Editorial Guidelines and APAME

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Outline

• Concerns with publications
• Available selected guidelines and scope
• Experience elsewhere - FAME
• What about APAME-WPRIM?
Introduction

• Publication in peer-reviewed journals is an integral part of biomedical research
• Concerns and omissions in publications
• Transparency in reporting
• Policies need to target researchers, authors, editors, organisations/associations, others
Introduction

• The Declaration of Helsinki, updated in 2008, places accuracy and completeness among the primary ethical obligations of individuals communicating medical research, and

• suggests that “reports of research not in accordance with [its] principles should not be accepted for publication.”
Some available Guidelines

• What guidance is available for reporting research studies?
• In addition to the Uniform Requirements, a number of reporting guidelines were developed by groups of experts to **facilitate reporting of research studies**. Medical journals, including BMJ, JAMA, Lancet, and NEJM often require compliance to all or some of the following reporting guidelines:
  • **CONSORT Statement** (reporting of randomized controlled trials)
  • **STARD** (reporting of diagnostic accuracy studies)
  • **STROBE** (reporting of observational studies in epidemiology)
  • **PRISMA** (reporting of systematic reviews), which replaced **QUOROM**
  • **MOOSE** (reporting of meta-analyses of observational studies)
Some available guidelines

- COPE Committee on Publication Ethics
- CSE Council of Scientific Editors
- FAME Forum for African Medical Editors
- HINARI Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative
- ICMJE International Committee of Medical Journal Editors
- QUOROM Quality of Reporting of Meta-analyses
- WAME World Association of Medical Editors
- WMA World Medical Association
- WHO World Health Organization
Medical Research Council
Good Research Practice Guidelines

• foster a culture which supports and embeds good research practice and aims to prevent research misconduct

• Guidelines emphasise:
  – Research excellence and integrity:
  – Respect, ethics and professional standards
  – Honesty and transparency
  – Openness and accountability
Good publication practice for communicating company sponsored medical research: the GPP2 guidelines

Source: BMJ 2009;339:b4330 doi: 10.1136/bmj.b4330

• In response to changes in the environment in which authors, presenters, and other collaborators around the world work together to communicate medical research,

• the International Society for Medical Publication Professionals has updated the good publication practice guidelines for developing articles and presentations in a responsible and ethical manner
GPP2

- Integrity
- Completeness
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Responsibility
Good publication practice for pharmaceutical companies

Source: Good publication practice for pharmaceutical companies

1998 – Retreat organised by the Council of Biology Editors (Council of Science Editors) - journal editors, academics/investigators and pharmaceutical company employees involved with publications

• Relationship between pharmaceutical companies and academic investigators
• Publication bias
• Enhance Transparency
• Avoidance of redundant publication of positive findings
• Professional writers - developing peer reviewed papers
• [The European Medical Writers Association (EMWA) Guidelines]
Media

• we must give our audiences content made to the highest editorial and ethical standards. Their trust depends on it. (BBC)
• Online inaccuracies can spread quickly, widely and irreversibly – ABC
• In the digital age, it is important for online media to be clear and precise. Online readers have even less patience than readers of print material - TIME
Editorial Policies and the Media

- Trust
- Truth and Accuracy
- Impartiality
- Editorial Integrity and Independence
- Serving the public interest
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Editorial Integrity and Independence from External Interests
- Conflicts of Interest
- Timely reports can avert harm, improve decision
Forum for African Medical Editors (FAME) Editorial Guidelines

- [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2004/TDR_RCS_FAME_04.2.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2004/TDR_RCS_FAME_04.2.pdf)
- A postal survey on 63 African medical journals (2002) found that the majority of medical and health journals
  - did not publish regularly,
  - lacked high quality articles and standard peer review practice
  - were mostly invisible to the rest of the international medical community
  - Technical skills of editors need to be upgraded in most settings
FAME

– Reviewers often non-compliant with journal guidelines, some have conflict of interest, and others lack confidentiality and objectivity.

– Networking among different journals is non-existent, leaving most journal editors to work in isolation.

– Increasingly, medical editors have to grapple with ethical considerations.

– Many researchers and authors lack the knowledge required to address ethical issues.
Recommendation to produce FAME editorial guidelines that would be applied by African medical journals in order to **standardize** their practices and improve the **quality** and **visibility** of their publications

- review existing guidelines (WAME, CSE and COPE),
- adapt them to Africa and
- compile them into a brief printed handbook.

