

COPE seminar in New Delhi, India, 15 November 2013

COPE cooperated with the Indian Association of Medical Journal Editors (IAMJE) in having the first Indian COPE seminar at the same time as IAMJE reestablished itself. IAMJE arranged its first annual meeting as well as a two day workshop for authors and a one day workshop for peer reviewers. Peush Sahni, the Editor in Chief of the *National Medical Journal of India*, a member of the ICMJE, and former president of WAME, was the organizer of the meetings.

15 November	16 November	17 November
COPE seminar	IAMJE annual meeting	IAMJE annual meeting
Author workshop	Author workshop	Peer review workshop

Christine Laine (Editor-in-Chief of *Annals of Internal Medicine*), Trish Groves (Deputy Editor of *BMJ*), Margaret Winker (Senior Research Editor of *PLoS Medicine*), and Farrokh Habibzadeh (President of WAME) were invited to run the workshops for authors and peer reviewers. As Christine, Trish and Margaret are COPE members, they helped in the running of the COPE seminar, and Charlotte Haug, Vice Chair of COPE, helped with the workshops for authors and peer-reviewers. The workshops were a great place to talk about COPE guidelines and the participants were very interested!

Participants

Approximately 120 Indian editors and medical doctors participated.

The COPE seminar

Christine Laine gave an introductory talk on “What constitutes scientific misconduct”, Charlotte Haug discussed “Retractions and corrections”, and Trish Groves gave a presentation on “Transparency”. This was followed by a workshop, where we discussed COPE cases.

After tea, Amar Jesani of the *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics* talked about “Conflicts of interest”, Anil Jain of the *Indian Journal of Orthopaedics* discussed “Integrating publication ethics into journal practices”, and D Mazumdar of the *International Journal of Surgery* discussed “Dealing with authorship issues”.

After lunch there were two more 1.5 hour workshops sessions, discussing cases, before Charlotte Haug summed up and closed the seminar.

What did we learn?

There was great interest in COPE and COPE activities in India, and the debate was very lively, both in the workshops and in the plenary sessions. However, many of the participants questioned some of COPEs advice, in particular our advice to “go to the institution”. This advice could be potentially harmful in a society like India, and COPE was asked to take a closer look at this and consider whether COPE could have a more active role, for example by issuing “expressions of concern”.