



C O P E

YOUR MEMBERSHIP

publicationethics.org

Welcome

to the Committee on Publication Ethics. We are delighted to welcome you to COPE and hope that membership will be beneficial to you.

COPE has over 10 000 members worldwide, from Algeria to Zimbabwe as well as from all academic fields. We provide advice to editors and publishers on all aspects of publication ethics and, in particular, on how to handle cases of research and publication misconduct. One of the main benefits of COPE is the Forum we provide where members can bring individual cases for discussion and advice.

COPE is committed to providing leadership in thinking about publication ethics; practical resources to educate and support its members;

as well as offering a neutral and professional voice in the wider community.

As a member you will have access not only to the Forums, but also to our eLearning course in publication ethics, free attendance at our annual seminars, as well as an audit tool to help you ensure your journal(s) processes adhere to best practice in ethical publishing.



Ginny Barbour, Chair of COPE

COPE is always receptive to new ideas, suggestions and offers of help! We look forward to hearing from you.

Vass

Quick links

Your membership	3
Benefits of your membership	4
Forum	5
eLearning	6-7
Resources	8
Flowcharts	9
Working with our members	10
Managing your profile	11
How COPE is managed	12
Trustee Board	13
Council and the COPE Team	14
COPE history	15

Your membership

gives you access to all COPE resources on the website and to our Forums and seminars. Simply log in to publicationethics.org to use the extensive online resources, submit a case to Forum, or find out more about our workshops and seminars.

Membership of COPE signals to authors and reviewers that your journal upholds the highest ethical standards, that you intend to follow COPE's Code of Conduct and that you will take appropriate action in cases of misconduct.

Demonstrate your membership of COPE using your personalized COPE logo on your website and in your print journal. Details on how to access this can be found later in the pack. You also have a public profile on our website.

C O P E

Member since 2012
JM08090

Best practice & guidance

The website holds an extensive database of real cases and helpful tools illustrating situations of misconduct with guidelines on handling such cases.

Advice

We provide a forum for members to discuss individual cases. The forum is often held twice on the same day by webinar so members worldwide can attend.

COPE

Education

The eLearning programme gives practical guidance on topics including: plagiarism; falsification; authorship; conflicts of interest; reviewer misconduct.

Authority

COPE provides leadership in thinking about publication ethics and connects members who share knowledge and ideas. Our purpose is to ensure ethical practices become part of publishing culture.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

FORUM	Bring cases to the quarterly COPE Forum for advice. The discussion (including advice and follow-up information on all cases presented) are available to all via the website http://publicationethics.org/cases
EVENTS	Free attendance at annual seminars and workshops worldwide. http://publicationethics.org/events
eLEARNING	Online eLearning course containing 10 modules covering a number of publication ethics issues, for example, plagiarism, authorship, redundant publication, fabrication to name a few http://publicationethics.org/resources/e-learning
AUDIT	An audit tool to help you review whether your journal meets the highest standards in publication ethics http://publicationethics.org/resources/audit
WEBINARS	An educational series which gives members more detailed knowledge of a publication ethics topic
CONTACT COUNCIL	Obtain confidential advice on sensitive ethical issues between Forum meetings from COPE council http://publicationethics.org/contact-us
COPE LOGO	Include the COPE logo in your journal and online to signal to authors and reviewers that your journal upholds the highest ethical standards. Download from your member profile page
COUNCIL	Be nominated as a member of COPE Council and contribute to the work being achieved in publication ethics http://publicationethics.org/about/governance
SAMPLE LETTERS	Writing to authors or reviewers about potential misconduct is one of the hardest tasks for an editor. We have a series of sample letters to help editors draft their own letters available http://publicationethics.org/resources/sample-letters

