关于制订《中国英文科技编辑行业规范》的倡议书

近20年,随着中国科学研究飞速发展,科研成果在不断增加,发表在英文学术期刊上的科研论文在质和量上都有实质突破。这些成就主要归功于良好的科研环境和广大科研人员的刻苦和勤奋,同时也得益于逐步发展和成熟的英文科技论文编辑行业。

英文学术期刊是国际学术交流的平台,成果往往只有发表在英文学术期刊上才能得到国际学术界的认可。然而,很多中国科研人员限于英语写作能力,无力将其科研成果发表在英文学术期刊上,他们必须借助于母语为英文的、具备专业知识和学术水平的专家,或拥有强大专家库的英文科技编辑公司(以下简称编辑公司)的支持。

目前,在中国有注册和未注册的编辑公司上千家,他们的服务理念,形式和内容迥异,服务质量良莠不齐。有些编辑公司鱼目混珠,完全以欺骗为手段,以谋取暴利为目的。更有部分论文编辑公司违反科研伦理和学术规范,放任、纵恿甚至参与和操纵学术不端行为,不仅严重影响了英文科技论文编辑行业的声誉,更严重损害了中国科研人员在国际上的信誉和在英文学术期刊上发表论文的公平性。

"人无诚信不立,业无诚信不兴,国无诚信不强"。为了促进中国英文科技编辑行业的健康发展,加强行业自律和监督,以切实将中国科研成果走向世界提供高质量的论文语言服务,预防和避免任何形式的学术不端行为,我们现宣布成立中国英文科技论文编辑联盟(The Alliance for Scientific Editing in China, ASEC),并正式倡议,制订和执行中国英文科技论文编辑行业规范(以下简称本规范)。所有正式在中国注册的编辑公司均可申请加入 ASEC,并由其负责人签署本规范。签署本规范的编辑公司必须将本规范纳入到公司的政策和实际操作流程并严格执行。

本规范包括,但不限于以下原则:

- 第一,作者必须对论文学术内容负全责:根据国际医学杂志编辑委员会(ICMJE)标准, 论文的学术内容必须是作者的研究成果,因此,必须由作者确认:
- 第二, 只由培训合格的编辑处理文稿:
- 第三,不得篡改作者提供的科研数据或为作者伪造实验数据:
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第十,签署本规范是一种信任和荣誉,更是一种责任和承诺。所有签署本规范的编辑公司必须遵守本规范。违者将从 ASEC 除名。

这份倡议书将在 2015 年 10 月 17-18 日举行的"<u>第一届国际医学研究与发表高峰论坛</u>"公布。签署本规范的编辑公司名单将公示在 **ASEC** <u>官方网站</u>和杂志"<u>医学研究与发表</u>"上。

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Proposal on the establishment of standards for editing English scientific

articles in China

October 18, 2015

The rapid development of scientific research in China over the past decades has resulted in increasing outputs, as reflected by substantial breakthroughs, both quantitatively and qualitatively, in the publications of scientific articles in English journals. These achievements are largely owing to continuously increasing investment and improved research environment in China, and the hard and diligent work of researchers across the country. In addition, the gradual development of a mature scientific editing industry has contributed to the achievements.

Indeed, English scientific journals are the major platform for international academic communication and most research results can only be recognized internationally once they have been published in English scientific journals. However, many Chinese researchers are not able to publish their research in English journals due to their limited English writing capacity, and can successfully do so only with the help of a native English speaker who has a similar scientific background, or a professional editing company with a strong and compressive team of editors.

Currently there are up to one thousand editing companies providing services to Chinese researchers. These myriad services differ in their missions and visions, service styles and content, and more importantly, their service quality. Some companies are mainly or even solely driven by profit and thus may take whatever measures to achieve that goal, including fraudulent and unethical activities. Even worse, a few companies tolerate, encourage or even participate in academic misconduct, which not only significantly affects the reputation of the scientific editing industry, but also severely damages the credibility of Chinese researchers and increases the difficulty for Chinese researchers to publish in English scientific journals.

To facilitate the heathy development, self-discipline and monitoring of the scientific editing industry in Chin, and further provide high quality editing services for Chinese researchers, with particular attention to the prevention of any form of academic misconduct, we hereby announce that we voluntarily form a self-discipline body, named The Alliance for Scientific Editing in China (ASEC). We also officially propose the establishment and execution of The Standardized Practice for Editing English Scientific Articles (SPEESA) in China. All editing companies registered in China are eligible for joining the ASEC, and the SPEESA must be signed by company leadership. All signatory companies must strictly follow the SPEESA by putting in place policies and practices, which include but are not limited to the following principles:

- Authors hold full responsibility for the accuracy of an article's scientific content; thus,
 the contribution of the article's scientific content must be solely the work of the
 authors (as defined by international standards such as ICMJE definitions on the role
 of authors and contributors). Further, it is the role of authors to finalize and confirm
 the scientific content of articles prior to submission and for any revisions made during
 peer review.
- 2. Services must provide editing by qualified editors who have received appropriate training, including that on ethics policies.

- 3. Services must not falsify or fabricate research data provided by the authors, or gather data for authors.
- 4. Services must publicly display their ethics policies, and must decline any request from authors that would breach research ethics and academic integrity, with explanation to the authors on the potential life-long implications of the misconducts on the authors' research and academic career.
- 5. Services must not provide false information on potential peer reviewers; nor help authors manipulate the peer review system.
- 6. Services must not participate in any form of research article trading.
- 7. Services must not participate in any misconducts prohibited by Chinese authorities and institutions.
- 8. Services must keep confidential any personal and content information provided by authors, and all communications with authors.
- 9. Services must accept acknowledgement for editing if authors wish to, thus indicating language quality of the manuscript.
- 10. Signing of the ASEC is based on an honor system that brings with it an obligation to carry out its principles in good faith and with due diligence. All signatory companies must obey the SPEESA, and any companies that breach it shall be expelled from the ASEC.

This proposal is to be announced at The First Summit on Medical Research and Publication held on October 17-18, 2015. All signing companies will be listed at the ASEC's official website and the magazine "Medical Research and Publication".

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