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No One Promises You Tomorrow

By Meghan McDevitt

Editor

EON

The ISMTE lost a dear friend this year with the passing of Ira Salkin, a member of the Founding Board of Directors, the society's first treasurer, and a frequent contributor to *EON*.

I had the opportunity to meet him at my very first ISMTE meeting in Washington, D.C., in 2012. He was warm and welcoming, and his enthusiasm for ISMTE endeavors enveloped me immediately. We exchanged a few emails related to *EON* over the years, and he was always willing to write an article. It was so nice to read the many kind thoughts and remembrances we received from those who knew him well (see pages 13–16).

This issue of *EON* honors Ira and his dedication to the mission of the ISMTE. His articles on ethics in publishing have been

instructive, and I'm sure they serve as a reference to many. This month, we feature three articles previously published in *EON* written by Ira.

In this issue you can also find a preview of what to look forward to at this year's North American conference in Philadelphia. There is still time to [register](#) and you can contact the [ISMTE office](#) for more information. Hope to see you there!

Finally, learn about a tool you've heard of but maybe haven't fully explored—Google Drive. Use it as a virtual hub when working with a team, make group edits in real-time, and access files on any device. Are you using a tool or program that others may find helpful? Drop us a line at editorialofficenews@gmail.com.

Can You Find Ghosts in Your Submitted Manuscripts?

By Ira Salkin
Editor-in-Chief
Medical Mycology

Editor's Note: A version of this article originally appeared in the February 2009 issue of *Editorial Office News*, in the section "Ethical Questions to Ponder."

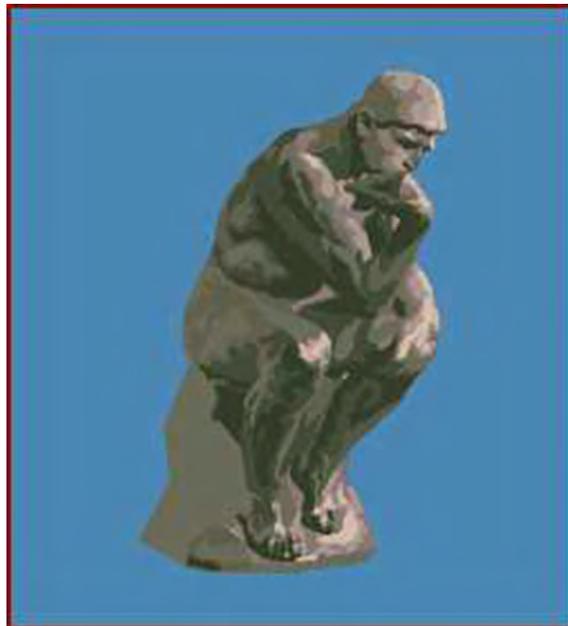
I thought it only fitting that I should lead with a possibly common ethical question for you to ponder. Recently I received an extensive review article on a topic of some importance based on the authors' presentations at an international meeting. However, in initially reviewing the manuscript I was surprised to find the following at the end of the paper:

The initial draft of the manuscript was prepared by Dr. XX of XX Communications and funded by XX pharmaceuticals; however, all the authors provided their input to the subsequent drafts and completely approved the final text.

It seemed to me that the review article had actually been written by an individual working for a public relations company hired by a drug

company. Additionally, this individual was not, as might have been expected, included as one of the listed authors.

While all involved in the writing of the article had been transparent about this situation in acknowledging the participation of Dr. XX, it struck me that having a non-listed author initially draft the manuscript could still be perceived as unethical. Following the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guideline on 'ghost authorship,' I contacted the corresponding author for an explanation of Dr. XX's involvement in the paper. He confirmed that the listed authors had provided the content of their presentations in written form to Dr. XX, who in turn compiled the separate pieces into a single paper. Dr. XX then forwarded the manuscript to the authors for final review and editing of their individual sections. I was informed that Dr. XX had not contributed any content



to the paper, and that her role was restricted to assembling the four component units.

After consulting with colleagues who serve as editors or associate editors of a number of leading biomedical journals, the consensus was to allow the manuscript to be considered for publication. However, if the manuscript was accepted, the authors should be required to revise the acknowledgments section to clearly describe Dr. XX's role in the preparation of the paper.

In response to this situation, I immediately altered the contents of my journal's Instructions for Authors to include the statement 'Manuscripts drafted or written, in whole or part, by individuals other than those indicated as authors will NOT be considered for publication unless the contributions of such individuals are clearly and accurately presented in the acknowledgement section of the paper.'

While these actions satisfactorily addressed this specific incident, one is left to ponder the frequency of ghost writing in scholarly publications? Since those who participate as non-listed authors, for one reason or another, remain anonymous, it would be difficult to estimate how often they participate in the writing of manuscripts. However, since COPE has a separate section in its guidelines on 'What to do if you suspect ghost, guest, or gift authorship,' this practice may be more common than we suspect. Would it occur more frequently in those journals that are concerned with editorials, reviews, and research on economically significant issues such as evaluations of new pharmaceuticals or the management of infectious diseases? Does non-listed authorship occur in papers published in 'soft' science journals? Will the present and future restrictions on outside funding, as well as pressures for professional advancement, lead to the expanded use of ghost writers to increase authors' citations?

