Changes in authorship

(d) Request for removal of author after publication

- Clarify reason for change in authorship
  - Author(s) gives acceptable reason for change
    - Check that all authors agree to change (including excluded author)
    - Author(s) writes a letter
      - Contact other authors explaining what is happening
        - Other authors submit response
          - Publish both letters
        - Other authors do not wish to respond
          - Publish minority view letter
      - Author(s) does not agree to write letter (or writes something unpublishable)
        - Ask author why they wish to be removed from list – refer to journal guidelines or authorship declaration which should state that all authors meet appropriate criteria.
        - Ask if author suspects fraud/misconduct
          - If author insists on removal of name and other authors agree, then consider publishing correction

- Author(s) alleges fraud/misconduct
  - See flowchart for fabricated data

- Author(s) has difference in interpretation of data
  - Suggest author(s) put views in a letter and explain you will give other authors a chance to respond and will publish both letters if suitable (i.e. correct length, not libellous)