

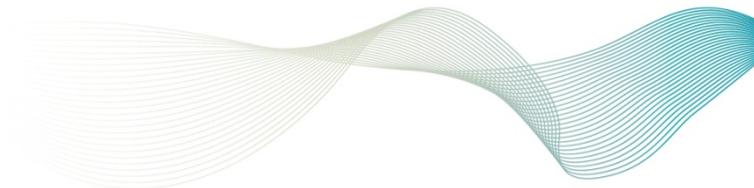
Publication ethics guidelines: The publishers' role in ensuring reliability of scientific publications

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Or, trying to avoid mistakes...

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FREE PREVIEW

Financial Ties to Industry Cloud Major Depression Study

BY DAVID ARMSTRONG

Word Count: 2,901 | Companies Featured in This Article: Eli Lilly, SmithKline

For pregnant women considering whether to continue taking antidepressant drugs, a study in a February issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, **JAMA**, contained a sobering message. Stopping the medication greatly increases the risk of relapsing into depression.

The study authors -- most of them leading psychiatrists at Massachusetts General Hospital, the University of California Los Angeles and the University of Michigan -- said their results challenged a common assumption that hormonal changes during pregnancy protected expectant mothers from a relapse. In their article, they predicted that findings

The New York Times **Science**

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Amid Confusion, Journal Retracts Korean's Stem Cell Paper

By **GINA KOLATA**
Published: December 31, 2005

Editors of the journal Science have determined that a controversial paper on cloned human stem cells must be retracted, but they are finding it hard to set the record straight.

The May 2005 paper, by Hwang Woo Suk and his colleagues, reported that Dr. Hwang's group at Seoul National University made 11 lines of cloned human embryonic stem cells. The feat was seen as a landmark in the effort to use stem cells to regenerate tissues with newly generated tis-

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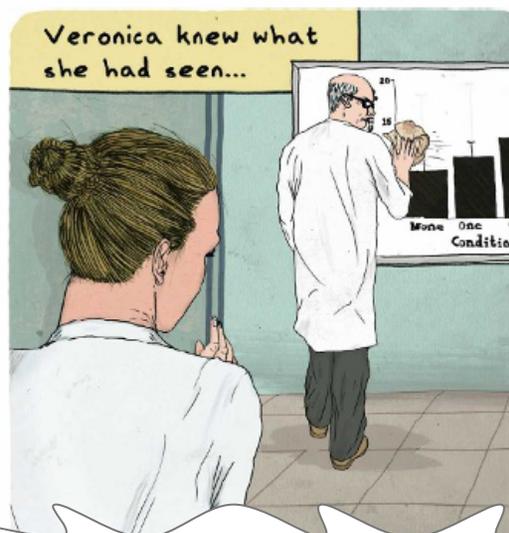
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COMMENTARY

Repairing research integrity

A survey suggests that many research misconduct incidents in the United States go unreported to the Office of Research Integrity. **Sandra L. Titus, James A. Wells and Lawrence J. Rhoades** say it's time to change that.

Misconduct jeopardizes the good name of any institution. Inevitably, the way in which research misconduct is policed and corrected reflects the integrity of the whole enterprise of science. The US National Academy of Sciences has asserted that scientists share an 'obligation to act' when suspected research misconduct is observed¹. But it has been unclear how well scientists are meeting that obligation. In the United States, the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) evaluates all the investigation records submitted by institutions and plays an oversight role in determining whether there has been misconduct at institutions that receive support from the Department of Health and Human Services



the past three academic years to avoid inclusion of distant events and to have a consistent time parameter. We used frequent and varied reminders to secure a high response rate to the survey. Previous research has treated survey reports of misconduct as if the observer could make the determination that they had observed misconduct. Instead, we consider the observations to be 'possible research misconduct' and not all such observations will result in a finding of misconduct. In all we asked 4,298 scientists holding NIH extramural research funds at 605 institutions to respond to the survey so that our findings would be representative of a broad spectrum of research conditions as well as varied sizes of institutions.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY J. TAYLOR

