

# RESPONSIBLE AUTHORSHIP

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Panel discussion promoting best practices for responsible authorship (SY2)

View from COPE – Dr. Charon Pierson

View from Institutions – Dr. Tracey Bretag

View from Journals – Dr. Siu-wai Leung

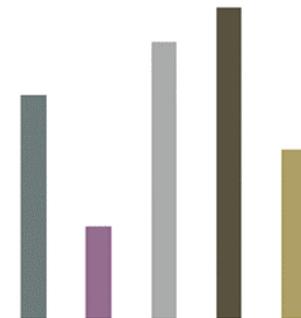
**View from Third Parties – Dr. Trevor Lane**

Disclosures – funding provided by COPE, a Registered UK

Charity

[www.COPEethics.org](https://www.COPEethics.org)

#COPE



# View from Third Parties

Dr. Trevor Lane, COPE Council

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edanzediting.com



publicationethics.org

# Example COPE cases involving third parties

- 16-01** Lack of disclosure of extensive and sponsored MedComms assistance
- 14-07** Incomplete disclosure of extent of MedComms involvement (drafting, not just editing)
- 05-04** Accusation of undisclosed conflict of interest and ghost author (possibly MedComms)
- 04-34** Possible lack of disclosure of involvement of drug company and agency in a review
- 99-22** Editorial mismanagement; suspected non-disclosure by pharmaceutical company

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## Full disclosure of third-party involvement

- Sponsoring companies & agencies, inc. MedComms companies
- Editorial or publishing support
  - Type & extent (writing/drafting, editing, etc)
  - Sponsorship, conflicts of interest

## No ghost authors / writers / editors / translators, etc

- Transparency of work, no bias
- Credit, accountability

# Disclosures of contributions

International Committee of Medical Journal Editors ([www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org)):

- 1) Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
- 2) Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- 3) Final approval of the version to be published; AND
- 4) Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

**Contributors who meet fewer than all 4 of the above criteria for authorship should not be listed as authors, but they should be acknowledged...** Examples of activities that alone (without other contributions) do not qualify a contributor for authorship are acquisition of funding; general supervision of a research group or general administrative support; and writing assistance, technical editing, language editing, and proofreading....

**Because acknowledgment may imply endorsement by acknowledged individuals of a study's data and conclusions, editors are advised to require that the corresponding author obtain written permission to be acknowledged from all acknowledged individuals.**

# Disclosures of contributions

International Society of Medical Publication Professionals ([www.ismpp.org](http://www.ismpp.org)):

1) Good Publication Practice (GPP3) Guidelines for company-sponsored medical research, 2015

- Publication steering committee & Authorship working group
- Medical writers generally do not meet accepted authorship criteria, but there may be exceptions (for example, if they contribute substantially to a review article). **If writers qualify for authorship (that is, meet ICMJE or journal-specific criteria), they should be listed as authors and their financial relationship with the sponsor should be disclosed.**

2) AMWA–EMWA–ISMPP Joint Position Statement on the Role of Professional Medical Writers, 2017

- Responsibilities of medical writers & authors who collaborate with medical writers
  - **acknowledge the provision of medical writing support**,... and acknowledge the funding sources for the provision of medical writing support
  - recognize as a co-author all contributors (including a professional medical writer) who meet the **ICMJE authorship criteria**

“The authors thank [**name and qualifications**] of [**company, city, country**] for providing medical writing support/editorial support [**specify and/or expand as appropriate**], which was funded by [**sponsor, city, country**] in accordance with Good Publication Practice (GPP3) guidelines (<http://www.ismpp.org/gpp3>).”

# Disclosures of contributions

McNutt et al, 2018 (<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1715374115>):

- 1) Each author is expected to have made substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data; or the creation of new software used in the work; or have drafted the work or substantively revised it;
- 2) AND to have approved the submitted version (and any substantially modified version that involves the author's contribution to the study);
- 3) AND to have agreed both to be personally accountable for the author's own contributions and to ensure that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work, even ones in which the author was not personally involved, are appropriately investigated, resolved, and the resolution documented in the literature..

...To **discourage ghost authorship**, CAs [corresponding authors] **must reveal** as appropriate whether the manuscript benefited from the use of **editorial services** that, if unacknowledged, might constitute an **undisclosed conflict of interest**. Examples include use of an editor from an organization that may have a vested interest in slanting the results or reliance on a technical writer at a level that would warrant authorship credit.