Another related question to consider is the detection of contributions by non-listed authors. Dr. XX's participation in the paper noted above would never have been known if the authors had not acknowledged it. Unfortunately, while the COPE guideline discusses several approaches to managing situations in which ghost writing is

suspected, it doesn't suggest methods for detecting its occurrence. Unlike plagiarism or image manipulation, there are no software programs to compare and contrast writing styles to establish the possible presence of unlisted authors.

Should editors or the editorial staff become suspicious if one or more of the authors of submissions appear as authors of an unusually high number of papers in a single year? Since authors love to cite their own work, a quick review of the reference section might provide valuable information. The authorship statement in my journal's Instructions, as in the vast majority of journals, states 'All authors have (a) made a substantial contribution to the concept and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, (b) participated in the drafting of the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content, and (c) have read and approved the final manuscript.' Can any individual meet these authorship criteria in upwards of 15 to 20 articles submitted to multiple journals in a single year?

Does the sudden improvement in the ability of authors to express themselves in English on revised manuscripts indicate the intervention of professional writers or non-listed authors? Does it warrant questioning corresponding authors as to the assistance they may have received in the preparation of the manuscripts? Even if such action seems justified, is it prudent to raise this issue with non-native English speaking authors?

Finally, should the ferreting out of non-listed authors be part of the job description of the editorial staff? In my estimation, all individuals who meet the criteria for authorship should be named as authors. If they provide more limited assistance, this should be included in the acknowledgments. Clear, specific, and firm statements on authorship and acknowledgments, such as those presented in this column or available for other sources, should be included in the Instructions for Authors. Furthermore, there should be penalties for not adhering to these authorship requirements. The main problem is getting authors to actually read your journal's instructions.



Lies, Damned Lies, and Statistics

By Ira Salkin, Ethics Editor

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the April 2012 issue of *Editorial Office News*.

Mark Twain popularized a phrase that he probably mistakenly attributed to British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli: “There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics.” This was brought to mind by a recent article that describes the numerous ways that authors may manipulate their data sets so that statistical analyses will support the significance of the results obtained in their studies. In an article entitled “False-Positive Psychology” published in *Psychological Sciences*, Joseph Simmons and colleagues reported that flexibility in data collection methods allows authors to present virtually anything as being statistically significant.¹ The latter can be roughly defined as the opportunity that results can occur by chance rather than by the factors investigated by the researchers as being not greater than five percent.

Simmons and associates point out that it is the researchers (authors) who decide on the size of the study sample, when to stop collecting data, and which outliers in their findings can be excluded from analysis. Often, these researchers define their hypotheses during the course of the investigations rather than at the initiation of the studies. Put another way, the authors determine

their objective(s) on the basis of the results they discover during their ongoing research. By manipulating various aspects of their methods, authors can skew the data such that they can claim statistical significance even if the results are not scientifically supported. One reason for this might be that most editors prefer publishing positive rather than negative findings.

To demonstrate the way investigators can manipulate data, Simmons et al established two test populations of approximately equal size. Each group listened to a different popular song and afterward, they were asked to complete a survey containing a number of variables, including their dates of birth. Surprisingly, the members of the group who listened to song A were found to be over a year younger than those who listened to song B. It should be remembered that no attempt was made to establish membership in either group on the basis of the age of the participants.

How could this be described as a statistically significant result? Well, while Simmons et al reviewed numerous variables obtained in their surveys, they reported on the one that would apparently withstand statistical analysis. When one combines this with the fact that researchers are free to halt the data collection when they choose, one enhances the appearance of the significance of the findings. Simmons reviewed the data in blocks of ten observations or responses to the surveys and stopped the analysis when convenient for his co-authors and himself. Purely by chance, this was the point at which the age gap between the two groups was the highest.

1 Simmons JP, Nelson LD, and Simonsohn U. False-positive psychology. Undisclosed flexibility in data collection and analysis allows presenting anything as significant. *Psychological Science* 2011;22(11):1359–66.

Editors all too frequently want to have their journals involved in the publication of “crest of the wave” investigations or studies with unanticipated findings, especially if these are supported by statistical analyses. The inclusion of the latter generally ensures that the results of the studies will be quickly disseminated by the popular media. How many times have you read, heard, or seen the results of clinical investigations, new treatment methods, or chronic diseases being reported as statistically linked to unusual variables, as for example, the age of the participants. Whenever I see that a specific percentage of seniors or Caucasians or Italian-Americans are more prone to acquire a specific disease or can be helped by a specific drug, I remember the fact that 98% of the members of these same groups brush their teeth. Therefore, statistical analysis clearly demonstrates that teeth brushing must be a predisposing factor in acquiring the disease or in the successful treatment with the new drug. Remember that authors are responsible for the selection of the variables to be subjected to statistical analysis, but wouldn't the misuse of statistics be uncovered by other scientists working in the same area of study? The reality is that many editors are reluctant to publish papers that replicate investigations that have previously appeared in the literature. However, there is one caveat to this broad editorial policy generalization—if the confirmatory studies generate as much or more attention grabbing results as the original investigations, editors would very likely publish the report.

