No Entry to Fraud in Medical Research

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Ethical behavior in any area of life or profession has great impact and in medicine this is more critical than in any other field. As regards Medical writing and research, plagiarism is considered one of the hot issues.

To produce a good piece of research, certain standards have to be met and protocols should be followed. The United States department of health and human services office of integrity of research[1], has categorized research misconduct while proposing, performing, reviewing, or reporting research, into three groups; fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism.

The word plagiarism is originated from the Latin word, "plagiaries" meaning "kidnapper" and word, "plagium" meaning "kidnapping", According to the world association of medical editors (WAME), plagiarism is defined as "The use of others' published ideas or words without permission or attribution, and presenting them as new and original rather than derived from an existing source"[2].

Why plagiarism is considered unethical? According to Ronald B. Standler[3] plagiarism is considered unethical for the following reasons:

1) A plagiarist get wrongfully get credit, reward and other benefits for the work which he has not done.

2) He denies good work and credit of the true author who has carried out all the hard work

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3) The plagiarist is an offender of copy right infringement if the material is copy righted.

Some research reports are based on fabrication or falsification. Fabrication is making up data or results and recording or reporting them.

Falsification is manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.

Use of electronic media, libraries and availability of downloadable information on the internet has further complicated the picture.

Such "allowed" borrowing of content on the internet has created a whole new cut and paste culture making it easy for writers to freely download materials and mix and match during the creativity process[4]. This can result in low quality and quality and readymade research to which the "researcher" has no real contribution.

Plagiarism is one of the most common types of publication misconduct when one author deliberately uses another's work without permission, credit, or acknowledgment.

There are different types of plagiarism and all are serious violations of academic honesty. Direct plagiarism is the word-for-word transcription of a section of someone else's work. Self-plagiarism occurs when a researcher submits his or her own previous work, or mixes parts of previous works, without permission to others. Mosaic Plagiarism occurs when a researcher borrows phrases from a source without using quotation marks. Accidental plagiarism occurs when a person neglects to cite their sources, whether intentional or not, is aca-

demically dishonest and punishable even if the source is given in the footnote .

The degree of plagiarism can range from literal copying to paraphrasing some else's work and can include data, words or phrases, ideas or concept.

When whole or part of the work is reproduced (literal copying) one should keep track of the sources and properly acknowledge and cite the original source in the publication. Borrowed word for word should be quoted and referenced.

If both the quality and quantity of the work is reproduced, it is called substantial copying. One should justify that this will benefit their work and the original source should be cited.

Paraphrasing is reproducing someone else's ideas but not copying word for word, without permission and acknowledgement of the original source. This is only acceptable if the meaning is not distorted and even the words are changed. However the source still has to be referenced.

Text recycling is reproducing your own work which is published and resubmitted as a new paper. This should be quoted and referenced even if these are an author's own words or ideas.

Plagiarism can be detected either manually of by using computer programs (special softwares). Manual detection requires ample effort and outstanding memory, and is not practical in cases where too many credentials have to be compared, or original documents are not available for judgment.

Software-assisted detection allows infinite collections of credentials to be compared with each other. Sites that offer tools and techniques for detecting plagiarism are, Turnitin[5] (license required), Plagiarism and Anti Plagiarism (Source: Rutgers University)[6], Plagiarism.org (A service that requires payment but which gives a free trial)[7] and many more.

Plagiarism is unethical and unacceptable. In the author's opinion all the manuscripts/articles submitted for publication must be cross checked for plagiarism and all forms should be strongly discouraged.

Refrences

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