

## Supplementary file 1: Questionnaire on health research reporting practices

### Section A: Please answer the following questions:

1. Which country are you currently working in?
  
2. Where do you currently work?
  - University
  - Other research institution
  - Other (please specify)
  
3. How long have you been working here? (months and years)
  
4. What is your highest qualification?
  - Bachelor's degree
  - Master's degree
  - PhD
  
5. On average, how much of your time (%) do you spend on research?
  
6. How many peer reviewed research articles have you been an author on?
  
7. What was the year of your first publication?
  
8. How many Cochrane reviews are you an author on?
  
9. What is your first language?
  
10. What is your gender?
  - Male
  - Female
  
11. What is your age?

Section B: Please read the following scenarios and answer the questions that follow:

1. A junior researcher, J, adds the head of department, D, as the last author on a research paper. D provided suggestions for direction of J's work that helped her obtain the grant, although he hasn't contributed to the actual research or the publication.

My view on this is:

- This is acceptable because D should be an author
- This is not best practice, but it does not really matter, as it doesn't affect the science
- This is unacceptable because D has not contributed to this paper

Have you ever done something like this?

- Yes
- No, and I am not aware of anybody else doing it
- No, but I am aware of other people doing it

In my current department or unit, this pattern of authorship

- Is usual practice and happens most of the time
- Happens occasionally
- Happens rarely
- Never happens
- Other: (please specify)

Comments or clarifications:

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2. A professor, M, who did not contribute to study design, data collection or data analysis but is an expert in the field, reviews the draft manuscript and suggests some minor changes to the English. He asks to be listed as an author on the paper.

My view on this is:

- This is acceptable because M should be an author
- This is not best practice, but it does not really matter, as it doesn't affect the science
- This is unacceptable because M has not sufficiently contributed to this paper

Have you ever done something like this?

- Yes
- No, and I am not aware of anybody else doing it
- No, but I am aware of other people doing it

In my current department or unit, this pattern of authorship

- Is usual practice and happens most of the time
- Happens occasionally
- Happens rarely
- Never happens
- Other: (please specify)

Comments or clarifications:

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3. A Master's student consults with the resident biostatistician, P, to help with data analysis on her research project. In the manuscript that she submits for publication, she lists P in the "Acknowledgement" section.

My view on this:

- This is acceptable because P should be acknowledged in this way
- This is not best practice, but it does not really matter, as it doesn't affect the science
- This is unacceptable because P has made substantial contributions to the work

Have you ever done something like this?

- Yes
- No, and I am not aware of anybody else doing it
- No, but I am aware of other people doing it

In my current department or unit, this

- Is usual practice and happens most of the time
- Happens occasionally
- Happens rarely
- Never happens
- Other: (please specify)

Comments or clarifications:

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4. A PhD student "copies and pastes" nearly all of the introduction from a paper that she has previously published into her next manuscript, since she is doing a series of experiments on the same topic.

My view on this is:

- This is acceptable because it is her own work
- This is not allowed by journals but it does not really matter, as it doesn't affect the science
- This is unacceptable behaviour

Have you ever done something like this?

- Yes
- No, and I am not aware of anybody else doing it
- No, but I am aware of other people doing it

In my current department such text-recycling:

- Is usual practice and happens most of the time
- Happens occasionally
- Happens rarely
- Never happens

- Other: (please specify)

Comments or clarifications:

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5. A researcher in Mozambique wants to submit his manuscript to a journal published in English. He finds a text book in Portuguese that explains an aspect of the background to the disease very well. He translates one paragraph into English, and puts this into his introduction without reference to the book.

My view on this is:

- This is acceptable because the text has been translated
- This is not best practice, but it does not really matter, as it doesn't affect the science
- This is unacceptable behaviour

Have you ever done something like this?

- Yes
- No, and I am not aware of anybody else doing it
- No, but I am aware of other people doing it

In my current department or unit, such use of other people's material:

- Is usual practice and happens most of the time
- Happens occasionally
- Happens rarely
- Never happens
- Other: (please specify)

Comments and clarifications:

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6. A researcher, T, is working on a diagnostic test study. The company manufacturing the test has supplied the kits for free but did not design or fund the research. T was paid for a consultancy for the same company two years ago. In the publication of the study, he declares that he has no conflicts of interest.

My view on this is:

- This is acceptable because T does not have a conflict of interest
- This is not best practice, but it does not really matter, as it doesn't affect the science
- This is unacceptable because T should disclose this consultancy

Have you ever done something like this?

- Yes
- No, and I am not aware of anybody else doing it
- No, but I am aware of other people doing it

In my current department or unit, this behaviour:

- Is usual practice and happens most of the time
- Happens occasionally
- Happens rarely
- Never happens
- Other: (please specify)

Comments or Clarifications:

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7. A researcher, K, writes a review for treatment guidelines of herbal remedies for children's cough. K's spouse is employed by the company that manufactures one of these remedies. In the review, K declares that he has no conflicts of interest.

My view on this is:

- This is acceptable because K does not have a conflict of interest
- This is not best practice, but it does not really matter, as it doesn't affect the science
- This is unacceptable because K should disclose his spouse's link to the company

Have you ever done something like this?

- Yes
- No, and I am not aware of anybody else doing it
- No, but I am aware of other people doing it

In my current department or unit, this behaviour:

- Is usual practice and happens most of the time
- Happens occasionally
- Happens rarely
- Never happens
- Other: (please specify)

Comments or clarifications:

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8. A researcher, S, contributes to the design and does most of the data collection in a study but goes on maternity leave as it is being analysed. When she returns to her post she discovers that the research has been published by her supervisor without her name or any acknowledgement of her contributions.

My view on this is:

- This is acceptable because S did not contribute to the publication
- This is not best practice, but it does not really matter, as it doesn't affect the science
- This is unacceptable because S should have been invited to contribute to the publication

Have you ever done something like this?

- Yes
- No, and I am not aware of anybody else doing it
- No, but I am aware of other people doing it

In my current department or unit, this type of practice (leaving out a junior author who has made substantial contributions):

- Is usual practice and happens most of the time
- Happens occasionally
- Happens rarely
- Never happens
- Other: (please specify)

Comments or clarifications:

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9. A researcher from India attends an international conference where a European research study with a novel design is presented. He submits a protocol for an identical study to the ethics committee at his home institution. He does not reference the European study.

My view on this:

- This is acceptable
- This is not best practice, but it does not really matter, as it doesn't affect the science
- This is unacceptable because the original idea should be acknowledged

Have you ever done something like this?

- Yes
- No, and I am not aware of anybody else doing it
- No, but I am aware of other people doing it

In my current department or unit, this behaviour:

- Is usual practice and happens most of the time
- Happens occasionally
- Happens rarely
- Never happens
- Other: (please specify)

Comments or clarifications:

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*Section C: Please answer the following questions:*

1. Are you aware of any written institutional policies that cover the situations described in our scenarios?

- Yes
  - No
2. Would you be interested in participating in an interview via Skype or telephone to discuss research reporting practices further?
- Yes
  - No
3. Would you be interested in receiving feedback on this study?
- Yes
  - No

Thank you for participating in this survey!

Please click on the link below if you indicated that you would be interested in participating in a telephonic/Skype interview on this topic or if you would like to receive feedback on the survey results.