IAOS Conference, Kiev

Note of a meeting on statistical ethics held on Wednesday 12 September 2012 in Kiev

The opportunity had been taken by the IAOS Executive Committee to use the IAOS 2012 conference in Kiev to update members on current ethical issues.

The President, Stephen Penneck, chaired the meeting. There were about 100 members and others interested present.

Stephen referred to the useful discussion held at the WSC Dublin the previous year. Since then he had been asked by the ISI to join their Advisory Board on Ethics, chaired by Dennis Trewin. He invited Hallgrímur Snorrason, ISI Vice President with responsibility for ethical issues, to introduce the attached paper on recent developments co-authored with Dennis Trewin. Hallgrímur explained the main developments concerning professional ethics since the Dublin WSC and actions taken by the ISI EC. He stressed that international statistical agencies had clear remit to follow up issues with national agencies which were of concern, but that the ISI (and IAOS) has a particular role to support individuals.

There was some discussion on how far the ISI should go and whether concerns about clinical trials in the pharmaceutical industry were within the ISI’s remit. Hallgrímur agreed that there was a need for caution in approach to these issues. He asked for any concerns and comments to be sent to him.