# Acknowledgement issues

## Acknowledgement practices

- *Policies on transparency, contributor declarations, conflicts of interest*
- *Journal definitions (acknowledgement vs author byline)*  
eg, substantial contribution, intellectual content, what counts as authorship, give names of people (not just companies providing assistance)
- *Journal tradition*  
eg, type of peer review, in-house staff routines, +/- post-acceptance editing
- *Person providing assistance*
  - knowledge about publishing ethics, acknowledgements, credit, transparency
  - self-publicity vs awareness of unapproved author changes (*Borough-Boenisch, European Science Editing 2019;45:32-8*)
  - willingness of implied endorsement

# Acknowledgement issues

**Level of involvement** (intervention, intrusion) depends on...?

- *Policies (institutional, publication, etc; may be discipline-specific)*

- *Processes & instructions:*

eg, desk review recommendation, peer reviewer duties, journal manuscript editing

- *Stage:*

eg, pre-submission (author's editor) vs post-acceptance (journal manuscript editor)

- *Service type, tradition:*

eg, institutional (educational, process approach) vs freelance author's editor

- *Experience:*

eg, native English speaker, level of editor/language training, level of subject knowledge, authoring / editing / publishing experience

# Level of assistance?

(1)...Here, we analysed 2two systems in detailss.

(2)...The systemss stimulated DNA translationtranscription followed by transcriptiontranslation.

(3)...However, Method A yielded lessfewer candidate sequences than method B (Table 1).

***{AQ: Table 1 shows the opposite. Please check the table data, main text and abstract are consistent.}***

(4)...To the best of our knowledge, No studies have ~~conducted a comparison of~~ compared A and B before.

***{AQ: Please clarify if ‘English-language studies’ is meant, but check these relevant references... Consider moving this to location \* in the Discussion.}***

Syntax

Semantics

Pragmatics

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Clause

Sentence

Paragraph

Document

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Syntax	Proofreading? Copy editing? Language editing?
Semantics	Developmental editing? Structural editing? Substantive editing? Comprehensive editing? Technical editing? Rewriting/reformulation?
Pragmatics	
-----	
Clause	Content editing? Commenting/reviewing?
Sentence	
Paragraph	
Document	<i>Writing/drafting assistance, publication planning/development...</i>

# Contributors?



# Contributors?

- Preprint
- Submitted manuscript
- Revised manuscript
- Accepted manuscript
- Article proof
- Final proof
- Version of record

