

All Scholarly Community Stakeholders are Responsible for the Dissemination of True Information

EDITORIAL
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Preventing the spread of misinformation has become even more important in today's age of artificial intelligence (AI). In relation to this topic, the 18th General Assembly and Conference of the *European Association of Science Editors* (EASE), of which I was the president for the 2023-2025 term, was held in Oslo last week. The conference, themed "Editing in the Age of Misinformation," addressed a variety of interesting and timely topics.¹

Prior to the conference, Joan Marsh, editor of *Lancet Psychiatry*, led a workshop titled "How to Be a Successful Journal Editor," and the *Committee on Publication Ethics* and the *International Society of Managing and Technical Editors* also conducted workshops related to the conference theme.

The conference attracted a significant amount of interest. A total of 209 people from 29 different countries around the world, including 47 speakers, attended the meeting (Figure 1). On the first day, I presented my presidential term report at the general assembly.² I provided information about our work, conferences, educational activities, publications, and projects. The conference then continued with various sessions over the next three days.

In general, all sessions discussed the advantages and disadvantages of scientific journal publishing in the era of technological developments and AI, as well as how to deal with them. In the final session, moderated by Joan Marsh, a debate titled "Journal Editors Do Not Need to Worry about Preventing Misinformation from Being Spread" was held by EASE Board Members, Haseeb Irfanullah from *Scholarly Kitchen*, and Are Brean, Editor-in-Chief of the *Norwegian Medical Journal*.¹ Both speakers delivered excellent presentations. While Irfanullah supported the statement, Brean argued that it was incorrect and that editors are responsible for this issue. As expected, the debate concluded in this manner.

The gatekeeping role of editors has become even more important in today's "age of misinformation." They must weed out false content and ensure that accurate information is disseminated. While some threats have emerged in this regard today, digital tools that help editors quickly and effectively detect misinformation are rapidly advancing. We are also starting to use these tools in our journal, but the "human touch" remains indispensable.

We have also established a policy on this matter. I would like to remind our authors that if they use any digital tools for translation or editing purposes, they must transparently disclose this in their articles.³ As one of the first examples from our journal, I disclose the AI tool and the manner it was used in this article in the Acknowledgment section. Transparency is as important as honesty in ensuring research integrity.

When using similar translation or editing tools (such as Google Translate, DeepL, or ChatGPT), you should verify that the original ideas you express and the information you provide are accurate. Those with sufficient English proficiency can do this themselves and use the tools for language polishing purposes. Those with insufficient proficiency should either consult an expert or use two different back translation tools to ensure there is no misinformation in the text. This situation is not limited to AI or computer translations but can also occur when working with a language editor.⁴ Therefore, careful checks and necessary corrections should be made, and the use of AI or AI-assisted tools in the writing process should be noted in the related Acknowledgment section or in a separate AI section as recommended by EASE.⁵

Cem Uzun 

Editor in Chief, *Balkan ORL-HNS*, Past President of *European Association of Science Editors*, Department of ORL-HNS, Koç University School of Medicine, Istanbul, Türkiye

Corresponding author:

Cem Uzun
✉ cemuzun@ku.edu.tr or cemuzun@yahoo.com

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Figure 1. Group photo from the EASE Oslo Conference. Front line (from left to right): Sigmar Rode (EASE Council), Delia Mihaila, Alison Clayson (EASE members), Bahar Mehmani (Current President of EASE), Cem Uzun (Previous President of EASE), and Iva Grabaric Andonovski (Vice-President of EASE).

While preventing the spread of misinformation through scientific journals is primarily the responsibility of the editor, authors, institutions, reviewers, journal boards, and publishers also have responsibilities. To date, the development of scientific journal publishing and, consequently, science has been driven by this sense of responsibility. Academic publishing, already a dynamic process, will accelerate further with the advent of generative AI. While it is logical to use new technologies that eliminate the disadvantages of this acceleration, we must take a proactive role and work together to disseminate accurate and trustworthy scientific knowledge, without compromising the fundamental principles of research integrity—honesty, transparency, rigor, accountability, trust, and respect⁶—and while upholding human values.

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