<http://publicationethics.org/join-cope>

FORUM

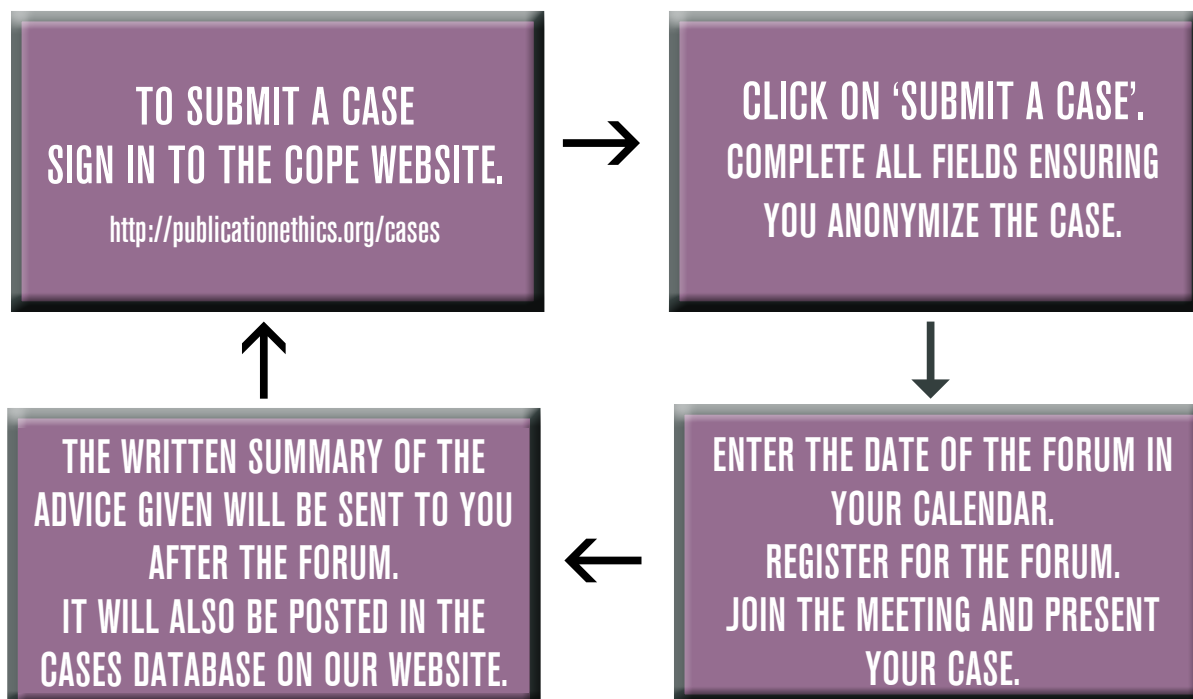
The Forum is where COPE began in 1997 and is at the heart of all that we do. COPE has always taken the view that the best way to debate the really complex ethics issues that our members have to handle is to discuss them among the widest group possible. Hence our member Forums are consistently the most important place where discussions on publication ethics happen.

All of the cases are brought by our members—usually editors—to the Forum and are discussed between all the participants of the Forum. The case notes reflect the discussion that took place. In accordance with our process, the advice from the Forum participants is provided back to the member who brought the specific case to the Forum for them to consider when handling the case further. The final decision on handling any specific case lies with the member editor and/or publisher who brought the case for discussion. Time and again this process has proved the best way of ensuring that the advice given by the Forum is as accurate as it can be, given the information available at the time.

The Forums are usually held by webinar - although we do occasionally hold an 'in-person' Forum - and we hold two Forums in one day to allow our members across the globe to participate at a convenient time.

All cases that have been submitted to COPE are in a searchable database on the website. Each case is tagged with terms from the COPE classification taxonomy to enable easier searching for specific cases. The database now contains over 500 cases, which provides a valuable resource for editors and those researching publication ethics.

HOW TO SUBMIT A CASE



<http://publicationethics.org/cases>

ELEARNING

COPE is committed to improving editors' abilities to deal with publication misconduct. Given the time pressures on editors and the fact that COPE has members around the world, we have developed an eLearning programme for members. Aimed at new editors it gives a deeper understanding of publication ethics and practical guidance on how to detect, prevent and handle misconduct.

The eLearning modules, which are a member only benefit, provide a valuable resource for editors and publishers, especially those seeking an introduction to the subjects, and complements the wide-ranging advice and support already available from COPE.

