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Dr. Edward H. Livingston: most common reason Chinese papers get rejected is clinical trial design

Dr. Edward H. Livingston 个人简介

JAMA- Journal of the American Medical Association (美国医学杂志) 副主编。著名胃肠道及内分泌外科专家、减肥手术专家；美国德克萨斯大学西南医学院外科学教授；西北大学外科学教授；德克萨斯阿林顿大学生物医学工程及外科学教授；美国外科医师协会会员，美国胃肠病协会会员。

Livingston 教授曾为 *JAMA* 担任特约编辑三年，2012 年至今担任 *JAMA* 临床研究的副主编。Livingston 教授生于洛杉矶，并在加州大学洛杉矶分校获得医学博士学位；随后他在加州大学洛杉矶分校完成了普外科住院医师实习，并于 1992 年担任外科总住院医师。

实习期以后，Livingston 教授即在加州大学洛杉矶分校任教职，并最终担任医学院助理院长，以及大洛杉矶地区退伍军人卫生保健系

统外科服务专线总监。Livingston 教授还创立了“加州大学洛杉矶分校减肥手术方案”。

2003 年，Livingston 教授搬到达拉斯，任德克萨斯大学西南医学院 (UTSW) 胃肠道及内分泌外科教授兼主任。期间，Livingston 教授领导了致力于改进退伍军人减肥手术的质量的工作。

2007 年，Livingston 教授被聘任为德克萨斯阿林顿大学生物医学工程教授。

2010 年，Livingston 教授成为 UTSW 生物医学工程的研究生课程主席，并担任该大学外科教授，自 2013 年起被聘为西北大学外科学教授。Livingston 教授已获得超过 500 万美元的研究资金，并发表超过 150 篇高质量的同行评审论文，以及其他许多科学著作。他还曾在众多地方和国家级委员会任职，是退伍军人外科医生协会的前任会长。

JAMA 杂志副主编；德克萨斯大学西南医学院外科学教授；西北大学外科学教授；德克萨斯阿林顿大学生物医学工程及外科学教授 **Dr. Edward H. Livingston** 为参会者带来了题目为《**What Editors Look for in Clinical Trials & JAMA for Chinese Readers**》的精彩演讲。

Livingston 指出：Clinical trials are essential for understanding treatment efficacy. *JAMA* has published many of the most important practice changing clinical trials in its more than 130 year history. *JAMA* has a reputation for rigorous scientific evaluation of the research it publishes resulting in it being rated as having the highest integrity of the major general medical journals in US-based reader surveys.

We will show how the journal is organized and what the various article-types have to offer clinician readers. The process *JAMA* editors use to evaluate manuscripts submitted for *JAMA* publication will also be reviewed. Common pitfalls frequently encountered by the *JAMA* editors in research studies will be shown. The intent is to assist investigators in their efforts to perform high quality clinical research and develop manuscripts that are competitive for the major, high-impact journals. Problems encountered during the process of manuscript review for articles that were ultimately published in *JAMA* will be discussed. These include a lack of a valid hypothesis, study/protocol design shortcomings, late trial registration, inadequate statistical analysis, incomplete data reporting and interpretation and more.

To facilitate access of *JAMA* content to Chinese physicians, *JAMA* Insert was launched on March 6, 2014 in collaboration with the China Medical Tribune (CMT). Two hundred and eight pages of *JAMA* content were translated into Chinese and published in 41 issues of the China Medical Tribune. This *JAMA*-CMT collaboration facilitates Chinese clinician access to the most up-to-date medical research available in the US-based medical literature.

以下是《医学研究与发表》的专访

Correspondent: As a deputy editor of *JAMA* and a world renowned expert in General Surgery, you must have received many invitations worldwide. May I ask what made you to decide to accept our invitation? Is there any difference between this summit and other conferences you have attended previously?

Dr. Livingston: I do get a lot of invitations to give speeches about publishing in *JAMA* and I don't accept many of them. But I was curious about this one. I hadn't been to Wuhan before. I have been in China for a couple of times before but not to Wuhan. And, I was curious about what is happening in this summit and also about what is happening in Chinese medicine and Chinese research.

Correspondent: Your lecture topic at this summit is "What Editors Look for in Clinical Trials & *JAMA* for Chinese authors and readers". Why did you choose to talk about the clinical trials and what message do you wish to convey to Chinese clinicians?

