

## 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.

• 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)

[www.publicationethics.org](http://www.publicationethics.org)

1,2,3,4,5

Access COPE's official guidance,  
including the Retraction Guidelines



Our flowcharts are designed to help editors follow COPE's Code of Conduct and implement its advice when faced with cases of suspected misconduct.



COPE offers a grant of up to £5000 to a COPE member for a research project into publication ethics. The next deadline for applications is 1st December 2011.



COPE aims to define best practice in the ethics of scholarly publishing and to assist editors, editorial board members, owners of journals and publishers to achieve this.

COPE is pleased to announce that applications are now being sought for the COPE international advisory board. This has been established to enable us to gain an understanding of the ethical issues and concerns facing individual countries and regions. A local point of contact will be appointed to advise and assist COPE in its work to support editors and publishers of peer-reviewed journals in all aspects of publication ethics. For more

The COPE flowcharts are now available in Chinese on the [website](#). 14 of the full set of 17 flowcharts have been translated, the remaining 3 will be available shortly. The Chinese version joins Italian and Spanish on the website. Following soon are: Croatian, Turkish, Korean, Farsi (Persian), Japanese, Brazilian Portuguese and Arabic. We are always looking for new translations.

COPE is very pleased to announce that it will have its first international congress on publication ethics in Shiraz, Iran, 24–25 November 2011. The congress is in association with the Iranian Society of Medical Editors and is supported by Shiraz University of Medical Sciences. The meeting will be held in the five star Homa Hotel (<http://www.homahotels.com/Summary.aspx>).



## **COPE – in the beginning....**

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



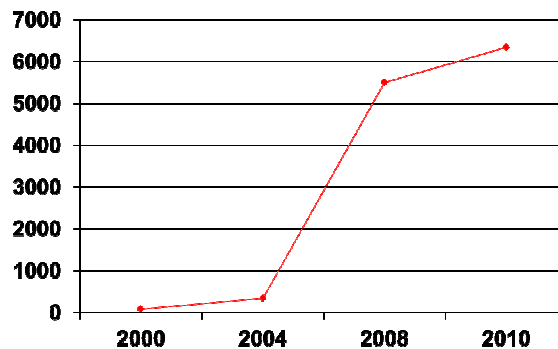
## **The three 'wise' COPE fathers**





## COPE – from the beginnings to now membership

- about 60 members in 1998



## COPE – from the beginnings to now membership

- 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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COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION ETHICS

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Brazil

Relevancy	Title	Type	Author	Date
	<b>Revista Latinoamericana de Psicopatologia Fundamental</b>			
	Rua Tupi, 397 – 10o – 104 1415-4714 Associação Universitária de Psicopatologia Fundamental Medicine Sao Paulo, SP Quarterly 01233-001 Editor Brazil ...			
	<b>Revista Odonto Ciência (Journal of Dental Science)</b>			
	0102-9460 (print), 1980-6523 (online) Avenida Ipiranga 6681 – Predio 6 EDIPUCRS Dentistry, Nursing, Allied Health and Veterinary Science Quarterly Porto Alegre 90619-900 http / ...			
	<b>Cochrane: Sexually Transmitted Diseases Group</b>			
	Wiley-Blackwell Medicine Quarterly Co-editor Brazil DrMaruo Ramos ...			
	<b>Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health</b>			
	Instituto de Saude Coletiva/UFBa 0143-005X Rua Basilio da Gama s/n, Canela BMJ Publishing Group Ltd Medicine Monthly Salvador http://jech.bmj.com/ 40.110-040 ...			

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Privacy Policy

Google - Windows L...

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Brazil | Committee ...

Inbox - Wind...

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION ETHICS



**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

www.publicationethics.org



## COPE – from the beginnings to now governance – ‘the officers’



Liz Wager, Chair



Ginny Barbour  
Secretary



Chris Graf, Acting Treasurer



Sabine Kleinert, Vice-Chair

[www.publicationethics.org](http://www.publicationethics.org)



## 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](http://www.publicationethics.org)



## COPE – from the beginnings to now cases



## 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 breached 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

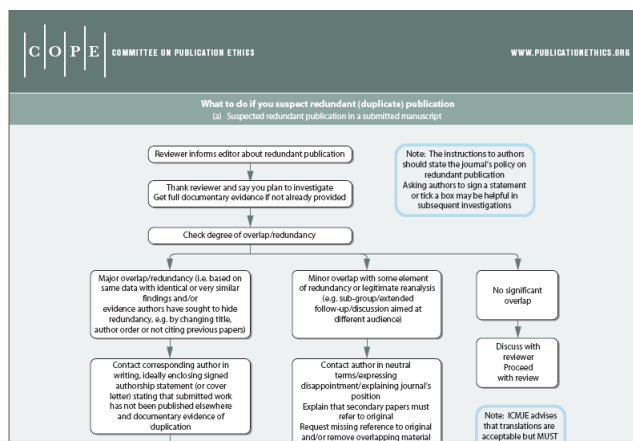
- COPE flowcharts on:
  - Redundant (duplicate) publication
  - Plagiarism
  - Fabricated data
  - Changes in authorship
  - Ghost, guest or gift authorship
  - Conflicts of interest
  - General suspected ethical concerns
  - Reviewer misconduct
  - How COPE deals with complaints

## COPE flowcharts in:

Arabic  
Brazilian Portuguese  
Chinese  
Croatian  
Farsi  
Italian  
Japanese  
Korean  
Spanish  
Turkish

[www.publicationethics.org](http://www.publicationethics.org)

## COPE's flowcharts



[www.publicationethics.org](http://www.publicationethics.org)

## **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 US Seminar (Washington DC, Nov 2009), regular US Seminar, 2011 in San Francisco
- First Australasian Seminar in Melbourne, Nov 2011
- Iranian Seminar in 2011
- Collaborations with ORI, ESF, CSE.....



## COPE – from the beginnings to now Newsletter

quarterly, on website, open access



[www.publicationethics.org](http://www.publicationethics.org)



## COPE – from the beginnings to now social media



twitter

Have an account? [Sign in](#)

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](#).

[Sign Up](#)

Get updates via SMS by texting [follow COPE to 86444](#) in the United Kingdom

[www.publicationethics.org](http://www.publicationethics.org)

## COPE: e-learning for editors

### PLAGIARISM

#### What is it?

##### Definitions


Somebody presenting another person's work as if it were his or her own, without proper acknowledgment or attribution

Derived from Greek and Latin words meaning a kidnapping

The original work need not have been published in order for copying from it to be plagiarism

Ideas can be plagiarised as well as words, data and images

The US Office of Research Integrity defines plagiarism as:

*"the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit."* 



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



## COPE – in Singapore International standards for editors

### Summary

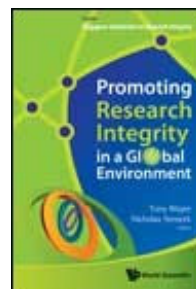
- Editors are **accountable** and should take *responsibility* for everything they publish
- Editors should make **fair and unbiased decisions** independent from commercial consideration and ensure a fair and appropriate peer review process
- Editors should adopt editorial policies that encourage **maximum 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**



In:

### PROMOTING RESEARCH INTEGRITY IN A GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

edited by Tony Mayer (Nanyang  
Technological University, Singapore) &  
Nicholas Steneck (University of Michigan,  
USA)



?Nov 2011

**Thank you!**

**Questions??**

**What would you like COPE to do for you?**