“Journal editors often face difficult ethical issues with up to little or no formal training and that is why COPE’s advice and support are so important.” Virginia Barbour, COPE Chair

COPE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION ETHICS

Home About COPE Resources Cases Become a member Members Events News & Opinion Contact Us

E-Learning

This course is designed for editors and publishers who want to improve their understanding on publication ethics and to provide the tools and knowledge needed to address the many issues they face when editing a journal. It is presented as a series of eleven independent modules; we plan to add more modules over the next few months.

COPE is offering non-members working on scholarly journals the chance to try out our eLearning programme, with free access to the module, An Introduction to Publication Ethics. This module aims to highlight the importance of ethical publishing as well as outline the definitions of misconduct. Virginia Barbour, Chair of COPE, says, "The aim of the free taster module is to give potential members a feeling for the extensive benefits that the organisation can offer them". To access the other modules, click [here](#) for information on becoming a member.

You can choose which modules to look at and which order you view them in. Each module includes case studies and questions so that you can review your knowledge. Some modules may also include audio or video podcasts. The course does not lead to a formal qualification but you can print a certificate of activity. All modules will be reviewed periodically and therefore we welcome your feedback. There will be an opportunity to provide this at the end of each module.

My eLearning Activities

Available Modules	Modules In Progress	Modules Completed
Reviewer Misconduct	No modules available.	No modules available.
Plagiarism		
Introduction to Publication Ethics		
Falsification		
Fabrication		
Corrections, retractions and expressions of concern		
Conflict of Interest		
Authorship		

Modules in the eLearning course include:

- » Authorship
- » Conflict of Interest
- » Corrections, retractions and expressions of concern
- » Fabrication
- » Falsification
- » Introduction to publication ethics
- » Plagiarism
- » Redundant publication
- » Reviewer misconduct
- » Selective reporting



COPE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION ETHICS

Home About COPE Resources Cases Become a member Members Events News & Opinion Contact Us

Home / Falsification / What to do if you suspect it / How to discourage falsification

Falsification

Checking for image manipulation

Target Number	Drag Target	Description
1.		Drag the cross to the position on the original image A where the image has been manipulated
2.		Drag the cross to the position on the original image B where the image has been manipulated. When you have finished click submit

A Original image Manipulated image

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

B Original image Manipulated image

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Submit

How to discourage falsification Checking for image manipulation: part 2

Back to E-Learning Finish module

Falsification

What is it?

How to spot it?

What to do if you suspect it

Resources and further reading

Evaluation form

Add pages

COPE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION ETHICS

Home About COPE Resources Cases Become a member Members Events News & Opinion Contact Us

Home / Plagiarism / What to do if you suspect it

Plagiarism

Case study 1

VIEW EDIT REORDER THE BOOK

Close content

CASE STUDY

Suspected plagiarism in a submitted article

This case is based on a real case discussed at a COPE forum. A reviewer voiced her concerns about an article.

"I have expressed serious concerns about this review article to the editor of the journal. The structure, some large chunks of text and most of the references have been copied from a teaching syllabus I have written for a recent teaching session on the same subject. One of the authors of this article attended my teaching session and she would have received a copy of the syllabus."

Is the author innocent of **plagiarism** because the original work has not been published?

☐ No. It doesn't matter. Unpublished writing, ideas and data can all be subject to plagiarism

☐ Yes, it's OK to copy another person's unpublished work

☐ Yes, it's OK because unpublished work isn't covered by copyright

Submit

Flowchart: Plagiarism in a submitted article Case study 1 Question

Back to E-Learning Finish module

Plagiarism

What is it?

How to spot it?

What to do if you suspect it

Resources and further reading

Evaluation form

Resources

Flowcharts

Discussion document: How should editors respond to plagiarism?

