Veterinary Editors Meeting
29 September 2008, London, UK

Issues affecting small journals

Ana Marušić
Editor, Croatian Medical Journal
Past President, Council of Science Editors
Problems of small scientific communities

Top 20 Health-Related Publication Producers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 20 producers</th>
<th>Average Global Share 1992–2001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>36.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>8.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>8.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>6.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>5.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>4.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>3.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>2.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>2.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>1.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>1.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>1.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>1.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>1.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of the world</td>
<td>9.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paraje et al.
Increasing International Gaps in Health-Related Publications.
Science 2005;308:959-960
## Where are veterinary journals published?

### 2007 Journal Citation Reports, Thomson Reuters

133 veterinary journals in 2007 JCR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia, Canada,</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech R., Denmark</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary, India</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy, Poland,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria, Belgium</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile, Ireland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel, New Zealand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia, Turkey,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Impact factor of veterinary journals

**Journal Citation Reports 2007, Thomson Reuters**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>IF</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VET RES</td>
<td>4.125</td>
<td>FRANCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VACCINE</td>
<td>3.377</td>
<td>ENGLAND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATLA-ALTERN LAB ANIM</td>
<td>3.203</td>
<td>ENGLAND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FISH SHELLFISH IMMUN</td>
<td>3.160</td>
<td>ENGLAND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILAR J</td>
<td>2.319</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VET PARASITOL</td>
<td>2.016</td>
<td>NETHERLANDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VET MICROBIOL</td>
<td>2.010</td>
<td>NETHERLANDS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Small journals in veterinary science vs. medicine

n=133
median IF=0.646
total cites=182 009
total articles=12 674

n=100
median IF=1.331
total cites=770 230
total articles=13 352

NEJM 52.589
MAYO CLIN PROC 4.362
AM J PREV MED 3.489
BRIT J HOSP MED 0.049
VET RES 4.125
VET TECH 0.013
Citation networks of veterinary research

Analysis of SCOPUS citation database: SCOPUS Co-citation networks

by

SJR — SCImago Journal & Country Rank

www.scimagojr.com
SCOPUS: Veterinary sciences – Sweden
SCOPUS: Veterinary sciences – Netherlands
SCOPUS: Veterinary sciences – Korea
Small journals – definition

- Usually academic and scholarly journals, where the editorial position is not a full-time position.

- Published in small scientific communities – the so-called scientific periphery, characterized by:
  - smallness of the research community,
  - lack of financial support,
  - language barrier.
Peripheral position to the mainstream science:

- US National Library of Medicine receives more than 18,000 journals and indexes only 5,000 in MEDLINE.
- 90% of relevant information is published in 10% of the journals.
- Science Citation Index indexes less than 2% of journals from small and developing countries.
- Small and developing countries encompass ~24% of the world's scientists but receive only ~5% of global research spending.
Small journals – vicious circle of inadequacy

- Author pool
- Reviewer’s pool
- Finances
- Language
- Product

- No. and quality of manuscripts
- Review process
- Technical resources
- English
- Journal

- LOW
- INADEQUATE
- LOW
- IMPERFECT
- LOW QUALITY

Poor visibility

The journal’s niche: SWOT analysis

**Strengths:**

- What advantages do you have?
- What do you do well?
- What are your resources?
- What do other people see as your strengths?
The journal’s niche: SWOT analysis

- Weaknesses:
  - What could you improve?
  - What do you do badly?
  - What should you avoid?
The journal’s niche: SWOT analysis

- Opportunities:
  - Where are the good opportunities facing you?
  - What are the interesting trends you are aware of?
  - Are there changes in your environment?
The journal’s niche: SWOT analysis

**Threats:**

- What obstacles do you face?
- What is your “competition” doing?
- Are the specifications for your product (journal) changing?
- Do you have financial problems?
Local journal, global science

Editorial

Life of Small Medical Journal – How Bibliographical Indexing and International Visibility Affected Editorial Work in *Croatian Medical Journal*

Role of the editor in a small journal

Editor as educator of:
- authors
- readers
- reviewers
- researchers
- students
- policy makers
SWOT analysis of editorial role in responsible publishing

