ICPM 2018 (International Conference in Pharmaceutical Medicine)

Workshop 6

Good Publication Practice*

Written by Chieko Kurihara [1], Dominique Dubois [2]

Chaired by Dominique Dubois [2], Naoto Uemura [3]

Presentations: Ethics in publishing
Alan Boyd [4]

Publication ethics
Chieko Kuriahara [1]

Good Publication Practice: Historical issues and recent topics
Michiko Tomiyasu [5]

Plagiarism: The controversies in the interpretation
Dominique Dubois [2]

1) National Institutes for Quantum and Radiological Science and Technology, Japan
2) Physician Specialist in Pharmaceutical Medicine, Belgium
3) Department of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Oita University Faculty of Medicine, Japan
4) Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine, United Kingdom
5) JAPhMed Medical Affairs Committee, Japan

Objectives

The objective of **Workshop 6**, titled **"Good Publication Practice"** was to share Good Publication Practices, including ethical principles and author guidelines for journal publications. Learning outcomes set in advance was that the attendees will be able to evaluate:

- The process involved in the preparation of manuscripts for submission of publications to a peer-reviewed journal
- The key issues which must be addressed
- The typical structure of such a manuscript

Outcomes

Being chaired by Dominique Dubois and Naoto Uemura, presentations by Alan Boyd, Chieko Kurihara, Michiko Tomiyasu and Dominique Dubois were in comprehensive construction, complementary to each other with different and overlapping aspects, all oriented to the same direction.

* This is a summary of the outcome of Workshop 6 provided on September 28, 2018, in the 19th International Conference in Pharmaceutical Medicine (ICPM) in Tokyo, Japan, organized by the International Federation of Associations of Pharmaceutical Physicians and Pharmaceutical Medicine (IFAPP). Japanese version is included in Clinical Evaluation. 2019; 47(2).
Color version: http://cont.o.oo7.jp/47_2/47_2contents_e.html

Background history was clarified that public concerns against “ghost writing”, “guest authorship”, “publication bias”, have led to development of some publication ethics guidelines, e.g., International Committee for Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)’s consecutive recommendations [1]; “Good Publication Practice (GPP)” [2], both have defined typical structure and necessary items of credible manuscript. World Medical Association’s Declaration of Helsinki [3] includes publication ethics as a part of ethics of research involving human subjects.

Key issues of these guidelines can be summarized (1) “authorship” should be limited to the ones responsible for accuracy and originality of the study, entirely involved in manuscript preparation, writing and final approval; (2) “conflict of interest” should be properly managed and disclosed. This obligation is applied not only to authors and sponsors but also to peer reviewers, journal editors and staffs.; (3) Both negative and positive results must be published or made publicly available; (4) Outlines of clinical research must be registered in a publicly accessible database before recruitment of the first subject, and outcomes must be also registered at the completion of the study (This become to be one of the conditions by ICMJE to accept manuscript, as well as statutory regulations by the United States (US), European Union and Japan. Set of items to be registered is standardized by the World Health Organization); (5) Regulators may take administrative actions on serious scientific misconducts defined as fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism; (6) “Open access” has becoming mandatory of publicly funded research in US, and recently in Europe [4]. In Japan, it has not become mandatory but facilitated by the government.

Discussion

Critical issues have been discussed with the audience, e.g., peer review, impact factor, as these system have worked for credibility of publications but recently their limitations have been pointed out. We should be also cautious against “pseudo-journal” which may achieve impact factor in the progress of open access era.

Conclusion

All the discussant called for education to facilitate publication ethics, where clarification of competencies [5] should be promoted, along with fosterage of publication manager as a mediator between internal and external stakeholders. We encounter the shift of publication ethics from the traditional model with professional autonomy and self-governance to emerging model with distrust to professional community causing stricter oversights by regulators and public. Recognizing such situations, however, we should never give up publication ethics derived from autonomy of professional and non-professional persons wishing to keep science credible and trustworthy.

References

1) International Committee for Medical Journal Editors. Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly work in Medical Journals. Updated December 2018. Available from:
http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/
2) International Society for Medical Publication Professionals. GPP3 Guidelines, 2015. Available from:
https://www.ismpp.org/gpp3

3) World Medical Association. Declaration of Helsinki – Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects. Last amended in 2013. Available from:
https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-declaration-of-helsinki-ethical-principles-for-medical-research-involving-human-subjects/
4) Schilts M. Science without publication paywalls: cOAlition S for the realization of full and immediate open access. Front Neuroscie. Sept 2018. Available from:
https://doi.org/10.3389/fnins.2018.00656
5) Dubois DJ, Jurczynska A, Kerpel-Fronius S, Kesselring G, Imamura K, Nell G, Silva H, Stonier P. Fostering Competence in Medicines Development: The IFAPP Perspective. Front Pharmacol. 2016 Oct 14;7:377. eCollection 2016. Front. Pharmacol., 14 October 2016. Available from:
https://doi.org/10.3389/fphar.2016.00377

*　　*　　*