



C O P E

**COPE FORUM:**  
**Enhancing partnerships of institutions and journals**

**July 27, 2023**

Marie Soulière

publicationethics.org

## COPE FORUM: Enhancing partnerships of institutions and journals

Dr. Marie Soulière leads strategic publishing projects in open-access publishing, with a specific focus on research integrity and quality peer review, balanced with operational efficiency and technological tools. She was heavily involved in developing Frontiers' artificial intelligence review assistant (AIRA).

She holds a PhD in Biochemistry, and performed research in the fields of chemistry, biophysics and bioinformatics, published 12 articles in high impact journals and holds 1 patent.

She was elected to the COPE Council in 2020.



**Marie Soulière, Ph.D.**  
Senior Publishing Manager, Frontiers  
Elected Council Member, COPE

## Cooperation between research institutions and journals on research integrity cases: guidance from the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)

### Summary

Institutions and journals both have important duties relating to research and publication misconduct. Institutions are responsible for the conduct of their researchers and for encouraging a healthy research environment. Journals are responsible for the conduct of their editors, for safeguarding the research record, and for ensuring the reliability of everything they publish. It is therefore important for institutions and journals to communicate and collaborate effectively on cases relating to research integrity. To achieve this, we make the following recommendations.

Institutions should:

- have a research integrity officer (or office) and publish their contact details prominently;
- inform journals about cases of proven misconduct that affect the reliability or attribution of work that they have published;
- respond to journals if they request information about issues, such as disputed authorship, misleading reporting, competing interests, or other factors, including honest errors, that could affect the reliability of published work;

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**Institutions should:**

- have a point of contact for investigations on research misconduct (research integrity officer or office) and publish their contact details prominently;
- inform journals about cases of proven research integrity issues or misconduct that affect the reliability or attribution of work that they have published;
- respond to journals if they request information about issues, such as disputed authorship, misleading reporting, competing interests, or other factors, including honest errors, that could affect the reliability of published work;
- initiate inquiries into unacceptable publication practice or allegations of research misconduct, consistent with federal and university policies, raised by journals, if the potential violation occurred when the researcher(s) worked at the institution;
- have policies supporting responsible research conduct, and policies and procedures in place for investigating allegations of unreliability, research integrity issues or misconduct.



## PROMOTING INTEGRITY IN SCHOLARLY RESEARCH AND ITS PUBLICATION

**C O P E** COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION ETHICS

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### Journals/Publishers should:

- make available online the process for raising queries relating to research and publication integrity with the journal, including contact details for the point of contact;
- inform institutions if they suspect misconduct by their researchers, and provide evidence to support these concerns;
- cooperate with investigations and respond promptly to institutions' questions about misconduct allegations;
- be prepared to issue any necessary amendments to published articles (corrections, expressions of concerns, addenda, retractions) according to the COPE guidelines, when provided with findings from institutional investigations;
- have policies and procedures for responding to institutions and other organizations that investigate cases of research misconduct;
- promote good publication practices and processes for identifying issues in submissions early in the publication process.



## PROMOTING INTEGRITY IN SCHOLARLY RESEARCH AND ITS PUBLICATION

### Changes highlights:

1. Clearer involvement of ‘publishers’ for investigations
2. Reinforced the need for collaboration from institutions in allegations of misconduct as well as cases of reliability issues, including honest errors
3. Removed asking authors for institutional contact; publishers / journals to research on institution website, or contact senior faculty member
4. Narrowed down the previous guidelines on sharing of information from institutions to journals regarding ongoing investigation

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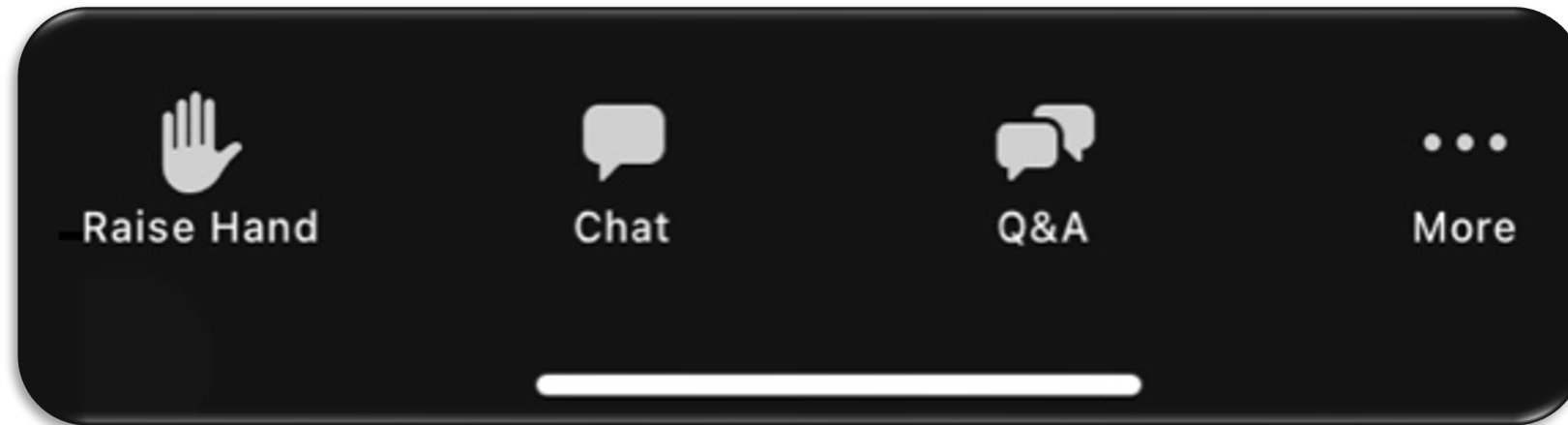
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## Discussion

1. Who at institutions handles cases of authorship disputes?  
Who do publishers contact at institutions for authorship disputes?
2. Usage of words ‘reliability’, ‘integrity’, ‘misconduct’.
3. To what extent can institutions share information regarding investigations?
4. Can / should institutions review all an individual’s publications if they have committed misconduct, to alert other / previous employers and publishers?

## Q & A



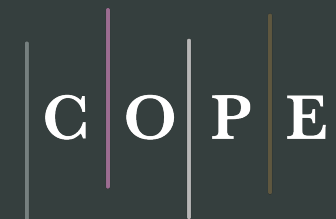
Please type your questions in the Q & A box, you can upvote previously posted questions in the Q & A box.





**THANK YOU**

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