Dr. Simmons makes the following suggestions to limit the misuse of statistical analyses by authors who might be submitting their work to your journals:

- Authors must establish specific termination dates for their data collection and describe

them in their work. For example, from the world with which I am most familiar, “Bacteria were grown for 72 hours on the new medium, after which the colonies were observed for morphologic variations.” Seeing this, readers know that all data were collected at a specific time;

- Authors must describe all variables collected during the course of their investigations. For instance, authors should indicate that only the length and width of bacterial cells were measured and were subject to further analysis;
- Authors must describe all experimental conditions, even if discontinued during their investigations. In addition, they should report the justification for eliminating them from the studies. Furthermore, they should discuss the statistical consequences if the conditions had not been terminated. In this way, authors cannot select only those results obtained with techniques and procedures that support their hypotheses.

For a complete discussion of Simmons' recommendations for authors, as well as for reviewers, I refer the readers to the *Psychological Science* website where the entire article can be downloaded at no cost.

The majority of instances of possible statistical manipulation are benign in origin in that the authors did not intend to report fraudulent data. However, ignorance of the appropriate methods seriously compromises the integrity of the findings. Therefore, authors, editors, and editors-in-chief should be educated and vigilant with respect to this critical issue to ensure that papers approved for publication meet valid statistical standards.

What is Conflict of Interest?

By Ira Salkin
Editor-in-Chief
Medical Mycology

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the July 2011 issue of *Editorial Office News*.

An interesting brief article concerning sources of potential conflicts of interest (COI) appeared relatively recently in *Ethical Editing*, the newsletter of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)¹. To set the stage, the editorial first presents the following succinct definition of COI, which appeared in 2009 in a report issued by the Institute of Medicine²:

{C}ircumstances that create a risk that professional judgments or actions regarding a primary interest will be unduly influenced by a secondary interest’.

The COPE article then outlined several secondary interests ranging from professional advancement of the authors to requests for favors from colleagues, friends, or even family members that might unduly sway the actions of authors. Monetary rewards to authors for having their articles appear in high impact journals are one source of COI. For example, one of the editors of *The Lancet* indicated in the newsletter article (in what must have been a personal communication as no source was provided) that a Chinese author received almost \$90,000 for having his paper published in her journal. The higher the Impact Factor of the journals the greater the monetary rewards provided to the Chinese authors. *The Lancet* editor went on to note that in many instances the funds received from publishing papers in ‘prestigious’

scholarly journals are greater than the authors’ yearly salaries.

In other situations, the authors may not receive direct financial support, but external funding sources may look more favorably on grant applications received from authors who have had their research appear in international scientific publications. An editor of a Brazilian journal noted (in again what must be considered a personal communication) that considering the support of the authors’ laboratories and graduate students rests on the approval of their grants, there is tremendous pressure on scientists to have their work appear in ‘favored’ journals. This can contribute to another form of COI: responding to requests from colleagues for inclusion as authors despite their rather dubious associations with the studies described in the articles. Perhaps it is also one of the factors contributing to a steady increase in the number of individuals listed as authors on submissions I have received over the last few years. It stretches the limits of credulity that the 14 or more individuals included on some papers, which are fewer than 20 double-spaced manuscript pages, have met the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) requirements for authorship.³ Specifically, the ICMJE code of ethics indicates authors must 1) have made substantial contributions to the conception and design, acquisition of and/or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) participated in the drafting of the paper or its revision relative to its intellectual content; AND 3) have read and approved the final manuscript prior to its submission to the journal. Note the use of ‘and’

1 Committee on Publishing Ethics. (2010). Playing the publishing game: Conflicts of interest in academic publishing. *Ethical Editing* 2(4):5-6.

2 Institute of Medicine. (2009). Conflict of Interest in Medical Research, Education, and Practice. Lo, B. and Field, M. J., editors. National Academy of Medicine: Washington DC, 440.

3 International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. (2009). Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Ethical Considerations in the Conduct and Reporting of Research: Authorship and Contributorship. Available at: <http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/>.

infers individuals must meet all three standards to be listed as authors.

It has been my experience as the editor of a small STM (scientific, technical, & medical) journal that authors frequently do not fully describe the materials and methods employed in their studies. This would obviously make it extremely difficult for others to repeat the authors' studies in order to verify the results and confirm the conclusions. In the majority of instances this oversight is attributable, in part, to the authors' familiarity with the undefined abbreviations, methods, and equipment and their assumption readers must be equally conversant with what the authors consider common techniques. Another innocent explanation might be the authors were forced to summarize these types of details so their papers meet the page limits of the journals. However, the absence of detailed methodological information could stem from COI on the part of authors to ensure their positions in the scientific community and advancement within their departments and institutions by delaying or preventing the publication of collaborative work. Unfortunately, this form of COI rests on anecdotal information that cannot be verified as suggested in the COPE article.