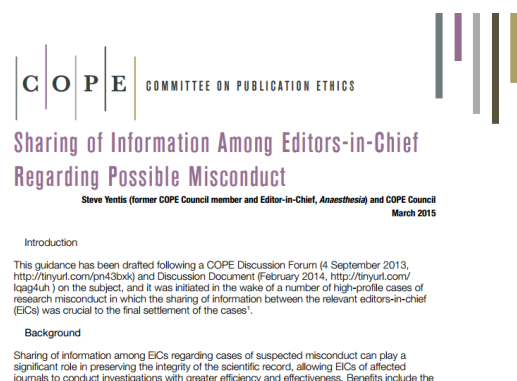
Sample letters

Add pages

Select -

RESOURCES

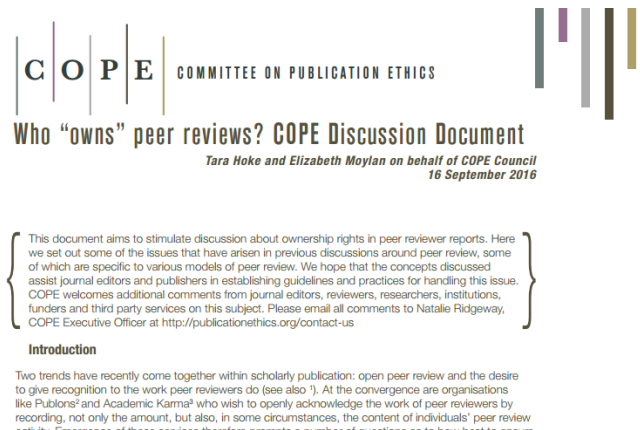
Guidelines and Discussion Documents



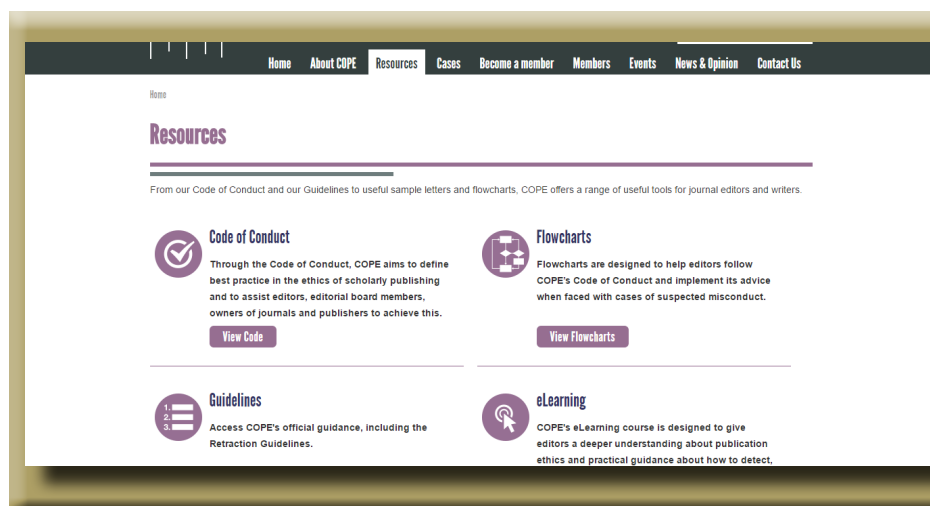
COPE has a number of guidelines designed to assist editors with ethical issues. Guidance on issues such as: retractions; cooperation between research institutions and journals; ethical editing for new editors; guidance for peer reviewers; and authorship disputes for new researchers.

<http://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines>

COPE also publishes discussion documents which are intended to generate discussion among our members. Current discussion documents include: Who “owns” peer reviews?; How editors should respond to plagiarism; Responding to anonymous whistle blowers; Authorship; and Addressing ethics complaints from complainants who submit multiple issues. We are always keen for our members to suggest ideas for a discussion document as well as contributing to writing or reviewing them. Do contact us if you would like to volunteer.



