

THE LANCET

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What happens at *The Lancet*

Gramado, Nov 2011

Sabine Kleinert
Senior Executive Editor
The Lancet, London, UK

THE LANCET



THE LANCET.

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PREFACE.

It has long been a subject of surprise and regret, that in this extensive and intelligent community there has not hitherto existed a work that would convey to the Public, and to distant Practitioners as well as to Students in Medicine and Surgery, reports of the Metropolitan Hospital Lectures.

Having for a considerable time past observed the great and increasing inquiries for such information, in a department of science so preeminently useful, we have been induced to offer to public notice a work calculated, as we conceive, to supply in the most ample manner, whatever is valuable in these important branches of knowledge:—and as the Lectures of Sir Astley Cooper, on the theory and practice of Surgery, are probably the best of the kind delivered in Europe, we have commenced our undertaking with the introductory Address of that distinguished professor, given in the theatre of St. Thomas's Hospital on Wednesday evening last. The Course will be rendered complete in subsequent Numbers.

In addition to Lectures, we purpose giving under the head, Medical and Surgical Intelligence, a correct description of all the important Cases that may occur, whether in England or on any part of the civilized Continent.

Although it is not intended to give graphic representations with each Number, yet, we have made such arrangements with the most experienced surgical draughtsmen, as will enable us occasionally to do so, and in a manner, we trust, calculated to give universal satisfaction.

The great advantages derivable from information of this description,

Thomas Wakley 1795 - 1862

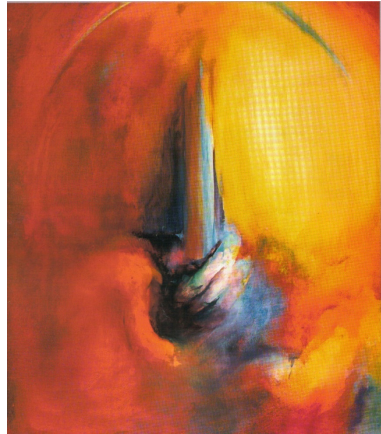
- Surgeon in London
- Influenced by William Cobbett, a radical journalist, to change direction
- Founded *The Lancet* in 1823

Thomas Wakley 1795 - 1862

- Surgeon in London
- Influenced by William Cobbett, a radical journalist, to change direction
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To inform
To reform
To entertain

Why 'The Lancet'



Why 'The Lancet'

**“a Lancet can be an arched window to
let in the light or it can be a sharp
surgical instrument to cut out the
dross, and I intend to use it in both
senses”**

Thomas Wakley

The Lancet's sections

Blue - Comment, entertainment perspectives

Red - Research

Green - Review and opinion

The Lancet family

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Feature

Medical community urged to defend Bahraini doctors

Health professionals are being urged to campaign for the reversal of harsh prison sentences handed down to 20 Bahraini doctors for alleged anti-government activity. Human rights groups are hoping Bahrain will set aside prison sentences of up to 15 years after a military court convicted them on Sept 29 of links to protests earlier this year. Sharmila Devi discusses the issue in a [World Report](#), and a podcast gives an update about a retrial of the doctors, recently announced by Bahrain's Attorney General.

Online First [This Week in Medicine](#) [UK Policy Matters](#)

Selected Online First articles from The Lancet journals ahead of print publication:

Fever, hyperglycaemia, and swallowing dysfunction
Aldredson and colleagues report on an innovative cluster trial of multidisciplinary team management for common acute stroke abnormalities in Australian acute stroke units.
Article [The Lancet](#) (online October 12)
[Full text](#) | [PDF](#)

Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia
Etter and colleagues compare the efficacy and safety of the combination of fludarabine and alemtuzumab with fludarabine monotherapy in patients with previously treated CLL.
Article [The Lancet Oncology](#) (online October 11)
[Full text](#) | [PDF](#)

Health effects of financial crisis
There are signs that health outcomes in Greece have worsened during the financial crisis, especially in vulnerable groups.
Correspondence [The Lancet](#) (online October 10)
[Full text](#) | [PDF](#)

Announcements

Delivering affordable cancer care in high-income countries: published September 26, 2011

The Olympic Truce: this year a walk from Olympia, Greece to London is taking place to raise awareness of the UN Resolution. Read more about the Impact of [Violent Conflict on Health](#).

Clinical Picture [Picture Quiz](#)

A 48-year-old Surinamese woman presented with a 1-year history of arthralgia. In her medical history there was a longstanding back pain starting after a trauma in her childhood. There was no recent increase of back pain, neither there was fever, malaise, weight loss or coughing. [View Clinical Picture](#)

Letter to the Editor

"The increasing use of online social and business-related networks among health-care professionals as well as the pharmaceutical industry calls for a broader discussion across medicine's organising and accrediting bodies."