**STRENGTHS**

**WEAKNESSES**

**OPPORTUNITIES**

**THREATS**

*internal resources and capabilities*

*facets external to the organization or group*

STRENGTHS of editors in promoting good research and publishing:

- Authority in the scientific community
- Editorial independence
- Expertise in research
- Responsibility for the integrity of published records
- Power to formulate and implement editorial policies
STRENGTHS: Research into peer review

- Problems with peer review
  - Different interpretations by different journals, slow, expensive, subjective, biased, open to abuse, poor at identifying errors, cannot be taught
- Who makes the best reviewers
  - Under 40, good institution, known to the editors
- What would improve quality of reviewers?
  - Reward/credit/acknowledgement, careful selection, training, greater accountability, interaction between reviewer and author
**STRENGTHS:** Responsibility for the integrity of published records


Retracted Publication – Provides a search in PubMed for all citations designated as retracted publications
Retractions at PubMed
(search data from Feb 11, 2008):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>No. retractions</th>
<th>No. indexed items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Eng J Med</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>60097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAMA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>58983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancet</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>116606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Int Med</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>24861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMJ</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>45419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eur J Public Health</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am J Public Health</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>151260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>84668</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 926
Retractions at PubMed
(search data from 2007):

First retraction on PubMed in 1977
STRENGTHS: Editorial policies

Selective Publication of Antidepressant Trials and Its Influence on Apparent Efficacy

Erick H. Turner, M.D., Annette M. Matthews, M.D., Eftihia Linardatos, B.S.,
Robert A. Tell, L.C.S.W., and Robert Rosenthal, Ph.D.

Table 1. Overall Publication Status of FDA-Registered Antidepressant Studies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication Status</th>
<th>No. of Studies (%)</th>
<th>No. of Patients in Studies (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Published results agree with FDA decision</td>
<td>40 (54)</td>
<td>7,272 (58)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Published results conflict with FDA decision (published as positive)</td>
<td>11 (15)</td>
<td>1,843 (15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results not published</td>
<td>23 (31)</td>
<td>3,449 (27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>74 (100)</td>
<td>12,564 (100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ICMJE – International Committee of Medical Journal Editors:
Statement on the Registration of Clinical Trials

- Call for comprehensive registration of trials as the first step in alleviating selective data presentation on clinical trials in medical literature
What can journal editors do?

Can medical journals lead or must they follow?

Richard Smith

MJA • Volume 183 Number 11/12 • 5/19 December 2005

“A subject that needs reform should be kept before the public until it demands reform.”
**STRENGTHS: Editorial policies**

Policy on clinical trial registration

*Figure 2. New Trials Registered in ClinicalTrials.gov, According to Week.*

WEAKNESSES of editors in promoting responsible research

- No mandate for legal actions
- Few means of action: expression of concern and retraction
- Reluctance to get involved in delicate issues
- Possible damage to journal’s reputation
- Lack of education and staff to implement adequate procedures


OPPORTUNITIES of editors in promoting responsible publishing practices

- Editors well positioned to detect scientific misconduct
- Availability of new technologies for detecting misconduct
- Editorial policies developed by editorial organizations
- Policies developed by national ethics/integrity bodies
- Greater transparency of publications on the web
- Greater transparency of literature corrections on the web
Opportunities: Editorial policies

Council of Science Editors

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SCIENCE EDITORS

International Committee of Medical Journal Editors

World Association of Medical Editors

Committee on Publication Ethics

www.councilscienceeditors.org

www.ease.org.uk

www.icmje.org

www.wame.org

www.publicationethics.org.uk
Opportunities: Editorial policies

Ethics Flowcharts
THREATS to editors promoting responsible research

- Lack of legal regulation and culture of research integrity in the scientific community
- Corruption of the scientific community and governments
- No training available
- Lack of support from stakeholders in scientific publishing (publishers, associations, scientists, academic and scientific community)
- Pressures on editors and journal (publishers, financial conflict of interest)
THREATS to editors promoting responsible research

In small journals, the weaknesses and external threats to the job outweigh their strengths and opportunities provided by the global editorial community.
What can editors of do to promote research in their scientific communities?

Learn
Be informed
Teach
Thank you.

www.cmj.hr

ana.marusic@mef.hr