

The EASE Turkish Regional Chapter's Seminar "Editors and Editing in Times of Crisis"

One of the preconference events of the EASE Virtual Conference, The EASE Turkish Regional [Chapter](#)'s online seminar on "*Editors and Editing in Times of Crisis*" was held on 11th of June 2020 with participation of 20 speakers from different fields mostly editors from good medical journals in Turkey including public health, ethics, otorhinolaryngology, pulmonology, radiology, general medicine and plastic & reconstructive surgery, also editors from biology and social science journals, well-known publishers, governmental bodies related to publishing and national academy of sciences (the list of speakers can be seen [here](#)).

The seminar was moderated by the EASE council member and the chair of the chapter Cem Uzun. After welcoming all participants, he gave a short explanation on EASE and the Turkish Chapter, and explained the reason of organizing this event by citing the EASE [Statement](#) on Quality Standards published during the Covid-19 Pandemic. He thanked to EASE for the idea and the opportunity to organize the event. He also thanked to the speakers and the participants for their time and to AVES Publishing House for their technical support.

At the beginning of the seminar, the EASE President Pippa Smart and the Vice-President Duncan Nicholas gave information on the main subject and EASE activities with a video-presentation.

The seminar lasted 3 and half hours in four sessions. In the first session, the above stakeholders shared their experiences during that pandemic period by answering those questions:

- How did the pandemic affect academic publishing?
- How do we improve the speed of acceptance in times of crisis?
- What is quality publishing, how should it be maintained in times of crisis?
- How can we avoid lowering the quality of peer review at times of crisis?
- How can we continue to provide quality editing during lockdown?
- What is the role of the publisher in terms of rapid evaluation while maintaining the quality of the publication?
- Problems facing journals in the field of social sciences during the pandemic and their solutions.

In the second session, those topics were discussed and useful information was shared by the experienced editors and publishers:

- How can we help non-native English authors to publish in English?
- How can we help authors to better illustrate their results (tables and figures)?
- What is preprint? What are the advantages and disadvantages during the crisis?
- What is retraction? Are there any examples during the crisis?
- How do we identify fraud (plagiarism, figure manipulation, etc.)?
- Should we change our author guidelines to respond to crises and hot topics?

The importance of quality scientific publishing and the current situation in Turkey were discussed and evaluated regarding those questions and topics:

- What is the importance of accurate and good academic publishing for public health?

- DergiPark experiences during the pandemic
- Journal requests received by the TR-Index and its practise during the crisis
- Can there be flexibility in research and publication ethics during the crisis?
- The importance of open science during the pandemic and its situation in our country
- How can we improve the quality of our scientific researches, publications and journals?

The last session – questions & answers – lasted one and half hour, and the speakers could answer most of the questions with nearly 100 participants remained until the last seconds of the event.

There were 592 registrations and 317 of them (mainly editors) attended. The EASE Turkish Regional Chapter's seminar was well received by the speakers and the participants. The post-event survey revealed that 96% of the respondents found the event useful.

Beside some practical information given by the speakers to reduce the time for review and publication process, the overall conclusion of the seminar was parallel to the EASE Statement that quality standards should be considered even during times of crises. Science depends on true knowledge and transparent reports, and the public's trust to science should not be damaged.

Note: This short technical report was written by Cem Uzun, the Chair of the EASE Turkish Regional Chapter. An unofficial report by one of the non-speaker participants will be sent to the EASE Secretary.

The video recording of the seminar will be available at the EASE Turkish Regional Chapter YouTube channel (EASE Turkey) soon.