<http://publicationethics.org/resources/discussion-documents>



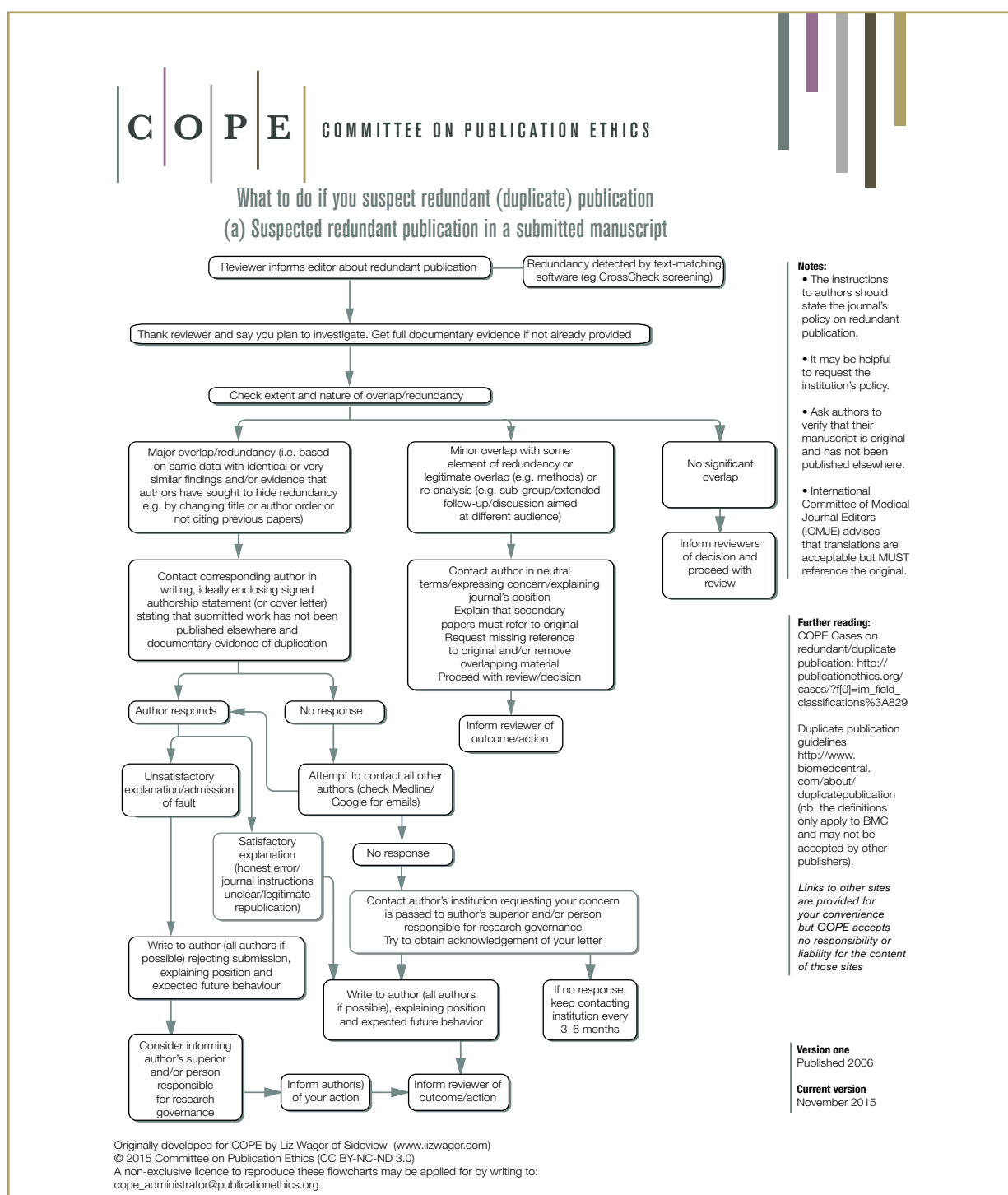
Click on the **Resources** tab on the COPE website to view all the resources that COPE offers. You can also access video, audio and presentations from previous seminars; view all issues of COPE Digest: Publication Ethics in Practice; and read external resources. Remember to sign in to view the member only benefits.

<http://publicationethics.org/resources>

FLOWCHARTS

The flowcharts are one of COPE's most treasured resources. Many editors and publishers regularly refer to them when they need guidance in dealing with an ethical issue at their journal.

There are currently 18 in total and further ones are continually in development as new issues arise. All have been translated into a number of languages - available on our website or by contacting us directly.



WORKING WITH OUR MEMBERS

COPE has a number of ways in which we communicate with our members, as well as regularly collaborating with our member groups on different initiatives.



