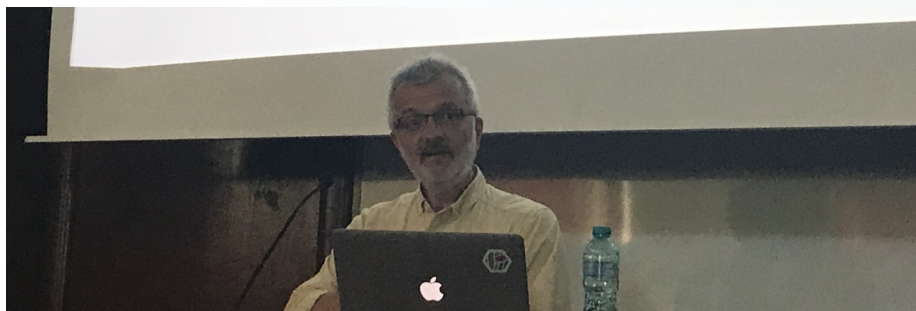


Poenaru Post

Welcome to the final edition of our 2018 conference newsletter, Poenaru Post. Though the conference is over we have a bumper issue with highlights from Saturday and Sunday, including the winners of our conference poster presentations..

We must also extend our gratitude to everyone who contributed session summaries to this newsletter to make it possible. Huge thanks to the Lancet crew of Sam Hinsley, Ashley Cooper, and Kate McIntosh, and Jamie Lundine (Gender, Work and Health Research Unit , Uni. Ottawa) - and of course, Joan Marsh for recruiting them!



Harmonising tradition & evolution

The conference theme of balancing innovation and tradition was richly addressed by Mark Patterson in his lecture on reconfiguring the functions of journals.

In the closing keynote, Mark talked us through the changes in scientific communication since his time as a genomics researcher in 1985, when a budding scientist would keep up with the latest research by scouring the pages of What's New and sending postcards to authors to request copies of articles. Quite the contrast with today's world of digital archiving services!

Mark took us through the development of publishing, described how potential competitors such as preprint servers and mega-journals can co-exist with the traditional by serving different functions. He introduced us to the open-source software available to researchers to start their own journals and respond to the needs of their research community.

Mark reflected on a recurring theme of the conference; the problem of high-prestige journals determining career progression. He described the feedback loop that keeps successful researchers successful while leaving others struggling. The solution, he proposed, might be found in a systems-thinking approach, in which more responsibilities (such as editorial board involvement or peer review) were given to early career researchers who were trying to build a reputation. Fostering cooperation between all of those involved in the research process, from funders to indexers, could be a good start. With a little luck and a lot of hard work it could even be possible to shift thinking from the current "publish or perish" model to one of "share and shine". Mark certainly left us thinking of ways we could contribute to achieve this happier state of affairs!

14th

EASE Conference

Balancing innovation and tradition
in science editing

Bucharest 2018



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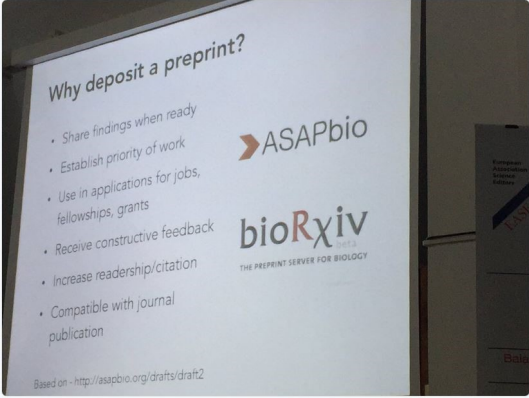
LinkedIn www.linkedin.com/groups/2661379

Top Tweets

Some more of the most popular tweets of the conference.

Richard Smith and 7 others Retweeted

Dr Diane Kelsall @dlkellsall · Jun 10
Six reasons why to deposit a preprint according to @marknpatterson #EASE18 @EASEeditors



Why deposit a preprint?