Office of Research Integrity

Paraphrased from NATURE, Vol 453, 19 June 2008

- **“Reporting Suspected Research Misconduct in Biomedical and Behavioral Research”**
- Suggests 1.5 cases per 100 scientists per year (*!health warning! – extrapolated – !limitations!*)
- 155,000 NIH-supported scientists would predict >2300 cases per year
- Survey suggests that 58% cases are reported = 1350 cases per year
- But ... 24 per year at ORI

Office of Research Integrity

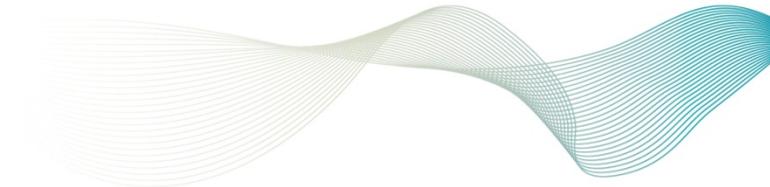
NATURE, Vol 453, 19 June 2008

- The authors conclude...

“falsified and fabricated research records, publications, dissertations and grant applications are much more prevalent than has been suspected to date”

So ... what are publishers doing?

- Advising and assisting editors doing a tough job



Best Practice Guidelines on Publication Ethics: A Publisher's Perspective

- Promoting ethical publication practices
- Transparency
- Promoting research integrity
- Editorial standards and processes
- Responsible publication practices
- Ownership of ideas and expression
- Best Practice statements

Wiley-Blackwell, the world's leading partner for societies, works with over 700 academic societies. We recognize the importance of developing the highest ethical standards, and we are committed to promoting ethical publication practices across Wiley-Blackwell journals. This document presents the Wiley-Blackwell position on the major ethical principles of academic publishing and considers factors that may foster ethical behavior or create problems. The aims are to encourage discussion, to initiate changes where they are needed, and to provide practical guidance, in the form of Best Practice statements, to inform these changes.

"This is an excellent document. It addresses both broad ethical issues and practical points that we have all come against throughout editorial work"

Panos Vostanis, Editor, *Child & Adolescent Mental Health*

"It is impressive. I particularly like the 'Best Practice' sections. I think it will be a valuable resource"

Bruce Baum, Co-editor, *Oral Diseases*

"Covers most of the issues that we normally address and has raised some ideas for improving some of our codes of practice"

Carol Huxley, Managing Editor, *The Journal of Physiology*

"Best Practice Guidelines on Publication Ethics: A Publisher's Perspective", reproduced with permission from *International Journal of Clinical Practice*.
Graf C, Wager E, Bowman A et al. *Int J Clin Pract* 2007;61(s152):1-26.
<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/j.1742-1241.2006.01290.x>

