Authors conclude that pharma-authored research is being increasingly published as preprints and, although the preprints are not highly cited, they were discussed in social media platforms. Authors conclude that preprints could be considered in case faster dissemination of the research is important for global healthcare, but

citation of preprints might require guidelines to prevent dissemination of flawed science.

#### ETHICAL ISSUES

Squazzoni F, Bravo G, Farjam M *et al.* **Peer review and gender bias: A study on 145 scholarly journals.** *Science Advances* 06 Jan 2021: Eabd0299 This article aimed to assess whether peer review and editorial process contribute to the gender gap in publications. The researchers examined gender bias in peer review with data for 145 journals in various fields of research, including about 1.7 million authors and 740,000 referees. Results showed that manuscripts submitted by women or coauthored by women are generally not penalized during the peer review process, and may also have a higher probability of success, especially in biomedicine and health journals.

Heidari S, Ahumada C, Kurbanova Z GENDRO Gender, Evidence and Health Network. **Towards the real-time inclusion of sex- and age-disaggregated data in pandemic responses.** *BMJ Global Health* 2020;5:e003848.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reinvigorated the conversation on the importance of fulfilling commitments to gender-responsive approaches to public health. Nonetheless, this editorial underlines that, despite experience from other global health crises, we have failed share adequate gender-sensitive evidence to guide COVID-19 responses. In fact, gendered dimensions are being taken into consideration in only a subset of the studies; data disaggregated by sex and age continue to be poorly available. Countries have an obligation to share comprehensive and accurate data disaggregated by sex and age and to apply intersectional gender-based analyses. On their side, researchers have the responsibility to integrate sex and gender dimensions into their research and journal editors are called to act on their commitments and request authors to provide all data disaggregated by sex and age at a minimum.

Byrne JA, Christopher J. **Digital magic, or the dark arts of the 21st century—how can journals and peer reviewers detect manuscripts and publications from paper mills?** *FEBS Letters* 17 February 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1002/1873-3468.13747> In China, clinicians are expected to publish a certain number of research papers in international journals if they want to be promoted. A paper mill is a shady company that provide a full service and produces scientific papers at demand. Paper mills represent a significant threat to science because their contributions to manuscripts and publications are not transparent. This article describes the paper mill business model and the risks related to the diffusion of this shadowy system. Publishers, journals, researchers, and institutions must work together and show courage and determination to recognize and ultimately reject the worthless magic of papers created without experiments.

Manca A, Cugusi L, Cortegiani A, *et al.* **Predatory journals enter biomedical databases through public funding.** *BMJ* 2020; 371 :m4265

The rise of predatory journals represents a serious threat to integrity and credibility of scientific publishing. These journals display deceptive characteristics or data that cannot be verified. They may have no peer review, often accept and publish manuscripts without any editing and may also have fake impact factors. A worryingly high number of predatory journal articles are now indexed in PubMed. This article examines this situation, explaining why PMC is particularly vulnerable to infiltration by predatory journal. This is particularly concerning because it may legitimate research that has not been appropriately reviewed. In addition, it represents a substantial waste of public money being used to pay for publication.

**Silvia Maina**  
Editamed  
[silma75@hotmail.com](mailto:silma75@hotmail.com)

## EASE activities

### Strategy and new topic committees, project groups and communities

Following the successful virtual conference in June 2020, a small team have been working hard to review the Association and to make plans for a new strategic framework for the next Council rotation 2021-2023. This has been a significant undertaking and has included a systematic review of:

- our business model of the Association, how we raise revenue and how we spend our resources
- the Association's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats
- the activities of our main competitors and industry partners and the broader environment in which we exist
- our publications, resources and training tools eg the Science Editors' Handbook and Author Guidelines
- our conferences and events
- our membership offering and benefits
- our systems, processes and policies, including GDPR, employment law, currency issues
- our communication channels, our website, member publications, social media etc

The team consulted widely to draft a strategic framework which would enable us to reaffirm our mission, aims and objectives and reinvigorate the way in which we achieve them. Many new ideas were proposed and thought given to how we can refresh and maximise the potential of our existing products and services to ensure we meet the needs of members.

