

Reports of meetings

2015 Annual General Meeting

28 September 2015, Edinburgh, UK



Looking for the venue for the Council meeting in Edinburgh. From the left: Dalibora Behmen, Elaine Seery, Rod Hunt and Ana Marušić

The Annual General Meeting of the Company was held on 28 September at the John McIntyre Conference Centre, University of Edinburgh, UK, attended by 23 members and one non-member.

As President, I presented my final report on activities since the previous AGM in June 2014. The full version of my report is available on the EASE website. Some of the activities were covered in my Editorial in the August issue of ESE or in earlier issues, so I have omitted them here.

The main event was the very successful EASE conference hosted by the School of Medicine, University of Split, Croatia. I was delighted to invite my undergraduate supervisor, Sir Tim Hunt, to open the conference with a thought provoking talk on what science is about. The excellent programme was enjoyed by 106 attendees from 27 countries. Two EASE/Korean Council of Science Editors bursaries were awarded to Jibril Habuleh, Somaliland, and Isaac Katona, Uganda, who are using the knowledge gained to help raise editorial standards in their own countries.

Armen Gasparyan's contract as Chief Editor of *European Science Editing* expired at the end of 2014. EASE gratefully acknowledges Armen's contributions to the development of *European Science Editing*, particularly his success in increasing the visibility of the journal. The position was advertised in September 2014: four applications were received and Ksenija Baždarić, a senior research fellow in the Department of Medical Informatics from the School of Medicine at the University of Rijeka, Croatia, was appointed. Ksenija presented her report, introducing three new members of the Editorial Board: Dado Čakalo, Hannah Cagney and Hrvoje Jakovac. An exciting development is that since May 2015, all research articles in the journal are freely available from the time of publication. We hope

this will encourage more authors to submit their research to *European Science Editing*, which is ranked in the third quartile of journals in communication by Scopus. Ksenija has launched a Twitter account for *European Science Editing* with 115 followers. *European Science Editing* is included in the HINARI, AGORA, OARE and ARDI programmes of Research4Life, which means that its contents are available to researchers and editors in low and middle income countries.

Elaine Seery and Silvia Maina continue to manage the website. Elaine, who was co-opted as a full member of Council during the year, also manages the LinkedIn group, which has 665 members. Our Twitter account is run by Jemma Lough and has 565 followers. Cristina Vasiliu is in charge of the EASE Facebook group, which has 327 members.

The Regional Chapter programme continues. The Italian Chapter has met several times in Rome to discuss the role of journal editors and editorship in Italy. It is conducting a small survey to investigate the landscape for scientific editing in Italy in the field of biomedicine, focusing on commercial editors. The Russian Chapter has met twice. The Croatian Chapter has endorsed the Summer School in Scientific Communication held at the University of Split, Croatia.

Several members of EASE have organized or participated in training courses, representing EASE, notably Paola De Castro in Italy, Ethiopia, Bolivia and Peru. Sylwia Ufnalska has conducted two workshops for Polish researchers on scientific writing, in collaboration with John Wiley & Sons, and gave a lecture to Polish science editors in Warsaw during a seminar entitled "Increasing the quality and visibility of scholarly journals". Eva Baranyiová uses EASE materials in her regular lectures in courses organized by the Czech Academy of Sciences for PhD students. Izet Masic has continued to promote EASE at workshops and through medical informatics journals.

Hervé Maisonneuve presented a template form for retractions at the World Congress on Research Integrity, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Chris Sterken has represented EASE on the UNCOVER programme on publication bias, at the European Forum of Independent Professionals, and as a member of the Advisory Board of Atomium Culture, which is an inter-sectorial platform promoting knowledge sharing on issues regarding the development of a European knowledge society.

EASE has formally supported the AllTrials campaign: Sylwia Ufnalska compiled and submitted our official response. The aim is to increase the accountability and availability of results from clinical trials. EASE signed the Lyon declaration, an advocacy document that will be used to influence the content of the United Nations post-2015 development agenda. EASE remains a HIFA supporting organization, represented by Paola DeCastro.

Paola DeCastro, together with several other EASE members, is working on the Bioresource research impact factor initiative towards the implementation of the standard guideline for citation of bioresources (Citation Of Bioresources in Research Articles).

EASE has participated in funding bids for a variety of projects. Our collaboration with sTANDEM (Standardising English for Medical Purposes) has come to completion and the final report was approved by the European Commission in June 2015. Ana Marušić represents EASE in a COST action on peer review, which is formulating a proposal on Research integrity policies in Europe for the next H2020 call that will include research into the role of scientific journals in research integrity and its breaches. Ana also represents EASE on a project coordinated by Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain which has received funding under H2020 and will begin in September 2015: Higher Education Institutions and Responsible Research and Innovation.

The Treasurer, Rod Hunt, presented the accounts for 2013, when EASE made a small net loss, partly because income received for specific projects in previous years had now been spent on relevant activities. Membership numbers continue to fall and EASE is becoming reliant on other sources of income, such as conferences, to supplement subscriptions. The meeting confirmed the appointment of GRH Accountancy of St Neots, Cambridgeshire, as the independent financial reviewer for the 2015 accounts.

Dalibora Behmen, who took over from Tina Wheeler as Secretary in May 2015, presented the Secretary's report. Membership stood at 414 members and all our sponsors are supporting members, so more sponsors are required if we are to continue to offer this option to potential new members from low and middle income countries. Membership rates for 2016 will be the same as for this year.



Dalibora and Tina during their handover meeting in May in Mount's Bay, Cornwall

In the election for Council 2015-2018, Ana Marušić, Pippa Smart, Chris Sterken and Rod Hunt were confirmed as elected unopposed. There were more candidates than vacancies for ordinary members of Council, so the EASE membership had had the option of a postal ballot or voting

in person at the AGM. After the votes were counted, the following were welcomed to the new Council: Paola De Castro, Shirin Heidari, Moira Hudson, Rachael Lammey, Duncan Nicholas, Elaine Seery, Ines Steffens, and Sylwia Ufnalska. I thanked the outgoing members of Council for their contributions, particularly Arjan Polderman who has been Past-President for six years, and Eva Baranyiová.



Council - some of the outgoing members and some of the new. From left to right: Dalibora Behmen, Paola De Castro, Arjan Polderman, Chris Sterken, Eva Baranyiová, Rod Hunt, Joan Marsh, Sylwia Ufnalska, Elaine Seery, Ana Marušić, Pippa Smart and Ksenija Baždarić

Hervé Maisonneuve, Chair of the Programme Committee, outlined plans for the EASE Conference in Strasbourg in June 2016. There will be a very strong scientific programme addressing the role of editors in maintaining scientific integrity, and superb French hospitality for the social events.

Finally, Pippa Smart summarized the activities of the Strategy Group over the past year which has resulted in the formation of three groups to continue working on how best EASE can develop roles in certification and training, research, and communication/networking/membership. With this encouraging look at the future of EASE, I could declare the AGM closed, knowing that the association was in good hands.

Joan Marsh
EASE Past-President 2009-2015



Rod and Ana presenting Joan with a token of appreciation for her years as President