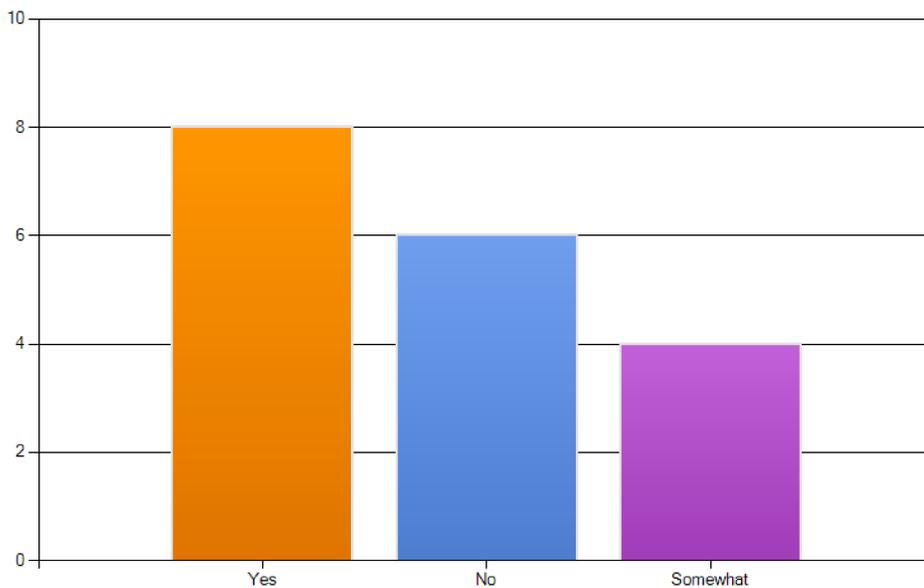


Prevention is better than the cure

Do you feel confident in the role you can play to reduce the need for retractions and corrections?



What experiences have you had with authors and their adherence to research guidelines?

AUTHORSHIP

- Some authors are determined to do things in accordance with the research guidelines, while others will go out of their way to do what's in their own best interest. For example, **author 1 may be willing to play by the rules, but if they can see all their colleagues not abiding by the rules, author 1 will question why they should do it**
- **Authorship needs to be justified by describing the role and contribution of each author** on the title page of a new submission. **Joint first or last authorship requires further justification**, which the Editor in Chief needs to approve

RIGOROUS PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

- ...we manage a **peer review process, which is made up of many stages to check the integrity of the research papers submitted**.... Unacceptable degrees of overlap with available literature online will lead to unsubmission. The manuscript will only proceed to the peer review stage upon having addressed the issue
- The involvement of different Deputy, Associate and Senior Editors along the way of screening paper for publication allows **different and fresh looks on the manuscript**, ensuring the quality and integrity of the accepted papers for publication
- Every scientific report/paper/article produced by our Institute goes through our publications tracking system, and as part of that process, **has to gain approval from a Business Manager, Science Leader, and the Editor**

- As an editor, I ask for the raw data from authors to confirm that the raw data looks logically possible, that the amount of missing data is correctly reported, and that the statistical analyses are appropriate and correct. Final papers are checked by myself, the journal manager, and the author(s)
- **Authors certainly don't adhere to our instructions for authors**, but we have a stringent editing process that covers scientific as well as copyediting and two lots of proofreading. We rarely have retractions about scientific integrity, usually errors in text

ETHICS

- The major issue relates to assurance from authors that donors in transplant-related research have not been executed prisoners
- None with prevention in mind, although **ensuring all papers have a note re ethics committee approval is standard**

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- We trust the authors to be following guidelines. **I have encountered authors who were surprised when I suggested they needed to declare a conflict of interest**
- Mostly very positive, some experiences of plagiarism, submission to multiple journals and of previously published material

RESUBMISSION

- Many authors seem to receive a rejection and **pop the manuscript into the mail to another journal without addressing the revisions or concerns** of the previous review. Manuscripts sometimes go out for review to similar reviewers who indicate the manuscript has been resubmitted without change

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

- We do have staff from a very wide range of ages, cultures and ethnicities, and **have learnt not to assume that all have had the same background training** on these topics
- With many nations of differing experiences regarding data management, data analysis, and data ethics it is **difficult to filter** out the potential for multiple submission and publication

COPE

- I am one of the primary authors of the Institute's guidelines for ethical research and for authorship. The guidelines **have benefitted greatly from COPE information**, are regularly assessed and updated, and provided to all new employees
- We have **adopted the COPE guidelines to ensure research integrity** in accepted manuscripts