It's not only authors who may fall prey to COI, but reviewers too may attempt to ensure their positions or improve their chances of grant funding or extend a courtesy to colleagues by delaying or sabotaging the publications from competing laboratories. The peer-review system is predicated on the professionalism of those who volunteer to serve as external, objective arbitrators of the quality of manuscripts submitted for publication. However, it is probable, based again more on anecdotal information than hard figures, a percentage of reviewers negatively skew their evaluations so their rivals' papers are rejected. On the other hand, reviewers may provide positive assessments of works submitted by colleagues with whom they have professional or personal relationships. To prevent such situations, the editors of an increasing number of journals have instituted double-blind review policies in which the identities of the reviewers are unknown to the authors and, possibly more importantly, the authors' identities are unknown to the reviewers. In addition,

many editors have established requirements that proscribe reviewers, for a specified number of years, from having collaborated in research projects or being included in earlier papers of the authors whose work has been assigned to them. Another form of COI involving reviewers is their use of information contained in submissions to advance their own research. Despite the fact submissions are considered by almost all journals as privileged communications, an unknown but probably small percentage of reviewers, especially those in well funded and equipped laboratories, use the contents of papers they receive to quickly design new investigations or revise existing protocols in order to generate their own papers.

I would be derelict if I didn't include potential COI on the part of editors in this discussion. The role of the editor or Editor-in-Chief may vary from responsibility for the general oversight of the review process to detailed management of all editorial office activities even to proposing the specific line-up of papers to be included in the next issue. However, one of the roles shared by the majority of editors is making the final decision as to the acceptance or rejection of submissions. We expect, as we do with authors and reviewers, editors will act in an objective and professional manner in making these potentially far sweeping decisions. In addition, the editors' final decisions usually are based on the recommendations of reviewers, associate editors, or members of the journal's editorial board. The ever increasing number of submissions being received by many journals causes the editors to be more reliant on such external counsel and to take less direct involvement in the evaluations of papers. This creates a COI between the editors' responsibilities to maintain the quality of papers published in their journals through their own direct input and the editorial office production demands to secure, in a timely manner, sufficient numbers of manuscripts for succeeding issues. The pressures exerted by authors to minimize the turnaround times between the submission of their manuscripts and first decision, as well as from acceptance to final publication (online or print) create another source of potential COI for editors.

To reduce the turnaround delays would require a delicate balance on the part of editors between

the time required to be more directly involved in all aspects of the editorial operations and the needs of their own careers. I have half-jokingly suggested retired status should be one of the qualifications to serve as an editor-in-chief in order for the person to have sufficient time to appropriately manage an STM journal in these rapidly changing times in the world of scholarly publication.

One can only speculate the seemingly increasing numbers of retractions of published papers by high impact, prestigious journals is due, at least in part, to COI pressures, including those described in this article. I believe such pressures ultimately influence the judgment of authors, reviewers, and editors.

Discovering Our Roots: Happy Holidays

By Stephanie Kinnan

Editorial Assistant

GIE: Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

Summer is finally upon us. For those of us living in climatically-challenged locations, we have survived the brutal cold and battled the urge to hibernate for the better part of this year. We can now look forward to lazy days roasting by the pool, evening air thick with bonfire smoke, and the sweet scent of sunscreen perpetually hanging in the air. Yet, even as the days grow longer, the weekends somehow seem to get shorter, and we find ourselves staring out of that office window and counting down the minutes until the next paid holiday. It's what we all look forward to, right? We need a reason to take time away from our busy lives and to celebrate. We need a reason to gorge ourselves on food and drink, spend excessive amounts of money, and generally overindulge in every conceivable way. And why not? After all, each holiday only comes but once a year. Little did you realize, however, that days for us to celebrate are not so few and far between. In fact, as I am writing this on May 31st, I am celebrating National Speak in Complete Sentences Day. That's right. For all of us who want to pull out our hair with every "fyi" and "tmi" we hear, there is a day on which we can rejoice in the blissful melody of complete sentences. Let's take a look at some other holidays that deserve a little celebration in the coming months.

National Workaholics Day, July 5th – For all you overachievers out there who need the Jaws of Life to drag you away from your desk each night, there is a special day just for you. So, celebrate by putting in a few extra hours this week. Or how about actually enjoying a day off for a change? Put away the e-mail, phone, and busy red pen. I promise all the work will still be there tomorrow.

Bad Poetry Day, August 18th – Ever fancy yourself the next Robert Frost? Well, you're not, but that's okay. We have a day to celebrate you anyway. *Hey! That rhymed!* Embrace those terrible verses that you've scrawled in your diary. Did you rhyme "poet" with "know it"? Then this is your day to shine. So, grab your beret, go find your nearest coffeehouse, and get your haiku on.

