COPE was founded by Mike Ullrich (Gut), Richard Smith (BMJ) and Richard Horton (The Lancet) in April 1997. The Constitution was written by Richard Smith.

"[COPE] may not prove useful in the long term, and we will be delighted if it is made unnecessary because the international profession produces an adequate response to research misconduct."

COPE became a charity in 2006.

### COPE History Timeline

#### 1997–2003
- **1997**
  - Members: 90 Members
  - Richard Smith: "[COPE] may not prove useful in the long term, and we will be delighted if it is made unnecessary because the international profession produces an adequate response to research misconduct."
- **2003–2006**
  - Members: 250 Members
  - Pierre Godlee becomes Chair
  - Code of conduct for editors published
  - Authorship guidelines published
  - Member survey

#### 2006–2009
- **2006–2009**
  - Members: 350 Members
  - Kenny Warkentin becomes Chair
  - Flowcharts published
- **2009–2012**
  - Members: 2000+ Members
  - Fiona Godlee becomes Chair
  - Code of conduct revised
  - Authorship guidelines published
  - Member survey

#### 2012–2017
- **2012–2017**
  - Members: 3000+ Members
  - Glancy Bowden becomes Chair
  - 1st USA seminar
  - 1st Australasian and Middle East seminars
  - eLearning course published
  - Retraction guidelines published
  - 1st COPE staff member
  - 1st newsletter, Ethical Editing, published

#### 2017–2019
- **2017–2019**
  - Members: 6000+ Members
  - Chris Graf & Geri Pearson become Co-Chairs
  - 1st China seminar
  - Workshop with Russell Group members and COPE members
  - COPE joins the programme committee of the World Conference on Research Integrity
  - COPE materials redesigned and a clear brand style developed

#### 2019 ONWARDS
- **2019 ONWARDS**
  - 1st version of Principles of Transparency for scholarly publishing
  - Publishing code of conduct published
  - Member survey
  - Growth in COPE team members

#### 2020
- **2020**
  - Predatory publishing discussion document published
  - DOIs assigned to all key COPE resources
  - Predatory publishing discussion document published
  - Work with Russell Group on new strategic plan
  - Universities to be accepted as members by 2021

### COPE in 2019
- **2019**
  - More than 600 cases available on the COPE website
  - Arts, humanities, and social sciences research of publication ethics needs
  - COPE has a prominent role at the World Conference on Research Integrity

### COPE in 2020
- **2020**
  - More than 600 cases available on the COPE website
  - Arts, humanities, and social sciences research of publication ethics needs
  - Predatory publishing discussion document published
  - DOIs assigned to all key COPE resources

### COPE Awards
- **2017**
  - Awarded the Council of Science Editors meritorious award

### COPE Membership
- **2019**
  - More than 6000 members from 103 countries

### COPE’s 20th Anniversary
- **2019**
  - 20th anniversary European seminar

### COPE’s Impact
- **2019**
  - More than 6000 members from 103 countries
  - More than 600 cases available on the COPE website
  - Arts, humanities, and social sciences research of publication ethics needs
  - COPE has a prominent role at the World Conference on Research Integrity

### COPE’s Future
- **2020**
  - New strategic plan
  - Universities to be accepted as members by 2021
  - More than 6000 members from 103 countries

### COPE’s Resources
- **2020**
  - Predatory publishing discussion document published
  - DOIs assigned to all key COPE resources

### COPE’s Recognition
- **2019**
  - Awarded the Council of Science Editors meritorious award

### COPE’s Partners
- **2020**
  - Work with Russell Group on new strategic plan
  - Universities to be accepted as members by 2021

### COPE’s Impact
- **2019**
  - More than 6000 members from 103 countries
  - More than 600 cases available on the COPE website
  - Arts, humanities, and social sciences research of publication ethics needs
  - COPE has a prominent role at the World Conference on Research Integrity