What do impact and transparency mean for ethical publishing?

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Education and support: Committee on Publication Ethics

• COPE began in 1997 as an informal forum for a small group of editors to discuss ethical issues relating to research and publication in biomedical journal publishing

• Membership of COPE started with a few medical journals
COPE in 2016:

- Has over 10,000 members
- Is now international in scope and fully inclusive in subject matter
- Covers all academic disciplines for example:
  - Biomedicine
  - Pure and applied sciences
  - Engineering and technology
  - Arts, humanities and social sciences
Who is COPE?

- Charity
- Elected council
- Officers (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer...)
- Day-to-day management staff
What does COPE do?

• Leadership in thinking about publication ethics
• Practical resources to educate and support
• A neutral, professional voice

• advises and educates editors and publishers on all aspects of publication ethics
• guides editors and publishers in how to handle cases of research and publication misconduct
• provides a forum for its members to discuss individual cases
What does COPE offer?

• Talks - Forums – Seminars – Workshops
• Database of cases
• Flowcharts (e.g., what to do if you suspect plagiarism in a submitted manuscript)
• Discussion documents (e.g., on anonymous whistle-blowers)
• eLearning (e.g., on conflict of interest)
• Best practice guidelines (e.g., retraction guidelines)
• Codes of conduct (e.g., for journal editors)
• Sample letters
Find out more about COPE

Promoting integrity in research publication

COPE is a forum for editors and publishers of peer reviewed journals to discuss all aspects of publication ethics. It also advises editors on how to handle cases of research and publication misconduct. Read more about COPE...

All Latest  Latest Cases  Latest News  Upcoming Events

NEWS
FORUM DISCUSSION
TOPIC: Who “owns” peer reviews?
All of the cases COPE has discussed since its inception in 1997 have been entered into the database now contains over 500 cases together with the advice given by COPE. Further, the database also includes follow-up information and about outcome, and podcasts are available. We hope this database will provide a valuable resource for editors and those researching in the area.

You can search by classification or keyword using either the search field (top left) or the list of years and classifications/keywords listed below. A more detailed explanation of the classifications can be found on the COPE Case Taxonomy page.
COPE cases
COPE cases

[Bar chart showing COPE cases from 1997-00, 2001-04, 2005-08, and 2009-12 for various categories such as Authorship, Plagiarism, Questionable/unethical research, Redundant/duplicate publication, Conflict of interest, Correction of the literature, Data, Misconduct/questionable behaviour, and Peer review.]
Guidelines and eLearning

Guidelines for peer reviewers

COPE Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers

- [COPE Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers](#) [PDF, 145 KB]

Guidelines for authors

How to handle authorship disputes: a guide for new researchers

- [How to handle authorship disputes: a guide for new researchers](#) [PDF, 64 KB]

Available Modules

- Reviewer Misconduct
- Plagiarism
- Introduction to Publication Ethics
- Falsification
- Fabrication
- Corrections, retractions and expressions of concern
- Conflict of Interest
- Authorship
Impact

Image credit: Davide Restivo CC-BY-SA
Why measure impact?

- Researcher evaluation
- Quantify reach
- Demonstrate return of investment
- Trends and hot topics
- Collaborations
REF impact

The Research Excellence Framework was the first exercise to assess the impact of research outside of academia. Impact was defined as ‘an effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia’.

Impact case studies

As part of the 2014 Research Excellence Framework exercise, UK higher education institutions (HEIs) submitted 6,975 impact case studies demonstrating the impact of their research on wider society.
How do we measure impact?

Views (abstract and full-text)
Downloads
Citations!!
Social buzz

>>Geographical spread
>>Expertise and seniority
>>Usage??
Since beginning

3,902 views and downloads  2,146 views  1,756 downloads
Characterization of the Vaginal Microbiota of Ewes and Cows Reveals a Unique Microbiota with Low Levels of Lactobacilli and Near-Neutral pH
How to create impact?

