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Abstract Information

Abstract Title : Thinking Globally Working Locally
Abstract : BACKGROUND
Globalization is reshaping many professions, and medical education and healthcare delivery are no exceptions. New technology is making exchange of ideas across borders easier than ever. Internationalization of professions has been speeded up by requirements to meet global standards. Recently there has been an increase in the number of international forums allowing for the diverse global community to come together at various events like the International Conference for Medical Journal Editors. WAME and regional associations are providing a singular direction through commonly agreed standards, goals, missions and objectives for the entire global community to follow.

METHOD
Quality standards are developed on a principle of ‘null’ or ‘attained’. The concept of ‘just about quality’ or ‘more than quality’ does not exist. Community of practices of various professions all over the world are striving to meet international standards in order to survive in the global village. Those that fail to meet these standards risk expulsion and isolation from the global community of practice of the profession.

RESULTS
With relevance to medical editing, the issues that have plagued this community of practice have been related to transparency, publication ethics, standardization of policies and quality assurance amongst others. Included in this are the issues deriving from cultural, social and contextual diversity. The concepts related to certain key issues in medical writing, editing and journalism like plagiarism, financial governance, peer review, disclosure and authorship are considered within different contexts and cultures.

CONCLUSION
This presentation aims to focus on how international standardization of professions affects local and regional communities. The presentation shall also address the need for considering local and regional context when applying international standards. The need to focus on local realities and the effects on socio-cultural fabric of not doing so shall also be addressed. Lastly, a new concept of ‘drain-brain’ as opposed to ‘brain drain’ will be presented to press home the point.