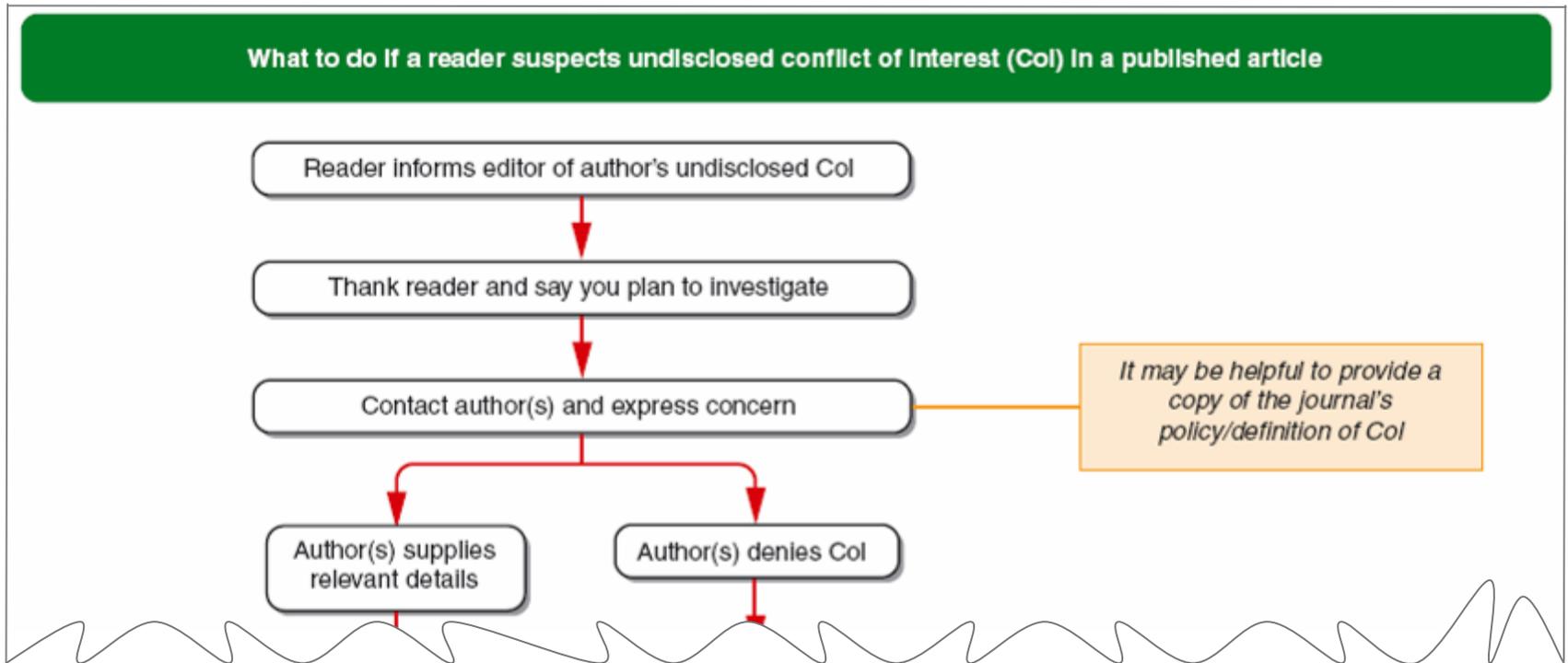


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BLACKWELL

www.BlackwellPublishing.com/PublicationEthics

Chris Graf, Elizabeth Wager, Alyson Bowman, Suzan Fiack, Diane Scott- Lichter, Andrew Robinson. *Int J Clin Pract* 2007; 61(s152) :1-26

Thanks COPE!



www.publicationethics.org.uk

Unexpected result

- **Roy Kaufman**, Legal Director, Wiley-Blackwell
- “I consult the guidelines at least **once a week**”
- “Great to have procedures to point to in these matters, which tend to be **deeply personal**”





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Publishing Ethics Resource Kit (PERK)

Introduction

In the area of scientific publishing, ethics can be considered as either Scientific Ethics or Publishing Ethics. Many international, national and governmental institutions worldwide concern themselves with scientific ethics, for example, the ethics of experimentation, data storage regulations and the setting up of ethics committees at universities etc.

Monitoring Publishing Ethics is a major aspect of the peer-review process, and as such lies within the area of responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief, or the scientific editor, of each journal. In practice publishers often help guide and support editors with these matters, and in addition there are also several supporting organisations, of which the [Committee on Publishing Ethics \(COPE\)](#) is the best known. Elsevier recently took the decision to list all of its journals with COPE, to provide Editors with additional guidance if needed, and to support this essential independent activity.

In addition to making available this resource kit, Elsevier is also active in other publishing ethics initiatives, internally and externally. With the CrossRef Association (<http://www.crossref.org>), it is involved in a pilot plagiarism software project called Crosscheck (<http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/editorsinfo.editors/plagdetect>).

