

Ethics in Publication-Plagiarism



Professor Datuk Dr. Lekhraj Rampal
MBBS, MPH (Hons), Dr.PH, FAMM, FAMS, FPHMM
Hon. Editor, Medical Journal of Malaysia
Editor in Chief, Malaysian Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences.
Senior Consultant Epidemiologist, Faculty of Medicine and Health
Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia

Prof Datuk Dr. L. Rampal

Scientific Misconduct, Expressions of Concern and Retraction

Scientific misconduct includes but is not necessarily limited:

- plagiarism
- data fabrication
- data falsification including deceptive manipulation of images;
- Failure to publish the results of clinical trials and other human studies may be considered by some people as a form of scientific misconduct.
- Each of these practices are not equivalent.

WHAT IS PLAGIARISM

- WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?

PLAGIARISM (pla·gia·rism)

- Plagiarism is scientific misconduct. It is the use of others' published and unpublished ideas or words (or other intellectual property) without attribution or permission, and presenting them as new and original rather than derived from an existing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the ideas or words are taken from abstracts, research grant applications, Institutional Review Board applications, or unpublished or published manuscripts in any publication format (print or electronic). (Source: World Association of Medical Editors. <http://www.wame.org/about/recommendations-on-publication-ethics-policie#Plagiarism> Assessed 5th August 2017)

SELF-PLAGIARISM

- 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.

SELF-PLAGIARISM

- 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.
- If journals have developed a policy on this matter, it should be clearly stated for authors.

(Source : WAME)

- Plagiarisms are of types namely Self, Blatant and Unintentional: You might have extracted quite some content from your own existing paper. Such a plagiarism is termed self. Blatant is a very transparent way of copying contents from a few papers and unintentional is you might not have noticed while phrasing or paraphrasing.
- **We do not encourage any form of plagiarism, thus we strongly recommend you to check your article content before you submit manuscript to any of our journals.** Plagiarism can be checked through online plagiarism software tools (although they are not completely reliable) to minimize further complications.

Responding to Plagiarism

- A letter of explanation (and education) sent only to the person against whom the complaint is made, where there appears to be a genuine and innocent misunderstanding of principles or procedure.
- A letter of reprimand to the same party, warning of the consequences of future such instances, where the misunderstanding appears to be not entirely innocent.
- A formal letter as above, including a written request to the supervising institution that a investigation be carried out and the findings of that inquiry reported in writing to the journal.

(Source : WAME)

Responding to Plagiarism

- Publication of a notice of plagiarism, if appropriate (and unequivocally documented). Such publication will not require approval of authors, and should be reported to their institution.
- Formal withdrawal or retraction of the paper from the scientific literature, published in the journal, informing readers and the indexing authorities (Pubmed, etc), if there is a formal finding of misconduct by an institution.
- Such publication will not require approval of authors, should be reported to their institution, and should be readily visible and identifiable in the journal.

Responding to Plagiarism

- It is recommended that editors inform readers and authors of their reservation of the right to publish a retraction if it meets these conditions, thereby helping decrease arguments with authors.

PLAGIARISM

- Plagiarism is dishonesty. It involves both unpublished thesis and published thesis or articles. It is a serious offence.
- MJM experience??
- Turnitin, CrossCheck visit <http://www.crossref.org/crosscheck.html>.”
- Sanctions seen as a default option now.

REFERENCES

1. WAME Publication Ethics Committee. Recommendations on Publication Ethics Policies for Medical Journals. <http://www.wame.org/about/recommendations-on-publication-ethics-policie#Plagiarism> Assessed 5th August 2017)
2. International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly work in Medical Journals.
3. E. Wager, V. Barbour, S. Yentis, S. Kleinert on behalf of COPE Council. Retractions: guidance from the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)

