CHANGES IN AUTHORSHIP - REMOVAL OF AUTHOR - AFTER PUBLICATION

Ask why author should be (or wishes to be) removed from list – refer to journal guidelines or authorship declaration, which should state that all authors meet appropriate criteria. Ask if excluded author suspects fraud/misconduct

CLARIFY REASON FOR REMOVING AUTHOR

Requester/author(s) gives acceptable reason

Check that all authors agree in writing to the change (including excluded author)

Yes

PUBLISH CORRECTION

Author(s) alleges fraud/misconduct

REQUEST AUTHERSHIP GUIDELINES

Author(s) has different interpretation of data

See appropriate flowchart (e.g., for fabricated data)

Suggest author(s) put views in a letter. Explain you will give other authors a chance to respond and will publish both letters if suitable (i.e., correct length, not libellous)

Yes, other authors submit response

Contact other authors explaining the situation

Yes, other authors indicate willingness to respond or consider publishing

PUBLISH MINORITY VIEW LETTER

No, other authors do not wish to respond

Invite others to respond

Yes, other authors do not wish to respond

PUBLISH BOTH LETTERS

No, other authors do not wish to respond

Refer case to authors’ institution(s) and ask it/them to adjudicate

Check that all authors agree

Yes

Publish correction if required by institution(s)

Publish correction if needed

No

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