The Committee on Publication Ethics: Promoting integrity in research publication

Gramado,
ABEC
Nov, 2011

Sabine Kleinert
Senior Executive Editor, The Lancet
Vice-Chair, Committee on Publication Ethics

COPE is a forum for editors and publishers of peer-reviewed journals to discuss all aspects of publication ethics. It also advises editors on how to handle cases of research and publication misconduct.

www.publicationethics.org
COPE cases

• Duplicate/redundant publication 77
• No ethics approval 34
• Authorship issues 31
• No or inadequate informed consent 30
• Falsification or fabrication 28
• Plagiarism 26
• Unethical research 19
• Undeclared conflict of interest 15
• Reviewer misconduct 8
• Editorial misconduct 6
• (miscellaneous 41)

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COPE – in the beginning….

started in 1997 as an informal forum for discussing ethical issues relating to research and publication in biomedical journal publishing

The three ‘wise’ COPE fathers
COPE – from the beginnings to now

- About 60 members in 1998

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COPE – from the beginnings to now

- At the beginning largely UK-based and biomedical membership

- Now all types of ‘scholarly’ journals (from Acta Archeologica to Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science)

- From 65 countries (Australia to Zimbabwe)

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COPE – from the beginnings to now governance

- Constitution, elected officers and a council in 2000
- Charity in 2008
- Full-time Operations Manager in 2009, Cope Administrator 3 days per week, part-time Web Administrator in 2010
COPE – from the beginnings to now
governance – ‘the officers’

Liz Wager, Chair

Ginny Barbour, Secretary
Chris Graf, Acting Treasurer
Sabine Kleinert, Vice-Chair

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COPE – from the beginnings to now
cases

4 meetings a year (Forum) – about 40 editors and other COPE members

anonymous discussion of suspected misconduct cases (if not able to attend, by phone; in future videoconference)
advice to editors on how to proceed
cases (and outcomes if available) on website – searchable by keywords

www.publicationethics.org
COPE – from the beginnings to now

Code of Conduct for Editors launched in 2004 (= basic standards that all editors should adhere to)

- All COPE members should adhere to CoC. COPE will investigate complaints against editors, if Code breeched and journal's complaint mechanisms have been sought

- ?does it apply to all types of journals (other than biomedical and scientific?): we are currently reviewing....
COPE’s Code of Conduct for Editors

“Editors are often the first recipients of suspicions about studies that may involve misconduct. If editors suspect misconduct by authors, reviewers, editorial staff, or other editors then they have a duty to take action. This duty extends to both published and unpublished papers”.

COPE – from the beginnings to now flowcharts from 2006 onwards

- COPE flowcharts on:
  - Redundant (duplicate) publication
  - Plagiarism
  - Fabricated data
  - Changes in authorship
  - Ghost, guest or gift authorship
  - Conflicts of interest
  - General suspected ethical concerns
  - Reviewer misconduct
  - How COPE deals with complaints
COPE flowcharts in:

Arabic
Brazilian Portuguese
Chinese
Croatian
Farsi
Italian
Japanese
Korean
Spanish
Turkish

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COPE’s flowcharts

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COPE – from the beginnings to now

- COPE’s Best Practice Guidelines in 2006
  (= gold standard to which all editors should aspire)
- Cope’s Code of Conduct for Publishers in 2010
- Cope’s e-learning modules launched end Oct 2011

COPE – from the beginnings to now
other activities

- Ethics Audit (members only) - 2008
- Newsletter (quarterly) – 2008
- New website with blog, sample letters, cases…. etc in 2008
- Annual seminars (UK)
- Research grants twice a year
- First Australasian Seminar in Melbourne, Nov 2011
- Iranian Seminar in 2011
- Collaborations with ORI, ESF, CSE......
COPE – from the beginnings to now

Quarterly, on website, open access

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ethical editing

Volume 3 Issue 3 Autumn 2011

Theme: Evaluating current ethical practices

A closer look

I’ve reached the age where I can no longer do my laundry without seeing my glasses. I look at these little bags with the helpful information—“machine wash separately.” “See dry do not bleach”—and I can’t read a single word, let alone tell whether I’m supposed to use lukewarm water (30°C) or cool my clothing (20°C). I distinctly remember the day—some 30 years ago—when I discovered

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COPE – from the beginnings to now

Social media

www.publicationethics.org

facebook

twitter

Get short, timely messages from Publication Ethics. Twitter is a rich source of instantly updated information. It’s easy to stay updated on an incredibly wide variety of topics. Join today and follow @COPE.
COPE: e-learning for editors

**COPE: e-learning for editors**

- Introduction to Publication Ethics
- Plagiarism
- Fabrication
- Falsification
- Redundant publication
- Selective reporting
- Unethical research
- Authorship
- Reviewer misconduct
- Responsibilities of editors
- Conflict of interest
Common agreed Principles and Approach
International Guidelines/Best Practices and Policies

- For authors
- For editors

Developed at 2nd World Conference on Research Integrity, Singapore, July 2010

By editors from different countries and disciplines

COPE – in Singapore
International standards for authors

Summary
• The research being reported should have been conducted in an ethical and responsible manner and should comply with all relevant legislation.
• Researchers should present their results clearly, honestly, and without fabrication, falsification or inappropriate data manipulation.
• Researchers should strive to describe their methods clearly and unambiguously so that their findings can be confirmed by others.
• Researchers should adhere to publication requirements that submitted work is original, is not plagiarised, and has not been published elsewhere.
• Authors should take collective responsibility for submitted and published work.
• The authorship of research publications should accurately reflect individuals’ contributions to the work and its reporting.
• Funding sources and relevant conflicts of interest should be disclosed.

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COPE – in Singapore
International standards for editors

Summary

• Editors are accountable and should take responsibility for everything they publish
• Editors should make fair and unbiased decisions independent from commercial consideration and ensure a fair and appropriate peer review process
• Editors should adopt editorial policies that encourage maximum transparency and complete, honest reporting
• Editors should guard the integrity of the published record by issuing corrections and retractions when needed and pursuing suspected or alleged research and publication misconduct
• Editors should pursue reviewer and editorial misconduct
• Editors should critically assess the ethical conduct of studies in humans and animals
• Peer reviewers and authors should be told what is expected of them
• Editors should have appropriate policies in place for handling editorial conflicts of interest

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In:
PROMOTING RESEARCH INTEGRITY IN A GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT
edited by Tony Mayer (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore) & Nicholas Steneck (University of Michigan, USA)

?Nov 2011

www.publicationethics.org
Thank you!

Questions??

What would you like COPE to do for you?