

Report from 2013 Beijing International Ethical Seminar of Medical Journal Editors, 1-2 June 2013

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The first Beijing International Ethical Seminar for Medical Journal Editors was held in June 2013. Approximately 200 Chinese medical journal editors and medical practitioners attended the 2-day event. The event was the largest and first formal event held in Mainland China and culminated in the establishment of the Committee on China Medical Journal Publication Ethics (CCMJPE) and their “Declaration of China Medical Journal Editing and Publication Ethics”.

I attended the seminar on behalf of COPE and gave 2 presentations: “General Introduction of Publication Ethics” on day 1 and “Case studies in publication ethics” on day 2. I tried to present the case study session more like a forum where we discussed 5 case studies in the areas of authorship and data fabrication, but the layout of the room made interaction among participants difficult.

Other invited speakers at the were:

- Yongmao Jiang, Chinese Medical Association Publishing House
- Feng Shi, Chinese Association of Medical Journals
- Mao Qun’an, Chinese Center of Health Education, Health News and Communication Center, Ministry of Health of China
- Michael Berkwits, ICMJE
- Douglas Altman, EQUATOR Network
- David Moher, CONSORT
- Francis Crawley, Good Clinical Practice Alliance – Europe
- Taixiang Wu, Chinese Ethics Committee of Registering Clinical Trials
- Zhaoxiang Bian, Hong Kong Baptist University
- Charley Miao, CNKI International Development and Promotion Center for Academic Journals
- Stephanie Harriman, BioMed Central
- Ronghue Cai, Peking University

The participants were very interested in the work of COPE and were eager to know whether they could access COPE resources (e.g. flowsheets), and the cost and process of becoming a COPE member. Participants expressed a genuine desire to improve the standards of research reporting and publishing and were interested to learn how other countries manage publication ethics.

After the Seminar concluded, the event organisers and guest speakers were invited to a round table meeting to discuss the release of a new English language journal in the field of Chinese Family Medicine. Guest speakers were asked to provide comment on the proposed editorial policies and processes of the journal so that the journal’s publisher, Chinese Medical Association Publishing House, could improve its practice.

I understand there are plans to hold future events in China on publication ethics and that the organisers would like to continue to work with COPE to further develop ethical publishing standards.



Seminar participants and room layout



Post-conference discussions with organisers and guest speakers