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**Journal editorial policies, animal welfare, and the 3Rs.**
American Journal of Bioethics 2009 December; 9(12): 55-59

**Abstract:** This study evaluates the editorial policies of a randomized sample of English language peer-reviewed journals that publish original research involving the use of animals. The aim is to identify whether journals have editorial policies relating to the use of animals in the research that they are prepared to publish and whether any policies are likely to promote animal welfare and dissemination of information on the 3Rs (reduction, refinement, replacement) within the scientific community. The results demonstrate that a significant proportion of journals publishing original research involving animals do not have any editorial policy relating to the use of animals. Of those journals that do have policies the majority simply request that the research be carried out in accordance with standard regulatory requirements. This paper aims to provide editors and publishers with the information they need to review their own editorial policies to ensure they are fulfilling their potential to promote animal welfare and dissemination of the 3Rs.

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**Information on the 3Rs in animal research publications is crucial.**
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Blum, Jared A.; Freeman, Kalev; Dart, Richard C.; Cooper, Richelle J.

**Requirements and definitions in conflict of interest policies of medical journals.**

**Abstract:** CONTEXT: Conflicts of interest (COIs) may influence medical literature. However, it is unclear whether medical journals have consistent policies for defining and soliciting COI disclosures. OBJECTIVE: To determine the prevalence of author COI policies, requirements for signed disclosure statements, and variability in COI definitions among medical journals. DESIGN: A cross-sectional survey of Instructions for Authors and manuscript submission documents, including authorship responsibility forms, for high-impact medical journals across 35 subject categories available from March through October 2008. MAIN OUTCOME MEASURE: Presence of language referring to COI disclosure in the Instructions for Authors or manuscript submission documents. RESULTS: Of 256 journals, 89% had author COI policies. Fifty-four percent required authors to sign a disclosure statement, and 77% provided definitions of COI. Most definitions were limited to direct financial relationships; a minority of journals requested disclosure of other potential conflicts such as personal relationships (42%), paid expert testimony (42%),
relationships with other organizations (26%), or travel grants (12%). The prevalence of policies varied by subject category: all internal medicine, respiratory medicine, and toxicology journals studied had comprehensive COI definitions, with 19 of these 24 journals requiring signed disclosure attestations. In contrast, 6 of 19 geriatrics, radiology, and rehabilitation journals requested author COI disclosure. Most journals that officially endorsed International Committee of Medical Journal Editors guidelines had COI policies (68/69), compared with 84% of journals not endorsing the guidelines (158/187). CONCLUSIONS: In 2008, most medical journals with relatively high impact factors had author COI policies available for public review. Among journals, there was substantial variation in policies for solicitation of author COIs and in definitions of COI.

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**Prepublication data sharing**
Nature 2009 September 10; 461(7261): 168-170

**Abstract:** Rapid release of prepublication data has served the field of genomics well. Attendees at a workshop in Toronto recommend extending the practice to other biological data sets.

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**Post-publication sharing of data and tools**
Nature 2009 September 10; 461(7261): 171-173

**Abstract:** Despite existing guidelines on access to data and bioresources, good practice is not widespread. A meeting of mouse researchers in Rome proposes ways to promote a culture of sharing.

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Rivera, Horacia

**Editors' malpractice: forward submitted letters (to the concerned authors), then reject them**
Accountability in Research 2009 September-December; 16(5-6): 331-333

**Abstract:** It seems that editors still enjoy an almost absolute power in deciding “what gets published” and are barely accountable. The rejection of two “Letters to the Editor” submitted by myself to different journals leads me to expose here the editors' confidentiality breach inherent to improperly sharing unpublished manuscripts with the challenged
authors. Although the scientific relevance of the issues raised here is virtually null, these experiences are consistent with the view that full peer review starts only after publication, highlight certain editorial malpractices, and stress that we all should promote scientific integrity.