[View full letter](#)

• Natural history of breast cancers detected in the Swedish

Sections - 'Blue'

THE LANCET

- **This week in medicine:** 12 brief news pieces
written in-house, decided on Thursday
- **Editorials:** 1 long, 2 short (clinical, public health, health policy)
written in-house, decided on Thursday
- **Comments:** linked, unlinked
most commissioned, rarely spontaneous
- **World Report or Special Reports**
all commissioned, a group of trusted Science journalists worldwide

Sections - Blue... ctd

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- **Perspectives:** book reviews, exhibitions, profiles, lifelines, The art of medicine...
commissioned, sometimes written in-house
- **Obituary**
commissioned
- **Correspondence**
Selected by correspondence editor, should be submitted within two weeks of publication of paper they refer to.
some stand alone correspondence letters, authors might be asked to respond

Sections - 'Red'

3 or 4 primary Research Articles

(Of about 4200 submitted papers, 88% rejected inhouse, 8% rejected after peer review, 4% accepted for publication)

Papers passed on to daughter journals (with agreement of authors)

Sections - Red .. ctd

FT papers: from submission to publication in 31 days, same rigorous peer review.

FT team: 2 London Editors, New York based Editor, Beijing based Editor

2010: 550 submitted, 110 reviewed, 49 published

Sections - Red .. ctd

RCTs: practice changing, important clinical evidence (about 50% of published research papers)

Need honest and full reporting (side effects, effect size...etc, primary outcome and secondary outcomes, we ask for protocol, truthful interpretation, no spin)

We actively seek out ongoing trials and make contact with PIs

Sections - 'Green'

Seminar, Reviews, Series – largely commissioned

VPs, Hypotheses, Public Health, Health Policy.....

CRs (educational)

Theme issues

THE LANCET

commissioned green section and call for research papers

Diabetes

Surgery

Respiratory Medicine

Cardiology

Stroke

Breast cancer

Malaria

Tuberculosis

9/11

.....etc

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"In a large, multicultural, North American population... about one in four people older than 25 years are likely to be diagnosed with COPD during their lifetimes."

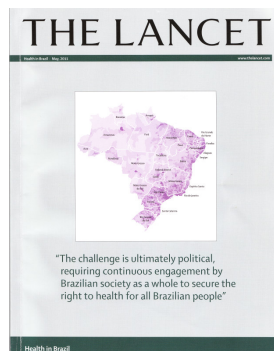


Series: global health

THE LANCET

Global health:

obesity, vaccines, China, Japan, Brazil, South East Asia, India.....



Plan: 12 per year

2011: stroke, pain, arthritides, heart failure, COPD, organ transplantation, breast cancer

Maybe linked to themed issue



Maybe linked to conference



Maybe in conjunction with *Lancet* daughter journal

The Lancet Commissions



THE LANCET

Health professionals for a new century: transforming education to strengthen health systems in an interdependent world



Julia Frank*, Lincoln Chen*, Zulfqar A Bhutta, Jordan Cohen, Nigel Crisp, Timothy Evans, Harvey Fineberg, Patricia Garcia, Yang Ke, Patrick Kelley, Barry Kistnasamy, Afaf Meleis, David Naylor, Ariel Pablos-Mendez, Srinath Reddy, Susan Scrimshaw, Jaime Sepulveda, David Serwadda, Huda Zureyk

Executive summary

Problem statement

100 years ago, a series of studies about the education of health professionals led to the 1910 Flexner report

Redesign of professional health education is necessary and timely, in view of the opportunities for mutual learning and joint solutions offered by global interdependence and a revolution of how it

Lancet 2019; 376: 1923-58
Published Online
November 28, 2019
DOI:10.1016/S0140-6736(19)31440-0

How do we decide about research papers?

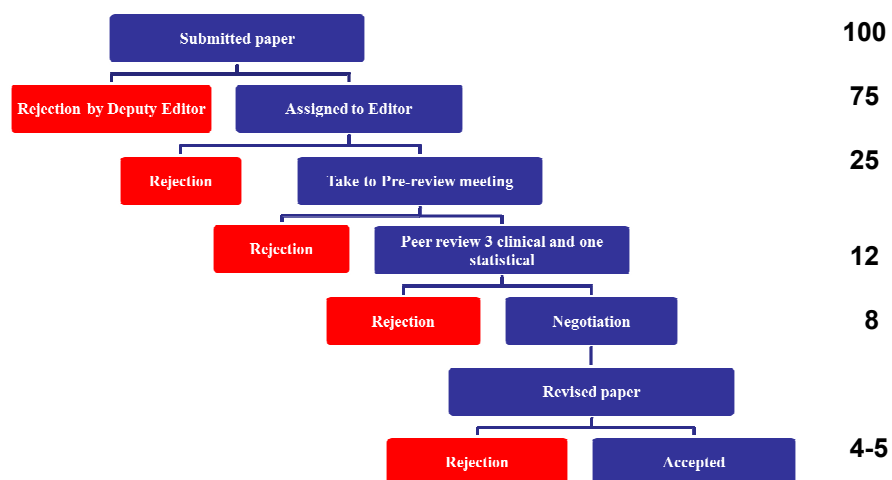
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Editors' first thoughts

