

Scholarship Recipients Reflect on Retreat

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Recipients of scholarships to support their attendance brought international perspectives to the CSE Retreat on the Journal's Role in Scientific Misconduct, held 7-9 November 2003 in Lansdowne, Virginia. The recipients now are sharing content from the retreat in their home countries and regions.

Chosen from 40 applicants, the scholarship recipients were

- Gitanjali Batmanabane
Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research
Pondicherry, India
- Sidhartha Satpathy
All India Institute of Medical Sciences
New Delhi, India
- Kanikaram Satyanarayana
Indian Council of Medical Research
New Delhi, India
- Ljiljana Vuckovic-Dekic
Institute for Oncology and Radiology of Serbia
Belgrade, Yugoslavia
- ZHANG Zhongli
Peking Union Medical College Press
Beijing, China

Each scholarship recipient is affiliated with at least one medical journal.

The scholarship recipients noted the commonality of concerns among participants in the retreat. Satyanarayana said, "It was interesting to see that though the journals and editors were placed thousands of kilometers away with authors from diverse specialties, ultimately the problems were the same." Batmanabane stated: "The issues and the problems raised and discussed were common to all

editors even though the magnitude may have varied. It felt good to recognize this and see that we had a common goal."

Similarly, Vuckovic-Dekic observed that "when faced with fraudulent manuscripts, the editors of both great and small medical journals share the same feelings, uncertainties, and problems". She said the retreat helped to confirm that she and colleagues in her country and those nearby were proceeding appropriately with their efforts to promote ethical conduct in science.

Recipients welcomed the opportunity to hear the speakers at the retreat and to participate in the case discussions. Zhang said that the retreat not only was informative but also provided a chance to improve her English and exchange ideas with international counterparts. Satyanarayana commented that "the wrapup Sunday noon was very interesting, with Richard Horton [of *The Lancet*] at his usual provocative best".

Since returning home, scholarship recipients have been disseminating and applying material from the retreat. Vuckovic-Dekic has prepared reports on the retreat for several medical journals in the Balkans. She said she would draw on items learned at the retreat when continuing to help to resolve cases of fraud in scientific publication. Zhang mentioned that on returning to Beijing, she presented a report on the retreat to colleagues at her press. She noted that information and ideas from the retreat would contribute to reforms under way at the press and would help in her day-to-day work. Batmanabane said she planned to conduct three or four workshops under the aegis of the *Indian Journal of Pharmacology* "to educate the medical fraternity on the ethics of scientific writing".

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