Publication Ethics at ACS Publications

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“Scientific Misconduct: Investigating Alleged Misconduct and Educating to Prevent It”
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About ACS and ACS Publications

- Chartered by Congress in 1876
- World’s largest scientific society
- Publish ~50 peer-reviewed journals
  - ~500 Editors, located around the world
  - >120,000 global manuscript submissions annually
  - ~40,000 articles published annually
  - ~70,000 unique reviewers each year
Investigating Allegations of Misconduct

• We receive potential ethical concerns about submitted or published articles from a number of sources, including:
  – Editors
  – Reviewers
  – Readers
  – Co-authors

• Editors review all complaints

• Investigations are undertaken as needed following guidelines from the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)
Investigating Allegations of Misconduct

COPE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION ETHICS

What to do if you suspect redundant (duplicate) publication
(a) Suspected redundant publication in a submitted manuscript

Reviewer informs editor about redundant publication
Redundancy detected by text-matching software (e.g., CrossCheck screening)

Thank reviewer and say you plan to investigate. Get full documentary evidence if not already provided

Check extent and nature of overlap/redundancy

Major overlap/redundancy (i.e., based on same data with identical or very similar findings and/or evidence that authors have sought to hide redundancy, e.g., by changing title or author order or not citing previous papers)

Minor overlap with some element of redundancy or legitimate overlap (e.g., methods or re-analysis, e.g., sub-group/extended follow-up/discussion aimed at different audience)

No significant overlap

Inform reviewers

Notes:
• The instructions to authors should state the journal’s policy on redundant publication.
• It may be helpful to request the institution’s policy.
• Ask authors to verify that their manuscript is original and has not been published elsewhere.
• International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) advises not to publish translations.
Investigating Allegations of Misconduct

• In some cases, the journal has enough information available to determine if an allegation is founded or not

• In other instances, we may have to reach out to the institution or oversight body to request an investigation
Text duplication software
Retractions

- Published articles may be retracted in order to correct the scientific record
Our main goal:

Integrity of the Scientific Record
Education
ACS On Campus

• **ACS on Campus is a campus outreach program from**
  – ACS Publications
  – Chemical Abstracts Service
  – ACS Membership & Scientific Advancement
  – ACS Education and Careers

• **Students participate in a number of sessions**
  – Basics of peer-review
  – Ethics in scholarly communications
  – Career building and development
  – Effective use of ACS web tools for submitting manuscripts and viewing published content
From ACS on Campus: Ways ethical violations are uncovered

- **Scientists (authors, editors & reviewers)**
  - Have exceptional memories
  - Access to Google, PubMed, SciFinder
  - Access to software that detects plagiarism, image manipulations, etc.

- **Scientific community is watching and policing itself**
  - Social Networking (blogs, Facebook, Twitter) offer new means to question published works in a very public forum

- **Publishers using technology to identify possible violators**
  - CrossCheck: compares text to published work
  - Image checking software: ([http://www.jcb.org/cgi/doi/10.1083/jcb.200406019](http://www.jcb.org/cgi/doi/10.1083/jcb.200406019))
One incident of ethical violation can have serious consequences. From ACS on Campus:

Your article could be rejected or retracted.

Sanctions include: Ban on further submissions to the journal where the violation occurred.

Notification of the institutions or agencies that funded the research.
Publishing your Research 101

• Video series highlighting tips and tools for getting your research published

• Editors, authors, reviewers, and staff serve as spokespeople

• Provide information on a number of topics in the publication process
Publishing your Research 101: Ethics for Authors and Reviewers

Publishing Your Research 101 - Ep. 5 Ethical Considerations for Authors and Reviewers

About this episode
In the fifth episode of our publishing series, we focus on the ethical considerations in scholarly publishing. Ethical behavior in research and publication form the foundation of scientific discovery and communication. Simply put, experiments should be performed and communicated honestly and with integrity, and attribution should be given to acknowledge the contributions of others.

Our editors examine some specific ways in which these principles apply during the publication and peer review process and highlight some of the common problems that arise from both authors and reviewers.

http://pubs.acs.org/page/publish-research/episode-5.html

and

Symposium on Ethics in Publishing, Division of Chemical Education
Publishing your Research 101 - Ep. 9
The Basics of Copyright and Fair Use

About this episode
The ninth episode looks at some of the issues around copyright and fair use of information. Most scientists encounter these issues at three points: when they are submitting a manuscript for publication, when they want to use items from their published articles in other publications, presentations, or in teaching, and when they want to use items published by other scientists in their own publications, presentations, or in teaching.

There are two parts to this episode. The first part of this episode looks at what copyright is, what happens when you transfer copyright to a publisher, and what rights you as an author retain when you transfer copyright. The second part discusses fair use, which are exceptions to copyright when certain conditions apply.
ACS Ethical Guidelines

- ACS publishes *Ethical Guidelines to Publication of Chemical Research*
  - Appear primarily on ACS Publications Website

- **Outlines the responsibilities of:**
  - Editors
  - Authors
  - Reviewers

- Reviewed and revised annually to reflect policy changes

- Used in conjunction with COPE guidelines
Resources

• ACS On Campus: 
  http://pubs.acs.org/page/4librarians/acsoc/index.html

• Publishing your Research 101: 
  http://pubs.acs.org/page/publish-research/index.html

• Ethical Guidelines to Publication of Chemical Research: 
  http://pubs.acs.org/page/policy/ethics/index.html

• COPE Flowcharts: 
  http://publicationethics.org/resources/flowcharts

• CrossCheck: 
  http://www.crossref.org/crosscheck/index.html
Thank you!