

# EMWA News



## AMWA-EMWA-ISMPP Joint Position Statement on Predatory Publishing released

On July 29, EMWA, together with the American Medical Writers Association (AMWA) and the International Society for Medical Publication Professionals (ISMPP), issued a joint position statement on the dangers of predatory publishing (see p. 34 of this issue). Predatory publishers and journals exist purely for profit. They undermine the

publishing process by failing to perform rigorous peer review and show little apparent regard for the ethical principles detailed in guidelines such as the International Committee of Medical Journal Editor Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals. The

AMWA–EMWA–ISMPP position statement outlines the damage predatory journals do to authors and to the scientific community as a whole and provides practical tips for spotting such journals. It also underlines the responsibility we medical writers have for ensuring that the manuscripts we work on are not submitted to predatory journals.



## New translations of the AMWA–EMWA–ISMPP Joint Position Statement on the Role of Professional Medical Writers

EMWA is also currently involved in translating another AMWA–EMWA–ISMPP joint position statement on the role of professional medical writers. Issued in 2017, this position statement sets out ethical standards for medical writers who help to develop scientific and medical publications. We are now spreading the word among non-native English speakers in Europe and

beyond. The position statement was recently translated into Hebrew by EMWA member Sharon Furman-Assaf. Originally published in English, the statement is now available from the EMWA website (<https://www.emwa.org/joint-position-statement>) in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Romanian, Portuguese, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Russian, Farsi, and Greek.

## EMWA Ambassadors participate in webinar on careers in medical writing

As part of continuing efforts by the EMWA Ambassador's Programme to reach out to new audiences in order to promote medical writing and EMWA, John Dixon and Abe Shevack took part in a webinar organised by Medic Footprints, an organisation focussed on the various career opportunities available to medical doctors. The target audience was medics interested in exploring careers outside of medical practice. Abe spoke about what regulatory medical writers do and the documents they write to support clinical development in the pharmaceutical industry. John talked about transitioning from being a practising surgeon to med comms medical writing and about the spectrum of careers in this area. Another speaker, practising physician Vidhya Kumaranayakam, spoke about how she became, among many other things, a book author and publisher. At the start of the webinar, a short survey showed that most of the attendees knew almost nothing about medical writing. However, after the presentations and a subsequent Q&A session many of them indicated that they were interested in finding out more.

A recording of the webinar is available on YouTube:  
<https://youtu.be/vSJSYWH-yOY>.



## MedComm Special Interest Group gets down to business

As mentioned in the last issue of *Medical Writing*, the MedComm Special Interest Group (SIG) was established at the spring conference in Vienna to support publication activities of EMWA members. The first activity of MedComm SIG members was to participate in development and review of the joint position statement on predatory publishing. The MedComm SIG has also supported wide dissemination of the joint position statement. MedComm SIG committee member Andrea Bucceri has liaised with Taylor & Francis to enlarge statement advise to all librarians subscribing to *Current Medical Research & Opinion* (where the statement was first published) and through Taylor & Francis social media platforms. Other MedComm SIG members have shared the joint position statement through their private contacts. Other EMWA

members are encouraged to do the same.

We believe that sharing the joint position statement with academia is crucial, because the main victims of predatory journals are university researchers who must publish to develop their career or even keep their job but may not always be fully aware of predatory publishers' practices. The MedComm SIG is actively looking for the best way to share the joint position statement with academia and welcomes suggestions from EMWA members.

The joint position statement will be presented during a lunchtime symposium at the Malmö conference in November 2019 and information regarding its impact and, possibly, evolution will be shared at the Prague conference in May 2020. Stay tuned for further details!

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