- Share findings when ready
- Establish priority of work
- Use in applications for jobs, fellowships, grants
- Receive constructive feedback
- Increase readership/citation
- Compatible with journal publication

ASAPbio
bioRxiv
THE PREPRINT SERVER FOR BIOLOGY

Based on - <http://asapbio.org/drafts/draft2>

1 43 69

Origin Editorial and 9 others Retweeted

Duncan Nicholas @dnjournals · Jun 10
Q- What is the best way to reward reviewers?
A- @squazzoni says reputation-building rewards e.g. requiring funders to request evidence of review activity are more effective than those targeting personal gain (which are not sustainable)
#EASE18 @EASEeditors pic.twitter.com/xEBCCJm3HR

2 22 24

EASE @EASEeditors · Jun 9
"It is not enough to make guidelines and publish them, we must implement them and make them work"

@paodecas introducing the SAGER gender equity session this afternoon #EASE18



WHY AN INTERACTIVE SESSION?
Generate DEBATE among journal editors TO TAKE ACTION and move forward towards SAGER vision

1 11 18

Ksenija Bazdaric Retweeted

Riitta Koikkalainen @RiittaAK · Jun 10
Cem Uzun: teamwork is essential in making proper #scholarlyjournal - no human is able to make it all by oneself. (Neither does AI, I think.) #trakyuni #eas18 #scholarlypublishing

3 7

Flaminio Squazzoni and 5 others liked

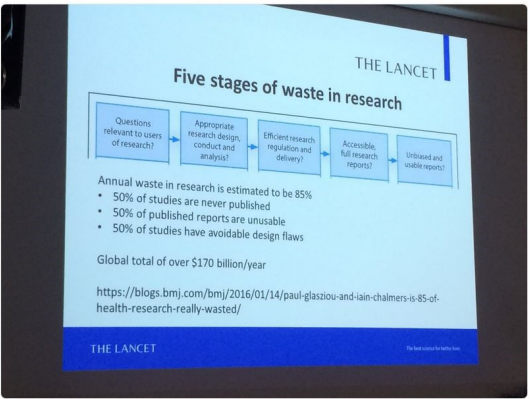
Jocelyn Clark @jocaynclark · Jun 12
Tremendous #eas18 Conference learning about #journals #peerreview #editorial - thank you @EASEeditors and especially this dynamo Joan Marsh from @TheLancetPsych who kept us all on track and smiling!




1 19

Flaminio Squazzoni and 5 others liked

Bahar Mehmani @mehmanib · Jun 10
Annual waste in research is estimated to be 85% with global total of over \$170billion/Y #researchintegrity #EASE18



THE LANCET

Five stages of waste in research

- Questions relevant to users of research?
- Appropriate research design, conduct and analysis?
- Efficient research, regulation and delivery?
- Accessible, full research reports?
- Unbiased and usable reports?

Annual waste in research is estimated to be 85%

- 50% of studies are never published
- 50% of published reports are unusable
- 50% of studies have avoidable design flaws

Global total of over \$170 billion/year


<https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2016/01/14/paul-glassioui-and-ian-chalmers-is-85-of-health-research-really-wasted/>

THE LANCET

1 31 36

Andy Nobes and 2 others liked

Duncan Nicholas @dnjournals · Jun 9
Good case study from Liz Bowley @FrontiersIn demonstrating that open access of research is needed for public information. Residents of Nepal would not have had this paper when they needed it if it had been closed #EASE18



Case Study

The 2015 Gorkha Nepal earthquake: Insights from an interactive database survey

1 8 15

Sex and Gender debating session

The session titled “How can editors contribute to sex and gender equity in research” from Saturday was organised by the [EASE Gender Policy Committee](#) (GPC), and structured in an open debate style, with five speakers pitching a controversial statement to the audience. Opening remarks were delivered by Paola De Castro, National Institute of Health – Italy, who provided an overview of the main output of the GPC: [Sex and Gender in Equity in Research](#) (SAGER) Guidelines. She also a word of caution: “It is not enough to make guidelines and publish them, we must implement them and make them work.”

Shirin Heidari from Geneva Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies took the stance that “*there should be a standardized method for journals to ensure adherence to sex and gender reporting guidelines*”, requiring authors to accurately report the sex and/or gender of research participants to improve quality, reliability, and reproducibility of science.

Cara Tannenbaum from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Gender and Health, argued that “*sex and gender policy starts with the funders*”, profiling the CIHR system, where authors justify how they have taken sex and gender into consideration (or not), and peer reviewers comment on the appropriateness of the considerations during their evaluation of grant applications.

Kate McIntosh, from *The Lancet* argued that “*SAGER guidelines are not applicable to my journal*”, making a case that their norm is to use conditional language in instructions to authors.