We plan to build on the framework that has proved successful for our existing committees: Gender Policy Committee, Peer Review Committee and our nine Regional Chapters and organise the Association around a number of topic areas.

- Publications and resources – which will include the ESE Journal, the Science Editor's Handbook, the Author Guidelines, toolkits, statements, check lists etc
- Training and professional development, mentoring etc
- Events – conferences and meetings
- Environment and sustainability
- Diversity and inclusion

We are now asking you for help. We propose that each topic committee is run by a small executive (5-10 people), who would be responsible for innovating our products and services and implementing them over time in a coordinated framework. These executive committees will create small project groups to take on particular initiatives, and a wider topic community of members who have a particular interest or expertise in the topic area. This would be an advisory role, with less time commitment, but a good way of sounding out ideas, and advocating in the wider editing community. Robust communication channels will be established between the Council and the committees and the EASE secretary will be available to provide administrative support.

A Council member would be appointed to each group to ensure good communication and the EASE secretary will be available to provide administrative support.

In addition to these topic committees, we are working hard to develop our membership offering and to ensure we have excellent communication channels and effective engagement with our members. If you have ideas or would be willing to help in this regard, then please do get in touch.

Finally, we have a fledgling social media presence, but we are well aware of its current limitations. We are now seeking help with the following tasks:

- develop a social media strategy to define our activities going forward
- pro-actively seek out content of interest to our members and post it on our social media channels
- be responsible for animating our social media groups and encouraging participation
- be responsible for producing and reporting on our analytics and social media usage.

This is a great opportunity for you to help shape the future of the Association, so please support us if you can, or recommend others that you know who would have relevant skills. Email [secretary@ease.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ease.org.uk) with any suggestions or feedback.

#### EASE – a new look for a modern world

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed Wellington Graphic to create a new modern look for EASE which will provide us with fresh impetus and support our ambitions for the Association. We recently sent out a survey form asking for your input and ideas, and a big thanks to those who took the time to complete it and share your views.

This re-branding exercise will be part of a three-pronged modernisation of the Association, a new look, an upgrade to our website, social media and forums, and an overhaul and refresh of our products, services and resources. Exciting times ahead! The work will be ongoing over the next few months and we plan to unveil our new look and much of the functionality on our platforms at the summer conference.

## 15<sup>th</sup> EASE General Assembly and Conference

23-25 June 2021, online

In light of the continuing uncertainties about international travel caused by the pandemic, the EASE Council took an early decision to organise the 2021 EASE conference virtually. Encouraged by our first ever virtual conference in 2020, this year we have developed a bigger programme, and more opportunities for delegate engagement.

The event will be run over three half days (afternoons UK time), and will kick off with our General Assembly, open to all EASE members. This meeting will include an address by EASE President, Duncan Nicholas, bringing members right up-to-date with the latest developments in the Association, a launch of the new brand identity and the announcement of the new Council for 2021-2023. The theme of the main conference is:

### *Promoting sustainability in scholarly publishing: the role of editors*

2020 was a turning point in science communication with the global pandemic revealing the limitations of our current models and raising questions about how we, as editors can – and should – influence scientific communication. Sustainability, in terms of managing the Earth's resources, is often considered to be unrelated to editorial and research activities; but careful husbandry of available resources is at the heart of a sustainable scientific ecosystem. As editors we need to question how we can promote more sustainable research and equitable systems of communication. We need to carefully consider how we can effect better use of Earth's resources in the human and natural environments. Implicit within this is ensuring diversity, avoiding cliques and niche publishing that exclude participation and partnership around the world, and which overstretch available resources.