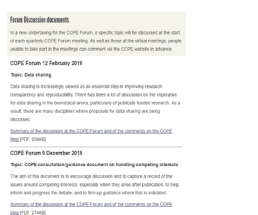
The COPE website is the main point of contact for our members. It holds an extensive database of real cases and helpful tools illustrating situations of misconduct with guidelines on handling such cases. The homepage also contains recent news from COPE and articles relevant to publication and research ethics, as well as upcoming events.

<http://publicationethics.org/>



COPE Digest COPE's monthly eNewsletter. Sent to all members by email it contains a round-up of recent cases, news items, what's been happening at COPE, an in-depth focus on a specific issue, as well as an events listing. If you don't receive it automatically each month or would like to be added to the mailing list please contact us here: <http://publicationethics.org/contact-us>.

<http://publicationethics.org/cope-newsletter>



Forum Discussions At the start of the Forum, as well as discussing cases presented by members, we also discuss a topical issue. These discussions often form part of a more formal discussion document on the topic, which can eventually become formal guidance from COPE. We are always keen to hear your suggestions for topics, and are happy to collaborate with our members to produce discussion documents.

<http://publicationethics.org/resources/discussion-documents>

Forgotten your password?

If you can't remember your password, click on **SIGN IN** and '**REQUEST NEW PASSWORD**'.

Sign in

CREATE NEW ACCOUNT

LOG IN

REQUEST NEW PASSWORD

E-MAIL ADDRESS *

You may login with either your e-mail address.

PASSWORD *

The password field is case sensitive.

Log in

MANAGING YOUR PROFILE

- 1 **Sign in** to the COPE website. As a member, you are the manager of your journal/publisher group.
- 2 Click on **Members** and search for your journal/publisher



3 Edit publisher/journal details

Managers can update the public view of their journal page on the website

4 Manage members

Managers can invite colleagues to the publisher/member group. Invited colleagues are “users”, have their own login details, can access member content and are automatically added to the COPE mailing list. Managers can add up to 50 users.

5 COPE logo download

Use your personalised COPE logo on your website and in your print journal with your membership number and the year you joined COPE. If you want to add some wording to your logo, we usually suggest the following: ***“This journal is a member of, and subscribes to the principles of, the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) www.publicationethics.org”.***



Publisher admin

View publisher

3 Edit publisher details

4 Manage members

Invite people

List of journals

Add a new journal

Journal admin

View journal

3 Edit journal details

5 COPE Logo download

4 Manage members

Invite people

The 'Manager' is the Editor-in-Chief/Editor/primary contact for a journal or publisher and can edit details and manage user access to the member only part of the COPE website. The 'User' will have access to the member only part of the COPE website but will have not editing rights.

Listed below are people associated with this account.

SEARCH FOR A MEMBER OF THIS PUBLISHER GROUP

Email

Search for users by their email address

ACTIONS

Check the box(es) of the users you wish to modify then select one of the following operations:

Or:

Promote to manager – Managers can access member resources, invite colleagues to their group and edit their journal details.

HOW COPE IS MANAGED

Mission COPE's principal objects are the:

“promotion, for the public benefit, of ethical standards of conduct in research and ethical standards in the publication of scholarly journals.”

