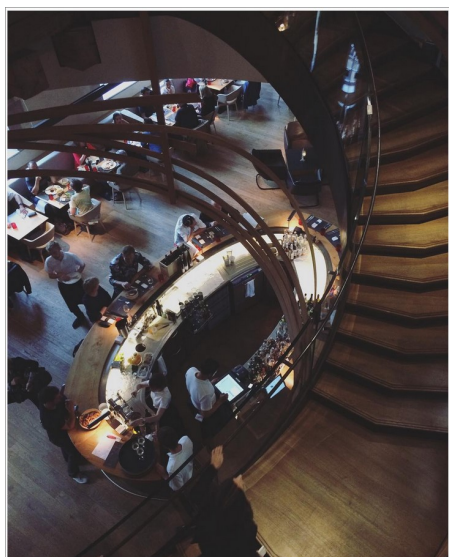




The Alsace Almanac

Sunday, Sunday!

Welcome to the third and final day of conference proceedings at the Faculté de Médecine, Strasbourg! We were treated to some real weather yesterday, weren't we?!



Hope everyone enjoyed the conference dinner, and everyone enjoyed good food and conversation.

Thanks to [@MarleneBras](#) for the picture!

Teaser Answer:

The answer to yesterday's teaser was: Simon Marx!



Gift shop!

Spotted while out-and-about: a gift shop with the most appropriate name! This will go nicely with your EASE tote-bags!

Today's news

- Plenary Review | Bouter.....2
- Summary | Guidelines.....2
- Plenary Review | Bergadaà.....3
- Summary | Managing Ethics....3
- Summary | Screening.....4
- Summary | Reducing Waste....4

Comment

 facebook.com/EurSciEd

 [@EASEeditors](https://twitter.com/EASEeditors)

Plenary review | Lex Bouter



In the first Plenary lecture, Lex Bouter introduced us to misconduct with an overview of selective replication and scarcity of replicability, themes that were returned to throughout the day. Among his so-called 60 shades of grey of misconduct that can occur in research, one quote was particularly memorable: "If you torture data enough it will always confess." His take home message was that sloppy science (eg, ignorance, honest error, and dubious integrity) is a greater evil than fraudulent conduct due to the higher proportion of cases.

During his lecture Lex Bouter mentioned one of his PhD students who had recently finished a dissertation on publication pressure. There were

"If you torture data enough, it will always confess"

some questions on this during the break, and Prof. Bouter has kindly provided the URL to access this research:, for anyone that wants to read it: <http://dare.uvu.vu.nl/handle/1871/54492>

Prof. Bouter also recommended further reading of the website of the Netherlands Research Integrity Network, which is written in English and widely used outside the Netherlands. www.nrin.nl

From print to chemicals

The French industrial revolution began in Alsace. The region had strong traditions in textiles and printing, both of which used coloured dyes or inks, which led in part to the chemical industries of nearby Basel, now known as the home of many pharmaceutical companies.

Session Summary | Guidelines

David Moher discussed how guidelines can be used to reduce research waste and the part editors can play in their implementation. Ann Cambon Thomson outlined the CoBRA guidelines for citation of bioresources. Shirin Heidari highlighted the paucity of gender and sex based research, the harm it causes, and how editors can help. Cara Tannenbaum discussed the implementation and findings of efforts to encourage sex and gender based research in Canada. Sylwia Ufnalska presented the EASE guidelines and resources for scientific publishing. Ines Steffen discussed several instances when guidelines do not help.

Nicolas Dolan



Plenary review Michelle Bergadaà University of Geneva

Michelle Bergadaà introduced us to her framework of various plagiarist personalities, the behaviours that typify them, and potential routes of treatment. Michelle described some of the methods of dealing with a complaint of plagiarism or fraud, from development of a common language, through to pacification of the community. The session concluded with a brief but spirited debate on the existence and culpability of an unwitting plagiarist.

Michelle's collaborative website is a resource for plagiarism analysis and intervention, and can be found at <http://responsable.unige.ch>

Rhiannon Howe



Nobel Laureate

Albert Schweitzer (14 January 1875 – 4 September 1965) was a native of Alsace who received the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize for his philosophy of "Reverence for Life", expressed in many ways, but most famously in founding and sustaining the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambaréné, now in Gabon, west central Africa (then French Equatorial Africa). He was born in Alsace and his house can be seen in the village of Gunsbach. Schweitzer, a Lutheran, challenged both the secular view of Jesus as depicted by historical-critical methodology current at this time in certain academic circles, as well as the traditional Christian view. He a music scholar and organist, who influenced the Organ reform movement (Orgelbewegung).

Teaser:

Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, born in Colmar, half an hour by train from Strasbourg, is famous for creating what?

Session Summary | Managing Ethics

In this session, author's editor Elise Langdon-Neuner described the language concerns surrounding manuscripts of non-English speakers, concluding that the use of plain rather than 'academic' English is less likely to lead to misinterpretation, followed by Helen Penny who gave tips on how to detect spin in research articles, with insights from the *Lancet* copy-editing team. Duncan Nicholas then described the various educational resources available to editors, and outlined some interesting cases of so-called salami slicing and plagiarism. Finally, moderator Pippa Smart ended the session, reminding editors that they should consider authors' rights to the freedom of expression when editing.



Helen Penny

Session summary | Reducing waste

Chaired by Joan Marsh, the *Reducing waste in research and publishing* session addressed the important challenge of research waste in scientific publishing. Paul Glasziou suggested how editors can help reduce the estimated 85% of health research wasted—eg, by encouraging use of reporting guidelines and introducing incentives for full reporting. Tools that aid experimental design—such as the Experimental Design Assistant introduced by Nathalie Percie du Sert from NC3Rs—aim to reduce waste by increasing transparency of protocols and validity of findings. Karen Shashok outlined how free-lance editors help authors to reduce research waste before manuscript submission, and Pia Rotshtein introduced a new concept in peer review in the form of Registered Reports, an article form that is first peer-reviewed before data collection to promote sound hypotheses and robust protocols in research. With the approaches discussed and campaigns such as *The Lancet's* REWARD, editors can play an important part in reducing waste in scientific research.



Cheryl Lai

"La Marseillaise"

The national anthem of France was written in 1792 by Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle in Strasbourg after the declaration of war by France against Austria, and was originally titled "Chant de guerre pour l'Armée du Rhin" ("War Song for the Rhine Army"). The French National Convention adopted it as the Republic's anthem in 1795. It acquired its nickname after being sung in Paris by volunteers from Marseille marching on the capital.

Session Summary | Screening

This session covered three aspects of screening by editors; text screening, image manipulation and data/statistics. Rachael Lammey gave an update on the uptake of the Crossref Similarity Check service and plans to develop the functionality. Sioux Cumming provided practical insights and lessons learned from the manuscript screening trial she has been running with the INASP Journals Online project. Sun Huh from Hallym University followed up with information on image preparation, demonstrating online tools that can be used to detect alterations made to images. Finally, independent statistical reviewer Chris Palmer shared advice on working with statistics and distinguishing between fraud and error in interpreting these. Takeaway: there are no simple answers in evaluating manuscripts – editor overview, buy-in and knowledge are still key!

Rachel Lammey