National Book Lovers Day, August 9th – Don't care for writing? How about reading? *Psst; if you hate reading, you may want to rethink your career choice.* Celebrate by digging into that stack of books you keep saying you'll get around to. You know, the leaning tower you've been using as a makeshift coffee table for the last year and a half. Crack one of those babies open, kick back, and tell the office you're not coming in today. You've got a holiday to celebrate!

Adapted in part from:

1. Fun Holidays. Timeanddate.com. <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/fun/>. Accessed May 31, 2016.

Preview of the Upcoming ISMTE North American Conference in Philadelphia

Members of the 2016 program committee welcome you to the 9th Annual North American ISMTE Conference!

At our 9th Annual North American Conference, the ISMTE will again deliver high-quality, practical information for Editorial Office staff. Attendees will return to their offices with increased knowledge and skills for improved performance. In addition to keynote and plenary sessions, we offer repeated sessions, allowing attendees to benefit from more content each day, as well as workshop sessions, providing practical information for immediate impact in the office. We hope you will enjoy the dynamic sessions planned for this year's conference, and we invite you to register to attend. Tag the sessions you are looking forward to in social channels with #ISMTE2016.

Below are some highlights of the program.

- **Keynote *Journals in the Post-Sci-Hub World***: John Bohannon, PhD, *Science* contributing correspondent
- **Plenary Panel *Research Integrity and Our Industry Responsibility***: Jighisha Patel, Associate Editorial Director, BioMedCentral; Bettie M. Steinberg, PhD, Provost, Research, The Feinstein Institute for Medical Research
- **Interactive Workshops** covering topics such as:
 - ***Improving your Instructions for Authors***: Kurt Spurlock, Research Square
 - ***Detecting Misconduct in Images***: Michael Rossner, President of Image Data Integrity
 - ***Production Best Practices***: Matt Tomasheski, Team Leader, Production, Elsevier
 - ***Figures 101: Understanding the Technology of Images and Helping Authors***: Lindsey Brounstein, *Gastroenterology*, and Lauren Bragg, J&J Editorial
- **Exchange Forum** We continue the very popular exchange forum, where attendees can pose questions and offer advice to their peers. (There is an opportunity to submit questions in advance of the session, for those of you who are microphone-averse.)
- **Breakouts** A variety of breakout sessions have been planned, addressing several subjects that have been raised at previous Exchange Forum sessions. These include:
 - *Managing Editor-in-Chief Transitions*
 - *Editorial Office Reporting*
 - *Reputation Management*
 - *Managing & Rewarding Editorial Boards & Reviewers*
 - *Science for English Majors*
 - *Data Sharing: Requirements & Best Practices*
 - *The Business of Publishing*

9TH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE

AUGUST 11-12, 2016

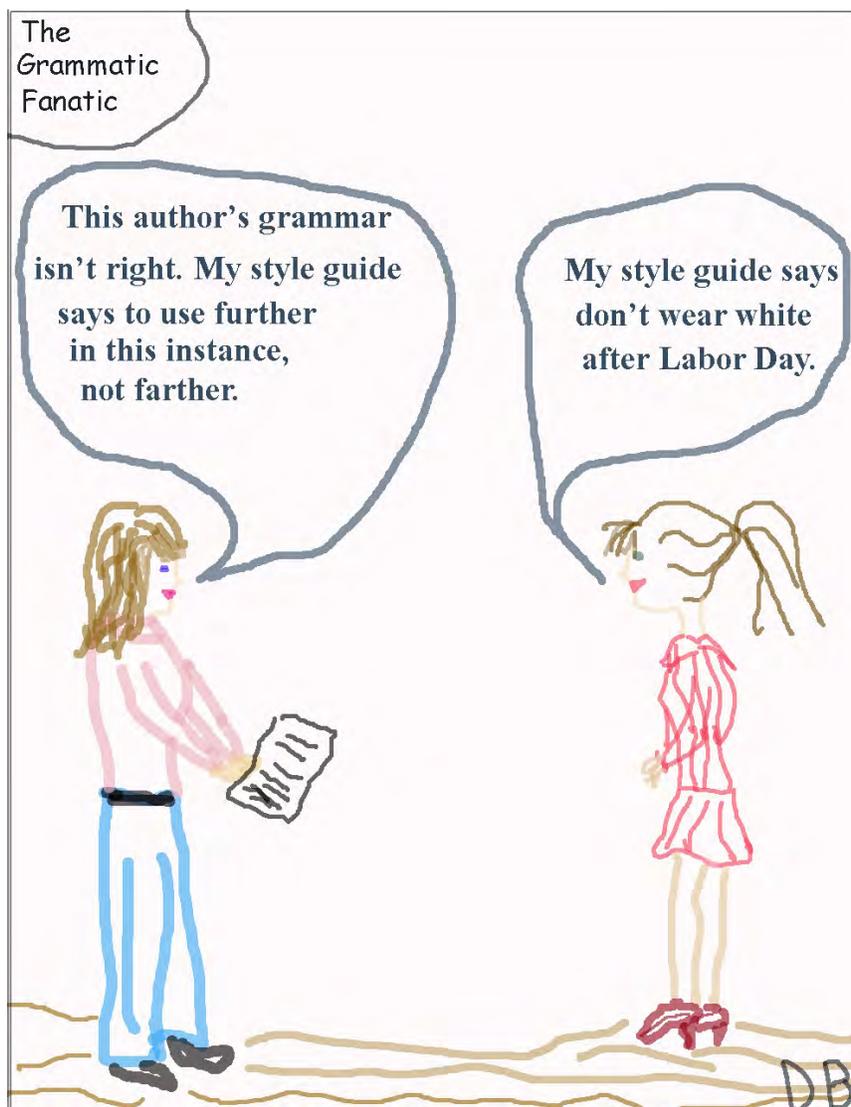
HILTON PHILADELPHIA CITY AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA, PA

