

Reports of meetings

The Third World Conference on Research Integrity: at EASE with publication ethics

Montréal, Canada, 5-8 May 2013

The conferences on research integrity have grown from a predominantly European meeting in Lisbon in 2007 to a truly global think tank about promoting and strengthening the standards for integrity in all aspects of research work at its conferences in Singapore in 2010 and now in Montréal in 2013.

The Conference in Montreal was a truly exciting event that covered high-level research with practical aspects of research integrity in daily work. It was fascinating to take part in the discussions of experts from different research fields and disciplines, and from all over the world. It is not surprising that the global nature of the conference in Montreal resulted in a draft of the conference Statement on Research Integrity in Cross-Boundary Research Collaborations. The Statement is available at http://wcri2013.org/Montreal_Statement_e.shtml (currently open to discussion). It addresses the basic principles and responsibilities of individual and institutional partners in international research collaborations – such collaborations often span different cultures, regulatory and legal systems, as well as education, research, and funding structures.

As editors, we should look for the outcome of one of the four Focus Track Sessions, entitled “How should institutions and journals work together in cases of suspected misconduct”. The Session was led by Dr Sabine Kleinert from The Lancet, former Board member of Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), and Dr Elizabeth Wager, former COPE Chair. The sessions were lively and creative because all stakeholders in publication integrity participated in the discussions, from editors and publishers to research integrity officers and managers at institutions and funding organisations. We are currently working on a joint document that will define the challenges to stakeholders in research and publication integrity cases.

EASE contribution to the Conference, and particularly the Focus Track on publication integrity was important and timely – with the poster on EASE Publication Ethics Checklist. The checklist was drafted by Sylwia Ufnalska, EASE Council Member, and is a part of the EASE Guidelines for Authors and Translators of Scientific Articles to be Published in English, developed by a group of EASE members, which was headed by Sylwia Ufnalska (the guidelines are available at <http://www.ease.org.uk/publications/author-guidelines>).

The EASE Checklist attracted enormous attention, particularly of research integrity officers at universities and research institutions, who recognised its value as a tool to deter publication misconduct and promote responsible conduct in publishing.

The next World Conference on Research Integrity is scheduled to be held in Brazil, in 2015. Surely, we'll witness greater proliferation of studies on research integrity so that we can provide a solid evidence base for informed policy decisions in this area. I hope EASE members will join their efforts and collaborate to advance research integrity.

Proudly presenting EASE at the Third World Conference of Research Integrity – explaining EASE Publication Ethics Checklist to a colleague from Canada.



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