To enforce publishing ethics, and detect misconduct, Editors rely heavily on the reviews of referees, and post-publication, on comments from the community at large. Fortunately, the area of science publishing is reasonably good at self-correcting, albeit sometimes later rather than earlier. In any case, every reported act of unethical publishing behaviour must be looked into, even if it is discovered years after publication.

Experienced Editors may well have dealt with many publishing ethics cases; however the rules and guidelines of the community are constantly being refined and updated. All Editors, new and experienced, are urged to look at and use this resource kit, which has been assembled and maintained not only for journal Editors, but also for publishing staff.

When an Editor is confronted with a case (or suspected case) of ethics abuse, he/she should first identify the type of unethical behaviour, using the definitions provided in this kit. Then the decision trees, and their recommended action, can be followed. COPE charts are also available for a second opinion. This is often the time for the Editor to discuss the case with his/her publishing contact within Elsevier and agree what action to take.

The material in this Resource Kit consists of the following:

General Link
Decision tree
Elsevier policy and procedures
with different forms of ethics



Introduction

General

- [Guidelines](#)
- [Policies](#)

Decision trees

- [1. Authorship complaints](#)
- [2. Plagiarism complaints](#)
- [3. Multiple publication](#)
- [4. Research results misappropriation](#)
- [5. Allegations of research errors and fraud](#)
- [6. Research standards violations](#)
- [7. Undisclosed conflicts of interest](#)
- [8. Reviewer bias or competitive harmful acts by reviewers](#)

Form letters

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- [D. To Offender](#)
- [E. To Editor](#)

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Editor & Society Area

Publish With Us > Editors & Societies: Publish with Us > **Ethics of Publishing**

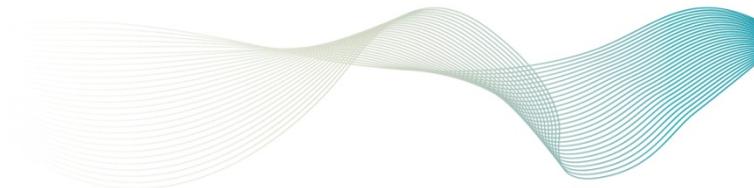
Guidelines on the Ethics of Journal Publishing

Our policy on Author Rights includes advice on copyright, including Author Rights as these relate to the posting of pre-prints and post-prints, as well as information on our *iOpenAccess* initiative.

The ethical guidelines we describe here are designed to help everyone engaged in the journal publication process, namely, editors, authors, and manuscript reviewers and referees.

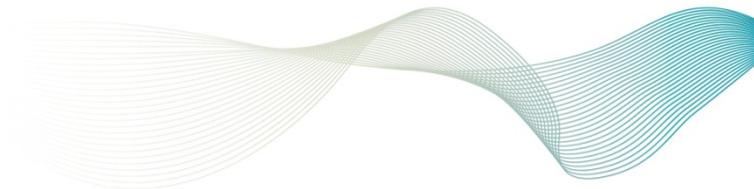
We are confident that unambiguous and consistent guidelines will enhance the quality of published research, and ensure a

- » Journal Authors
- » Book Authors
- » Reference Work Contributors
- » Editors & Societies: New Journal Idea
- » Editors & Societies: Publish with Us
 - » Editorial Contacts
 - » *iFirst*
 - » *iOpenAccess*
 - » Copyright FAQs
 - » Copyright Permission



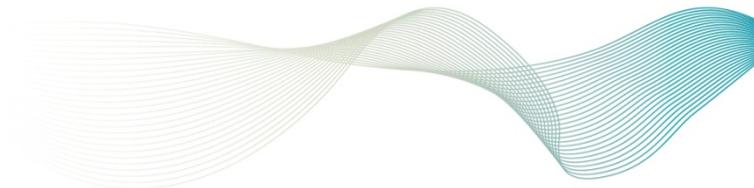
Selected topic

- Transparency
 - Clinical Trials Registration and Posting
- Editorial standards and processes
- Ownership of ideas and expression
- Promoting research integrity
- Responsible publication practices
 - CONSORT