- *Online Security Risks in Academic Publishing*
- Peer Review System Vendor Sessions Representatives from Aries, eJournalPress, Elsevier, and ScholarOne Manuscripts will be on-site to describe the latest innovations with their systems and to answer your questions.
- Dine-Around Dinners Attending the conference alone? You don't need to eat alone. Sign up for our dine-around dinner tables at local Philadelphia restaurants and share a meal with your peers.

Please visit the ISMTE website to view the [full program](#) and [register](#) today. We look forward to seeing you there!

2016 Program Committee Members:

Elizabeth Blalock, Society for Investigative Dermatology (Chair)
Lindsey Brounstein, *Gastroenterology*
Michelle English, J&J Editorial
Sarah Forgeng, Society for Investigative Dermatology
Steve Musser, The Sheridan Group (Industry Advisory Board Liaison)
Julie Nash, J&J Editorial (ISMTE Board of Directors Liaison)
Margot Puerta, Executive Editor, *Molecular Medicine*
Jessica Rucker, American Chemical Society
Kurt Spurlock, Research Square
George Woodward, Elsevier





Why Google Drive?

By Meghan McDevitt
Assistant Manager of Clinical Publications
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

We spend a lot of time working on our own, editing articles and reviewing proofs. Sometimes, though, it is necessary to work with a group to edit a document. What is the best way to go about this, especially when multiple people are involved? When it comes time to collaboratively edit a document, Google Drive is my go-to application.

These are some of the top functionalities I’ve found most useful with Google Drive:

- Ability for multiple people to access and work on the same document synchronously and view each other’s changes and edits in real time
- Ability to easily manage permissions and monitor document access and sharing
- Compatibility across all devices and ability to work offline

Google Drive can be thought of as a virtual “My Documents” folder. It can be synced across multiple devices that you can access from your phone, tablet, or computer. All of the usual file types are compatible—you can upload Word, Excel, and PowerPoint documents, PDFs, photos, music, and video. Google even has its own office suite (Docs, Sheets, and Slides) and a plethora of apps that make it easy to create new files directly from Google Drive.

There are a number of benefits to using Google Drive and specifically Google Docs when collaboratively editing a document. Edits can be seen in real time by any user with access. This helps reduce conflicting edits that can arise when editing in isolation. Users can reply and respond to comments and even chat with other users while reviewing. Making edits or comments is similar to Word’s tracked changes function, when the document is set to the “Suggesting” mode (Figure 1).

Saving is automatic—there is no downloading, uploading, or saving multiple versions.

It may seem frightening to put work “in the cloud.” However, Google Drive provides plenty of permission options to ensure you have complete control over who has access to documents and folders. You can set permissions to “Private” so only you can have access, make it completely open and public, or limit sharing to those who are provided a link (Figure 2). As long as the link is shared and the permissions are set, files in Google Drive are accessible to anyone even if the user does not have a Google account.

The ability for multiple users to have access to a document at the same time is probably Google Drive’s most useful feature. You can share publication schedules, communication plans, and editorial calendars with your team. Depending on the sharing permissions, users can view or edit files as needed or leave comments to be resolved later.

This all sounds good so far, but don’t you need to open Google Drive through an internet browser? As long as Google Drive is downloaded

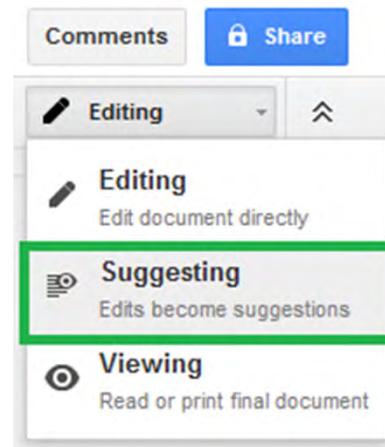


Figure 1. Set documents to “Suggesting” mode to ensure edits appear as tracked changes.

