



INTERDEPARTMENTAL CLINICAL MEET

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH DENTISTRY

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PUBLICATION ETHICS

PRESENTERS:

DR. MEGHANA

DR. POOJA R V

DR. SYEDA RABIYA IQBAL





SUMMARY

The presentation focuses on publication ethics, which deals with responsible, honest, and transparent conduct in research reporting and publishing. It explains that publication is essential for sharing scientific knowledge, supporting evidence-based practice, and ensuring accountability, and that the peer-review process helps maintain quality and trust in scientific literature. Publication ethics aims to protect the credibility of research, prevent misconduct, promote originality, and ensure fair authorship, review, and editorial decisions .

The presentation introduces major guideline-issuing bodies such as COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics), ICMJE (International Committee of Medical Journal Editors), and CDSCO (India), explaining their role in setting ethical standards for biomedical research and publishing. These guidelines help prevent unethical practices like plagiarism, duplicate publication, and undisclosed conflicts of interest, and they promote integrity, transparency, and accountability in research .

A major part of the presentation discusses research misconduct, especially fabrication (making up data) and falsification (manipulating data or results). Both are described as serious violations because they distort the scientific record, mislead the research community, and can cause harm in clinical or policy decisions. Real-world cases are mentioned to show how such misconduct leads to retractions, loss of credibility, and serious professional consequences .

The presentation also explains authorship ethics, defining authorship as both credit and responsibility for the published work. It lists criteria for authorship, including substantial intellectual contribution, involvement in writing or revising, final approval, and responsibility for the content. It highlights unethical authorship practices such as gift authorship, ghost authorship, honorary authorship, and disputes over author order, emphasizing that only those who meet all criteria should be listed as authors .

A detailed section is devoted to plagiarism, defining it as using others' ideas, text, or work without proper acknowledgment. The presentation describes different types of plagiarism: direct plagiarism, patchwriting (mosaic), plagiarism of graphics, self-plagiarism, accidental plagiarism, plagiarism of ideas, and redundant or "salami" publications. It also discusses the





causes of plagiarism (such as pressure to publish, lack of training, poor writing skills, and time constraints), its negative impact on research, and strategies to avoid it, including proper citation, paraphrasing, using plagiarism-check tools, and maintaining good research records.

Another major topic is Conflict of Interest (COI), defined as situations where secondary interests (financial, personal, or ideological) may influence professional judgment. The presentation explains why COI matters, who can have conflicts (authors, editors, reviewers, institutions, ethics committees), and describes different types of COI using historical, academic, and media examples. It stresses that the main problem is not the existence of conflicts, but the failure to disclose them.

Finally, the presentation emphasizes disclosure and management of COI. It explains that conflicts should be disclosed at submission, during review, and even after publication if they arise. Journals require COI statements, and editors and reviewers must also declare their own conflicts. Measures such as transparent disclosure, independent oversight, separation of roles, and clear COI statements in published articles are highlighted as ways to protect research integrity. The conclusion reinforces that while conflicts cannot always be avoided, they must be recognized, disclosed, and properly managed to maintain trust in science.



RAJARAJESWARI DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL

#14, Ramohalli Cross, Kumbalgodu, Mysore Road, Bangalore - 560060



Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
Boys Hostel, Raja Rajeswari Dental College&hospital,
Vidyaranyapura - Nanjangud Rd, Bengaluru, Karnataka
560074, India
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Vidyaranyapura - Nanjangud Rd, Bengaluru, Karnataka
560074, India
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PRESENTATION BY DR. POOJA R V



PRESENTATION BY DR. SYEDA RABIYA IQBAL



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