

ACSE workshop for journal editors: Journal policies and publication ethics

4 February, Islamabad, Pakistan

The Asian Council of Science Editors organised a workshop on “Publication Ethics and Journal Policies” in collaboration with the Pakistan Council of Science and Technology (PCST), Higher Education Commission Pakistan (HEC) and Asian Network for Scientific Information. The workshop was led by Dr Elizabeth Wager, a recognised expert in publication ethics, former Chair of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), and author of several COPE guidelines.

The inaugural ceremony featured thoughtful speeches by recognised experts including Dr Anwar ul Hassan Gilani, Chairperson PCST, Dr Mahabubul Alam, Vice President ACSE and Dr Mansoor Akbar Kundi, Executive Director, HEC. After the ceremony, Dr Wager started the formal programme of the workshop. She encouraged participants to develop or strengthen ethical policies for their journals and gave them practical advice about how to do this. She suggested it is helpful to have a written policy document, detailed procedures, and information for authors, reviewers, and editorial board members. The full-day workshop comprised lectures, small group interactions, and lively discussions with the participants, who included more than 90 journal editors-in-chief, managing editors, associate editors, and publishers from a wide range of disciplines, eg engineering, business studies, computer science, earth sciences, life sciences, social sciences, and medicine.

The audience of the workshop unanimously requested that the ACSE organise events like this for them in the near future.

Nida Mohsin

Focus on training

EASE has long recognised the strategic value of training and recently a study group was established, within the wider initiatives of the “EASE strategy” group, to investigate training and certification from different perspectives. EASE Regional chapters, already established in some countries (Russia, Croatia, Mexico, Italy) support EASE initiatives at a local level and a number of training activities have recently been held within wider training programmes aimed at researchers in specific areas.

Peru: A two-day workshop on scientific writing was held as part of the First International Conference on Breast Cancer organized in Lima in March 2015. The workshop was in Spanish and trainers were editors from different countries: Mexico (Maria del Socorro Romero Figueroa Arcocer), Peru (Fernando Ardito), Argentina (Eduardo Mansilla), and Italy (Paola De Castro, representing EASE). This was also an opportunity to exchange ideas and compare practices and ways to manage common problems. The workshop was attended by over 100 people. The EASE logo was included in the Workshop programme and the conference organisers (Professors Gordon McVie and Jhony de La Cruz Vargas), were so happy with the results

that they asked for a more advanced workshop for authors to be organised.

Italy: A short training course on how to publish a journal article was organized at the Faculty of Medicine of the University Sapienza of Rome, in April 2015. It was addressed to medical doctors within a second level Master course of Pediatric Pneumology directed by Professor Giancarlo Tancredi. About 20 people attended the course where different issues regarding how to publish a journal article were addressed, with lively discussions on copyright, open access journals, and the role of referees.

Training in scientific writing is part of a pilot project in Italy towards the creation of an ECDL health doc (a driving licence for health professionals who should acquire certified knowledge on how to search and use online information and how to write a scientific journal article). The ongoing activity of the ECDL project will be reported in a conference to be held in Rome on June 18th (in Italian) “Scientific documentation for health professions: share and certify knowledge to guarantee appropriateness of interventions” to present the broader issue of training editors and authors; EASE’s involvement and the activity of the Italian chapter will be reported.

Ethiopia and Bolivia: Training initiatives addressed to researchers and physicians in public health are under development in Ethiopia and Bolivia, within research and training projects started by the Italian National Institute of Health (ISS). These two countries, with completely different backgrounds, share the desire to show the results of their research activity through publication in national and international journals. Two events were organized at Mekelle University (Ethiopia), in November 2014 and February 2015, and the necessity of training in scientific writing emerged as a crucial issue to be developed in the near future. The same issue was discussed during a workshop on environmental and occupational health, organized at the Ministry of Health in La Paz (Bolivia) where its importance was emphasised during a session of the three-day workshop devoted to the dissemination of research. EASE’s role and the tools provided to support authors and editors were presented.

Following a request from the New Bulgarian University in Sofia, the possibility of organising a future training event in Bulgaria in 2016 was discussed during the last EASE Council Meeting in April.

Croatia: A summer school on scientific communication, sponsored by EASE, will be organized in Split, 30 June – 3 July 2015, chaired by Professors Ana Marušić and Ida Raffaelli. The summer school, unique in its multidisciplinary approach, is targeted at doctoral students and young postdoctoral fellows from all scientific fields who are preparing their first manuscript or would like to improve their skills in writing and publishing in scientific journals. Participants are required to bring a draft manuscript for the paper clinic of the summer school. Further information can be found at <http://wp.ffzg.unizg.hr/sssc15/>

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