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Resnik, David B.; Peddada, Shyamal; Brunson, Winnon, Jr.
Research misconduct policies of scientific journals
Accountability in Research 2009 September-December; 16(5-6): 254-267
**Abstract:** The purpose of this study was to gather information on the misconduct policies of scientific journals. We contacted editors from a random sample of 399 journals drawn from the ISI Web of Knowledge database. We received 197 responses (49.4% response rate): 54.8% had a policy, and 47.7% had a formal (written) policy; 28.9% had a policy that only outlined procedures for handling misconduct, 15.7% had a policy that only defined misconduct, 10.2% had a policy that included both a definition and procedures; 26.9% of journals had a policy that was generated by the publisher, 13.2% had a policy that was generated by the journal, and 14.7% had a policy that was generated by another source, such as a professional association. We analyzed the relationship between having a policy and impact factor, field of science, publishing house, and nationality. Impact factor was the only variable with a statistically significant association with having a policy. Impact factor was slightly positively associated with whether or not the publisher had a policy, with an odds ratio of 1.49 (P < .0004) per 10 units increase in the impact factor, with a 95% confidence interval (1.20, 1.88). Our research indicates that more than half of scientific journals have developed misconduct policies, but that most of these policies do not define research misconduct and most of these policies were not generated by the journal.

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Krimsky, Sheldon; Sweet, Erin
An analysis of toxicology and medical journal conflict-of-interest policies
Accountability in Research 2009 September-December; 16(5-6): 235-253
**Abstract:** Basic science and medical journals are increasingly requiring authors to disclose financial interests they have in the subject matter of contributed articles and letters. A comparison of journal conflict-of-interest (COI) policies can provide insight into published reports of low compliance rates and inconsistencies in disclosures by the same author found in different journals. The objective of this article is to compare the criteria, specificity, and scope of COI policies in toxicology and medical journals. We studied the COI policies of 47 toxicology and 180 medical journals catalogued in Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory for criteria of competing interests, types of submissions covered, monetary or time thresholds for reporting, and penalties for violations. Indicators were constructed for rating policy specificity, author discretion, and policy scope. Written COI policies were found in 87% if the toxicology and 84% of the medical journals; 15% and 28% of the toxicology and medical journals, respectively, were explicit about the type of content covered by the policy; 20% and 29%, respectively, included a monetary threshold for reporting purposes; the level of author discretion for reporting COIs was found to be high in 46% of the toxicology and 41% of the medical journals respectively. The level of specificity for more than 75% of the written journal COI policies for both fields was minimal or practically nil, and the scope of more than 80% of the policies was minimal to narrow. Lack of specificity, high author discretion, and restricted scope were found to be prevalent among COI policies of toxicology and medical journals.

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Medical papers by ghostwriters pushed therapy

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Survey of conflict-of-interest disclosure policies of ophthalmology journals.

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Science journal editors' views on publication ethics: results of an international survey
Journal of Medical Ethics 2009 June; 35(6): 348-353
Abstract: BACKGROUND: Breaches of publication ethics such as plagiarism, data fabrication and redundant publication are recognised as forms of research misconduct that can undermine the scientific literature. We surveyed journal editors to determine their views about a range of publication ethics issues. METHODS: Questionnaire sent to 524 editors-in-chief of Wiley-Blackwell science journals asking about the severity and frequency of 16 ethical issues at their journals, their confidence in handling such issues, and their awareness and use of guidelines. RESULTS: Responses were obtained from 231 editors (44%), of whom 48% edited healthcare journals. The general level of concern about the 16 issues was low, with mean severity scores of <1 (on a scale of 0-3) for all but one. The issue of greatest concern (mean score 1.19) was redundant publication. Most editors felt confident in handling the issues, with <15% feeling "not at all confident" for all but one of the issues (gift authorship, 22% not confident). Most editors believed such problems occurred less than once a year and >20% of the editors stated that 12 of the 16 items never occurred at their journal. However, 13%-47% did not know the frequency of the problems. Awareness and use of guidelines was generally low. Most editors were unfamiliar with all except other journals' instructions. CONCLUSIONS: Most editors of science journals seem not very concerned about publication ethics and believe that misconduct occurs only rarely in their journals. Many editors are unfamiliar with available guidelines but would welcome more guidance or training.

