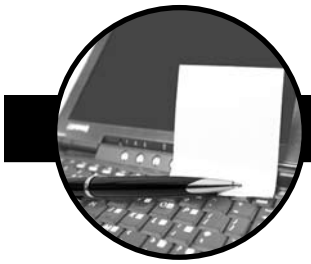

Briefly Noted

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❖ **Professional medical writing support** makes it somewhat more likely that the published report of a randomized controlled trial complies with the CONSORT guidelines, according to European medical writer Adam Jacobs (**http://dianthus.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/CONSORT-paper.pdf**). He asked 2 colleagues, blind to the purpose of his study, to abstract data from 241 papers published in *Current Medical Research and Opinion* between October 2004 and August 2009. Altogether, 63% of those papers acknowledged the assistance of a medical writer, 29% did not, and in 8% acknowledgement was unclear. Papers that acknowledged a medical writer complied with slightly more CONSORT items than those that did not acknowledge a writer (difference between groups, 0.75 items completed; 95% confidence interval, 0.07 to 1.43; P = .03). As Jacobs recognizes, the practical significance of this small difference is unknown, and medical writers may have been involved in more papers than was apparent. (For information about the CONSORT guidelines, see **www.consort-statement.org**.)

❖ **Want to win $2000?** That's the prize for the new AMWA Award for Best Published Research, developed to encourage AMWA members to investigate the value added by medical writers and editors (such as what Adam Jacobs did). The research must be published in a peer-reviewed journal indexed by PubMed. For more information, go to **www.amwa.org** and click Programs>Awards>Competitive Awards.

❖ **ResearchRaven.com (www.ResearchRaven.com)** is a new database of medical conferences, calls for conference papers, and calls for journal papers. It can be searched by keyword or by dozens of medical subject headings, with e-mail notifications and RSS feeds available. A fun extra feature, Leman's Lexicon, is an engagingly written glossary of cutting-edge terms in science and medicine. A sister site, **www.ScanGrants.com** lists grants, scholarships, fellowships, prizes for scientific achievement or distinguished service, travel awards to professional meetings, and abstract, essay, and poster awards. Because information about federal and state funding is readily available elsewhere, most of the funding sources included are private foundations, corporations, businesses, and not-for-profit organizations.

❖ **A Web portal for searching multiple clinical trial registries** is available at **http://ifpma.org/clinicaltrials.** Developed by the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations, it's searchable by disease, drug, and geographic location, in 5 languages. Boolean searches are supported, and users can request e-mail alerts of new trials. Most information comes from pharmaceutical company Web sites. Note that the World Health Organization maintains a similar portal that searches government-run clinical trial registries, including those in several developing countries (**www.who.int/ictrp/search/en**).

❖ **ExpertMapper.com (www.ExpertMapper.com)** is a slick tool for finding key opinion leaders or interview sources—or the best physician for a family member. It's searchable geographically and by the name of a disease, drug, procedure, or any other PubMed search term. Experts are ranked by the quality and quantity of their publications, and it's possible to rank experts within single institutions. (Tip of the nib to Ryan Woodrow.)

❖ **Industry is increasingly relying on foreign clinical trials** to test drugs that will be used in the United States, according to the US Dept. of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General (**http://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oie-01-08-00510.pdf**). It reviewed marketing applications for 106 drugs and 15 biologics that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved in fiscal year 2008 (representing 193 completed clinical trials). Eighty percent of the applications contained data from foreign trials, and more than half of trial participants and sites were located outside the United States. The OIG also found that the percentage of foreign investigators conducting clinical trials under Investigational New Drug Applications has more than doubled over the past decade. The FDA told OIG the trend is likely to continue, citing Western and Eastern Europe, Central and South America, and China and India as regions in which sponsors are conducting more clinical trials.

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