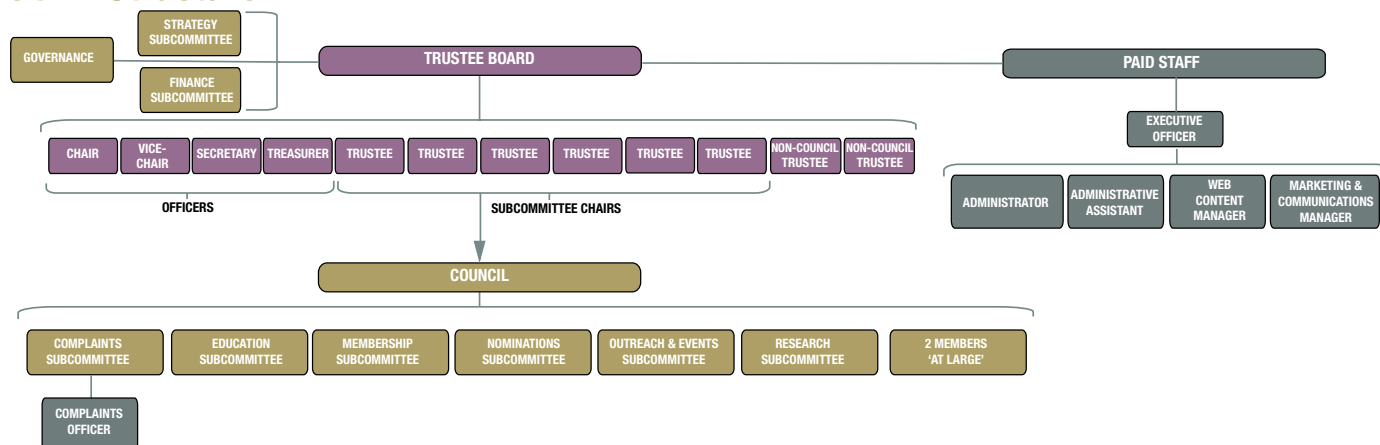
Strategy COPE's strategic plan, whose objectives support our primary mission, can be read at http://publicationethics.org/files/u7140/StrategicPlan2016_2018.pdf

Constitution COPE is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee in the UK and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 3 October 2007 (last updated 8 September 2015). It is also a registered charity (number 1123023).

COPE submits an annual report and financial statements to the Charities Commission and to Companies House [<http://publicationethics.org/about/trustees-reports-and-financial-statements>].

Trustee Board and Council COPE is governed by the Trustee Board, who are responsible for the financial, legal and business operations of COPE as a charitable business. Members of the Trustee Board are Trustees under charity legislation and Directors of the limited company under company law. COPE Council is comprised of up to 40 members, including the Trustees, who are nominated and elected by the general membership, or can be co-opted (Trustees are elected by the Council). COPE Council is responsible for the operational activities of COPE. Trustees and Council members are Constitutional Members of COPE.

COPE Structure



TRUSTEE BOARD



Virginia Barbour
Chair
Brisbane, Australia
cope_chair@publicationethics.org



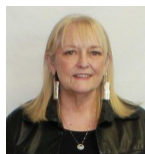
Chris Graf
co-Vice-chair
Oxford, UK



Geraldine Pearson
co-Vice-chair
Connecticut, USA



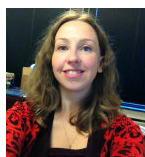
Charon Pierson
Secretary
Arizona, USA



Deborah Poff
Treasurer
British Columbia, Canada



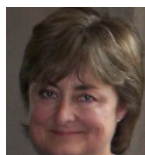
Mirjam Curno
Trustee, Chair of Outreach
Lausanne, Switzerland