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Analysis of the mass media coverage of the Gates Foundation grand challenges in global health initiative
Journal of Medical Ethics 2009 March; 35(3): 163-167
Abstract: The Grand Challenges were launched in 2003 by the Gates Foundation and other collaborators to address the health needs of developing countries. This paper outlines the current problem with health research and development in the context of inequality as conveyed by the 90/10 divide. The paper then looks at the focus and nature of press reporting of global health issues by analysing how press articles have portrayed the Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative. Analysis of the mass media illustrates that the focus of reporting on the Grand Challenges tends to be on utilitarian themes, leaving issues related to justice and equity comparatively under-reported.
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Luty, Jason; Arokiadass, S.M.R.; Easow, J.M.; Anapreddy, J.R.
Preferential publication of editorial board members in medical specialty journals
Journal of Medical Ethics 2009 March; 35(3): 200-202
Abstract: BACKGROUND: Publication bias and discrimination are increasingly recognised in medicine. A survey was conducted to determine if medical journals were more likely to publish research reports from members of their own than a rival journal's editorial board. METHODS: A retrospective review was conducted of all research reports published in 2006 in the four competing medical journals within five medical specialties. Only three journals were willing to divulge the authorship of reports that had been rejected. RESULTS: Overall, 4460 research reports were published in 2006 by the 20 journals from five subspecialties (mean 223 (SD = 164) reports per journal; median 176; interquartile range 108-238). On average, 17.2 (7.7%) reports were from a journal's own editorial board (SD = 10.7; median 15; interquartile range 10-23; n = 20), and 6.3 (2.8%) reports were from a member of the editorial board of one of the three rival journals within the specialty (SD = 7.3; median 3.5; interquartile range 1-8; n = 60). There was a statistically significant excess of publications from the journal's own editorial board in 14 of the 20 journals (p<0.05). Journals were almost three times more likely to publish reports from their own editorial board than from one of the three rivals within their subspecialty (p<0.0001; median difference 11; Mann-Whitney U test; power for 5% significance >99.99%). CONCLUSIONS: There was a significant excess of publications from medical journals' own editorial boards, although it is not possible to determine whether this is due to bias in the peer review process or selective submission by editors.
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A medical journal editor's role in exposing an unethical research study.
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Publication ethics: clinical chemistry editorial standards.
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Journal of Medical Ethics 2009 January; 35(1): 74-78

Abstract: OBJECTIVES: To compare 2005 and 1995 ethics guidelines from journal editors to authors regarding requirements for institutional review board (IRB) approval and conflict-of-interest (COI) disclosure. DESIGN: A descriptive study of the ethics guidelines published in 103 English-language biomedical journals listed in the Abridged Index Medicus in 1995 and 2005. Each journal was reviewed by the principal author and one of four independent reviewers. RESULTS: During the period, the proportion of journals requiring IRB approval increased from 42% (95% CI 32.2% to 51.2%, p<0.001) to 76% (95% CI 66.4% to 83.1%, p<0.001). In 2005, an additional 9% referred to the Declaration of Helsinki or the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors' Uniform requirements for ethical guidelines; 15% (95% CI 8.5% to 22.5%, p<0.01) provided ambiguous or no requirements. The proportion of journals requiring COI disclosure increased from 75% (95% CI 66.6% to 83.3%, p<0.05) to 94% (95% CI 89.4% to 98.6%, p<0.05); 41% had comprehensive requirements, while some addressed only funding source (6%), were vague (10%) or both (14%). Criteria for authorship rose from 40% (95% CI 30.5% to 49.5%, p<0.05) to 72% (95% CI 63.3% to 80.7%, p<0.05). Journals with higher impact factors were more likely to require IRB approval (p<0.01). Journals in anaesthesia and radiology all required IRB approval; requirements in other disciplines varied. CONCLUSIONS: Instructions to authors regarding ethical standards have improved. Some remain incomplete, especially regarding the scope of disclosure of COI. The ethical guidelines presented to authors need further clarification and standardisation.

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Redman, Barbara K.; Yarandi, H.N.; Merz, J.F.

**Empirical developments in retraction.**  
Journal of Medical Ethics 2008 November; 34(11): 807-809

**Abstract:** This study provides current data on key questions about retraction of scientific articles. Findings confirm that the rate of retractions remains low but is increasing. The most commonly cited reason for retraction was research error or inability to reproduce results; the rate from research misconduct is an underestimate, since some retractions necessitated by research misconduct were reported as being due to inability to reproduce. Retraction by parties other than authors is increasing, especially for research misconduct. Although retractions are on average occurring sooner after publication than in the past, citation analysis shows that they are not being recognised by subsequent users of the work. Findings suggest that editors and institutional officials are taking more responsibility for correcting the scientific record but that reasons published in the retraction notice are not always reliable. More aggressive means of notification to the scientific community appear to be necessary.