Dr. Livingston: The particular topic is one that I developed for talks which I give to physicians in the United States. I identified common problems with clinical research papers



we see submitted to the journal. And I thought since these are common in the US, they must also be common in China. In general, Chinese investigators have less experience with clinical research than their counterparts in the United States. So the items that I brought up, like clinical trial registration, issues with statistical analysis, defining a particular study design, etc, those are things all investigators, including Chinese investigators, need to know more about, if they are going to publish their findings in journals like ours.

Correspondent: If you can recall, approximately how many clinical studies were submitted from China each year? Do you think whether Chinese clinicians have possessed any advantage in medical research or study?

Dr. Livingston: In 2014 we received 342 submissions at *JAMA* from China. We accepted 5 articles for an acceptance rate of 1.5%. This is somewhat lower than the overall acceptance rate of 4%. The year before, the acceptance rate from China was 4%. The advantage that Chinese investigators have is the ability to have very large studies. There have been studies from China with very large numbers of patients, studies with hundreds, tens of thousands or millions of patients. And, the ones that we published have very high quality data that is hard to collect from patients in the other countries. I think the main advantage is the sheer size of the medical system here in China that you can report our findings from very large numbers of patients.

Correspondent: What are the major reasons for rejection for papers submitted from China, in your opinion? Do you think the language editing is of help for publication?

Dr. Livingston: Probably the most common reason Chinese papers get rejected is they don't fulfill our criteria for accepting papers



in terms of clinical trial design or the methods. The reasons for rejections of papers from China are the same as for papers from anywhere. Getting back to what I said earlier about clinical trial design and other aspects of clinical research that all of investigators need to know better applies to Chinese investigators and the papers they have submitted to us.

Another very important aspect of what we do regarding accepting papers is personally knowing the investigators and the institutions that they come from. That is probably the most important reason that I came on this visit to China. All of us in the senior leadership in *JAMA* have come to China and try to understand more about what is happening in China and Chinese research. Personal relationships with individuals, investigators, institutions are critically important in our business. We are much more likely to accept papers from investigators that we know who work in the institutions that we are familiar with.

In terms of language, yes, it is very, very important. It is not necessarily a deal killer if the language is bad - in fact we are working out of a paper from Japan right now. It was a very nice study, very well-done, but the language was very deficient. We, at *JAMA*, will fix the language. We have ability to do that. Several journals do,

but not all, can do that. It is much more likely for a paper to be accepted if it is well written in the English language. Sometimes when papers are poorly written we cannot understand the paper. That is one reason that we will reject it. So language, the proper use of English language, can be very important.

Correspondent: What is your advice for Chinese researchers who intend to publish their work in JAMA?

Dr. Livingston: The most important advice that I could give to Chinese investigators is to get to know us. So, as I mentioned earlier, many of us have come to China to try to get to know people and understand them. The senior leadership of *JAMA* all work full time for the journal. We spend a lot of time trying to get to know investigators so we know what they are doing. So the most important step will be to get to know us. Having been invited here, by the people here in Wuhan, it is an important step forward: We will get to know them. I was very happy to see there are 6 people that I have seen before in other meetings while talking here in China. There are many people who are genuinely interested in China and want to get to know us. So I think that would be the most important thing that could do, is finding ways to get to know us and show us what you are doing. Then we can give advice regarding how to do

your studies and getting a sense for the chances of getting published.

Correspondent: Is there any part of the summit that makes a deep impression on you?

Dr. Livingston: Well, there are several things. One, there are a lot of people here who all seem to be very interested. When I give a talk, I look at how many people are paying attention. I was speaking in English, this was a Chinese audience, but many of people seemed to be paying attention. I think people here are genuinely interested in what I had to say, and that was good.

The other is that there are several investigators who went to medical school here, and migrated to United States and set up labs or companies in the US. They are very interested in coming back and trying to help develop the research communities here in Wuhan. I thought that was quite good. I think that shows dedication. I think that is very important because those people know how we do things and can bring the message back. My experience in talking to Chinese investigators is that they really do not understand our system. They do not understand how to publish in our journal. They need people who have worked in the US to come back and teach this to Chinese investigators. ■

