Highlights from 13th EASE Conference, Strasbourg

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Presented at
A MedComms Networking Event
www.MedCommsNetworking.com
European Association of Science Editors (EASE)

• Professional organization of science editors and communicators
• Founded in 1982
• Approximately 450 members from around the world (not only Europe!)
• Conference every two years
• 13\textsuperscript{th} Conference: June 10-12 in Strasbourg
Core Theme
Scientific Integrity: Editors on the front line

• Reliability and reproducibility of published results has been questioned in the last decade. All disciplines are concerned, from biomedicine to sociology.
• Increased number of retractions for fraud. We don’t know if this reflects a true rise in the amount of misconduct or just better detection of misconduct.
• Efforts to improve the reproducibility and reliability of research will require the cooperation of researchers, funders, research institutions, professional bodies, publishers and editors.

Journals and editors have been accused of not maintaining sufficiently rigorous standards and processes: we must respond as we are on the front line.
Luc Soler (IRCAD, France) explained how advances in technology were bringing about a revolution in minimally invasive surgery using augmented reality.
Plenary Lecture: *Selective publication and the replicability crisis* by Lex Bouter, Vrijje University, Amsterdam

Lex Bouter: culture, système and individual behavior implicated un research mis behavior

#EASEstras

**Determinants Research Misbehaviour**

**SYSTEM**
- publication pressure
- hyper competition
- low risk – high rewards

**CULTURE**
- wrong role models
- insufficient mentoring
- no RCR education
- no clear guidance

**INDIVIDUAL**
- justifying misbehavior
- conflicts of interest
- moral attitudes
- personality traits
Key messages:

• Known cases of fraud are tip of iceberg. But sloppy science is much more common and therefore more important than fraud.

• Inadequate mentoring contributes to scientific misconduct.

• Publication pressure linked to cutting corners as well as dissatisfaction + burn out of scientists

• We need more transparency and to re-think the awards system
Issues

• Plagiarism – sloppy science or dishonest intention?
• Research waste
• Bias towards English language
• Gender bias
• Knowing author rights
Muddying the waters

@samulack on unethical publishing practices at #EASEstras. @RPRcoalition

Things That Keep Me Awake at Night
Predatory and Irresponsible Publication Practices

- Every facet of the 'axis of publication' now has predatory and irresponsible elements of activity associated with it:
  - Editorial board solicitation
  - Peer reviewer solicitation/fixing
  - Manuscript solicitation
  - Peer review promises
  - Predatory Author Services
    - Authorship for sale
    - Plagiarism/data stealing
    - Manuscripts for sale
    - Writing fraud
- In 2-years' time, an author will have a very hard time identifying what are ethical practices. We will not be able to educate fast enough as for unethical practices become mainstream.

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Tools & Resources

- Screening tools

- Understanding and supporting the role of technical and managing editors

- Education & help for editors
  - COPE
  - Assistance from publishers
  - Reviewer training
  - Certification for editors?

- Coalition for Responsible Publication Resources
Guidelines

- Use of guidelines and standards (and how to implement these)
  - The CoBRA guidelines for citation of bioresources
  - How can SAGER guidelines contribute to sex and gender equity in research?
  - Institute of Gender Health’s training modules to improve reviewer’s ability to assess sex and gender in publications
  - Five years of EASE Guidelines (2010–2015): promoting complete, readable, and ethical publications

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

- Post-publication peer review (https://pubpeer.com/)
Conclusions

‘I think we would all agree that publishers, editors, peer reviewers, institutions and researchers all have a collective responsibility to foster best practices and ensure the integrity of the published literature. Thank you to the conference organizers for a stimulating and varied programme.’

Elizabeth Moylan & Maria Kowalczuk
BioMed Central blog
http://blogs.biomedcentral.com/bmcblog/2016/06/17/scientific-integrity-editors-front-line/
Find details & presentations

http://www.ease.org.uk/ease-events/13th-ease-conference-strasbourg-france/
https://twitter.com/hashtag/EASEstras?src=hash
Thank you for listening

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