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**Update on JAMA's policy on release of information to the public**  
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Journal of Dental Education 2008 October; 72(10): 1099

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"Older" or "elderly" – are medical journals sensitive to the wishes of older people? [letter]


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Failure to report and provide commentary on research ethics board approval and informed consent in medical journals

Journal of Medical Ethics 2008 October; 34(10): 761-764

Abstract: BACKGROUND: The Declaration of Helsinki prohibits the publication of articles that do not meet defined ethical standards for reporting of research ethics board (REB) approval and informed consent. Despite this prohibition and a call to highlight the deficiency for the reader, articles with potential ethical shortcomings continue to be published. OBJECTIVE: To determine what proportion of articles in major medical journals lack statements confirming REB approval and informed consent, and whether accompanying commentary alerts readers to this deficiency. DESIGN: Retrospective, observational study. SETTING: Online review of five major medical journals. POPULATION: All clinical research articles published online between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2006 in the BMJ, Lancet, Annals of Internal Medicine, JAMA and the New England Journal of Medicine. MEASUREMENTS: Statement of REB approval and informed consent. RESULTS: Of 1780 articles reviewed, 1133 (63.7%) met inclusion criteria (manuscripts reporting human subjects, human tissue or identifiable personal data research), 36 (3.2%) articles lacked a statement of REB approval, 62 (5.5%) lacked disclosure of informed consent and 15 (1.3%) articles lacked both. Articles that did not state REB approval were associated with not stating informed consent (p<0.001). There were no editorial comments to alert readers to the lack of either REB approval or informed consent statements associated with any of the deficient articles. CONCLUSIONS: Articles that lack explicit statements of REB approval and informed consent are infrequent but continue to be published in major medical journals without editorial statements to alert the reader to this deficiency.

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Lancet warns authors about rules of "gift" authorship [news]

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Commentary: publishing cancer clinical trial results: a scientific and ethical imperative.

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*Duplicate publication and 'salami slicing': ethical issues and practical solutions.*

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*How to ensure our readers' trust: the proper attribution of authors and contributors.*


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Strange, Kevin

*Authorship: why not just toss a coin?*


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*Perceptions of ethical problems with scientific journal peer review: an exploratory study.*

Science and Engineering Ethics 2008 September; 14(3): 305-310

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*Guest authorship, mortality reporting and integrity in rofecoxib studies [letters and replies]*

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Neurology 2008 July 1; 71(1): 57-63

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Thompson, David R.; Watson, Roger
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Schiano, Thomas D.; Rhodes, Rosamond

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McHenry, Leemon B.; Jureidini, Jon N.

**Industry-sponsored ghostwriting in clinical trial reporting: a case study**

Accountability in Research 2008 July-September; 15(3): 152-167

**Abstract:** In this case study from litigation, we show how ghostwriting of clinical trial results can contribute to the manipulation of data to favor the study medication. Study 329 for paroxetine pediatric use was negative for efficacy and positive for harm. Yet the ghostwritten publication from this study concluded that paroxetine provided evidence of efficacy and safety and continues to be influential. Despite the role of named authors in revisions of the manuscript, the sponsor company remained in control of the message.

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**Fighting plagiarism [editorial]**

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**Document 106**
Candlish, John
The jurisprudential nature of fraud in biomedical publishing
Abstract: When instances of fraud in biomedical publishing come to light there is widespread indignation, not least because the consequences seem usually only to be internal enquiries and professional displeasure. A number of bodies have been constituted to improve publishing ethics and but these are largely advisory. Potentially though, actions in the tort of deceit and negligence, possibly misfeasance in a public office, and loss of chance could be brought against those responsible. These aspects are examined in the context of English law. In addition the new Fraud Act (2006) appears to be wide enough in scope to cover publishing fraud as a criminal offence. Any organisation such as a drug company financing clinical trials which produce spurious results could face serious losses and might well look to remedies in contract as well as in tort. A theoretical scenario centered on a drug trial is presented in order to explore these issues.
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Catheterization and Cardiovascular Interventions 2008 May 1; 71(6): 859-861

