With regard to pricing, we noted that the current rate of US$40/hour (about RMB¥280/hour) is acceptable to most Chinese scientists for extensive editing, not copyediting or proofreading. In practice, however, the compensation for qualified native-Chinese–speaking editors of English-language papers by Chinese authors tends to be lower than that rate (and much lower than the normal salaries of the editors). Indeed, most of these editors are associate professors or higher at Western universities, and they do the editing on a volunteer basis in their spare time, because they wish to help their fellow scientists publish their research in English-language journals. We appreciate that BioMedES Ltd provides copyediting at a lower rate for many Chinese scientists and hope that the “translating-and-editing” model produces cost-effective results for both the authors and the company.

Finally, we would like to share with Wheatley the experience from Medjaden that scientific editing or medical writing as a profession is not well recognized in China as in Western countries. Some Chinese authors or even their universities still feel shame in acknowledging that their manuscripts have received professional assistance from an editing company, fearing that they may be regarded as incompetent to do their own work. Fortunately, that situation is changing, albeit slowly and reluctantly, in a few large cities, such as Shanghai and Xi’an.

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References

Erratum
In the May–June 2009 issue, the table of contents contained a typographical error. The surname of the translator of the article on METM08 is Vázquez.