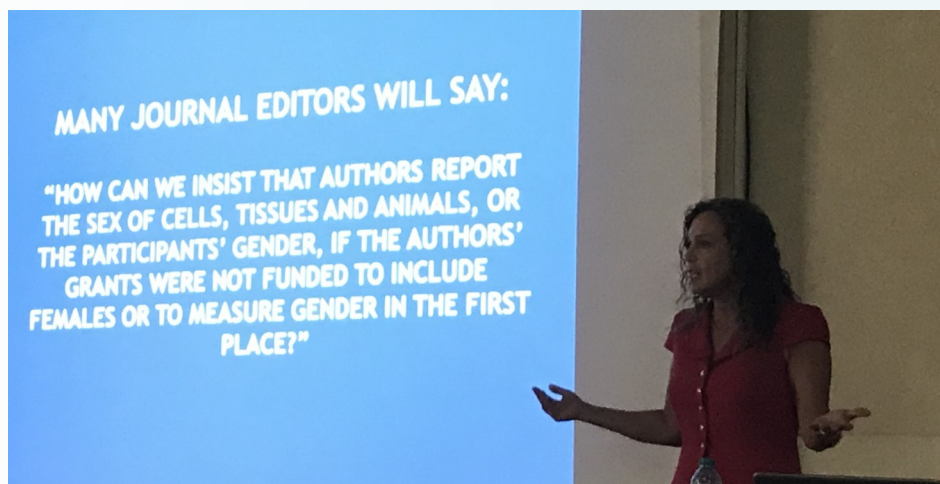
She presented three key reasons against endorsing the guidelines: sex and gender may not be the only population relevant characteristics; required reporting may lead researchers to imply a difference where there could be none; and may slow down the publication of (urgent) papers.

Forth, Bahar Mehmani, Elsevier, gave possibly the most controversial statement of the session, that “*inclusion and diversity is not necessarily adding value to the peer review process and editors should not promote it*” – to audible gasps from the audience, promoting much debate. Finally, Jamie Lundine from the University of Ottawa argued that “*gender equity in research is an academic matter and not the responsibility of publishers*”. She presented existing evidence of gender bias in research content, but also the lack of women in authorship and working as professors in Europe, Canada and New Zealand; thus, arguing the causes and consequences of a dearth of women are complex. She put forward the example where the University Medical Center Utrecht in the Netherlands used a *gender transformative* approach to rewarding academic scientists with promotion.

During discussion, five audience members’ journals reported endorsing the SAGER guidelines; for example, [Eurosurveillance](#) supports the guidelines on the grounds that reporting and analysis on sex and gender reduce inaccurate generalisations in research – authors and readers can draw more appropriate conclusions and recommendations when they pay attention to sex and gender of the research participants or population. There was broad consensus that all actors in the academic publishing ecosystem (funders, publishers, journals and editors, researchers, academic institutions and regulatory bodies) have a role to play in sex and gender equity in research.



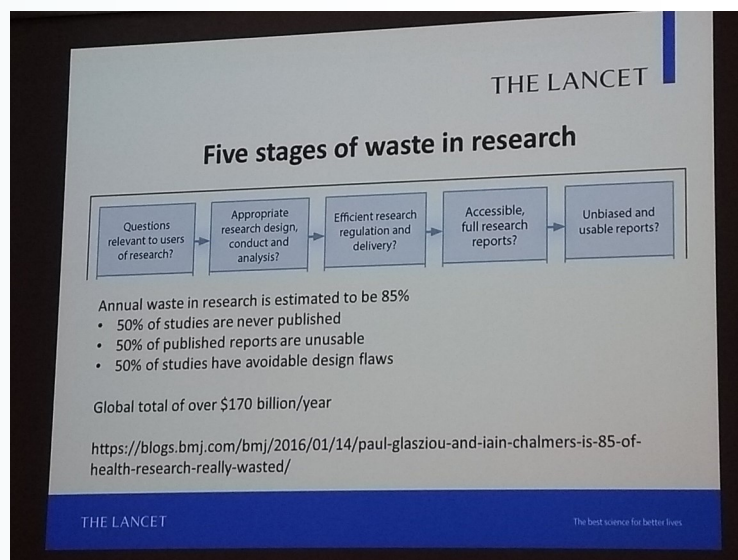
EASE members interested in learning more about the SAGER guidelines can find resources on the [GPC section of the website](#) or contact Joan Marsh or Tom Babor (co-chairs of the GPC) for more information.



Cara Tannenbaum making statements at the GPC session

The REWARDS of good reporting

The *Lancet*'s Sam Hinsley started the day's parallel session by blowing us away with the estimated cost of research waste: \$170 billion per year, globally. The journal's Reduce research Waste And Reward Diligence (REWARD) campaign invites critical review of research value and the gathering of recommendations to reduce research waste. The inclusion of a Research in Content panel in all primary research articles is one of the journal's efforts to reduce research waste; this panel is written and submitted before peer review, and is used to emphasise the broader context of the study and what it adds to the literature—a point particularly relevant to funding bodies. The journal has many other practices in place to reduce research waste, and more are to come (including the inclusion of data sharing statements and plans that will soon be required by ICMJE journals all 'round)!



