How publishers should implement COPE aims and guidelines

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Disclosures: CG works for Wiley and benefits from the company's commercial success. CG receives no form of compensation from COPE for his voluntary role as COPE Councillor and Vice Chair.
Promote integrity in research and research publication
We need a culture of responsibility for the integrity of the literature… it’s not just the job of editors

Ginny Barbour, COPE Chair, Tokyo, Japan, 2015
How bad are things?
“Profound pressure to publish certainly can’t explain LaCour’s deception on its own.”

Drew Foster, Grad Student, Univ. Michigan, in NY Times
http://nymag.com/scienceofus/2015/06/will-academia-waste-the-michael-lacour-scandal.html#
There is reasonable evidence that scientific misconduct is both common and under-reported

Grant Steen et al. Why Has the Number of Scientific Retractions Increased? PLoS ONE. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0068397
http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0068397
Retractions in 2014
437
Papers published
2,500,000
Much of the scientific literature, perhaps half, may simply be untrue

Is research and scholarly publication…

The final word? Something else?
What’s COPE for?
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- Leadership
- Resources
- Voice
What does good practice look like?
How publishers can promote integrity in research and research publication

Examples of best practice, from BioMed Central, Ubiquity Press, American Chemical Society
How publishers can promote integrity in research and research publication

**Solutions**
- Dedicate people, point of contact
- Define good practice, codes, policy
- Integrate ethical practice into workflows (eg, plagiarism checks, mandatory COI, reproducibility)
- Communicate and share updates

- “Audit”
- Use expertise and awareness of resources (eg, flowcharts, Forum, own guidelines, FAQs)
- Deliver training and support
- Share advice (case-by-case, more generally)
- Oversee resolution of issues

- Participate in events, seminars, continuous learning, communicate

**Collaborate**
- Lead (eg, evolve, support research)
Think.Check.Submit provides tools to assess individual journals to see if they are reputable.

How publishers can promote integrity in research and research publication

**Challenges**

- **Adapting to new challenges**
  - Acting in collaboration

- **Addressing the causes**
  - Reliance on collaboration with other parties
  - Hesitance to adopt new approaches
  - Reliance on trust

- Same old problems: authorship, duplicate publication, and less commonly falsification, fabrication
Our replication standards contribute directly to a more rigorous, rational, theory-driven, and cumulative approach.

William Jacoby, “Replication” at American Journal of Political Science
http://exchanges.wiley.com/authors/videos-and-webinars_654.html
In summary

Follow codes
Empower your people
Participate, collaborate, lead
Recognise problems
Address the causes
Scientists feel pressure to compromise on research integrity

Finding the error became all-consuming; other projects languished.

Pamela Ronald, Univ California, Davis. In “A clean slate” http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/science/articles/10.1038/nj7492-389a
Thanks

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