





#### 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

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#### 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"Plagiarism is the use of others' published and unpublished ideas or words (or other intellectual property) without attribution or permission, and presenting them as new and original rather than derived from an existing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the ideas or words are taken from abstracts, research grant applications, Institutional Review Board applications, or unpublished or published manuscripts in any publication format (print or electronic)."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 misattibution ot 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 datasmaller 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

#### **ICMJE** states

- Public trust in the scientific process and the credibility of published articles depend in part on how transparently CoIs are handled ...
- A CoI exists when professional judgment concerning a primary interest (such as patients' welfare or the validity of research) may be influenced by a secondary interest (such as financial gain). Perceptions of CoI are as important as actual CoIs.

#### ICMJE contd.

 When authors submit a manuscript ... they are responsible for disclosing all financial and personal relationships that might bias or be seen to bias their work.

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## Competing interests may be:

- Financial e.g. share ownership / employment
- Personal

   e.g. partners, relations involved
   (should you review a paper by your ex-wife?)
- Other
   e.g. religious, political, ethnic
   (what do readers need to know?)

## Competing interests may be:

- Real can bias results and affect interpretation
- Perceived / potential affecting readers' / reviewers' perception
- Even if you believe you are NOT biased, you must report even potential competing interests!

## (4) Authorship issues

 Authorship of scientific research is <u>not</u> straightforward!



Relayanchi M. O'Chilagon M. D'Reagail , D'Reagail , Programmi M. Parastoni M. A. Destati M. A. Destati M. Paragail E. Prepatible V. J. D. Perest M. Perest M

Tossienblare\*\*, O Topoloties\*\*, E. O Tokholdecke\*\*, IT Tokemane\*\*, V Tokalas\*\*, S Touros\*\*, M Track\*\*, T Tokoca\*\*, E Totaly\*\*, PM Toka\*\*, M Toka\*\*, E Toka\*\*



## Authorship

- Different conventions in different disciplines
- ICMJE applies to many (but not all!) biomedical journals

## Authorship criteria: ICMJE 2013

Authorship should be based on the following 4 criteria:

- 1) substantial contributions to conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; <u>and</u>
- 2) drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; <u>and</u>
- 3) final approval of the version to be published; <u>and</u>
- 4) agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any parts of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

## Summarizing ICMJE

All authors must:

- Be actively involved in the research
- Be actively involved in the publication
- Approve the submitted / final versions
- Take accountability for the work

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## **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
- 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
- Agree the best course of action (giving reasons why you recommend this)