

Guest Editorial :

Research integrity: An issue for scientific advancement

Kusal K Das

Integrity in science is a basic moral attitude. It presupposes ethical reflexion, self-criticism and self-discipline. Responsible practice of research is a basic condition for good research. Research misconduct is understood as any conduct by a researcher that intentionally or by negligence transgresses the values and principles that define the ethical integrity of scientific research. Scientific misconduct is not to be confused with an honest scientific error committed in good faith or honest differences in scientific judgment. It should not be surprising that researchers do not always follow the rules for responsible research. One should not forget that failing to retain significant research data for a reasonable period or maintaining inadequate research records, especially for results that are published are also come under research misconduct. Even Refusing to give peers reasonable access to unique research materials or data that could support published papers is also considered as research misconduct. Equally peers should

also know that inadequate/superficial supervising research subordinates or exploiting them are also come under research misconduct!

The seriousness of scientific misconduct is measured by the degree to which it involves a clear intention to defraud or a gross negligence, by how much it deviates from the practices consensually, considered ethically acceptable by the scientific community. How potentially damaging it may be to the researchers and of science in general are also considered.. Research institutions share responsibility with individual researchers to preserve scientific integrity in research. They bear the primary responsibility for promoting a culture of good scientific conduct among researchers and students and for the prevention, investigation and punishment of scientific misconduct in their midst. One must remember that research integrity requires the highest professional standards by a critical, open-minded approach, frankness and fairness with absolute honesty. Another

research misconduct is connected with authorship dispute and the story is different and may be discussed later. The steps needed to correct or eliminate the research misconduct must include improved education, emphasizing professional responsibility, random audits of data and publications etc.

Hope with these we can proceed to a better research environment for our future researchers.

Dr. Kusal Das

Visiting Professor (2014-2016), Leeds Institute of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT