Responsible Conduct of Research: Publication

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Publication: Considerations

• Why publish?
  – Reports new scientific findings
  – Academic responsibility
  – Scientific credit
• When to publish
• What to publish
  – ‘Salami’ publishing
  – “least publishable unit”
• Where to publish
Publication: Considerations

Guidelines and Regulations

– ‘Instructions for Authors’: specific to many professional societies, scientific journals, and institutions

– Copyright Law

– Open Access Publishing

– Public disclosure of accepted, but not yet published results? Press release?
Publication:
Why and how irresponsible conduct may occur

• Pressure
  – advancement, promotion
  – continued research funding
  – intellectual property rights
• Statistical Methods/Data
  – Incomplete methods, misused statistics, misleading figures or poor quality writing
• Conflict of Interest
• Plagiarism
“Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.” (NIH, ORI)

- Includes info obtained through confidential review of research proposals and manuscripts
- Must reference original source of idea

UBC Policy 85’s definition of scholarly misconduct includes:

- Failure to give appropriate recognition, including authorship, to those who have made a material intellectual contribution
- The use of unpublished work of other researchers and scholars without proper permission or acknowledgement
Publication:
Notes for Consideration

• Citations
  – From original source
  – Support and do not support hypothesis

• Corrections and retractions
  – Continued citation

• Biosecurity

• Publishing results of clinical trials

• Publishing-related data sharing

• Example: Schön of Bell Labs
Authorship

• Increase collaboration = multiauthored papers (i.e. genome sequencing)
• First author vs senior author? Co-authorship? Order
• Authors must:
  – Have contributed significantly to the work
    • Acknowledgement or authorship: what contributions signify each?
  – Accept responsibility for content of work
  – Consent to paper publication and have read the work
• Honorary authorships?
• Contributorship policies
Authorship

• What does not constitute authorship?
  – Provision of funding, lab space or instrumentation/reagents
  – Group or leader status
  – Routine technical work
  – Collection of data
  – Paid for services or reagents
  – Editing
Peer Review

• Essential in research for grant, manuscript, and personnel reviews

• May influence:
  – professional careers
  – the direction of research programs
  – public policy, health initiatives

• Can help improve manuscripts and report accurate work
Peer Review

• Editorial Board member, ad hoc reviewer
• Anonymous and not (journal dependant)
• Confidentiality
  – Should not communicate with author during review
  – Should not keep a copy of manuscript
  – No publication of reviewer comments
  – Help with review by grad student or post-doc?
Peer Review

Responsibilities:

• Conflict of Interest/ No personal bias (real or perceived)
• Timely and thorough completion
• Acknowledgement of assistance
• Competence
  – Should provide critical analysis, method validity
References


4. Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication - http://www.icmje.org/

5. RCREC Internet Course, a product of the Responsible Conduct of Research Education Committee http://ethics.ucsd.edu/courses/rcrec_internet/about.html (©1992-2007)


10. A Guide to the Handling of Scientific Misconduct Allegations in the Intramural Research Program at the NIH, January 12, 2001 - prepared by the NIH Committee on Scientific Conduct and Ethics