- Networks
- Social media
- New online tools
- Conferences
Jennifer Thomson
Montana State University
USA

2,331 Total Views
85 Profile Views
14 Total Publications
2,246 Publication Views
1,804 Publications Downloads

Brief Bio
No content to display.

14 Publications

Invited review: Recommendations for reporting intervention studies on reproductive performance in dairy cattle: Improving design, analysis, and interpretation of research on reproduction.
Wherever you publish or share your work, use Kudos to make this more effective:

Open up your research so new audiences can find and understand it.
Track the most effective networks for getting your work read, discussed and cited.
Learn where to focus your efforts to make best use of your time.
Improve the metrics by which you are evaluated.

Bring your publications to life

**Explain**
Explain in plain language what your publication is about and why it is

**Share**
Share it to your social networks, web pages or email contacts.

**Measure**
Measure the effect on clicks, views, downloads, citations and altmetrics to learn which
How to create impact?

- Networks
- Social media
- New online tools
- Conferences
- Rejection myth
- Gaming
Rejection rates for a sample of 570 journals with impact factors

Impact factor (2014) vs. Rejection rate

$R^2 = 0.0023$
Researcher evaluation

- Number of publications
- Positive results
- Groundbreaking results
- High impact journals
“...scientists feel tempted or under pressure to compromise on research integrity and standards ... Suggested causes include high levels of competition in science and the pressure to publish.”
Is ethical publishing possible?

- Number of publications – Salami slicing, plagiarism
- Positive results – Selective publishing
- Groundbreaking results - Hyping
- High impact journals - Cheating
Transparency
What does transparency mean?

- Everything in the open?
- Clear responsibilities?
- ...
Where does transparency play a role?

• Policies and procedures
• Corrections
• Reviewer identities
• Reviewer reports
• Handling editor identity
• Authorship

>>Conflicts of interest
Parameter Values for Epidemiological Models of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Swine

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In the event of a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) incursion, response strategies are required to control, contain, and eradicate the pathogen as efficiently as possible. Infectious disease simulation models are widely used tools that mimic disease dispersion in a population and that can be useful in the design and support of prevention and mitigation activities. However, there are often gaps in evidence-based research to supply models with quantities that are necessary to accurately reflect the system of interest. The objective of this study was to quantify values associated with the duration of the stages of
Conflicts of interest

• Personal
• Professional
• Financial

Fight – Flight – Freeze

Image credit: Peretz Partensky CC-BY-SA
The effect of a conflict of interest disclosure form using closed questions on the number of positive conflicts of interest declared – a controlled study

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ABSTRACT

Objective. While declarations of conflicts of interest (COI) have become an integral part of medical articles, COIs are often not declared completely and accurately. One of several possible reasons for deficient COI declarations is the lack of standardized and comprehensive COI forms. In 2010, the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) introduced a COI form using clear definitions and closed questions. Deutsches Ärzteblatt (DA), the journal of the German Medical Association, adapted this form and implemented it in early 2011. However, it is unclear whether changing COI forms leads to more positive COI statements.

Material and Methods. In a controlled pre-post design, positive COI statements were analyzed at three German medical journals: one had changed its COI form (DA), two had not: Deutsche Medizinische Wochenschrift (DMW) and Nervenarzt.
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Conflict of Interest Statement
The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

The reviewer SS and handling Editor declared their shared affiliation, and the handling Editor states that the process nevertheless met the standards of a fair and objective review.

Acknowledgment
Is transparency needed for ethical publishing?

• Incentives
• Open versus Correct

• Focus on authors
• What do we need?
Publication and Research Ethics: We need multiple strategies

Accept there is a problem and that addressing it requires time / money / people/ different thinking

1. Improving detection
   • Use of technology

2. Education and support
   • eg COPE, institutions, professional bodies

3. Tackle the root causes
   • Culture change
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