EASE Conference

Parallel session: Saturday 11 June, 15:30-17:30

Detecting misconduct: Role of technical and managing editors

Moderated by Pippa Smart, PSP Consulting, Oxford, UK

Are authors always wrong? This session will look at how the editorial processes can help authors to avoid problems and raise the quality of their work before publication. This session will consider potential misconduct and quality issues from the perspectives of language and copyeditors, it will discuss the role of the editorial office in educating and responding to problems, and will also present the author's viewpoint – what are their rights?

Programme

4 talks of c.20 minutes with c.5 minutes for questions, finished with short panel discussion (c.15 minutes) to close

1. ***Pre-submission: Copyediting for non-native speakers: cultural and ethical problems to look out for (Elise Langdon-Neuner)***
   This talk hopes to provoke discussion about the degree to which the language and culture of non-native English speaking authors is or should be accommodated in the English hegemonic scientific publication arena. Examples will be given of personal experiences editing pre-submission manuscripts for non-native English speakers, including the problems encountered and questions authors tend to ask. The talk will cover issues of plagiarism and authorship and how these are addressed when different cultural norms may be in opposition. The talk will also consider conflicts between article writing style—its language and culture—and hopes to promote an overdue debate on adjusting academic writing to the demands of a globalized world.

2. ***Submission: How the editorial office educates and manages misconduct (Duncan Nicholas)***
   This talk presents a discussion of the ways in which the editorial office deals with ethical misconduct, from anticipating through mitigating against it, to dealing with incidents should they arise. The talk will include how editorial offices promote awareness of ethical issues to journal editors and editorial boards; how editorial offices benefit from educating their editors, authors and upholding editorial integrity. Included will be examples of the support, resources and guidelines editorial offices use in dealing with cases should they arise such as COPE flowcharts and software features, such as Cross Check. The presentation will also incorporate examples of real-life ethical transgressions, how the editorial office dealt with them, and the outcomes.

3. ***Post-acceptance: The role of technical/copyediting editors as watchdogs and negotiators (Helen Penny)***
   Copyeditors only start work after the articles have been accepted by which time it is hoped that any ethical or research problems have been identified and dealt with. This will look at their role in ensuring that the author's

message is clearly transmitted without making false promises or over-emphasising the importance of the authors' findings. It will also consider how copyeditors liaise between the editors and authors when problems arise, what level of responsibility they have for identifying problems, and how they can best deal with them.

4. ***The integrity of the author: my rights (Pippa Smart)***
   As a group of editors it is often easy to focus on the ideal of scholarly publication and to forget the practicalities and sensitivities of the authors themselves. Authors have rights and sometimes these are forgotten in the rush to ensure transparency, adhere to guidelines, and protect the journal from criticism. This deliberately provocative talk will look at the rights that authors have: their moral and legal rights, their more mundane rights during the publication process and their right to choose how and where to publish. This presentation will ask if an editor has the right to force their own cultural assumptions and expectations on researchers from other countries and hopes to make participants think about how they deal with authors.

Speaker bios

Elise Langdon-Neuner
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Elise's background is in science and law. She is an author's editor mainly working with German-speaking authors at the Medical University of Vienna. In the past, she has worked as a managing editor setting up editorial offices for two medical journals and establishing the journal's policies and procedures. She has also worked as an author's editor for a pharmaceutical company. Elise has published articles on various aspects of publication ethics and contributed the non-native speaker sections to the 4th edition of Medical writing: a prescription for clarity. For 9 years she was editor-in-chief of the European Medical Writer Association's journal TWS/MEW and she has lost count of the number of years she has been on the board of the ESE journal.

Duncan Nicholas
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Duncan has 11 years of experience working in the journal publishing industry. Now running his own publishing services company, Duncan previously worked at Taylor & Francis where he was the founding member of the Journal Development Team; a department created to provide editorial development, best practice guidance, and deploy industry initiatives across the business. Duncan has been a member of EASE for several years, and was elected Council Member in September 2015. He has written articles for their European Science Editing journal, and is involved in the Membership strategy group for the Association.
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Helen Penny
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Helen is Deputy Managing Editor for the Lancet family of journals, and co-manages the team of Assistant Editors who edit accepted content, including primary research articles, reviews, correspondence, and news, for The Lancet and the nine (and counting) Lancet specialty journals, such as The Lancet Oncology, The Lancet Neurology, and The Lancet Infectious Disease. She is also responsible for recruiting and training new starters in how to edit to Lancet house style and managing and training freelance editors. She started working for The Lancet almost 5 years ago as an Assistant Editor, and began her career working for the publisher Faculty of 1000.

Pippa Smart
<Pippa.smart@gmail.com>
Pippa Smart has worked in scholarly publishing for over 25 years in editorial, production, business management and project management. She currently works as a consultant (PSP Consulting). Before becoming a consultant she worked for various publishers including CABI, Cambridge University Press and Wiley-Blackwell, and for the development agency, INASP (working with editors and publishers in developing countries). In addition to providing training courses for editors and publishers (on publishing issues, editorial strategy and copyright management), she also provides consultancy services for publishers and editors. She writes the ALPSP Alert monthly newsletter for the publishing industry, is the Editor-in-Chief of *Learned Publishing*, Vice President of the European Association of Science Editors (EASE), and a non-executive Director of Practical Action Publishing.
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Helen Penny
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Helen is Deputy Managing Editor for the Lancet family of journals, and co-manages the team of Assistant Editors who edit accepted content, including primary research articles, reviews, correspondence, and news, for The Lancet and the nine (and counting) Lancet specialty journals, such as The Lancet Oncology, The Lancet Neurology, and The Lancet Infectious Disease. She is also responsible for recruiting and training new starters in how to edit to Lancet house style and managing and training freelance editors. She started working for The Lancet almost 5 years ago as an Assistant Editor, and began her career working for the publisher Faculty of 1000.