## EASE training webinars

The early Spring series of training webinars have been well attended and well received by members. In January the series kicked off with **Editorial Efficiencies**, with Duncan Nicholas and Pippa Smart. This was followed in February when Yateen Joshi, took a detailed look at **Words and typography (text design) for editors**, coupled with a whirlwind tour of resources designed to help academic writers, and their editors, shape up their sentences and sharpen their style, from author and trainer Helen Sword.

The March webinar will focus on **Research Integrity for Editors**, with Joan Marsh. Over 40 members had already registered at the time of going to press.

Our April webinar will be a **Quick Guide to Peer Review**, with Peer Review Committee Chair, Bahar Mehmani, and we have added an extra event in May, to look at **Sex and gender considerations in research** with Gender Policy Committee's founding chair, Shirin Heidari and co-organised with GENDRO. Registration will stay open until the day before each event.

A new webinar series is already being planned for the Autumn, and translations and roll outs to our Regional Chapter communities is also underway. Visit the EASE website ([www.ease.org.uk](http://www.ease.org.uk)) for full information and if you have any suggestions for future topics, do get in touch, [secretary@ease.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ease.org.uk).

The programme will include presentations, debates and discussions on the following topics:

- Sustainability in research: editorial challenges and opportunities
- A presentation of the EASE environmental manifesto
- A debate: pre-prints are a more inclusive and sustainable method of scholarly communication than journals (repeated twice for different time zones)
- Promoting gender, cultural and geographic diversity in scientific journals
- How local journals are using technology to ensure sustainability
- Editing and publishing in times of crisis – 18 months into the COVID-19 pandemic, what have we learned and which changes will stay?
- What environmental responsibilities do editors and publishers have?
- Meet the challenges of publishing in a world of politicized science

Each session will focus on one or more of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) incorporating ideas of how the work, experiences and behaviours of editors, publishers and researchers can influence and help to achieve them. These vital topics will be considered by key speakers at the conference, and delegates will participate in debates and via the EASE Forum Live! sessions.

We are also planning some social events at the end of each day, to provide some much needed networking and light relief for our members. Registration is already open and there are generous discounts for EASE members. Find out more on the conference webpages, and be sure to book your place ([www.ease.org.uk/ease-events/15th-ease-conference-2021](http://www.ease.org.uk/ease-events/15th-ease-conference-2021)).



**EASE Webinar Series**  
**Quick Guide to Peer Review**

Thursday 22 April, 2021  
1pm – 2pm BST  
Dr Bahar Mehmani, EASE Council / Reviewer  
Experience Lead for Elsevier

This session will provide expert insights into effective peer-review and the different roles of reviewers and editors in the process. The session will also cover different peer review models and unpack the characteristics of a constructive peer-review report.

<http://bit.ly/easewebinarapril21>



**EASE Webinar Series**  
**Sex and gender considerations in research**

Tuesday, 11 May 2021  
12pm – 1pm BST  
Dr Shirin Heidari, President, GENDRO and  
Founding chair EASE Gender Policy Committee

This workshop, co-organised with GENDRO, presents the rationale for sex and gender considerations in research, provides an overview of the SAGER guidelines and offers concrete steps how authors, reviewers and editors can improve gender reporting in scholarly research and publication.

<http://bit.ly/easewebinarmay21>

**GENDRO**  
GENDER EQUITY NETWORK

# The FAIR Open Access

## Why ARPHA?

- Full-featured, technologically advanced, exclusively open access platform, supported by human-provided services and consultancy on demand.
- Truly end-to-end: submission, peer review, editorial management, production, publishing, dissemination, indexing and archiving.
- Designed for academic journals, books, conference abstracts and proceedings.
- Transparent cost structure and flexible operational models.

Everything that an independent journal or a small publisher might need!

A diagram showing a stack of four documents. Each document has a teal-colored tab on the left side with white text. The tabs are labeled "JOURNALS", "BOOKS", "CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS", and "PROCEEDINGS" from top to bottom. The documents are light gray with a subtle circular pattern in the background.

JOURNALS

BOOKS

CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

PROCEEDINGS