Appendix III

Useful websites

This appendix lists various websites that will be of interest and use to people involved in journal editorial work. Many of the organizations have been mentioned in the main text, some a number of times. Here, a brief description is given of them and what they do. Most of the websites contain information about, and links to, other sites that readers will find helpful.

Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP; www.alpsp.org)

ALPSP is the international trade association for not-for-profit publishers and those who work with them; it is also the largest association of scholarly and professional publishers in the world. It provides representation of the sector, professional development activities and a wealth of information and advice. It runs many very useful and informative seminars and offers a wide variety of training courses at different levels. The training courses are tailored to meet the requirements of the academic and professional publishing market and cover business and management, editorial, production and e-publishing, marketing, and legal issues. ALPSP regularly commissions and publishes reports on topics of direct relevance to the publishing industry. It also has a journal, Learned Publishing, which it publishes in collaboration with the Society for Scholarly Publishing (see this appendix, page 273), a monthly email newsletter, ALPSP Alert, and several very active and high-quality listserv discussion fora. There are local Chapters in various locations worldwide.

Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE; www.publicationethics.org.uk)

COPE is a voluntary organization formed in 1997, originally as a self-help group set up by biomedical editors for editors, to address breaches of research and publication ethics. It is ‘a forum for editors of peer-reviewed journals to discuss issues related to the integrity of the scientific record; it supports and encourages editors to report, catalogue and instigate investigations into ethical problems in the publication process’ (accessed 8 August 2006). One of its aims is to develop good practice. It
provides guidelines on good publication practice and has put together a code of conduct for editors. COPE also advises on anonymous cases of misconduct; summaries of the case studies, with all the discussion points, can be found on its website.

**CONSORT (www.consort-statement.org)**

CONSORT stands for Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials, but is always referred to by just the acronym. The CONSORT statement is a tool to improve the quality of reporting of randomized controlled trials (RCTs). It allows RCTs to be reported in a standard, transparent and evidence-based way. It comprises a checklist and a flowchart, which together are called CONSORT (e.g. ‘... use of CONSORT to ...’). The checklist contains all the things that should be addressed in a trial report; the flow diagram shows the progress of all participants in the trial, from time of randomization until the end of their involvement. The aim is to clarify the experimental process and aid evaluation of the data. The CONSORT statement is an evolving document, so readers should refer to the website for the latest version. The checklist and flow diagram current in August 2006 are reproduced in Appendix II (see page 217).

**Council of Science Editors (CSE; www.councilscienceeditors.org)**

The CSE used to be the Council of Biology Editors (CBE) but adopted the new name in 2000 to reflect more accurately its membership. Its mission is ‘to promote excellence in the communication of scientific information’ and its purpose is ‘to serve members in the scientific, scientific publishing, and information science communities by fostering networking, education, discussion, and exchange and to be an authoritative resource on current and emerging issues in the communication of scientific information’ (accessed 8 August 2006). There is much very helpful information in the CSE’s extensive editorial policy statements. There are also very useful reference links to all sorts of resources, such as a large selection of dictionaries, grammar and style guides, maps, quotations, various databases, and lots of general information.

**European Association of Science Editors (EASE; www.ease.org.uk)**

EASE is ‘an internationally oriented community of individuals from diverse backgrounds, linguistic traditions and professional experience who share an interest in science communication and editing’ (accessed 8 August 2006). It has an electronic
Useful websites 271

International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM; www.stm-assoc.org)

The mission of STM is ‘to create a platform for exchanging ideas and information and to represent the interest of the STM publishing community in the fields of copyright, technology developments, and end user/library relations’ (accessed 8 August 2006). STM includes large and small publishing companies, secondary publishers, and learned societies. Its membership accounts for an estimated 80% of the annual output of scientific research communication. There is access to a number of documents, statements and public correspondence on its website.