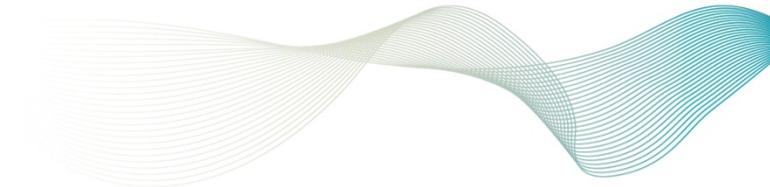
Clinical Trials Registration and Posting

- **Registration:** “editors of medical journals require that the clinical trials they consider for publication are registered in free, public clinical trial registries before publication”
- **Data posting:** Results posted in abbreviated form in databases should not be considered inappropriate prior publication
- See FDA Amendment Act Sept 2007
- **Journals, and bodies like ICMJE, will need to respond**



So ... what are publishers doing?

- Advising and assisting editors doing a tough job



Office of Research Integrity

NATURE, Vol 453, 19 June 2008

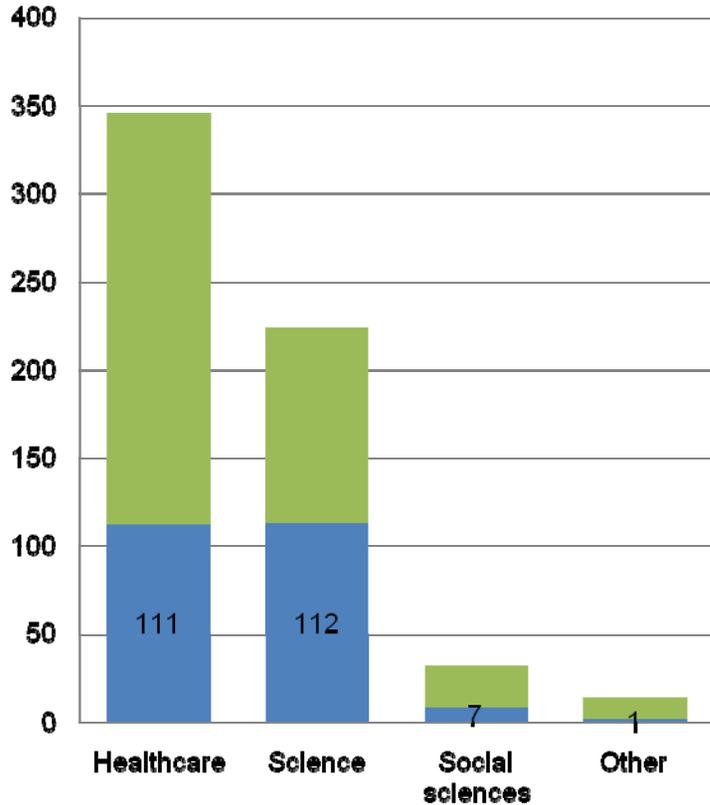
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Science journal editors' views on publication ethics

