

Preventing misconduct: guidelines - Coordinator Paola De Castro

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Abstracts:

1) How guidelines can help prevent misconduct and reduce waste in research

David Moher, Clinical Epidemiology Program, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute

Some editors have noted the responsibility of everybody involved to help ensure the published record is complete, transparent, and unbiased. Published research articles should provide a clear and transparent description of how researchers conducted their study and what they found. This helps reduce waste and increase research value. Reporting guidelines, when used by prospective authors, and endorsed and implemented by journals, can help improve the completeness of reporting biomedical research articles.

2) The BRIF and journal editors' group. The CoBRA guidelines for citation of bioresources.

Anne Cambon-Thomsen for the BRIF and journal editors' group.

The BRIF initiative (Bioresource Research Impact Factor) was set up to construct an adequate framework and provide a set of tools that will allow an objective measure of the actual research utilisation of bioresources, a major ingredient of much biological and biomedical research today (Mabile et al. Giga Science, 2013 May 1;2(1):7). A sub-group of this initiative, "BRIF and journal editors", worked especially on a guideline to report the use of bioresources in journal articles (CoBRA, Bravo et al. BMC Medicine 2015, 13:33). As a matter of fact, in the absence of such a guideline, questionable attitudes occur: absence of reporting of the use of a bioresource, non-

optimal use of such resources while this is an ethical imperative with regard to the patients and research participants who provided their samples and data, non-traceability of material used with difficulty to reproduce results, lack of recognition of bioresource contribution to research, leading sometimes to undue authorship as the only way to foster this recognition. By providing an operational guideline to cite in a harmonised way the bioresources used or referred to in an article, CoBRA is filling this gap. Its implementation requires joint efforts from several stakeholders, in particular editors. They have a prominent role in introducing the use of the CoBRA guidelines in instructions to authors, in guidelines to be checked for their use by referees, in promoting it through editorials in journals publishing frequently articles based on the use of bioresources and other ways that were discussed in an EASE workshop in October 2015 and need further editors input.

3) How can SAGER guidelines contribute to Sex and gender equity in research.

Shirin Heidari, co-chair, EASE Gender Policy Committee /Reproductive Health Matters, London

Sex and gender differences are often overlooked in research design, study implementation and scientific reporting, as well as in general science communication. This oversight limits the generalizability of research findings and their applicability to clinical practice, in particular for women, but also for men. The EASE Gender Policy Committee developed the SAGER (Sex and Gender Equity in Research) guidelines to encourage a more systematic approach to the reporting of sex and gender in research across disciplines. They are designed primarily to guide authors in preparing their manuscripts but they are also useful for editors, as gatekeepers of science, to integrate assessment of sex and gender into all manuscripts as an integral part of the editorial process. The rationale for the development of SAGER guidelines will be reported as well as plans for dissemination and implementation.

4) Effectiveness of the Canadian Institute of Gender and Health's online course to improve peer reviewers' abilities to critically appraise sex and gender considerations in scientific publications

Cara Tannenbaum, MD, MSc, is Scientific Director, Institute of Gender and Health, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Montreal, Canada

An increasing number of science editors are adopting sex and gender reporting guidelines for their journals. Successful implementation will depend on peer reviewers' capacity to critically appraise sex and gender consideration in publications, and to provide feedback to authors on whether reporting standards are appropriately met. This presentation will describe the effectiveness of the Canadian Institute of Gender and Health's new online competency course on peer reviewers' knowledge, skills and self-efficacy for critically appraising sex and gender in biomedical research publications. (<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/49347.html>).

5) Five years of EASE Guidelines (2010–2015): promoting complete, readable, and ethical publications

Sylvia Ufnalska, EASE Council member, Poznań, Poland

In 2010, the European Association of Science Editors (EASE) published this concise set of editorial guidelines for the first time. Since then it has been updated annually and complemented with a growing number of appendices. The main part has been translated into many languages, to make it easily understandable to all scientists. It is now freely available in more than 20 languages (<http://ease.org.uk/publications/author-guidelines>). The document is intended to help scientists and science translators in effective presentation of research results and translation of manuscripts into English. It shortly explains how to write complete, concise, and clear papers, taking into account also ethical issues: authorship criteria, plagiarism, conflict of interests, etc. Eight brief appendices supply examples or more details on selected topics: abstracts, ambiguity, cohesion, ethics, plurals, simplicity, spelling, and text-tables. Common use of EASE Guidelines should improve the efficiency of scientific communication worldwide.

6) When guidelines do not seem to help: how to manage difficult cases

Ines Steffens, EASE Council member, editor in chief of Eurosurveillance

Guidelines for the production and processing of science serve various purposes for different actors. This is reflected in the variety of subjects covered by guidelines which range from instructions on how to format/structure a manuscript to how to report findings and to authorship criteria and ethical principles. The agreed purpose of guidelines is to increase transparency and quality of science, but they can also help avoid conflicts by clarifying roles and responsibilities. There are a number of recognised committees such as ICMJE, COPE, EASE, WAME etc. that formulate guidelines/recommendations which are an important resource to help derive editorial policies. Unfortunately, these guidelines are not a magic bullet and in day-to-day practice editors face situations (and need to resolve them) when guidelines do not help. The presentation will give examples of such situations and aspires to motivate participants to share their own experiences.

