

Etična odgovornost pri objavljanju znanstvene publikacije urednikov revij in avtorjev

Etika je bila in vedno bo najpomembnejši del znanstveno–raziskovalnega dela. V zgodovini je bila pogosto zlorabljen, vendar moramo na podlagi izkušenj skrbeti za to, da se zgodovina ne ponavlja. Etika mora biti prisotna na vseh področjih raziskovanja. Kakršna koli želja po uspehu, slavi ali drugih osebnih koristih mora vedno biti pod strogo kontrolo, ki preprečuje možnost zlorabe znanosti. To je tudi želja in poslanstvo uredništva.

Zakaj v uvodniku obravnavam to tematiko? Ker se nam je to skoraj zgodilo. V naši reviji smo skoraj objavili že objavljen članek, za katerega so avtorji izjavili nasprotno. Po desetih letih izdajanja revije preprosto nismo verjeli v zlorabo, saj verjamemo v človeško poštenost. In to je naša napaka. Uredništvo ne more več temeljiti na zaupanju, potreben je nadzor in hkrati uvedba sankcij za avtorje, ki skušajo objaviti že objavljene prispevke. Da smo preprečili zlorabo, se moramo zahvaliti izključno odlični recenzentki, ki je opisano ugotovila in nas na to opozorila. Ponovno ugotavljam, da sta delo recenzenta in njegova potrditev izvirnosti izjemnega pomena, zlasti kadar gre za področje medicine, najbolj občutljivega področja glede etike na področju raziskovanja.

Večina revij od pošiljatelja prispevka zahteva izjavo, ki potrjuje izvirnost prispevka in dejstvo, da ta ni bil poslan v objavo v druge znanstvene revije. Tudi naša revija. Da do zlorabe ne pride, je pomembno, da avtor počaka na odgovor prve revije, preden pošlje prispevek v drugo revijo. Neučakanost, še posebej pogojena s strani lastne koristi, je nedopustna in mora biti ustrezno sankcionirana. Uredništvo revije se je odločilo, da avtorji, vključno s soavtorji, ki so zlorabili zaupanje, ne morejo objavljati svojih prispevkov v naši reviji 3 leta. To je po oceni uredništva najmanjša možna kazen.

Pošiljanje prispevkov z istimi podatki, hipotezami,

Ethical responsibility of journal editors and authors when publishing scientific publications

Ethics has been and always will be an important part of scientific research. Guidelines are not always followed, however, and we must, on the basis of experience, take care to ensure that science remains ethical. Indeed, ethics is a consideration that pertains to all areas of research. Unethical practices in the pursuit of success, fame, or personal benefit must be strictly controlled to prevent the possibility of misusing science. This is the wish and the mission of our editorship.

Why am I dealing with this theme in the editorial? The reason relates to a recent case of unethical authorship. Our journal came close to publishing a previously published article in which the authors made a contradictory statement. After ten years of publishing this journal, we simply did not believe we would encounter such a case of misuse, for we placed our trust in the integrity of the authors. That was our mistake, and unfortunately, we can no longer proceed with this level of trust. What is instead necessary is to control and sanction authors who attempt duplicate publication. In this recent case, we were lucky to discover the malfeasance in time. For that, we owe exclusive thanks to an excellent reviewer who exposed the matter and drew our attention to it. This underscores the exceptional importance of reviewers and their work to confirm the authenticity of research, especially in the field of medicine—a sensitive field, particularly with regard to ethics.

Many journals insist that authors append a statement that confirms the authenticity of their research, explicitly declaring that the submission has not been sent for publication to other scientific journals. Our journal requires this as well. To proceed ethically, authors must wait to hear back from a journal

razpravljanjem imenujemo podvajanje publikacije (duplicate publication), kar je podobno kot plagiatstvo. COPE klasifikacija uvršča dvojno publikacijo v velike in manjše zadeve. Velika motnja se šteje, kadar gre za iste podatke, z enakimi zaključki in avtorji, pri čemer gre lahko za spremembo v avtorstvu ali v predhodno objavljenem prispevku.

Manjša motnja je označena kot »salami slicing« z znaki dvojnega objavljanja pri ponovni analizi ali ponavljanju, kjer gre za razširitev skupine ali nadgradnjo metod. Pogosto so za objavljanje zlorabljene revije, ki izhajajo v jeziku, ki ni angleški. Gre za izrazito neetično obnašanje avtorjev.

Na uredništvu je pomembna in odgovorna dolžnost se tega zavedati in ustrezno ukrepati. Vse tiste, ki se poslužujejo neetičnega pristopa k objavljanju prispevkov, moramo ustrezno sankcionirati in tako preprečiti zlorabo objavljanja.

Znanost je ena in edina, posledice njene zlorabe so strahotne; ne sodelujmo v teh dogodkih. Ustavimo zlorabo in prispevajmo k varni znanosti.

Red. prof. dr. Dušica Pahor,
odgovorna urednica

Bonis nocet, qui malis parcit.
(Seneka)

Dobrim škodi, kdor prizanaša zlim.

before submitting their paper to another. A violation of this standard is unacceptable and must be correspondingly sanctioned. The editorship of this journal has thus decided that authors, including co-authors, who abuse these rules—and, in turn, our trust—will be prohibited from publishing articles in our journal for a period of three years. According to the judgement of our editorship, this is the minimum sanction that must be imposed.

Submitting articles with identical data, hypotheses, and discussion constitutes a case of duplicate publication, on par with plagiarism. The COPE classification divides duplicate publications into major or minor offences. A major offence is regarded as a case of identical data, with the same conclusions, even in cases where there is change in the authorship.

A minor offence involves the attempt at so-called 'salami' publication—authors seeking to publish articles that exhibit characteristics of duplicate publications: renewed analysis or repetition, with group expansion or upgraded methods. Journals that are not issued in English are often misused in publishing. To do so represents a distinctive case of unethical author behaviour.

It is the duty of this editorship to be vigilant of these dangers and to take the appropriate measures. Any authors who adopt an unethical approach to publishing their work will henceforth be sanctioned in an effort to prevent attempts at fraudulent publications. Science is sacrosanct, and the consequences of its misuse are disastrous. We must not tolerate unethical scientific practices. Rather, we must work together to protect the principles of scientific research.

Full Professor Dušica Pahor, MD
Editor-in-Chief

Bonis nocet, qui malis parcit.
(Seneka)

He harms the good people who spares the evil.