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Henley, Lesley
Reporting ethical processes in journals. [editorial]
Indian Journal of Medical Sciences 2008 April; 62(4): 127-129
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Gupta, Piyush
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Satyanarayana, K.; Sharma, Anju; Parikh, Purvish; Vijayan, V.K.; Sahu, D.K.; Nayak, Barun K.; Gulati, R.K.; Parikh, Mahendra N.; Singh, Prati Pal; Bavdekar, S.B.; Sreehari, U.; Sahni, Peush
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Welsh, Robert K.; Lareau, Craig R.; Clevenger, Jeanne K.; Reger, Mark A.
Ethical and legal considerations regarding disputed authorship with the use of shared data
Accountability in Research 2008 April-June; 15(2): 105-131
Abstract: Little guidance is currently available for handling disputes between research mentors and students when working with shared data. This article analyzes how the ethical guidelines from the American Psychological Association (APA), the Office of Research Integrity (ORI), and the American Educational Research Association (AERA) can inform common disputes in this area. Additional insights about the nature of the research relationship are derived from contract and copyright law. Practice guidelines are proposed to safeguard student and faculty welfare in research collaboration, and recommendations are provided to help prevent and resolve disputes between students and faculty.
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Luther, Friedy
**Publication ethics and scientific misconduct: the role of authors.**
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Kennedy, Donald
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Murphy, Eric J.
**The need for the persons involved as reviewers in the peer-review system to disclose potential conflicts of interest regarding the manuscript or the authors.**
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Saul, Stephanie
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Rossner, Mike; Van Epps, Heather; Hill, Emma
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Publishing ethics in child and adolescent psychiatry: essentials for authors and readers
Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America 2008 January; 17(1): 149-163, x
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Washburn, Jason J.
Encouraging research collaboration through ethical and fair authorship: a model policy
Ethics and Behavior 2008 January-March; 18(1): 44-58
Abstract: Realizing a comprehensive approach to evidence-based practice in psychology requires the collaboration of academic researchers and practicing clinicians. Increased collaboration is likely to contribute to the growing trend of multi-investigator projects, multiple-authored publications, and the subsequent conflicts regarding authorship credit and order. Recommendations and guidance on determining authorship credit and order are available in the literature; however, few concrete tools are available to assist in determining authorship credit and order. A model policy on authorship is presented. The model policy was derived from recommendations published in the literature, in ethical
standards, and in the editorial policies of both psychological and the biomedical fields. The model policy can be adopted by academic and clinical organizations, and is a useful tool for preventing authorship conflicts and encouraging collaboration in clinical research.

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Suber, Peter
An open access mandate for the National Institute of Health
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Snyder, Gene P.; Ferretti, Elizabeth B.; Wenger, Nanette K.; Strobeck, John E.; Silver, Marc A.; Sowers, James R.; Engler, Marguerite M.; Amsterdam, Ezra A.; Weinberg, Sylvan Lee; Parish, Lawrence Charles; Moser, Marvin
Accountability and transparency in medical publishing: position and policies of le jacq on authorship, acknowledgments, conflicts of interest, and secondary and redundant publication
American Heart Hospital Journal 2008; 6(1): 5-8
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Panel warns psychological journals about corporate influence
Chronicle of Higher Education 2007 December 21; 54(17): A12
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Caon, Martin
**Plagiarism in scientific/medical physics publishing**
Australasian Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine 2007 December; 30(4): xi-xii
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**Who is accountable? [editorial]**
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Kaebnick, Gregory E.
**What should HCR publish? [editorial]**
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Wager, Elizabeth
**Ethical publishing: the innocent author's guide to avoiding misconduct**
Menopause International 2007 September; 13(3): 98-102
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Sismondo, Sergio
**Ghost management: how much of the medical literature is shaped behind the scenes by the pharmaceutical industry?**
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Safarinejad, Mohammad Reza
**Editorial independence: surrounding controversies.**
Urology Journal 2007 Fall; 4(4): 191
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Minion, David; Sorial, Ehab; Endean, Eric
**Ethics of guidelines for reviewers of medical manuscripts.**
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Long, Tony; Fallon, Debbie
**Ethics approval, guarantees of quality and the meddlesome editor**
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Batt, Sharon; Braun, Joshua A.
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Price, Connie C.; Braun, Joshua A.
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Klugman, Craig M.; Braun, Joshua A.

**Buying the fourth estate**

Document 151

Chambers, Tod; Braun, Joshua A.

**It's narrative all the way down**

Document 152

Braun, Joshua A.

