

Abstract 47

General Information

Title: Dr.
FirstName: Rajeev
LastName: Kumar
Email ID: rajeev02@gmail.com
InstituteName: All India Institute of Medical Sciences
Department:
Address: Department of Urology Room 5030 All India Institute of Medical Sciences Ansari Nagar
City/Zipcode: New Delhi / 110029
State: Delhi
Country: Australia
PhoneNo:
Mobile No: 9810104511

Abstract Information

Abstract Title: Authorship misconduct in a small specialty journal: a retrospective review
Abstract: Background: Incorrect listing of authors and undeclared conflicts of interests are the two common forms of authorship misconduct in scientific publishing. We assessed the incidence of such misconduct in manuscripts submitted to our specialty journal. Methods: Our specialty, peer-reviewed, open access journal is indexed in Pubmed® Central and funded by a professional society. The journal follows ICMJE criteria on authorship. All manuscript submitted to the journal during 2014 were retrospectively reviewed by the editors of the journal for type of manuscript, number of authors, seniority of first author, changes in authors, conflict of interest and impact of such conflicts on decision regarding the manuscript. Results: The journal received 451 manuscripts in 2014 of which
438 were included for this study. 87% of all submissions were from teaching institutions. Among the 227 case-reports for which authorship is restricted to 3 per manuscript, 65% followed the prescribed rule. Of the 302 manuscripts for which author seniority was known, the first author was a resident-in-training in 33% (35% for case-reports). 16 (3.6%) incidents of authorship misconduct were identified. The majority (11/16) related to authors being dropped in case reports in order to meet journal requirements. In two manuscripts, the editors doubted the authenticity of signatures in the copyright form and one had a possible undeclared conflict of interest. In one manuscript, an author was added during revision which escaped detection prior to publication and in one an author was dropped during the revision. Our data has limitations as it is based on authorship restrictions imposed only for case-reports and qualification for authorship was not judged in other manuscripts. Conflicts of interest which were not immediately evident may also have been missed.

Conclusions: Authorship misconduct occurred in at least 3.5% manuscripts. The majority were of dropped authors to meet journal restrictions.