

## Summary: Networking

*Alan Taman, Trudy Lieberman and Amelia Beltramini*

- Networks make us better professionally by finding sources and contacts and helping us get the job done.
- Networks make us better ethically by defining what is ethical, helping us reach an ethical decision and helping us act on those decisions.
- Networks are vital for developing more training, use of resources and social connections.
- They should not be about reinventing the wheel, elitism or exclusivity, compromising on standards, or diminishing the specialist.
- The principal limitation to developing networks is funding and more sources should be developed.
- A mailing list from the *First Do No Harm* conference should serve as a starting point for developing the network further.
- Evidence Network Canada ([www.evidencenetwork.ca](http://www.evidencenetwork.ca)) is a useful resource for achieving the same aim. The Association of Healthcare Journalists (AHJ, <http://healthjournalism.org>) in the USA and the National Union of Journalists (NUJ, [www.NUJ.org](http://www.NUJ.org)) and Medical Journalists Association (MJA, <http://www.mjauk.org>) in the UK also offered resources for journalists covering health, but more network development for health journalists and PRs is needed.
- A network across European countries is needed.
- The European Health Journalism site ([www.europeanhealthjournalism.com](http://www.europeanhealthjournalism.com)) will continue to be developed to facilitate this.