**The imperatives of narrative: health interest groups and morality in network news**
American Journal of Bioethics 2007 August; 7(8): 6-14

Abstract: This article examines some of the story conventions of network television news to explain the ways in which healthcare interest groups develop and maintain their presence in this medium - a process that has significant implications for public understanding of healthcare issues, and therefore to bioethics. The article is divided into three sections. The first section focuses on three major normative conventions of television news: adherence to a simple narrative structure, the balance ethic, and avoidance of the "think-piece" and outlines the basic strategies available to interest groups for exploiting these normative conventions. Section two introduces three case studies of organizations and individuals who have run high-profile media campaigns. Section three explores the implications for bioethics of the observations made in this article.

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Smith, Richard; Williams, Gareth

**Should medical journals carry drug advertising? [debate]**
BMJ: British Medical Journal 2007 July 14; 335(7610): 74-75

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de Melo-Martín, Inmaculada; Intemann, Kristen

Authors' financial interests should be made known to manuscript reviewers
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* Article  
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Laine, Christine; Horton, Richard; DeAngelis, Catherine D.; Drazen, Jeffrey M.; Frizelle, Frank A.; Godlee, Fiona; Haug, Charlotte; Hébert, Paul C.; Kotzin, Sheldon; Marusic, Ana; Sahni, Peush; Schroeder, Torben V.; Sox, Harold C.; Van Der Weyden, Martin B.; Verheugt, Freek W.A.

Clinical trial registration: looking back and moving ahead [editorial]

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Rizk, Diaa E.E.

Publication ethics: science at its best and always informative.

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The plagiarism policy of the American Journal of Nursing
AJN: American Journal of Nursing 2007 July; 107(7): 78-79

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* Article  
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Hren, Darko; Sambunjak, Dario; Ivanis, Ana; Marusic, Matko; Marusic, Ana

Perceptions of authorship criteria: effects of student instruction and scientific experience
Journal of Medical Ethics 2007 July; 33(7): 428-432

Abstract: Objective: To analyse medical students’, graduate students’ and doctors’ and medical teachers’ perceptions of research contributions as criteria for authorship in relation to the authorship criteria defined by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). Design: Medical students with (n = 152) or without (n = 85) prior instruction on ICMJE criteria, graduate students/doctors (n = 125) and medical teachers (n = 112) rated the importance of 11 contributions as authorship qualifications. They also reported single contributions eligible for authorship, as well as acceptable combinations of two or three qualifying contributions. Results: Conception and design, Analysis and interpretation and Drafting of article formed the most important cluster in all four groups. Students without prior instruction rated Critical revision and Final approval lower than the other three groups. "Final approval” was a part of the least important cluster in all groups except among students with instruction. Conclusions: Conception and design, Analysis and interpretation and Drafting of article were recognised as the most important of the ICMJE criteria by all participants. They can be considered independent of previous instruction or experience. Final approval and Critical revision should be actively taught as important authorship criteria to future scientists.

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Goldacre, Ben
Why don't journalists mention the data?
BMJ: British Medical Journal 2007 June 16; 334(7606): 1249
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Jayaraman, K.S.
Indian scientists battle journal retraction [news]
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Achkar, Edgar
Conflict of interest policy for medical journals: just a first step.
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Bhargava, Nikhil; Qureshi, Jamal; Vakil, Nimish
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**Ethical issues when submitting to the Journal of Sports Sciences**

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progression. This article identifies several professional, ethical and operational issues associated with the
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responding to the concerns of its contract research staff on authorship and describes a set of guidelines that were
produced to deal with the ethical and professional issues raised. These guidelines include directions on how
authorship should be negotiated and allocated and how short-term researchers can begin to develop as authors.
They also deal with the structures required to support an equitable system, which deals with the needs of short-term
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Savulescu, Julian; Viens, A.M.
What makes the best medical ethics journal? A North American perspective
Abstract: BACKGROUND: There currently exist no data on the factors that contribute to determining why medical ethicists choose to review for and submit articles to medical ethics journals. OBJECTIVE: To establish which factors contribute to medical ethicists reviewing articles for or submitting them to medical ethics journals by consulting those who are active in this capacity. METHODS: Medical ethicists were surveyed to determine their incentives and disincentives for reviewing articles for or submitting them to medical ethics journals. Survey participants were chosen based on a review of the academic and research record of medical ethicists working in North America in higher education institutions. RESULTS: The most frequent incentives to reviewing journal articles were: an opportunity to contribute to the field/profession, the good reputation of the journal, the high impact factor of the journal, and to keep up to date on current research. The most frequent disincentives to reviewing journal articles were: time constraints due to academic commitments, the poor reputation of the journal, and time constraints caused by other editorial commitments (for example, reviewing for other journals/publishers). The most important incentives to submitting journal articles were: the good reputation of the journal, the quality of scholarship previously published in the journal, the impact factor of the journal, and a fast turn-around from acceptance to publication. The most important disincentives to submitting journal articles were: the poor reputation of the journal, the poor quality of work previously published in the journal, and a slow turn-around from acceptance to publication. CONCLUSION: A series of factors that medical ethics journals should strive to employ to encourage reviewing and submission of articles are recommended.