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

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

Anne Cambon-Thomsen, MD, immunogeneticist, with diplomas in human biology, biostatistics and health ethics, is Emeritus Director of Research in CNRS (French national centre for scientific research). She works in a joint research Unit (UMR 1027) on epidemiology and public health at Inserm (National Institute for Health and Medical Research), and University Toulouse III Paul Sabatier, France. She directed two research Units in immunology and human genetics (1985-97) and led then an interdisciplinary team on genomics and public health (1998-2015). After many contributions to the study of human genetic variation in populations and diseases and to transplantation immunogenetics, she worked and published in recent years on societal aspects of biobanks, biotherapies, genetic testing, biomarkers, high throughput technologies, data sharing, and biotechnologies. Her work with and on biobanks and bioresources and afferent research policies led her to launch the BRIF (Bioresource research impact factor) international initiative in 2010. She has former experience in several national and European ethics bodies (French national advisory bioethics committee CCNE, European group on ethics of science and new technologies: EGE, CNRS life sciences operational ethics committee (COPé), and presently is President of the deontology and ethics committee at INCa (French national cancer institute), member of the ethics and deontology committee of the national blood institute (EFS) and expert at COMETS (Ethics Committee of CNRS). She has been involved in the ethical, legal and societal aspects in numerous European and international projects, leads the societal platform of the Toulouse-Midi-Pyrénées Genopole (Genotoul) and is Co-Director and Coordinator of the Common Service ELSI - ethical, legal and societal implications - of BBMRI-ERIC, the European Biobanking and biomolecular research infrastructure. She is the Chief Editor of the Open Journal of Biosresources –OJB) and the Champion of the EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF 2018) that will be held in Toulouse 9-14 July 2018.

Dr Shirin Heidari is the director of Reproductive Health Matters and editor of its journal. She is also a member of Council of European Association of Science Editors and chair of its Gender Policy Committee. Between 2007 and 2014, she oversaw the IAS research promotion department and was the executive editor of the Journal of the International AIDS Society (JIAS). As editor, she introduced the first gender editorial policy for an HIV journal and expanded the Journal's efforts to strengthen scientific writing of authors in the global south.

Before joining the IAS, she was a researcher at the Centre of Excellence for Infectious Medicine at the Karolinska Institute and the Editor-in-Chief of an HIV bulletin at the Noah's Ark Foundation in Stockholm. Dr Heidari has a doctorate degree in clinical virology from the Karolinska Institute in Sweden. She completed her post-doctoral training at the Swedish Centre of infectious disease control. Dr Heidari has over 15 years of experience in HIV and health research, policy and advocacy.

Dr. Cara Tannenbaum is the Scientific Director of the Institute of Gender and Health for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. She obtained her medical degree and training in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McGill University. She holds the Michel Saucier Endowed Chair in Geriatric Pharmacology, Health and Aging at the Université de Montréal. She was awarded the May Cohen Gender Equity Award by the Association of Medical Faculties of Canada, the Betty Haven's Knowledge Transfer Prize by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the 2015 Y Women of Distinction Award in Health. Dr. Tannenbaum advocates internationally for the integration of sex and gender into mainstream research and practice. She previously served as Health Science Editor for the Canadian Journal on Aging. She works as a practicing internist, women's health specialist, and geriatrician in Montreal, Canada.

Sylwia Ufnalska graduated from [Adam Mickiewicz University](#) in Poznań, Poland, and majored both in Biology (MSc, 1993) and in English Studies (MA, 1996). She also studied at [Trinity College, Dublin](#) (Botany, 1990-1991) and [Central European University](#) in Budapest (Environmental Sciences and Policy, 1994). She has worked as a freelance translator and editor of biomedical texts for about 20 years, and writes articles on scientific translation and communication. In 2009 Sylwia became a member of EASE Council and started to edit *EASE Guidelines for Authors and Translators of Scientific Articles*. Her initiative has proved to be successful, as the latest edition of the guidelines is available in more than 20 languages. Sylwia was also a member of the Anniversary Committee in 2012 and co-authored Golden rules for scholarly journal editors in 2014. Now she continues her work on *EASE Guidelines*.

Ines Steffens has been Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Eurosurveillance*, published by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in Stockholm, Sweden since April 2011. Before this she was managing editor for the journal from 2006, and she also set up and lead the Scientific Communication Section of the Centre until April 2011. Together with a dedicated editorial team, she was instrumental in shaping *Eurosurveillance* into an internationally recognised journal that provides relevant scientific information for rapid public health within its thematic scope. Before taking up her post at Eurosurveillance and ECDC, she was Editor-in-Chief for Germany's national epidemiological and public health bulletin, the *Epidemiologisches Bulletin* at the Robert-Koch institute, in Berlin, and represented Germany on the Eurosurveillance editorial board. Since 2008, she has been a Scientific Committee member of the European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE). She is member of the European Association of Science Editors (EASE) from 2010 onwards, part of the EASE Gender Policy Committee and since 2015, council member. She also member of the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME). Ines is a trained internist, with broad clinical experience and expertise in infectious diseases, and an interest in tropical medicine. She holds a master degree in public health, has a diploma in tropical medicine and public health and was trained in epidemiology.