News notes

CMAJ editor sacked
In February 2016 the Canadian Medical Association disbanded the Journal Oversight Committee of the *Canadian Medical Journal* and dismissed the Editor-in-Chief, John Fletcher. The CMA said the action was needed to modernise the journal in the face of declining reputation and revenue. Many other editors have expressed concern about the removal of the Oversight Committee, and the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME) expressed serious concern about violation of principles of editorial independence set out by WAME, the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, and other organisations (www.wame.org/announcements; March 2016).

Altmetric accepts URNs
URNs (Uniform Resource Names) are a type of identifier for online content and resources. They are widely used by European institutional repositories. In March 2016, Altmetric, the widely used metrics service, started supporting URNs, meaning that documents such as theses and dissertations could be assessed for 'attention' on social media and secondary sources. You can read more about how it works on the Altmetric Blog (altmetric.com/blog; 18 March 2016).

What to do when papers omit relevant citations
If a scientific paper omits a key reference, whether by oversight or intention, what action should be taken, and can this be prevented? A discussion on the Retraction Watch blog (retractionwatch.com; 23 February 2016) explored various options, with the majority of respondents agreeing it was a common and longstanding issue, and that a correction is often warranted. Many also felt that peer reviewers were the gatekeeper for this.

EQUATOR Wizard
The EQUATOR Network has collaborated with start-up company Penelope (peneloperesearch.com) to develop a 'wizard' that helps authors identify and use reporting guidelines relevant to their work. The EQUATOR wizard asks a series of questions, then proposes a relevant checklist, with an option to access it. There's more on the thinking behind it on the EQUATOR Network website (www.equator-network.org). Publisher BioMed Central has been piloting the wizard and you can read more on the BMC Series Blog (blogs.biomedcentral.com/bmcseriesblog; 12 February 2016), and you can try it out at www.peneloperesearch.com/equatorwizard.

SciHub
The SciHub website, developed by a developer and researcher based in Kazakhstan, has since 2011 been gathering a massive, free repository of scientific articles that would otherwise be behind publisher paywalls. SciHub attracted attention early 2016 after Elsevier filed a legal complaint alleging copyright infringement, prompting much debate on the implications of such a 'black market'. You can read more on the Scholarly Kitchen blog (scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org; 25 February 2016) and The Conversation (theconversation.com; 13 April 2016).

Authorship games
What do you do if an author of a paper uses a pseudonym? And what if there are tens of thousands of them? This was the situation facing the editor of one journal that published a paper co-authored by a large number of people who took part in an online game (Eterna) and used their game name. The study (*Journal of Molecular Biology* 2017;428:748) used data from the game to assess whether humans are better at computer algorithms at designing RNA sequences that can fold into particular shapes. As reported in *Science* (sciencemag.org; 17 February 2016), the editor expressed concerns about accountability and authorship, but the eventual solution was to list only those who agreed to be named, with a supplementary file listing the gaming names of the other contributors.

Impact Vizor
Impact Vizor is a new visual analytics product developed by HighWire Press. The aim is to help editors and publishers understand and interpret a range of usage and citation data for their journal articles. One interesting feature is the Rejected Article Tracker, which shows how many citations are eventually achieved by rejected articles. The HighWire Blog has more information (blog.highwire.org).

New COPE discussion document
The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) has published a discussion document on best practice for consent for publishing medical case reports. The document is available on the COPE website (publicationethics.org/resources), and COPE is seeking feedback and examples of case report forms.

Zika data sharing
Following the outbreak of the Zika virus in 2015 and its categorisation as a public health emergency by the World Health Organization in February 2016, many organisations responded to the WHO's call for timely and transparent sharing of data and results. An immediate commitment to this was signed by many leading global health bodies, journals, funders, institutes, and non-governmental organisations. Many journals published statements committing to sharing data as early as possible, and many also rapidly published open-access collections of relevant content.

ICMJE data sharing

The International Committtee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE; icmje.org) has published proposed requirements for sharing clinical trial data. In an editorial, ICMJE states that there is "an ethical obligation to responsibly share data generated by interventional clinical trials because participants have put themselves at risk" (*Annals of Internal Medicine* 2016;26 January), and states that any agreed requirements will come into effect one year later. ICMJE has four main safeguards to ensure responsible data sharing: (1) deposition of data will not be considered prior publication; (2) authors of secondary analyses must agree to terms; (3) data should be referred to be a unique identifier; and (4) secondary analyses should state how they differ from previous analyses. ICMJE received over 250 responses, including one from EASE.

Denver Conferences on research integrity

The University of Colorado in Denver, USA, will be hosting two conferences relating to research integrity this year. The National Data Integrity Conference (www. sqa.org/NDIC16) takes place on 2-3 June 2016, followed by a Retractions Conference, suppoerted by the US Office of Research Integrity, on 20-21 July (vprnet.research.colostate.edu/ oriconference).