

How to Prevent Plagiarism: Do's and Don'ts

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Acknowledgments



What is Plagiarism?

Appropriate another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.

Plagiarism in research could represent Research Misconduct if done knowingly, recklessly, or intentionally.



What are the
consequences of
plagiarism in research?



Illustrative case: Yibin Lin, Ph.D

- In February 2021, ORI found that a former postdoc at UTHealth falsified, fabricated, and plagiarized the whole content of six (6) papers and eight (8) manuscripts
- Falsely created fictitious author names and affiliations without listing himself as an author to disguise himself from being the offender, and submitted them for publication in bioRxiv and medRxiv, open-access preprint repositories, by falsely assembling random paragraphs of text, tables, and figures from previous publications and manuscripts to improve his citation metrics.



Illustrative case: Yibin Lin, Ph.D

- Respondent agreed to exclude himself voluntarily for a period of ten (10) years beginning on January 7, 2021, from any contracting or subcontracting with any agency of the United States Government and from eligibility for or involvement in non-procurement programs
- John Inglis, co-founder of medRxiv and bioRxiv, said “This is the most egregious example of deception we have seen in bioRxiv’s 7 years and 107,000 manuscripts. I am really pleased that UT acted so promptly and thoroughly to investigate and deal with the perpetrator. Unethical behavior in research should be identified and punished, whether it concerns journals, preprints, or anything else.”



Illustrative case: Terry Magnuson, Ph.D

- In March 2022, ORI found that Terry Magnuson, Ph.D, Kay M. & Van L. Weatherspoon Eminent Distinguished Professor, Department of Genetics, School of Medicine (SOM), UNC plagiarized the text from three (3) online articles and one (1) published paper
- Respondent will have his research supervised from February 25, 2022-January 5, 2024, to check for plagiarism, and reports should be sent to ORI every six months.



Illustrative cases

- In all these cases, there was a determination that the plagiarism was done knowingly, recklessly, or intentionally. Also, the committee/ORI ruled out that the plagiarism was an honest error
- We do not know more about the reasons behind these cases, but even if someone claims they did not know a practice was not common, that would not exempt them from being found in research misconduct



Do's and Don'ts

- Incorrect Paraphrasing
- Not maintaining good records of sources

Source: Vega García, S.A. (2012). Understanding plagiarism: Information literacy guide. Iowa State University. Retrieved from <http://instr.iastate.libguides.com/content.php?pid=10314> [Accessed June 23, 2022]



Do's and Don'ts

- Adding your own already published words and “copy and paste” them into new publications without proper citation
 - The same applies to work presented in podium presentations, even if the work was presented verbally only
- Not citing other's work
 - Exception- very well-known information.
- If in doubt, cite it!



Do's and Don'ts

- **Accurate Self-Assessment: Critical to understanding the correct management of citations and how one uses the citations from drafts.**
 - For example, if using block quotes, pull quotes, or paraphrasing, we need to ensure we know where the information came from at the citing time
- **Keep track of your citations!**
 - Zotero, end note
 - Library resources.
 - Purdue OWL.

Source: JPE 610 Best Practices in Using Source Materials; Boldt H; Davila M, Yang M, October 20, 2021.



Authorship and Plagiarism



Generally, an authorship dispute involves members of the same research group who do not reach an agreement on the value of their effort to grant an authorship order



Plagiarism involves someone taking information from someone else without giving them proper recognition



If a student in a lab complains that a PI has taken their work without putting them on a publication, we consider that an authorship matter



Common themes

- Lack of understanding of authorship rules and roles
- Lack of discussion about authorship before the project starts
- Confusion about what is prohibited or not
- Prevent confusion and discuss the authorship and expectations before starting any project



Preventing Plagiarism (and Research Misconduct in your study or lab)



Red Flags to Look Out For!



TIME

- Usable data is only created with a deadline
- Research procedures are completed faster than usual

RESULTS

- If data is too good to be true
- Data cannot be replicated

LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

- Raw data does not exist or cannot be accessed
- Materials and protocols are hidden
- Research is completed with no one around

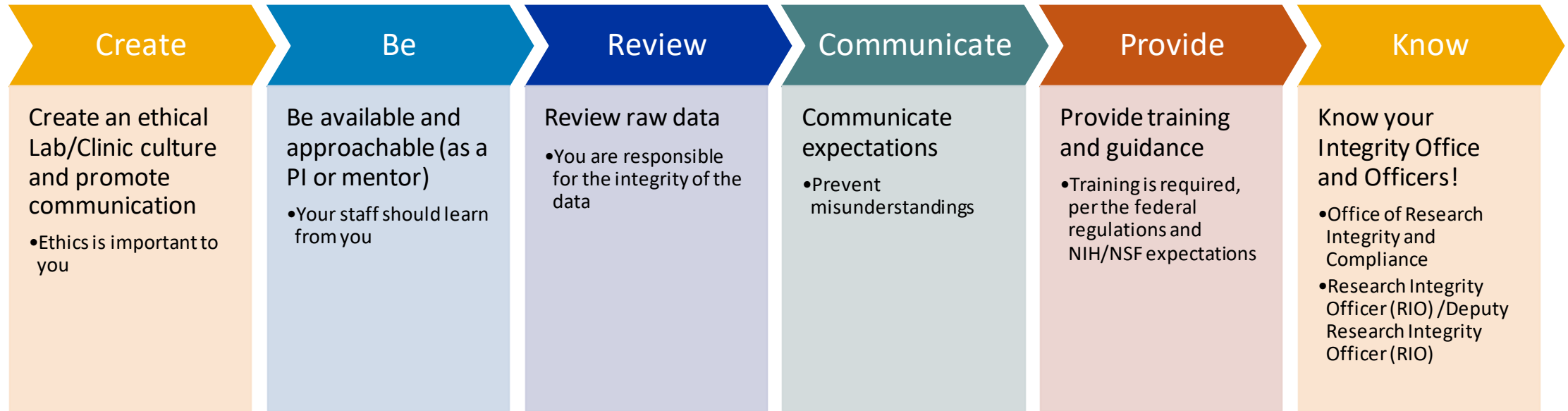
Source: <https://www.research.psu.edu/researchmisconduct/teachinglearningtools>



Office of Research Integrity and Compliance
Research Administration



How to prevent any Research Misconduct in your study?



Resources and References

- [NIH webpage- Research Misconduct – Definitions](#)
- [Case Summary: Lin, Yibin](#) (ORI)
- [Case Summary: Magnuson, Terry](#) (ORI)
- [Tips & Strategies for Acting with Academic Integrity](#) (Provided by Heather Boldt (hboldt@emory.edu) and Melissa T. Yang (melissa.yang@emory.edu) for participants of JPE 610: Best Practices in Using Source Material, October 2021)