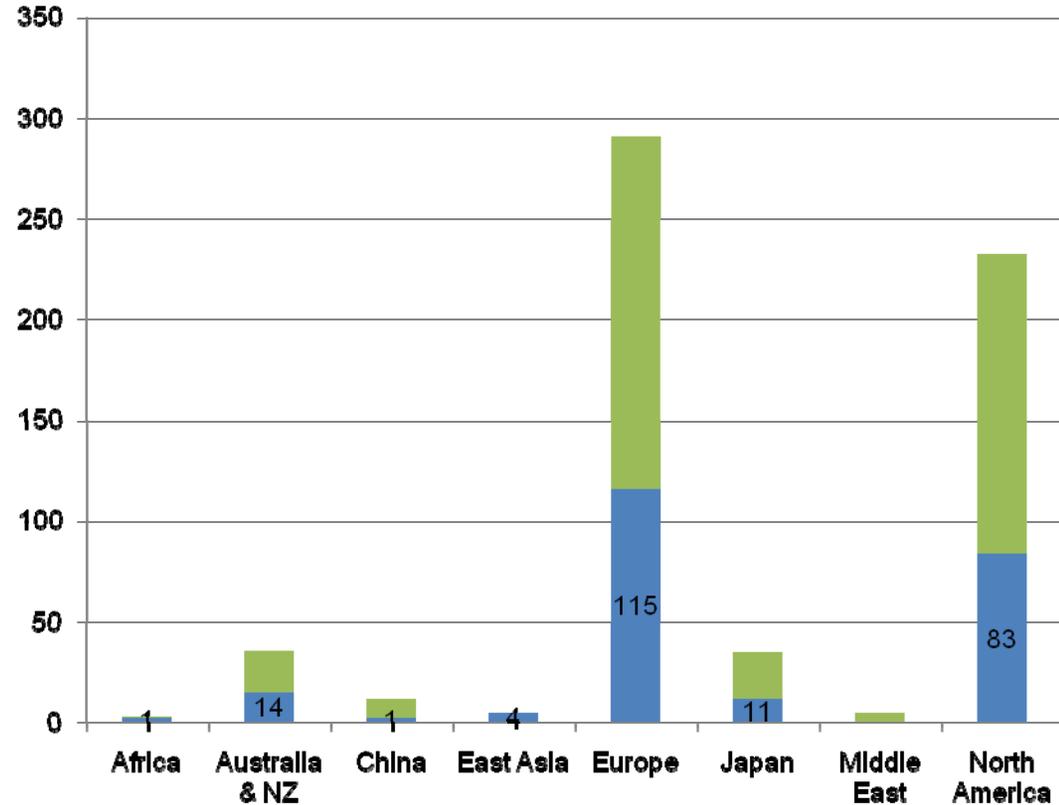
- N=524
- 16 publication ethics issues
 - Severity
 - Confidence in handling
 - Frequency
 - Change in frequency
- *Plus:* Awareness and use of publication ethics guides/resources, last update to author instructions, ownership, ads, supplements, trial registration policies

231 (44%) responses

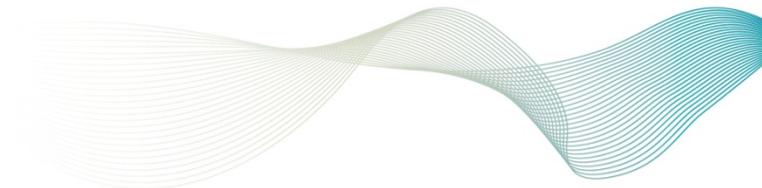
95% confidence with confidence interval +/- 4.8%



■ Survey respondents ■ Total population sent survey

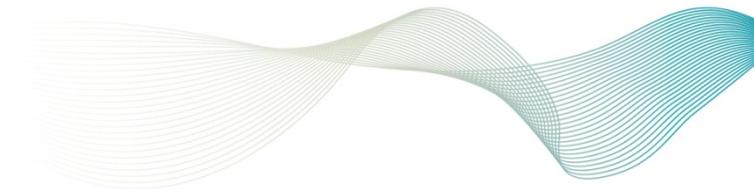


■ Survey respondents ■ Total population sent survey



Our top line results

- Most editors we surveyed were not very concerned about publication ethics
- Believe problems occur only rarely
- Often unsure of frequency
- “I think we’ve got some work to do”
Chris Graf, June 2008



So ... what are publishers doing?

- Advising and assisting editors doing a tough job and... things like:



- Launched June 19 2008
- “A reliable way to verify the originality of works submitted for publication” *Ed Pentz, CrossRef*

<http://www.crossref.org/01company/pr/press061908.htm>
<https://crosscheck.ithenticate.com/login>

