

## **ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT 2013**

Once again, there has been limited activity for and from the Ethics Committee (EC) during 2013 therefore the Committee's report is limited.

### **1. Activities/achievements:**

Some of the EC members participated in the ad hoc Disciplinary committee (Nina Davis, Edward Stanford) joined by 2 others. The EC continues to monitor disclosures at the annual meeting and has discussed efforts to improve that monitoring. The EC is unaware of any disclosure issues that required attention.

There are no immediate action items for the 2013 meeting

### **2. Committee membership;**

Members:

Several new members will be required for the EC. The most recent Duties and Organization of the Ethics Committee 2009 was amended to have a Committee consisting of 15 members.

Currently, there are 10 members:

E J Stanford	Urogyn	2016	
Nina Davis	Uro, geriatrician	2013	will renew
Andrew Farkas	Gyn	2015	
Suzanne Hagen	Nurse	2015	
Mitesh Parekh	Urogyn	2013	has not participated, will not renew
Tom Rosenbaum	Uro	2015	
KD Sievert	Uro	2013	will not renew
Safwat Tosson Gyn		2015	

New physio member added to replace Margaret

We will need to recruit 3 or 4 new members.

The anticipated structure of the EC is gyn 2; uro 2; continence nurse 1; geriatrician 1; physio 1. The General Secretary also serves as a member. The bylaws of ICS indicate that the GS is a non-voting member however the Duties 2009 indicate he/she is a voting member based on his/her discretion.

Action points:

I propose that the EC remain with the current structure, add 3 new members, with a max of 15. This allows for the addition of ad hoc members as needed.

The Ethics Committee recommended that, to avoid any conflict of interest, the General Secretary not be a voting member of ICS committees. The Board considered this request and agreed with the recommendation. Therefore the General Secretary will remain as an ex-officio member of committees without voting rights.

The chair is preparing a proposal to the Board of Trustees that the Ethics Committee chair attend board meetings as an ad hoc member.

The EC has elected to not designate a Deputy Chair.

### **3. Budget requests:**

This year the EC is hosting a lunch symposium with a guest speaker. This has been funded by the ICS. The exact amount is not known to me. We request a sum to cover conference calls, speaker travel, meals, and lodging.

### **4. Disclosure/Research;**

The disclosure statement required of each presenter was very successful at the Glasgow and Beijing meetings. The EC assumes that the Scientific Committee will continue to require a disclosure slide be filled out by each presenter and presented at each presentation. The question is how to monitor the disclosures in regards to content.

Discussion is how to expand this to all scientific presentations.

Action point: The manner by which to monitor content will be discussed at the EC meeting.

### **5. Disciplinary Committee**

The issues of the complaints and resolutions will be discussed in the EC meeting.

### **6. The EC proposed a code of conduct for all members and meeting participants to sign and comply with its directives.**

### **7. One request from the membership was discussed. The correspondence is attached.**

The EC communicated through the website discussion forum with the excellent assistance of the administrative staff of ICS, in particular, Avicia.

Correspondence

Dear Dr Dietz,

I must apologise for the delay in responding to your e-mail from November. I have now gathered the facts and have discussed with my committee. If I interpret your concerns correctly they are:-

- 1) Should the Annual Meeting Chair be allowed to speak at an industry symposium
- 2) Should the Editor in Chief be allowed to speak at an industry symposium

3) Should the GS be allowed to present an industry backed abstract.

In response:

1) Should the Annual Meeting Chair be allowed to speak at an industry symposium The office have confirmed that Limin was not party to any abstracts this year but we do know he did a 5 minute Chairman's welcome at the Astellas symposium and he chaired a workshop. The ICS Annual Meeting Guidelines which are NOW in effect state the following (section 18.4 of the guidelines): "Speakers or Chairmen of industry symposia are not allowed to Chair ICS sessions on a similar subject. Symposia are not to be held within the ICS programme (during official ICS scientific sessions, workshops or social events). The ASM Chairman should not present in or Chair such symposia." After looking in to this, the EC does not feel that Limin contribution to the industry talk was sufficient for concern at it was just a welcome/introduction but, to address your concern, in future years this will not be allowed. The Board had already changed within the guidelines earlier in 2012 which are now in effect after the Beijing meeting as scheduled. Therefore, in the opinion of the EC, there is no need for any changes to any current guideline documents or additional recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

2) Should the Editor in Chief be allowed to speak at an industry symposium? The EC understands that Dr Chappel did a 20-minute talk at the Allergan symposium on Treatment options for the neurogenic bladder. The EC has worked hard on disclosure guidelines. After discussion, the EC feels that as long as full disclosure is made before speaking that this is considered sufficient. However, none of the Ethics committee members were in attendance at this symposium and so cannot comment as to whether there was any incident of improper disclosure. Further, the ICS office has reminded me that the EIC is not in contract with ICS but is with Wiley directly for his EIC work and therefore we do not have that much "control" over his research and what events he attends/presents.

3) Should the GS be allowed to present an industry backed abstract? Sender was party to abstracts at ICS 2012 and office informs me that he was asked last minute to present abstract number 68 and 222 because the arranged presenter could not attend or present. Unless he did not tell the office, Sender did not present at any other sessions or symposiums while in Beijing. Again the committee felt that the ICS disclosure policy is sufficient to cover this point. Considering that the GS position - as with all trustees are unpaid, are we able to state that they should refrain from all industry led research and "acting for industry" during their term of office. For Trustees this would be 6 years. I was the moderator at the scientific session at which the GS presented research that he was personally involved in. I can assure you that the GS complied with ICS disclosure guidelines and made no comments of a personal or inappropriate nature. His presentation did not deviate from the data on the slide set and during Q&A, only factual information was given. The office also advises me that as part of the financial audit all of the trustees disclosures are reviewed to ensure that there is no undue influence within the Board and therefore affecting financial decisions or strategies of the charity.

I appreciate your bringing concerns to the EC. I hope that the Committee's efforts meet your expectations.

Sincerely,

Edward Stanford MD MS FACOG FACS  
Chair, ICS Ethics Committee