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**Abstract:** Ghost authorship occurs when an individual who contributed substantially to a manuscript is not named in the byline or acknowledgments. Ghost authors may be employed by industry to prepare clinical trial results for publication. An expert is then "hired" as author so as to lend an air of credibility and neutrality to the manuscript. Ghost authorship is difficult to detect, and most articles that have been identified as ghostwritten were revealed as such only after investigative work by lawyers, journalists, or scientists. Ghost authorship is ethically questionable in that it may be used to mask conflicts of interest with industry. As it has been demonstrated that industry sponsorship of clinical trials may be associated with outcomes favorable to industry, this is problematic. Evidence-based medicine requires that clinical decisions be based on empirical evidence published in peer-reviewed medical journals. If physicians base their decisions on dubious research data, this can have negative consequences for patients. Ghost authorship also compromises academic integrity. A "film credit" concept of authority is one solution to the problems posed by ghost authorship. Other approaches have been taken by the United Kingdom and Denmark. A solution is necessary, as the relationship between authorship and accountability must be maintained.
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Schwitzer, Gary

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**Abstract:** Many journalism organizations have published codes of ethics in recent years. The Association of Newspaper Editors, for example, lists 47 different codes on its website. But an organization of health care journalists felt that none of those codes addressed the unique challenges of covering complex health care topics. The Association of Health Care Journalists (AHCJ) is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to advancing public understanding of health care issues. Its mission is to improve the quality, accuracy and visibility of health care reporting, writing and editing. AHCJ has written a statement of principles for its 750 members. In it, AHCJ states some of the unique challenges faced by journalists covering health care, and offers suggestions on how to face those challenges. Bioethicists are invited to comment on the statement, and to help generate continued discussion of the issues addressed therein.

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Bates, Tamara; Anic, Ante; Marusic, Matko; Marusic, Ana
**Authorship criteria and disclosure of contributions -- comparison of 3 general medical journals with different author contribution forms**

**Abstract:** CONTEXT: A number of general medical journals and the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) request authors to disclose their contributions. Little is known about the effect of journal policies on authors' disclosure of their contributions. OBJECTIVE: To determine the number of named authors who do not meet ICMJE criteria for authorship, according to their published contributions, in 3 medical journals with different contribution disclosure practices. DESIGN: Observational study of authors' contributions in research articles published in 2002 in Annals of Internal Medicine (n = 72), BMJ (n = 107), and JAMA (n = 81). BMJ asks authors to describe research contributions in their own words; Annals asks authors to choose from a list of coded contributions; and JAMA uses a structured checklist with instructions on contributions that qualify for ICMJE authorship criteria. Honorary authorship was defined as the lack of contribution from the first ICMJE criterion (study conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data) and/or second (drafting the article or critical revision for important intellectual content) ICMJE criterion. RESULTS: According to authors' published contributions, the number of honorary authors was highest in Annals (121/562 authors, 21.5%), followed by BMJ (46/482, 9.5%), and JAMA (3/641, 0.5%) (chi2(2) = 146.67, P<.001). The number of articles with honorary authors was 60% in Annals, 21% in BMJ, and 4% in JAMA. Honorary authors had fewer published contributions than authors who met ICMJE criteria and were positioned more toward the end of the byline. Honorary authors either lacked contributions for both ICMJE criteria (10% in Annals and 22% in BMJ) or contributions to the second ICMJE criterion (75% in Annals, 67% in BMJ, and 2 out of 3 in JAMA). CONCLUSIONS: General medical journals differed in prevalence of honorary authors according to published research contributions of named authors. Different
authorship/contributorship policies and procedures should be explored as a possible explanation for the differences in contributions disclosed by authors among these journals.

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