

Global Ethics Forum

Lab 6: Publication Ethics

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Publication

- **Publication involves making information public**
 - ≍ Print
 - ≍ Online
 - ≍ Audio
- **Publication has social and ethical dimensions.**
 - ≍ The social dimension is associated with status, prestige, profit, and control.
 - ≍ The ethical dimension concerns veracity, transparency, and equity.



Publication Ethics



A major publication ethical challenge is global inequity

Objectives

- In this presentation, we will
 - ≈ Identify the nine transgressions of publication ethics
 - ≈ Review ethical authorship
 - ≈ Examine open access publications



The Nine Transgressions

- Careless review of previous work and citations
- Publishing same article more than once without acknowledgment
- Unmerited authorship/failure to include authors with merit
- Conflict of interest
- Failing to obtain ethical approval for human and animal subjects research
- Plagiarism
- Fabrication and falsification
- Fragmentation of results
- Acknowledgement aimed at deception

Authorship

- **Authorship establishes social status**
 - ≡ When no author is cited, no credit is given for making a discovery.
 - ≡ Citation for making the discovery first is associated with fame.
 - » Think about noble prize winners - majority of the winners were cited for being the first to discover or invent something.
- **Journal article has emerged as the basis for academic and scientific fame.**
 - ≡ Appointment, promotion, tenure and more are based on
 - » The number of articles authored or co-authored.
 - » Impact factor of the articles.

What Makes a Good Authorship Practice?

**Authorship
credit and order
are based on**

**1. Contribution to
conception, design,
acquisition, analysis &
interpretation of data**

**2. Drafting and revising
essential intellectual
content**

**3. Final approval of
published version**

- Note:
 - Weighting in determining authorship order is progressive (i.e., 1, 2, 3)
 - Acquiring funding, collecting data, or providing general supervision of a research team or project does not justify authorship
 - This concept map is based on the guidelines of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)

Open Access Publications

- **Benefits**
 - ≍ Make full texts of books and articles available to the public
 - ≍ Promote expedient publishing of works
 - ≍ Reach a wider audience
 - ≍ Promote global equity
- **Challenges**
 - ≍ Copyright constraints
 - ≍ Dubious publishers



Managing Ethical Issues in Publications

- The management of ethical issues in publication should be guided by
 - ⌘ Professional bodies' ethical policy
 - ⌘ Institutional policy
 - ⌘ Institutional review boards' standards
 - ⌘ Copyright laws
 - ⌘ Code of publication ethics
 - ⌘ Moral laws that require us to "do no harm"
 - ⌘ Ethical considerations requiring veracity, transparency and equity



Conclusion

- Publication is associated with social and ethical dimensions
- Ethical authorship practices are advocated
- Open access creates opportunity for global equity and should be supported
- Ethical issues associated with publications could be ameliorated through the development and enforcement of relevant policies, code of publication ethics and ethical review.