Link sharing

-  **On - Public on the web**
Anyone on the Internet can find and access. No sign-in required.
-  **On - Anyone with the link**
Anyone who has the link can access. No sign-in required.
-  **On - The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy**
Anyone at The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy can find and access.
-  **On - Anyone at The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy with the link**
Anyone at The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy who has the link can access.
-  **Off - Specific people**
Shared with specific people.

Access: **Anyone (no sign-in required)** [Can view](#) ▾

Note: Items with any link sharing option can still be published to the web.

[Learn more](#)

[Learn more about link sharing](#)

Figure 2. Customize sharing settings for each document and folder.

on your device and your files are synced, you can access files and work *without* an internet connection. When your device connects back to the internet, all the changes you made are automatically synced. Magic!

As with all forms of technology, there are always drawbacks. Google Drive works best when using Google's Chrome web browser. Users working from other browsers may find working in Google Drive more difficult. If there is a lot of transferring between Word and Google Docs, the formatting can get corrupted (extra line spaces appear in the body of the text, for example). For best results, it is recommended to stick to one file format—write, edit, and finalize in either Word or Google Docs and try not to convert back and forth as

much. Finally, there is a small learning curve when you first start using Google Drive. It is a different platform and although it is set up similarly to Microsoft Office, it is not the same. It is good to spend some time playing around with the functions and, of course, Googling your questions.

Despite its flaws, Google Drive is my preferred tool when I need to share files or collaboratively edit documents. It does what I need it to do and allows me access to my files from any device. It drastically improves my ability to manage versions and drafts because it captures and saves all edits automatically. If you haven't already tried it, give Google Drive a chance on your next team project and see what it can do for you.

In Tribute to Ira Salkin

The high recognition and many awards Ira received in his lifetime show the esteem in which he was held by the mycology community. He was also a committed and dedicated editor, serving a number of journals over a quarter of a century. He was an ‘editor’ in the truest sense of the word, carrying out a wide range of editorial tasks, including supporting and educating new generations of researchers in writing and reviewing. To the ISMTE, he will always be remembered as one of the members of the Founding Board of Directors. It was on this Board that I first met Ira and came to appreciate not only his real commitment to editorial work but also his clear enjoyment of it—this was something we all had in common on the Board. He also gave me invaluable advice when I arrived in Baltimore from the UK for one Board meeting with an excruciating toothache that developed during the transatlantic flight—thank you Ira! Ira never wavered in his commitment to our new fledging society, recognising the real need for such an organisation. He is a great loss to the ISMTE, and will be remembered with great fondness by us all.

Irene Hames, ISMTE Founding Board, current member of the Industry Advisory Board



December 12, 2014, I received an email from Ira with this brief message and image.

“Remember to do it while you can because as we both know; no one promises you tomorrow.”

For those who knew Ira consider yourself truly fortunate. He shared his knowledge of the editorial world with anyone who would ask for help. I did just that. Actually, several times I sought his advice for papers that I was preparing. Without hesitation he responded with his “edits” to improve the grammar and punctuation. I was amazed at his ability to thoughtfully use words that added a special meaning and clarity to the papers. He had the skills, ability, and desire to help when he took my crudely outlined thoughts and breathed life into the paragraphs. I am forever grateful for his feedback and edits to my papers.

Over the past five years the emails arrived less frequently. I knew he wasn’t feeling well. I will miss the emails from him with his one-liner messages that contained images that brightened my day. I will miss his kindness and mentoring ways.

May his memory be a blessing.

Good bye, my friend. I will always remember you.

Wendy Krank



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Ira Salkin with Jason Roberts

It was with profound sadness that I learned of Ira's passing earlier this year. We had not corresponded in a little while and it is now to my eternal regret that I will never now have the opportunity to thank him once again for all his efforts in getting ISMTE off the ground. Ira had complete faith in the organization but often brought a much-needed dose of reality, especially when he managed the books. Even as a nascent organization with perhaps one-tenth of the number of members we now have, he was kept busy ensuring all our paperwork was in order. Indeed, whenever I now see or hear the words "fiduciary responsibility," all I can hear is Ira's voice.

Ira was not someone previously known to me or indeed anyone else involved in the startup of ISMTE. He was the long-serving Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Medical Mycology*, running the entire operation, being equal parts Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor, and the point person for the publisher on the business side of the journal. Knowing Ira, I am sure he later ruefully shook his head many times over how he got sucked in to the whole ISMTE enterprise. It was simply by virtue of the fact that he sat next to me at one of the early ScholarOne user conferences where the concept of ISMTE was first floated. As I sat down after delivering a presentation on how we really needed to be thinking in a professional manner when running an editorial office, he and I got talking about how useful it would be if there was a forum to discuss operational matters, to share advice on best practice. Others were sucked in to the conversation that day and from there the seed was sown.