Sam Hinsley's slides: photo credit [Jamie Lundine @jlundine](#)

Caroline Struthers reminded us of the importance of guidelines, namely that the problem of waste regarding incomplete or unusable reports could be overcome by their correct use. We heard about the freely available [goodRe-ports.org](#)—a new tool from EQUATOR— that offers authors a multiple-choice, decision-tree questionnaire to help them to identify the most appropriate guidelines for their study. The newly developed Penelope software for use within journal systems also has great potential to reduce research waste. Authors can be prompted to use the software when submitting their article and, if used, the software will run around 40 checks, flagging issues like technical and missing ethics statements. Where next? Caroline said there are lots of ideas in the air at EQUATOR, including the potential combination of several guidelines (eg, incorporating SAGER guidelines into any existing guideline).

MDPI's Delia Mihaila asked how we can reduce research waste if we are not inclusive and don't offer open and immediate access to research? From the perspective of an open access publisher, she suggests that we should consider publishing papers with negative results, or even partial results or pieces of a bigger study, which might not be groundbreaking but can still help other researchers by filling a gap in their results. The publication of incomplete studies of postdoctoral researchers and PhD students leaving academia might also be an area to explore. A couple of MDPI's research waste reduction efforts involve allowing free access to research results, facilitating reproducibility, and facilitating access to research by other interested parties, who may not normally enjoy a subscription.

PhD student Noémie Aubert Bonn from Universiteit Hasselt, who studies research integrity, shared her preliminary research findings with an eager audience. Alarming, Noémie's findings indicate the determinants of misconduct related to the system (ie, system pressures, perceptions of climate, financial incentives, inadequate oversight, discipline, policy) were seen to be causative of misconduct, but few approaches target this point and most focused on awareness of and compliance by researchers. She also has evidence to suggest that a great proportion of papers target misconduct related to publishing, yet editors are rarely targeted. We will be keen to hear more from Noémie after the next stages of her project!

Wanted! Peer Review: dead or alive

Peer review is a cornerstone of journal publishing, but reviewers are often taken for granted. In the first talk of the session devoted to this practice, Flaminio Squazzoni highlighted just how little we really know about peer reviewers as a group. He talked of how, by partnering with 260 members in 32 countries, the PEERE group is trying to bring some academic rigour to the study of peer review. This academic approach was continued by Mersiha Mahmić-Kaknjo of the University of Zenica School of Medicine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, who discussed the findings of her systematic review on what motivates peer reviewers to perform this vital work, often with little in the way of tangible reward. In fact, one of the biggest motivators appeared to be the opportunity for them to stay up to date on current work in their fields.

Markus Heinemann, Editor of The Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeon gave a different perspective, providing an autopsy of the papers submitted to his journal that never even made it to peer review. The most common reason for rejection before review was, overwhelmingly, that research did not meet the criteria for inclusion in the journal, which he described as at least a quick death. Research outside the scope of the journal died similarly rapidly, although that which lacked originality or was plagued by faulty science lingered longer.

Finishing off the session was Bahar Mehmani from RELX in the Netherlands, who introduced Elsevier's VolunPeers system as a way of giving reviewers some of the credit they deserve. VolunPeers gives reviewers their own profile pages, allowing journals to credit them as verified reviewers. Furthermore, the system lets reviewers suggest which journals they'd like to review for, which seemed like a win-win for all involved: editors get a ready pool of enthusiastic reviewers to choose from, and reviewers get to work on what really motivates them. If we can all adopt the lessons of this session, then the future of editor-reviewer relationships seems set to enter an interesting new era.



The peer review panel, from left to right: Markus, Mersiha, Flaminio, Bahar



Kadri Kiran receiving his award from Jocalyn Clark

Conference Poster Winners

Congratulations to the winners of our conference poster competition! We received 12 presentations, which our judges, Mark Patterson and Jocalyn Clark assessed after receiving presentations of each. It was a tough decision, but they eventually selected two winners in two categories, one medical and one non-medical.

Medical Category:

Kadri Kiran (Trakya University, Turkey) *Compliance analysis of journals published by Trakya University with principles of transparency and best practice in scholarly publishing*

Non-Medical Category:

Vivienne C. Bachelet, Francisco A. Uribe, Alonso Vergara, and Rubén Díaz (Universidad de Santiago de Chile, Chile) *Misrepresentation in reported author affiliations to Chilean universities in the scholarly literature: a cross-sectional pilot study*

CrossRef Traffic

When it comes to data citations, Rachael Lammy tells us that CrossRef is looking to support initiatives that encourage standardised practices which allow reuse to be acknowledged and tracked. CrossRef suggests data citations be deposited as bibliographic references (the data citation is included in the deposit of bibliographic references for each publication) or as relations (the data link included in the relationship section of the metadata deposit)). Rachael says there is much more exposure of data alongside scholarly articles, availability will have an effect on reproducibility.

