What Are Publishers Doing About Publication Ethics?

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So ... what are publishers doing?

- Advising and assisting editors doing a tough job
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Best Practice Guidelines on Publication Ethics: A Publisher’s Perspective

These Best Practice Guidelines on Publication Ethics describe Blackwell Publishing’s position on ethical principles of academic publishing and consider factors that may foster ethical problems. The aim is to encourage discussion, to initiate changes where they are necessary, and to provide practical guidance, in the form of Best Practice Statements, to inform these discussions.

“...It addresses both broad ethical issues and practical questions...”

Ed: Graham Collings

Promoting ethical publication practices

Transparency

Promoting research integrity

Editorial standards and processes

Responsible publication practices

Ownership of ideas and expressions

Blackwell Publishing Best Practice

www.blackwellpublishing.com/publicationethics
PUBLISHING ETHICS

The publication of an article in a peer-reviewed journal is an essential building block in the development of a coherent and respected network of knowledge. It is a direct reflection of the quality of the work of the authors and the institutions that support them. Peer-reviewed articles support and embody the scientific method. It is therefore important to agree upon standards of expected ethical behavior for all parties involved in the act of publishing: the author, the journal editor, the peer reviewer, the publisher and the society of society-owned or sponsored journals. More about Publishing Ethics.

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www.elsevier.com/wps/find/intro.cws_home/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 committed to ensuring that all submissions are evaluated based on originality and quality, and we work to ensure that published research is accurate and credible. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the ethics of journal publishing, please contact us.
Do things right …

Cancer Science

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Original Article

Editor's statement:
Peter James' name was used in this article without his knowledge or permission. He wishes to dissociate himself from this article and any ideas, conclusions or opinions expressed therein.

Biomarker discovery: A proteomic approach for brain cancer profiling
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Abstract

Gliomas in the form of astrocytomas, anaplastic astrocytomas and glioblastomas are the most common brain tumors in humans. Early detection of these cancers is crucial for successful treatment. Proteomic approaches in the discovery of biomarkers as tumor markers for early detection and monitoring in the current clinical stage are the most effective and promising.
Avoid mistakes … and bad press

Amid Confusion, Journal Retracts Korean's Stem Cell Paper

By CINA 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 create human tissues for repair and replacement.
So … what’s in the guidelines?

Wiley-Blackwell Guidelines

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

www.blackwellpublishing.com/publicationethics
Promoting research integrity

- Create polices that promote ethical research
- Protect the rights of research participants
- Ensure suspected misconduct is properly investigated by the appropriate authorities
- Inform readers if ethical breaches have occurred
More from the guidelines

What to do if a reader suspects undisclosed conflict of interest (Col) in a published article

1. Reader informs editor of author’s undisclosed Col
2. Thank reader and say you plan to investigate
3. Contact author(s) and express concern

- Author(s) supplies relevant details
- Author(s) denies Col

It may be helpful to provide a copy of the journal’s policy/definition of Col

Thanks COPE
www.publicationethics.org.uk/
The helpdesk
## Editors
- Publication decision
- Fair play
- Confidentiality
- Disclosure and conflicts of interest
- Vigilance over published record
- Involvement and cooperation in investigations

## Reviewers
- Contribution to editorial decision
- Promptness
- Confidentiality
- Standards of objectivity
- Acknowledgement of source
- Disclosure and conflicts of interest

## Authors
- Reporting standards
- Data access and retention
- Originality and plagiarism
- Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication
- Acknowledgement of sources
- Authorship of the paper
- Hazards and human or animal subjects
- Disclosure and conflicts of interest
- Fundamental errors in published works

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## Editors
- Unbiased consideration
- Reasonable speed and efficiency
- Sole responsibility for accept/reject
- Peer review confidential and anonymous
- Declare conflicts of interest
- Challenges to authenticity consult T&F and ed board: correction, a statement of retraction, or withdrawal and removal of the article

## Reviewers
- Unbiased consideration
- Reasonable speed and efficiency
- Quality of the manuscript judged objectively
- Peer review confidential
- Declare conflicts of interest
- Referees’ judgments must be explained and supported (accompanied by the relevant citation)
- Personal or malicious criticism neither appropriate nor acceptable

## Authors
- Accurate, objective, enough detail to repeat
- Cite all relevant references
- Identify hazards
- Declare conflicts of interest
- Avoid fragmenting research and not submit same or similar articles
- No personal criticism
- ‘Co-authors’: significant scientific contribution, and share responsibility and accountability
Outcomes: What do we want?

• Simply: guidelines to be used by editors

• Changes in author guidelines and policy, reflected in online submission systems

• Survey: editors’ understanding of publication ethics
Positive feedback … at launch

• ‘…addresses both broad ethical issues and practical points’
  Panos Vostanis, Child & Adolescent Mental Health

• ‘… a valuable resource’
  Bruce Baum, Oral Diseases

• ‘… raised some ideas for improving’
  Carol Huxley, The Journal of Physiology
Some results

• Nader Rifai, Clinical Chemistry, preparing for term as editor

• Carlo Brugnara, American Journal of Hematology, multiple cases of plagiarism

• 7 Wiley-Blackwell journals have cited (not including Am J Hem or Clin Chem)

• 2 journals published by other publishers have cited
Unexpected result

• **Roy Kaufman**, Legal Director, Wiley-Blackwell

• ‘I consult the guidelines at least once a week … … and encourage editors to do the same’

• ‘Great to have procedures to point to in these matters, which tend to be deeply personal’
Bigger … new resources

- Ethical policy template
- More new flowcharts – coming soon
- Manuscript Central templates – coming soon
- ‘10 Key Principles’ – coming soon
- New Book: Peer Review and Manuscript Management in Scientific Journals, Irene Hames
Bigger still …

• ‘Anti-plagiarism’ software: CrossCheck

• Wiley-Blackwell, BMJ, Elsevier, Taylor & Francis …

• Verifies originality
Survey: sent to >600 editors

- Experiences and confidence dealing with …
- Misconduct: FFP
- Research ethics
- Conflicts of interest (author, reviewer)
- Funder acknowledgement
- Ghosts and guests
- Peer reviewer misconduct
- Duplicate or redundant publication

>200 replies
Concern #1: Unacceptable ethical procedures reported for recruitment of research participants. Is this ignorance of appropriate reporting, or of fundamentals of research ethics?

Concern #2: Ethics rules in medical research are excessive and prevent interesting studies. The main ‘ethics’ problem is the rules themselves.
So … what are publishers doing?

• Advising and assisting editors doing a tough job