Tara Hoke
Trustee, Chair of Complaints
Washington DC, USA



Zoe Mullan
Trustee, Chair of Nominations
London, UK

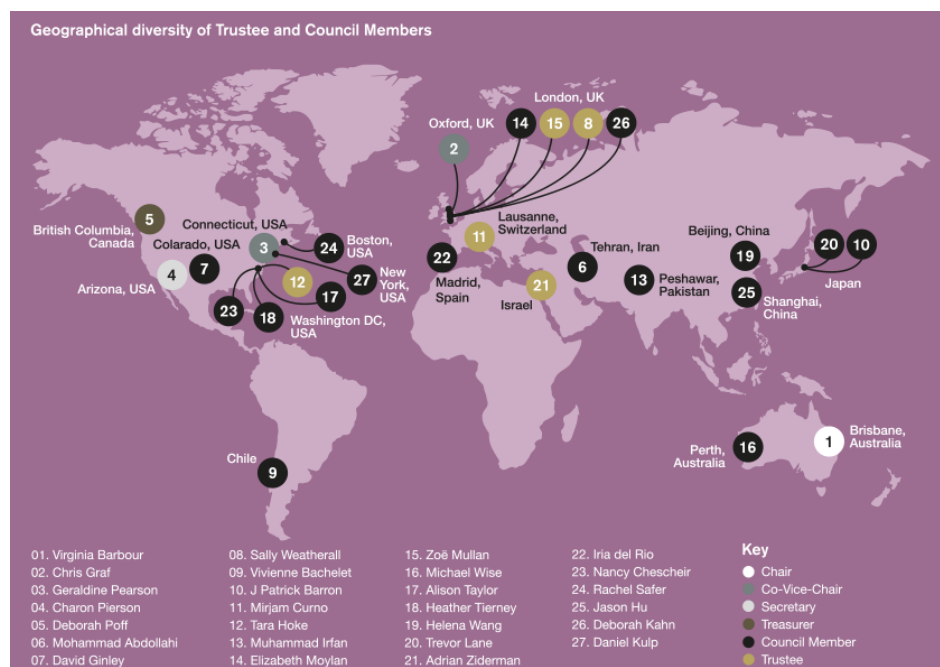


Sally Weatherill
co-opted Trustee
London, UK



Adrian Ziderman
Trustee, Chair of Research
Jerusalem, Israel

COPE COUNCIL



COPE TEAM

Natalie Ridgeway
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Iraxte Puebla
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Sarah Gillmore
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Cathy Whiteley
 Administrative Assistant
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 publicationethics.org

CONTACT US

<http://publicationethics.org/contact-us>

<http://publicationethics.org/about/council>

COPE HISTORY

1997	2000	2004	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2016 onwards	More staff
<p>1st annual report Richard Smith: "COPEJ may not prove useful in the long term, and we will be delighted if it is made unnecessary because the international profession produces an adequate response to research misconduct"</p>	<p>1st annual report Richard Smith: "COPEJ may not prove useful in the long term, and we will be delighted if it is made unnecessary because the international profession produces an adequate response to research misconduct"</p>	<p>Constitution written 90 Members</p>	<p>Ombudsman appointed</p> <p>Member survey</p> <p>Code of Conduct for Editors published. At this stage, COPE was still purely biomedical</p> <p>350 members</p>	<p>1st World Conference on Research Integrity</p> <p>Best practice guidelines published</p>	<p>Liz Wager becomes Chair</p> <p>1st USA seminar</p> <p>1st newsletter, Ethical Editing published</p> <p>Retraction guidelines published</p> <p>COPE Operations Manager employed</p>	<p>1st Australasian & Middle East seminars</p> <p>eLearning course released</p> <p>1st discussion document - on plagiarism - published</p> <p>International standards for authors and editors published</p> <p>Publishers Code of Conduct</p>	<p>Ethical guidelines for peer reviewers</p> <p>New case taxonomy</p> <p>Discussion document on responding to whistle blowers</p> <p>1st version of Principles of Transparency for Scholarly Publishing</p> <p>COPE Digest launches</p> <p>Forums now virtual</p>	<p>Ask COPE launched for members</p> <p>1st European seminar outside London</p> <p>Authorship discussion document</p> <p>Sharing of information among EICs discussion document</p>	<p>Representation in China</p> <p>COPE commissions research</p> <p>eBook on publication ethics</p> <p>Webinar series</p> <p>Institutional membership category</p>
<p>COPE founded by Mike Farthing, Richard Horton and Richard Smith</p> <p>April 1997</p>	<p>Good Publication Practice Guidelines published</p> <p>1999</p>	<p>Authorship guidelines published</p> <p>Fiona Godlee becomes Chair</p> <p>2003</p>	<p>Flowcharts published</p> <p>Harvey Markovitch becomes Chair</p> <p>2006</p>	<p>COPE becomes a charity</p> <p>1st research grant awarded</p> <p>COPE Audit produced</p> <p>Some publishers sign up all the journals - now more than 3000 members</p> <p>2008</p>	<p>Code of Conduct revised</p> <p>2nd World Conference on Research Integrity</p> <p>2010</p>	<p>Awarded the Council of Science Editors meritorious award</p> <p>1st seminar in South America</p> <p>Website redesigned</p> <p>Guidelines on Cooperation between research institutions and journals published</p> <p>2012</p>	<p>Ginny Barbour becomes Chair</p> <p>2014</p>	<p>2016 onwards</p>	



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