International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE; www.icmje.org)

The ICMJE is made up of a group of editors from general medical journals who meet annually to discuss the ‘Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication’. Guidelines for the format of manuscripts for general medical journals were first produced in 1979 following an informal meeting of a small group of editors of general medical journals in Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1978. The group became known as the Vancouver Group, and the guidelines are still sometimes referred to as the Vancouver Guidelines. The Vancouver Group evolved into the ICMJE, which has since produced many updates of the Uniform Requirements. These guidelines have been extended to cover more than just manuscript preparation, and now include ethical considerations and many editorial issues. All editors and authors will benefit from looking at them and will find them a very valuable resource. The ICMJE allows the Uniform Requirements to be reproduced for educational, not-for-profit purposes, and encourages their distribution.
International Council for Science (ICSU – acronym derived from the previous, pre-1998, name – the International Council of Science Unions; www.icsu.org)

The ICSU is a non-governmental organization with a global membership that includes both national scientific bodies and international scientific unions. The ICSU provides a forum for the discussion of issues relevant to international science policy and it actively advocates freedom in science, promotes equitable access to scientific data and information, and facilitates science education. It addresses global issues in partnership with other organizations and acts as an advisor on a wide range of topics from ethics to the environment.

International Publishers’ Association (IPA; www.ipa-uie.org)

The IPA is a long-standing (established in 1896) non-governmental organization that represents the publishing industry, with consultative relations with the United Nations. Its membership is made up of national publishers’ organizations and those organizations must be representative of their countries (there are no individual publishing company members). Each country is generally represented by only one organization.

The IPA’s mission is:

- ‘to uphold and defend the right of publishers to publish and distribute the works of the mind in complete freedom
- to promote and protect by all lawful means the principles of copyright
- to overcome illiteracy, the lack of books and of other education materials
- to assure the unrestricted import and export of books and other materials produced by publishers’ (accessed 8 August 2006).

International Standard Randomised Controlled Trial Number Register (ISRCTN; http://isrctn.org)

The ISRCTN is a simple numeric system (based on randomly generated 8-digit numbers prefixed by ISRCTN) for the unique identification of randomized controlled trials worldwide. This enables all publications and reports resulting from a specific trial to be tracked. A pilot was introduced in March 2000, and the scheme was formally
Useful websites

launched in May 2003. The website gives answers to frequently asked questions and readers are referred there for further details and up-to-date information. As mentioned in Chapter 3 (page 30), clinical trial registration is in the process of change and attempts are being made to introduce greater regulation and transparency into clinical trials.

Office of Research Integrity (ORI; http://ori.dhhs.gov)

The ORI is part of the Office of Public Health and Science within the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services in the US Department of Health and Human Services. It promotes integrity in biomedical and behavioural research supported by the US Public Health Service at around 4000 institutions worldwide. ORI monitors institutional investigations of research misconduct and promotes responsible conduct of research through educational, preventative and regulatory activities. It develops policies, procedures and regulations related to the detection, investigation and prevention of research misconduct. It also reviews and monitors investigations into research misconduct carried out by institutions whose research is funded by the Public Health Service and provides assistance when required. Helpful guidance documents can be found on its website.

Society for Scholarly Publishing (SSP; www.sspnet.org)

The mission of SSP is ‘to advance scholarly publishing and communication and the professional development of its members through education, collaboration and networking among individuals in this field’ (accessed 8 August 2006). It provides the opportunity for interaction among members in all aspects of scholarly publishing, including journal and book publishers, librarians, manufacturers, and web editors. It has links to many organizations and resources on its website, and includes email and telephone contact details for some of the listings. The scope is very broad-ranging but grouped under topic headings.

World Association of Medical Editors
(WAME – pronounced ‘whammy’; www.wame.org)

WAME is ‘a voluntary association of editors from many countries who seek to foster international cooperation among editors of peer-reviewed medical journals’ (accessed 8 August 2006). Membership is free and open to all editors of peer-reviewed medical journals. WAME aims particularly to assist editors in developing
countries and editors of small journals, who may have problems attracting high-quality manuscripts, have limited funds and lack training and expertise in editing and publishing. WAME’s website provides many resources that will be useful to all editors, not just those from medical journals – policy statements, ethical considerations, and guidance for editors before and after taking up editorial positions. It also has a comprehensive listing of its listserv discussions, with links to the postings.