

## What does it mean to be an author?

An “author” is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study.”

### Remember

- Being an author comes with credit but also responsibility
- Decisions about who will be an author and the order of authors should be made before starting to write up the paper

## Four criteria to be met to attain author credit

- ① Substantial contribution to the study conception and design, data acquisition, analysis, and interpretation
- ② Drafting or revising the article for intellectual content
- ③ Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work
- ④ Approval of the final version

## Three types of unacceptable authorship

- ① “Ghost” authors, who contribute substantially but are not acknowledged (often paid by commercial sponsors)
- ② “Guest” authors, who make no discernible contributions, but are listed to help increase the chances of publication
- ③ “Gift” authors, whose contribution is based solely on a tenuous affiliation with a study

## Key author responsibilities

### Authorship:

- Report only real, unfabricated data
- Originality
- Declare any conflicts of interest
- Submit to one journal at a time

### Avoid:

- Fabrication: making up research data
- Falsification: manipulation of existing research data
- Plagiarism: previous work taken and passed off as one's own

## What is plagiarism and how is it detected?

“Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, or words without giving appropriate credit, including those obtained through confidential review of others' research proposals and manuscripts.”

Federal Office of Science and Technology Policy, 1999

- Crossref Similarity Check is a huge database of 30+ million articles, from 50,000+ journals, from 400+ publishers
- The software alerts editors to any similarities between your article and the huge database of published articles
- Many Elsevier journals now check every submitted article using Crossref Similarity Check



## Work that can be plagiarised includes...

- Words (language)
- Ideas
- Findings
- Writings
- Graphic representations
- Computer programs
- Diagrams
- Graphs
- Illustrations
- Information
- Lectures
- Printed material
- Electronic material
- Any other original work

## Declare conflicts of interest

Conflicts of interest can take many forms:

- Direct financial: employment, stock ownership, grants, patents
- Indirect financial: honoraria, consultancies, mutual fund ownership, expert testimony
- Career and intellectual: promotion, direct rival institutional Personal belief

## The consequences

Authors could:

- Have articles retracted (carrying a note why they were retracted, e.g. for plagiarism)
- Have letters of concern or reprimand written to them  
Institutes and funding bodies could carry out disciplinary action