- Readership
- Originality
- Topicality
- Truth

Paper triage

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Editorial discussion meeting

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Editorial discussion meeting

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Papers presented by handling Editor

Reviewers as advisors

Regular outside guests

Lively discussions

Democratic decisions (not always)

Preventing and Pursuing misconduct

- Screening for duplicate publication and plagiarism
- Not just rejection
- Due process: contact authors and institutions
- Ask for an institutional investigation
- Act on findings (correction, expression of concern, retraction)

Common difficulties for editors

- **Time consuming!**
- **No reply from authors**
- **No reply from head of institutions**
- **Inadequate investigation by institution**
- **No institution**
- **Managing/analysing raw data**
- **What to do, if alleged misconduct is unproven**

Screening for duplicate publication or plagiarism

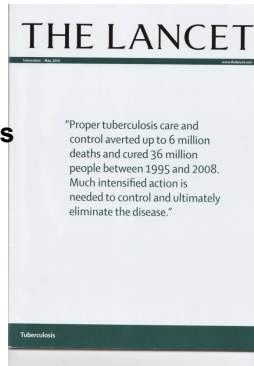
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Check

Let authors know we check (=prevention)

Act on allegations and findings

Lancet only checks Review material
We check before sending to peer reviewers
Treat it on a case by case basis
We rarely find plagiarism, but more often
text recycling or 'patchwork writing'



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6141 Summary:

➡ ④

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Biostatistics
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 Life Sciences
 Mathematics
 Medicine
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 Neuroscience
 Nutrition
 Physics
 Public Health
 Social Sciences
 Veterinary Medicine
 Zoology

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Date
2005-01-26Page
1/1

The Editors, THE LANCET
Dr Richard Horton
London Office
12 Boulevard Road
London, NW1 7BY United Kingdom

The Ekblom Commission

Dear Dr Horton,

On the behalf of the commission appointed by the University of Oslo and
Rikshospitalet to investigate possible scientific misconduct by dr Jan Skaibo, I
have the sad duty to inform you that the commission has concluded that the paper
"Statins, L-Lysine, IL-1, Lipoprotein (a), C-reactive Protein, and the Risk of Cancer: A
Nested Case-Control Study" Lancet 2005 Oct 15;366(9494):1559-66 contains
fabricated data and should in our opinion be retracted.

Yours sincerely,

Achille Ekblom
Professor of Clinical Epidemiology

**Expression of concern: Jan 21,
2006**

Retraction: February 4, 2006

Author address	Editorial address	Copyright	ISSN	DOI	Page
111 111, Stockholm Sweden 0950-2688 (2005) 366:9494	London	© 2005 The Lancet	0950-2688	10.1016/S0950-2688(05)00000-0	1/1

- Swift, thorough, independent investigation
- Report published
- Lessons learnt

Case 2: The case of Hannes Strasser

Hannes Strasser, Rainer Marksteiner, Eva Margreiter, Gernot Michael Pinggera, Michael Mitterberger, Ferdinand Freuscher, Horro-Ulmer, Martin Fussenegger, Kurt Kofler, Georg Bartsch

See [Commentary](#) page 2139

SEMERINGER MD,
K. Koller PhD, Prof G. Bartsch MD,

- At 12 months, 38/42 completely continent vs 2/21 in controls

- paper published after peer review on June 30, 2007
- Lancet contacted by University's Rector and members of ethics committee with concerns
- DoE published correcting Cols, funding source, and affiliations of some authors Feb, 2008
- Lancet is being made aware of investigation by Government Body following a court case and a parliamentary question
- Expression of concern issued by Lancet May 3, 2008



- **report by Austrian Government Agency for Health and Food Safety concludes in Aug, 2008**

- **serious irregularities in study conduct including consent procedure, data documentation, patient insurance....etc**

- **doubts as to whether study as described ever existed**

Coauthors distance themselves from paper claiming only honorary authorship

Rector of University dismissed by University governing body for allegedly unrelated reasons

Paper retracted by Lancet on Sept 6, 2008

- Took a reasonably long time
- Report is subject to Austria's officials' Secret Act and not made public
- University reacts defensively
- ??whistleblower dismissed