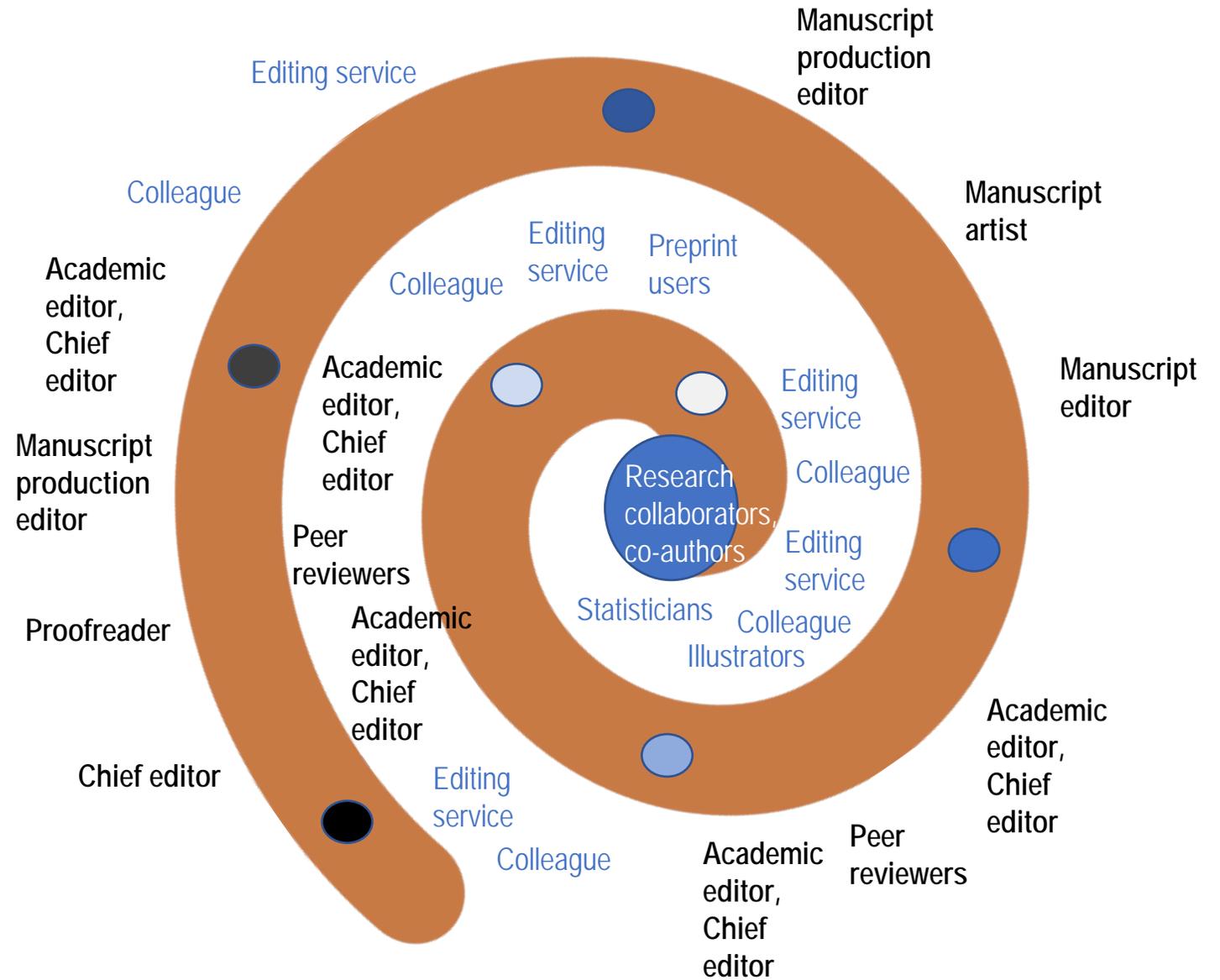
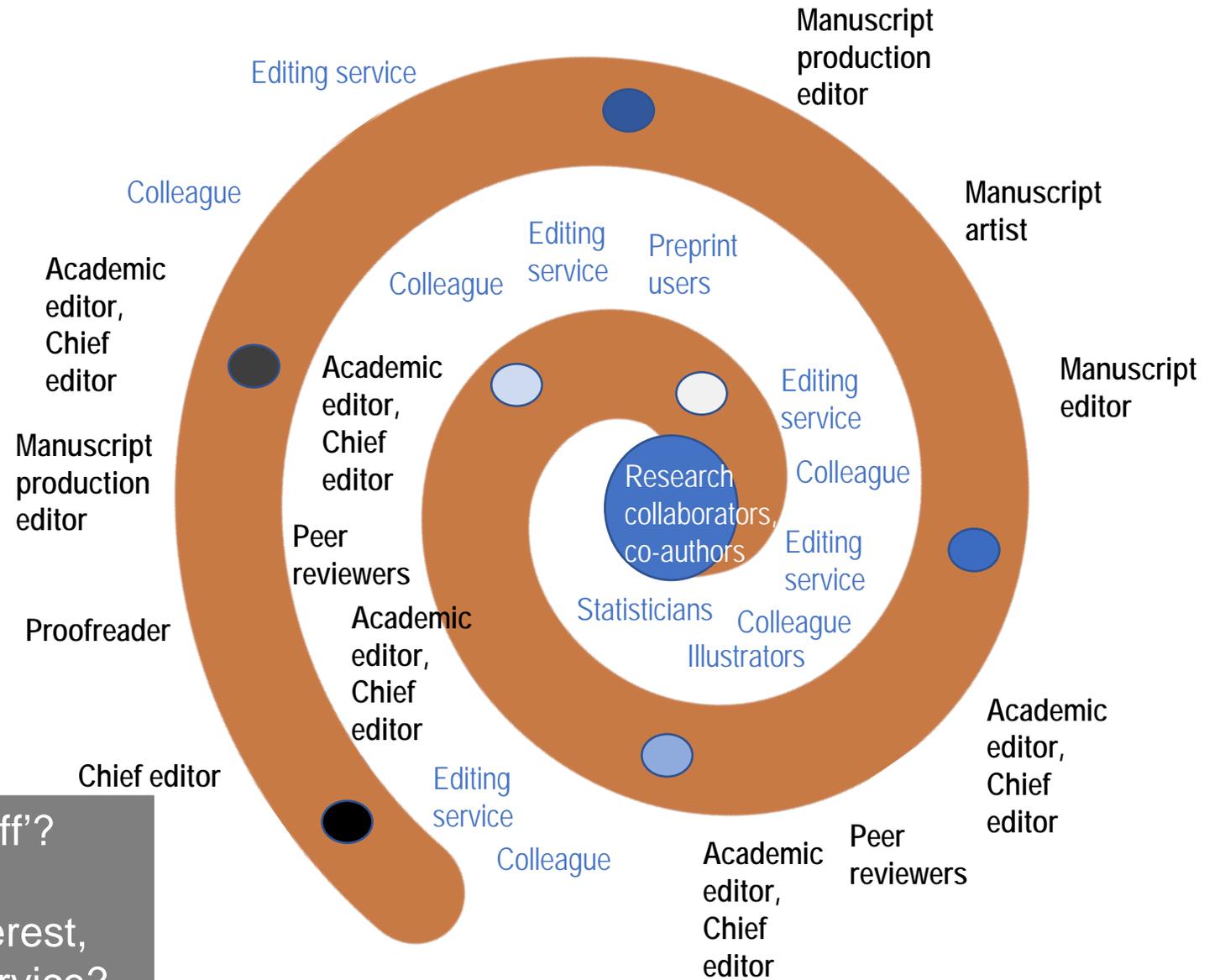


