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www.publicationethics.org.uk

COPE members by discipline

Journal discipline	Number
• Medicine	689
• Life Sciences	420
• Arts & Humanities	385
• Economics, finance, industry, business	288
• Psychology, Social & behavioural science	284
• Engineering & Technical	178
• Computer Science	151
• Chemistry	150
• Environmental Science	111
• Education	107
• Physics	105
• Earth Sciences & Geography	95
• Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Nursing	83
• Math, Statistics	82
• Law	25
• Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Science	19

- COPE forum (open to all members) meets 3 monthly to discuss reported cases
- COPE officers provide urgent advice
- Not an investigatory or adjudicatory body

- 17 flowcharts on handling common submission or publication problems
- Audit tool for editors to assess their journal effectiveness in detecting, investigating & preventing misconduct
- Best practice guidelines

Code of Conduct for editor members and
advice on instigation and investigation

Library of over 350 cases discussed by COPE
forum since 1998 with summaries of advice
offered and outcomes

Model letters & quarterly bulletin

Dear Corresponding author,

RE: Your manuscript number ..., name ..., submitted to journal ...

We have noticed that one of the figures in the above manuscript may have been Manipulated inappropriately.

- *If necessary elaborate here – e.g. evidence of splicing of lanes on a gel.*
- *Refer authors to any guidelines you have on figure preparation*

We would be grateful for any explanation you can provide and look forward to hearing from you by... (If paper is not published add this text: Until we have heard from you we cannot proceed further with the review/publication of your paper).

Yours sincerely

Ethical Editing

Volume 1, Issue 1
Spring 2009 NEWS AND VIEWS FROM C O P E COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION ETHICS



An ethical epidemic

In December 2008, as I roamed the airport waiting for my plane from London back to Switzerland after my first COPE meeting, I came across Malcolm Gladwell's best-selling book *The Tipping Point*. I was intrigued by his idea that products, messages, and causes spread like epidemics of contagious disease. That seemed to describe what had happened in the past year at COPE.

With an exponential number of new members, a new website, and a new Operations Director, COPE is spreading in every direction. With its new newsletter, *Ethical Editing*, COPE hopes to offer some perspective on the issues confronting today's journal editors and publishers.

For several months now I've been pondering what kind of newsletter will appeal to COPE's diverse readership. My goal as Editor of *Ethical Editing* is to produce 8 pages that other editors will actually want to read—pages that you will download from your computer and peruse on the train, or in a traffic jam, or in the bathtub. Not a collection of dry reports on mundane subjects, but a publication with personality.

Many of COPE's new members aren't quite sure what COPE has to offer them. The first issue of *Ethical Editing* is designed to address that question. It looks both inward and forward, with an emphasis on what's changing and what's new.

Each issue will be divided into departments. "The Scoop from COPE" will highlight how COPE works, and the work that COPE does. It starts off with a profile of our new Operations Director, Tim Feest. "From the Field" will focus on trends in publication ethics, pointing you to further information on the COPE website and the World Wide Web. The first topic addressed is Integrity. The next two pages are devoted to a Feature: articles, interviews, profiles, surveys, history. This issue's Feature is a Q&A that examines the need for COPE. Since there are benefits to being woken up once in a while, "Sedation Vacation" will provide a forum for discussion of hot topics, essays on controversial subjects, and provocative viewpoints. The dark side of rejection letters is examined here. And finally, "The Last Word(s)" will feature your letters, photos, quotations, original artwork and cartoons, and interesting links.

That's the starting point. I'm aiming for another tipping point. As Gladwell says: "There is a simple way to package information that, under the right circumstances, can make it irresistible. All you have to do is find it." The newsletter will keep evolving. Let me know when the message reaches you!

Jeannie

Theme: Integrity

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Masthead

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