



# Lisbon Seminar 2022

## Part 3

ETHICAL ISSUES  
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# Publishing Ethics

## The Seven Deadly Sins in Addiction Publishing How to Avoid Them

- ▶ Carelessness
- ▶ Redundant publication
- ▶ Unfair authorship
- ▶ Undeclared conflict of interest
- ▶ Human or animal ethical violations
- ▶ Plagiarism
- ▶ Other sorts of fraud

# Journal Ethical Policies

- ▶ Authorship Statement – Declaration of substantive contribution signed by all authors
- ▶ Conflict of Interest Statement – Declaration of real and apparent Conflicts of Interest, in language comprehensible to average reader, signed by all authors
- ▶ Redundant Publication Statement – Declaration that the work has not been published previously in whole or in part
- ▶ Human/animal subjects Statement – Declaration that the study was reviewed by an Ethical Review Committee
- ▶ Duplicate submissions - Declaration that the work has not been published, or is not being considered for publication, by another journal

# Why ethical issues are important

- ▶ Ethical violations, especially less serious infractions, are prevalent
- ▶ Rates of detection are low
- ▶ Ethical violations affect the quality and integrity of science
- ▶ Compliance review and journal requirements are increasing (e.g., human subjects committees, conflict of interest statements)

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# Publishing Ethics - Carelessness

- ▶ A failure to adequately review the literature on a topic
- ▶ Lack of candor or completeness in describing one's research methods
- ▶ Presentation of data that are based on faulty statistical analyses
- ▶ Citation of articles without having read the primary sources
- ▶ Selective citation of only those articles that support a particular point of view
- ▶ Selective citation to enhance one's reputation, epitomized by self-citation.

# Unfair authorship

- ▶ Some persons who have made significant contributions to an article may not receive sufficient credit, or may receive no credit at all
- ▶ A co-author, such as a science writer, is not listed because the service is provided by a drug company
- ▶ Some persons are listed as co-authors even though no substantive contribution was made to the article or the research
- ▶ Failure to give proper recognition to a person's contribution by listing them lower in the author list than they deserve
- ▶ Award of co-authorship for minor contributions based on personal or political considerations

# Conflict of interest

A conflict of interest is a situation or relationship in which professional, personal, or financial considerations could be seen by a fair-minded person as potentially in conflict with independence of judgement (FARM 1997). A conflict may be personal, commercial, political, academic or financial

- Personal conflicts include “pet” theories, validation of one’s own ideas, achieving publishable results, and gaining recognition for a discovery
- “Financial” interests may include employment, research funding, stock or share ownership, payment for lectures or travel, consultancies, and company support for staff (COPE 2001)
- Conflict of interest is not in itself wrongdoing (FARM 1997)



# Conflict of interest

The potential for conflict of interest in the addiction field is enhanced by relationships or funding connected with tobacco industry, alcohol beverage industry, for-profit health care systems, private hospitals, pharmaceutical industry and “social aspect organizations” that receive their primary support from these sources.

There are three levels of conflict of interest:

- A real conflict of interest means that the author, or the administrative unit with which the author has an employment relationship, has a financial or other interest that could unduly influence the author's position with respect to the subject matter being considered.
- An apparent conflict of interest exists when an interest would not necessarily influence the author but could result in the author's objectivity being questioned by others.
- A potential conflict of interest exists when a reasonable person might be uncertain as to whether or not an interest should be reported.

# Violation of human and animal subject policies

- ▶ Ethical review is a necessary requirement for all scientific research
- ▶ It should be included in the Methods section saying that ethical approval had been obtained and from where it was obtained.
- ▶ This is usually a University or Health Board ethics committee

# Plagiarism

- Plagiarism ranges from the unreferenced use of others' published and unpublished ideas to submission under "new" authorship of a complete paper, sometimes in a different language. It may occur at any stage of planning, research, writing, or publication; it applies to print and electronic versions.
- All sources should be disclosed through appropriate citation or quotation conventions, and if a large amount of other people's written or illustrative material is to be used, permission must be sought (COPE 2001).