

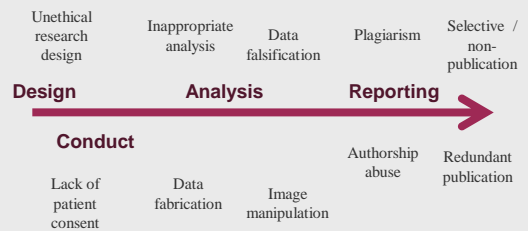
Publication Ethics

Elizabeth Wager PhD
Sideview
Chair, Committee on Publication Ethics 2009-2012

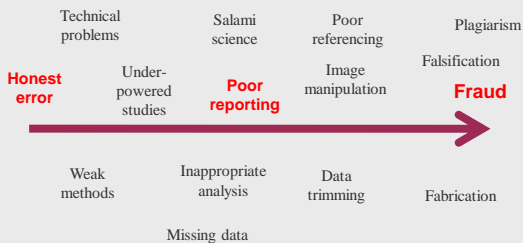
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Research and publication ethics are a spectrum



Good conduct and misconduct are a spectrum



Who sets the rules?

- Journal editors
- Individual instructions / policies
- ICMJE
- + Guidance from:
 - CSE (Council of Science Editors)
 - WAME (World Association of Medical Editors)
 - COPE (Committee On Publication Ethics)



Guidelines to be aware of:

- ICMJE Uniform Requirements
- ICMJE, WAME, CSE statements
- Declaration of Helsinki (2013 version)

When working with pharmaceutical companies:

- Good Publication Practice (GPP2)
- EMWA guidelines for medical writers



What do the rules cover?

(what will this talk cover?)

1. Plagiarism
2. Redundant publication
3. Conflicts of interest
4. Authorship



(1) Plagiarism

- "to copy (ideas, passages of text, etc.) from someone else's work and use them as if they were one's own" (Chambers Dictionary)
- Many journals now use text-matching software (CrossCheck) to screen for plagiarism (and redundant publication aka 'self-plagiarism')



Plagiarism (WAME)

- "Plagiarism is the use of others' published and unpublished ideas or words (or other intellectual property) without attribution or permission, and presenting them as new and original rather than derived from an existing source. The intent and effect of plagiarism is to mislead the reader as to the contributions of the plagiarizer. This applies whether the ideas or words are taken from abstracts, research grant applications, Institutional Review Board applications, or unpublished or published manuscripts in any publication format (print or electronic)."



Institute of Physics (UK) Ethical policy

- "Plagiarism constitutes unethical scientific behaviour and is never acceptable. Plagiarism ranges from the unreferenced use of others' ideas to submission of a complete paper under 'new' authorship. ... Therefore all sources for the work should be disclosed and permission sought for using large amounts of other people's material."



COPE definitions

- 'Clear plagiarism' = 'unattributed use of large portions of text and/or data, presented as if they were by the plagiarist'
- 'Minor copying of short phrases only with no misattribution of data'



Simple rules to avoid plagiarism

- If you use >10 words (or an original phrase) from somebody else's publication, reference it AND put it in "quotation marks"
- Reference use of any other parts of another person's work (eg figures, data) and get permission if required



Biochemical journal (helpful instructions)

- The *Biochemical Journal* will not tolerate plagiarism in submitted manuscripts. Passages quoted or closely paraphrased from other authors (or from the submitting authors' own published work) must be identified as quotations or paraphrases, and the sources of the quoted or paraphrased material must be acknowledged. Use of unacknowledged sources will be construed as plagiarism. If any manuscript is found to contain plagiarized material the review process will be halted immediately.