Ira was instrumental on the launch of ISMTE, both by playing a major role as one of the initial Board members and by critically injecting a different perspective. First, he was an Editor-in-Chief, the only one amongst us at the time. Furthermore, several of us on that initial Board, though very experienced in our jobs, were still relatively young. Ira, however, brought an avuncular touch and a lifetime of invaluable experiences that we could draw upon. Despite all his herculean efforts, what I, and I am sure most others, will remember about Ira was, in fact, his very dry wit. I never tired of it—often the verbal equivalent of shrugged shoulders—and you could guarantee a remark from Ira would bring levity to the occasion be it an interminably long (but necessary) Board meeting or the stressful run up to hosting one of the first meetings, where we had to do everything ourselves. I, like many, will miss Ira, but feel honored to have had the chance to work alongside him and, consequently, get to know such a great individual.

Jason Roberts, PhD
Founding President, ISMTE

“I believe that the organization [ISMTE] will provide opportunities for those involved in day-to-day editorial functions to exchange information and obtain training to assist and improve their management and editing skills.”

From Ira’s biography in the inaugural issue of *EON* (January 2008)

As a fortunate member of the founding Board of ISMTE, I knew Ira and his hopes for the Society, as described in his words above. As one of our founding fathers, he believed our community needed ISMTE and he put forth the effort to see it launched and ensure its success. I respected him as a founder and our first treasurer, but it was through our work together on the society’s newsletter, *EON*, that he became my friend.

I was the eager editor, and he was a regular contributor of informative articles, never turning me down when I asked him to write something. Our friendship was developed through email exchanges relating to *EON* articles, and I always looked forward to seeing something from him in my box. He had a wonderful way with words and his wit came through in his writing as well as it did in person.

Besides submitting feature articles, Ira served several years as the Section Editor for ethics. He wrote articles such as “What is Conflict of Interest” (July 2011), “Author-Recommended Reviewers” (February 2012 and the 2014 *EON Collection*), “Lies, Damned Lies, and Statistics” (April 2012), “Where There’s Smoke, Is There Really A Fire?” (August 2012), and many, many more. Ira made “ethics” a standard word in the young ISMTE’s vocabulary, a topic of increasing importance since that time.

Ira was intelligent, droll, and quick with a quip or a smile. He was one of the first people I looked for at the North American conferences and I have keenly felt his absence in recent years. I will miss him very much.

Kristen Overstreet
 Immediate Past President, ISMTE

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My memories of Ira are largely confined to the period in which our terms overlapped as Board members. As Treasurer, Ira's oversight of our finances was invaluable as the Society expanded in its early years. It was not uncommon during a Board discussion for Ira to stop us in our tracks by drawing attention to 'the elephant in the room', which we had willfully or negligently disregarded.

But I think I am most indebted to Ira for his articles in *EON*, replete with his dry wit, on matters of ethics. Punctuated with his inimitable dry wit and useful advice, they number among the most interesting pieces published in *EON*. Whenever I consider the topic of plagiarism, even now I still think of his article in the May 2010 issue entitled 'A recent case of plagiarism', in which he drew attention to the difficulties of identifying plagiarised works. His greatest concern in writing these articles was that 'authors, editors, and editors-in-chief should be educated and vigilant' (Ira's own words in his article on 'Lies, Damned Lies, and Statistics', in *EON* April 2012).

The Board has decided to establish an annual scholarship in Ira's memory with effect from 2017. Applications will take the form of an essay relating to a topic in publishing ethics. The award recipient will receive funding to attend one of our annual meetings, with complimentary registration at the meeting; more details will follow in due course. The Board hopes the scholarship will help us to perpetuate Ira's goal of ensuring editorial office professionals are educated and vigilant in matters of publishing ethics.

Michael Willis
President
ISMTE



Ira Salkin with Jason Roberts, Glenn Collins, and Elizabeth Blalock

Calendar of Events

ISMTE North American Conference

August 11-12, 2016

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

www.ismte.org

EASE and COPE members receive ISMTE member registration rate

Editorial Freelancers Association 2016 National Conference

August 29-30, 2016

New York, New York

www.the-efa.org

ALPSP Conference 2016

September 14-16, 2016

London, England

www.alpsp.org

8th Conference on Open Access Scholarly Publishing (COASP)

September 21-22, 2016

Arlington, Virginia

<http://oaspa.org>

Effective Social Media for Scholarly Publishers

September 28, 2016

London, England

www.alpsp.org

ISMTE European Conference

October 31-November 1, 2016

Brussels, Belgium

www.ismte.org

EASE and COPE members receive ISMTE member registration rate

Be a Better Freelancer™ – Profiting in Publishing

October 28-29, 2016

Rochester, New York

www.communication-central.com

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Editing medical journals – short course

November 2-4, 2016

Oxford, United Kingdom

www.pspconsulting.org

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A note on English: ISMTE aims to be a truly international society. English will represent our lingua franca, but we would like to stress that, in materials published in EON or online, variations in idiomatic usage and spelling should reflect the origins of the author. No one version of English is preferred over the other.

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