Fig inspired by Fig 1, Borough-Boenisch, J Second Lang Writing, 2003:12:223-43

# Contributors?

- Preprint
- Submitted manuscript
- Revised manuscript
- Accepted manuscript
- Article proof
- Final proof
- Version of record



- Conventions of naming journal 'staff'?
- Masked, closed peer review?
- Disclosing/handling conflicts of interest, eg, between publisher & editing service?

Fig inspired by Fig 1, Borough-Boenisch, J Second Lang Writing, 2003:12:223-43

# Types of assistance/service?

- Light -> heavy editing
- Assistance with drafting
- Formatting
- Translation
- Illustration
- Review, peer review
- Recommending independent reviewers
- Recommending journals

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**X** Paper mill, selling written/  
plagiarized papers, selling (guest)  
authorship

**X** 'Removing' plagiarism,  
paraphrasing to avoid plagiarism  
detection

**X** Fake peer review

**X** Promising publication

? Literature searches, Data/statistical analyses...

# Types of assistance allowed? Declarations?

- **National guidelines**

**China Association for Science and Technology 5 Don'ts (2015). DO NOT:**

- (1) Ask someone else to write the manuscript
- (2) Ask someone else to submit your article
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- **University guidelines** on plagiarism, assistance allowed, recommended services, academic ethics, author roles, publishing literacy, English training
- **Funding agency guidelines**
- **Editing association guidelines**
- **Scholarly association guidelines**
- **Publishing/ethics association guidelines**
- **Editorial & publishing support service guidelines**
- Journal declarations on all contributions, all authors approving final version, data handling, role of any sponsor/funder...

# Authors beware!

- Unethical services (paper mills, ghost writing, fake peer review, etc)
- Fake/fraudulent services
  - Dishonest, unclear pricing
  - Steal intellectual property
- Mimicked sites
  - Unethical services, fake sites
  - Malware
  - Phishing to intercept passwords
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- Spam; fake/misleading email, blog, advertising (brandjacking)

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- Spam; fake/misleading email, blog, advertising (brandjacking)
- Diversion to unethical sites/services
  - **Keyword stuffing**, listing known URL/service name (eg, fake service review sites) -> search engine results
  - **Cybersquatting, URL hijacking**: URL resembling known website but ending in different domain (.net, .org)
  - **Typosquatting**: website for mistyped names of known URL, slightly different version
  - **Script spoofing, spoofing attack, homoglyph attack**: URL resembling known URL but containing some non-English letters

# Editorial & publishing support services

## Alliance of Scientific Editing in China (ASEC) [www.asec.org.cn/file/3-ASEC-GoodEditingPractice.pdf](http://www.asec.org.cn/file/3-ASEC-GoodEditingPractice.pdf)

- Clear website (services, processes, prices, payment, staffing, staff recruitment/training, complaints process, office address, ethical guidelines)
- Confidentiality, file security, certification/verification
- No encouragement of/help with unethical publishing or practices
- Ensure authors are aware of responsibilities & ethical issues
- Acknowledgements & Col policies
- No misappropriation or unethical authorship, no coerced citations
- Clear business relationships (esp. with publishers); independent from editorial decisions, no promises of publication
- Do you know people who have used services; past acknowledgments
- Associate membership of COPE

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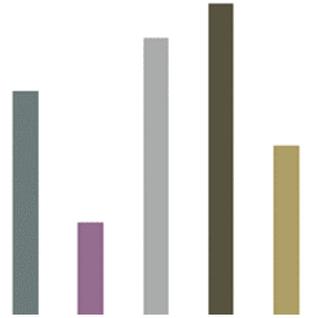
- Clear website (services, processes, prices, payment, staffing, staff recruitment/training, complaints process, office address, ethical guidelines)
- Confidentiality, file security, certification/verification
- No encouragement of/help with unethical publishing or practices
- Ensure authors are aware of responsibilities & ethical issues
- Acknowledgements & Col policies
- No misappropriation or unethical authorship, no coerced citations
- Clear business relationships (esp. with publishers); independent from editorial decisions, no promises of publication
- Do you know people who have used services; past acknowledgments
- Associate membership of COPE



Choose the right journal for your research

Choose the right editorial service for your research

# *Thank you!*



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