

The responsibility of Editors and Publishers in Reporting of Research: Changing current practice – how to ACT

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Chair, COPE

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Some assumptions...

- In its widest sense the full and complete reporting of papers is an ethical imperative
- Poor reporting of research has the potential to lead directly to incorrect decisions being made on patient care and on future science
- Scholarly journals are at the sharp edge of reporting
- Editors are the **gatekeepers** to the published literature – pre and post publication

Who's involved?

- EQUATOR
- Guideline developers
- Journals
- Editors
- Reviewers
- Publishers
- Funders
- Professional Bodies
- Bulk purchasers of research eg
 - Libraries
 - Health services
 - Companies

Authors!

What about these assumptions?

- In its widest sense the full and complete reporting of papers is an ethical imperative
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Atul Gawande: heroes use checklists

- simple checklists turn out to be extraordinarily powerful tools for marshaling knowledge and for ensuring its correct use.
- the biggest roadblock is pushback from highly-trained experts who are offended by the idea.

... and what about this assumption?

- Editors are the gatekeepers to the published literature – pre and post publication
 - Many authors don't accept this gatekeeper function
 - The lines between editors and academics are blurring
 - Many journals, despite the best of intentions, are increasingly struggling with this concept
 - Resources
 - Attitudes
 - Technology
 - Journals are rarely autonomous
 - Where are the publishers in this debate?

Publishing is no longer (if it ever was) top down

“The concept of elite journals surely belongs to a past, when scientists had easy access only to a limited number of paper journals, and when ‘breakthrough’ science was comprehensible to a wide audience.”

“ the excessive power of editors in deciding on suitability for journals is corrupting”

PLOS Medicine author survey, June 2009

PLOS ONE Editorial Board

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Joel Joseph Gagnier

University of Michigan

UNITED STATES

This assumption is true at least

- Scholarly journals are at the sharp edge of reporting...

The literature is vast



has more than

**22 million bibliographic
citations and abstracts**

from 5000+ core Medline journals plus
various others

This is the world that we live in....



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 - eBay
 - Celia Imrie
 - Lance Armstrong
 - FBI
 - South Park
 - Sophie
 - Liam Neeson

Results for #equatorACT

Tweets Top / All / People you follow

Trish Groves @trished 11h
 Iain Chalmers #equatorACT patients shouldn't enter RCTs unless registered, with protocol that reviews previous evidence testingtreatments.org
 Retweeted 4 times
 Expand

Iain Hz @iainh_z 1h
 So tomorrow I get a flight to an airport that is in both France and Switzerland and then get a bus Germany. #ithinkigetitnow #equatorACT
 Expand

Trish Groves @trished 6h
 From floor at #equatorACT Steve Goodman #PCORI (he's on methodology ctte) should cooperate with European initiatives discussed here today
 Expand

Ginny Barbour @GinnyBarbour 7h
 #equatorACT Paula Williamson from @COMETinitiative on outcomes in clin trials. Guess what, parents have diff priorities from professionals
 Expand

Trish Groves @trished 7h
 Paula Williamson #equatorACT #coreoutcome sets for RCTs are better when clinicians involved in development, even more so with pts+carers
 Expand



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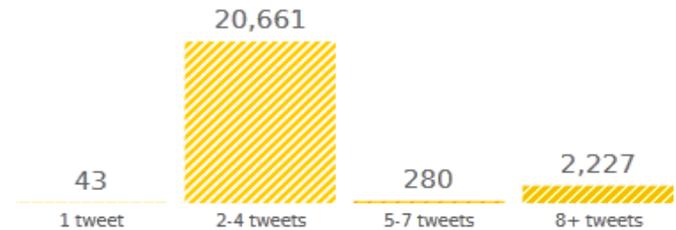
reach ⓘ

23,211

accounts reached

exposure ⓘ

75,395 impressions



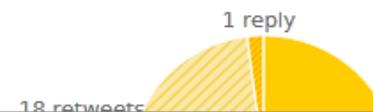
Each bar shows how many accounts received how many tweets

activity ⓘ

50 tweets

10 contributors

4 hours



Roles of Editors and Publishers

- Be aware of why good reporting matters
 - Similarities with COPE
 - Make it a core part of business as usual
- Think differently
 - Enable integration of guidelines in current practice
 - Keep it simple
 - Target the right people
- Collaborate
 - EQUATOR
 - Each other
 - Other interested organisations

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About COPE

COPE Governance

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History of COPE

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The **Committee on Publication Ethics** (COPE) was established in 1997 by a small group of medical journal editors in the UK but now has over 7000 members worldwide from all academic fields. Membership is open to editors of academic journals and others interested in publication ethics. Several major publishers (including [Elsevier](#), [Wiley-Blackwell](#), [Springer](#), [Taylor & Francis](#), [Palgrave Macmillan](#) and [Wolters Kluwer](#)) have signed up their journals as COPE members.

COPE provides advice to editors and publishers on all aspects of publication ethics and, in particular, how to handle cases of research and publication misconduct. It also provides a forum for its members to discuss individual cases (meeting four times a year in the UK and once a year in North America). COPE does not investigate individual cases but encourages editors to ensure that cases are investigated by the appropriate authorities (usually a research institution or employer).

All COPE members are expected to follow the Code of Conduct for Journal Editors. COPE will investigate complaints that members have not followed the Code.

COPE also funds [research](#) on publication ethics, publishes a quarterly [newsletter](#) and organises [annual seminars](#) in the UK and the USA. COPE has also created an [audit tool](#) for members to measure compliance with its [Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors](#).

What guidance is available on this website (for members and non-members)?

- COPE [Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors](#)
- [Flowcharts](#) on how to handle common ethical problems
- Other [COPE guidelines](#) (eg on retractions)
- [Sample letters](#) (to adapt for use)
- [Database of all cases](#) discussed at COPE Forum (including podcasts of the discussion (where available), the advice given and the outcome of cases)

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Welcome to ORCID

ORCID is an international, interdisciplinary, open, and not-for-profit organization created for the benefit of all stakeholders, including research institutions, funding organizations, publishers, and researchers to enhance the scientific discovery process and improve collaboration and the efficiency of research funding.

ORCID aims to solve the name ambiguity problem in scholarly communications by creating a registry of persistent unique identifiers for individual researchers and an open and transparent linking mechanism between ORCID, other ID schemes, and research objects such as publications, grants, and patents.

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- **Nudge authors to do the right thing**

Research Information Network report 2010: *If you build it, will they come?* *How researchers perceive and use web 2.0*

“Researchers themselves are the most important enablers and communicators of emerging best practice. It is important that they should consider the full range of available tools and services as an intrinsic part of the research and scholarly communication process, and seek to learn from each other about new developments and practices that prove beneficial.”