(2) Redundant publication

Sometimes called:

- Self-plagiarism
- Overlapping publication
- Duplicate publication
- Text recycling



Self-plagiarism (WAME)

- “Self-plagiarism refers to the practice of an author using portions of their previous writings on the same topic in another of their publications, without specifically citing it formally in quotes. This practice is widespread and sometimes unintentional, as there are only so many ways to say the same thing on many occasions, particularly when writing the Methods section of an article. Although this usually violates the copyright that has been assigned to the publisher, **there is no consensus as to whether this is a form of scientific misconduct, or how many of one's own words one can use before it is truly "plagiarism."** Probably for this reason self-plagiarism is not regarded in the same light as plagiarism of the ideas and words of other individuals.”



American Institute of Physics

- “It is unethical for an author to publish manuscripts describing essentially the same research in more than one journal of primary publication. Submitting the same manuscript to more than one journal concurrently is unethical and unacceptable.”



American Society of Civil Engineers

- “Fragmentation of research papers shall be avoided. An engineer or scientist who has done extensive work on a system or group of related systems shall organize publication so that each paper gives a complete account of a particular aspect of the general study. It is inappropriate for an author to submit for review more than one paper describing essentially the same research or project to more than one journal of primary publication.”



Acceptable multiple presentations

- Presentation at meetings (talks and posters) is OK before full publication
- No limit on the number of abstracts presented at meetings
- Multiple presentations at conferences are OK so long as you follow conference requirements (some big meetings only want new data – smaller ones tend to be more relaxed)
- Translations are OK but the source should be acknowledged
- Follow-ups / secondary analyses should reference the original primary publication



(3) Conflict of interest

- exists when there is a divergence between an individual's private interests (competing interests) and his or her responsibilities to scientific and publishing activities such that a reasonable observer might **wonder** if the individual's behavior or judgment was motivated by considerations of his or her competing interests

WAME policy statement



American Chemical Society

- To protect the integrity of authorship, only persons who have significantly contributed to the research or project and manuscript preparation shall be listed as co-authors. The corresponding author attests to the fact that any others named as co-authors have seen the final version of the manuscript and have agreed to its submission for publication. Deceased persons who meet the criterion for co-authorship shall be included, with a footnote reporting date of death. No fictitious name shall be given as an author or co-author. An author who submits a manuscript for publication accepts responsibility for having properly included all, and only, qualified co-authors.

also American Society of Mechanical Engineers



American Institute of Physics

- Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the concept, design, execution, or interpretation of the research study. All those who have made significant contributions should be offered the opportunity to be listed as authors. Other individuals who have contributed to the study should be acknowledged, but not identified as authors.



Inappropriate authorship

- Gift 
(guest, i.e. undeserving) authors
- Ghost 
(omitted) authors
(writers or deserving contributors)



Guidelines to be aware of:

- ICMJE Uniform Requirements
- ICMJE, WAME, CSE statements
- COPE guidelines & flowcharts
- Good Publication Practice
- EMWA g/l for medical writers
- Declaration of Helsinki
- FDAAA (US law) re results disclosure
- CONSORT etc.



Guidelines for editors and publishers

- COPE Codes of Conduct
- Responsible research publication: editors
- Council of Science Editors
- World Association of Medical Editors
- Publisher websites



Useful websites

COPE	www.publicationethics.org
CSE	www.councilscienceeditors.org
EMWA	www.emwa.org
GPP	www.gpp-guidelines.org
ICMJE	www.icmje.org
WAME	www.wame.org



What keeps editors awake at night?

- Duplicate submissions
- Redundant publications
- Undeclared conflicts of interest
- Authorship problems
- Plagiarism



Keeping editors happy

- Never submit to >1 journal at the same time
- Clearly acknowledge all quoted material
- Obtain approval from copyright holder to reproduce long sections / tables / figures
- Be transparent about (your own) previously published material
- Declare all competing interests
- Follow authorship guidelines (no guests or ghosts)



Ethics cases

1. Give the case a title (highlight main problem)
2. Summarise any other ethical issues involved in the case
3. Outline all possible courses of action (**even unethical ones!**)
4. Mention any guidelines you might consult to help you decide what to do
5. Explain what extra information you would need before proceeding
6. Agree the best course of action (giving reasons why you recommend this)

