Editorial

Publication Disputes & misconduct



Dissemination of Research findings amongst the fraternity is the ultimate goal of a researcher accomplished by presenting the findings at suitable scientific forum like a scientific conference or seminar and or publishing same in a Biomedical Journal. Presenting paper at a scientific conference provides the researcher an opportunity to get feedback / comments on his work from the participants of the conference before submitting final paper to a peer reviewed journal.

The current MCI and DCI regulations require faculty members to have published certain number scientific papers in a journal of repute, as prerequisite for a teaching post and for advancement of their careers. This precondition would no doubt is expected to induce Research initiative amongst the faculty members one hand. However, it is also feared that this may also create suspicion of misconduct or violation of universal Ethical rules.

It is expected that the author / authors of scientific paper is/are honest, objective and unbiased. Any deviation from the universally accepted norms of research and publication is research misconduct. This is unacceptable and a punishable act. The areas of ethical violation include duplicate publication of any data of a paper in whole or in part, authorship disputes, conflict of interest, plagiarism and human and animal concerns.

Recently it has also been noticed that there is a long list of authors for a relatively small scientific paper submitted for publication, giving a feeling as if they are trying to oblige each other like social reciprocation, this practice can not be encouraged. Authorship should be earned based on actual work done by the author and not offered. Authorship credit need to be based on :

1. Substantial contribution to conception and design of study, acquisition of data or analysis and interpretation of analysis.
2. Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual contents.
3. Final approval of version by a guide / mentor before publication.

Therefore the persons designated as authors should qualify for authorship and only those who qualify should be listed and not otherwise.

The published scientific work can only be meaningful to scientific community, if it is original, unbiased, honest and objective. Each author should have participated sufficiently in work to take full responsibility for appropriate proportion of the contents.

The institute to which the author belongs should also bear the responsibility for monitoring ethical issues and accuracy of publication, which could be through a research integrity monitoring unit and solve the issues related to authorship disputes.

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