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

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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

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Publication: 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- The use of unpublished work of other researchers and scholars without proper permission or acknowledgement

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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?

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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

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