Bart Verberck, Head of Springer Nature's new base in Berlin, Germany, shared some interesting insight with us: data archiving can double the publication output of studies, and primary investigators who archived their data were more likely to publish more articles per project. Not only do we need to look at the differences in policy types when it comes to data sharing, we also need to assess the cost of helping authors to share their data—eg, through data availability statements. Bart says the cost (between 5 and 10 mins) is worth the effort.

Wearing her COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) Council hat, Heather Tierney spoke with us about the role of COPE, as the promotor of integrity of the scholarly record through policies and best practices that reflect the current principles of transparency and integrity. COPE's website has a wealth of resources, cases, guidelines, flowcharts, and documents designed to propose questions about and promote discussion. COPE is undoubtedly a resource we should all investigate!

Management and development around the world

Elisabeth Bowley from *Frontiers* took us through the key milestones involved in setting up a new journal, from initial stages of community-focussed market research, through costs, content acquisition, to the launch and beyond, to raise the profile and attention. She warned that it can take cost hundreds of thousands of Euros and several years for a new journal to be financially viable.

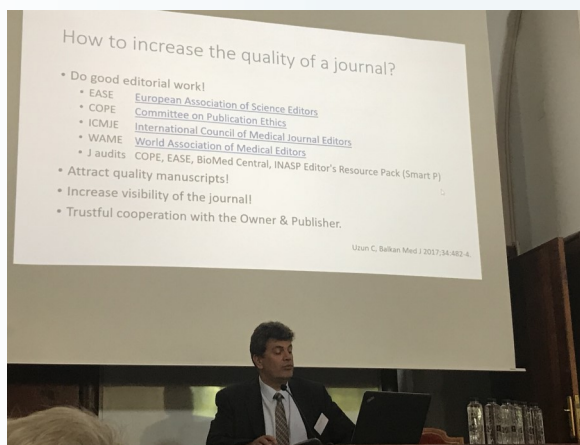
Cem Uzun from the *Balkan Medical Journal*, Turkey, stressed the importance of teamwork in improving your journal. He stated that a journal's goal should not be a high impact factor, but to increase the quality of science. How are we to do this? Cem had several suggestions, the most notable of which were transparent and fast review, regular evaluation of quality (including checking for plagiarism), and engagement with organisations and guidelines, such as EASE and COPE, and involving a range of board members.

Kianoush Khosravi Darani, from Shahis Beheshti University of Medical Sciences and the Editor-in-Chief of *Applied Food Biotechnology*, Iran, spoke of the obstacles to improving journals. A quotation from Dr H Whitefield began the presentation: "If you do not want to make friends, become an editor"—a sentiment with which I'm sure many of us empathise. Kianoush described recurring

problems she encounters as editor-in-chief, including (but not limited to) plagiarism, authors pressing for early publication or disrupting publication because of paper withdrawal, financial constraints, and the expensive, slow, and subjective process of peer review. Fittingly, but unfortunately, Kianoush also had several obstacles to her arrival, so we were particularly glad to have her here.

The "painful" process of changing publisher was then described by Marlène Bras, Executive Editor of *Journal of the International AIDS Society*, Switzerland. Starting from December 2016, Marlène focused on crucial points in the timeline up to signing a contract in July '17 and the transition to new publisher from August to October. Marlène's detailed and useful considerations addressed journal needs such as offering services, or retaining journal identity, structuring a proposal, and interviewing potential publishers. It was clear this had not been an easy process. Patience, it appears, is the main attribute needed for this undertaking!

Pippa Smart, EASE President, finished the session on a topic very familiar to many of us: General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the new regulation in EU law. Pippa recommended that those who are unfamiliar with the GDPR but who collect any data on EU citizens (whether as authors, reviewers, or editorial board members) should ensure they review their policies, ask ourselves whether the data we collect are necessary for specified and legitimate business purposes. Most important for publishers is the right to be forgotten because author and reviewer details may need to be retained for use in potential future cases of scientific fraud. [The advice by EASE on GDPR is on the website.](#) Pippa also highlighted the new COPE principles of transparency, which she strongly advised us to check we were conforming to.



Cem, telling us where to get the best support and guidance