- The guidelines cover essential areas of editorial and publishing standards, ethics and scientific integrity, data reporting and analysis, referencing and bibliographic citations.
• Directed at: editors, reviewers and authors.
• Essential documents such as the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts to Biomedical Journals (http://www.icmje.org/index.html) and the Helsinki Declaration have been reproduced in the appendices of this booklet for ready reference.
Guidance on scientific writing

- Guidelines and guides
- Writing tips from journals
- Books
- Courses
- Presentations
- Other resources

Guidelines and guides

- Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: [Manuscript Preparation and Submission]
- EASE Guidelines for Authors and Translators of Scientific Articles to Be Published in English, EASE 2011
- Mayfield Handbook of Technical & Scientific Writing
- Guyatt GH, Erian Haynes R. Preparing reports for publication and responding to reviewers’ comments. Journal of Clinical Epidemiology 2006 Sep; 59(9):900–6
- Academic Phrasebank: (general resource for academic writing with examples of good phrases for a clear description of research studies; not discipline specific, designed primarily as a help for authors whose first language is not English). University of Manchester, UK.

Writing tips from journals’ instructions to authors

- Journals of Dental Research: "A few words about the style"
- Chest: "Medical Writing Tip of the Month" (free full texts)

Books
Editorial Policies

APAME – Initiatives, Moving Forward
• the “Mission of APAME” is to contribute to the improvement of health in the Asia Pacific Region by ensuring the quality of health-related information published in medical journals, which are utilized for better decision-making and effective delivery of health services
APAME/WPRIM

• Number of articles from WPRIM (Western Pacific Region) is the biggest relative to other regions
• WPRIM covers 431,296 articles and 496 journal titles from 12 member states

Source: JW Seo Past, Current and Future of WPRIM / APAME
• China: 226,537 articles, 224 journals
• Republic of Korea: 163,788 articles, 192 journals
• Japan: 14,261 articles, 13 journals
• Singapore: 11,228 articles, 5 journals
• Vietnam: 6,418 articles, 12 journals
• Malaysia: 5,326 articles, 20 journals
• Philippines: 2,176 articles, 17 journals
• Papua New Guinea: 1,340 articles, 1 journal
• Mongolia: 175 articles, 8 journals
• Cambodia: 9 articles, 1 journal, Laos: 8 articles, 1 journal, Brunei: 0 articles, 1 journal and WPRO: 30 articles, 1 journal

Source: JW Seo Past, Current and Future of WPRIM / APAME
APAME/WPRIM

• a new full text service portal APAMED Central was launched at Kuala Lumpur on 31 August 2012 to hold journals from two regions.

• the development of APAME and editorial policy and guidelines will be closely linked to future advancement of the WPRIM
Some preliminary thoughts

Working Document for the Discussion of Editing and Peer Review (JA and Wang De)

• Understand the situation of editing and peer review in the Asia Pacific Region, the achievements made, and the problems that hinder journals from improving their quality.
Some preliminary thoughts

• Seek feasible approaches to improve the quality of editing and peer review for medical journals in Asia Pacific Region.
• Maintain continuous discussion and try to reach consensus on major issues on medical editing and peer review.
• Hold workshops on medical writing, editing and peer review.
Some preliminary thoughts

WORKING DRAFT APAME Editorial Policies (JMC Avila)

• Medical Editors Responsibilities
• Conflicts of interest, journal bias, and confidentiality of information
• Decisions about a manuscript should be based on its importance, originality, clarity and relevance to the journals scope and content.
Efforts to move forward - JAMJE

• JAMJE questionnaire survey (2012)
• Target: Editors of journals published by 112 member societies of JAMS
• To clarify the topics to be included in the JAMJE editorial guidelines, to meet not only international standards but also Japanese needs
• How to deal with increasing manuscripts
• Language concerns
• How to meet requirements of all society members
Efforts to move forward – APAME (Looi LM)

APAME ETHICS AND EDITORIAL POLICY COMMITTEE Report 2013 (Looi LM)

Action Plan:

Ethics and Editorial Policy

• Affirm Peer-review
• Transparent Editorial process
• Editorial independence
Efforts to move forward – APAME (Looi LM)

• Published Guidelines/ Instructions to authors
• Journal technical requirements (manuscript preparation)
• Ethical requirements (authorship, IRB approval, conflict of interest)
• Have a code of conduct for editors
• Have a code of conduct for reviewers
• Policy for handling allegations of misconduct
Concluding Remarks

• The Future – We have an Action Plan. Role of future opportunities to meet and push this agenda?

• developing guidelines is an iterative process and it is never possible to consult with everybody who might have something useful to contribute.

• regular review and discussion will lead to continually rising standards
THANK YOU