

**Ethics of authorship  
In reporting results**

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**Committee for Scientific Integrity  
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic**

**All European Academies  
Standing Committee on Science and Ethics**

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**Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic**

|                                    | <b>Total staff</b> | <b>Researchers</b> | <b>Institutes</b> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Academy</b>                     | <b>7 000</b>       | <b>3 500</b>       | <b>57</b>         |
| <b>Phys. &amp;<br/>Techn. Sci.</b> | <b>2 500</b>       | <b>1 300</b>       | <b>19</b>         |
| <b>Chem. &amp; Bio.</b>            | <b>3 000</b>       | <b>1 650</b>       | <b>21</b>         |
| <b>Soc.<br/>&amp; Human.</b>       | <b>1 000</b>       | <b>51</b>          | <b>17</b>         |

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**Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry  
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic**

**Staff ~ 240  
Researchers ~ 120**

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Chemical & Engineering News, August 29, 2005, p. 24

**The White House Office  
of Science & Technology Policy**

**Research misconduct is  
falsification, fabrication, and  
plagiarism  
in proposing, performing,  
or reviewing research,  
or in reporting research results**

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**All European Academies (ALLEA)**

**Federation of 53 Academies  
from 40 European countries**

**Founded 1994**

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**ALLEA Standing Committee  
on Science and Ethics**

**2003**

**Memorandum  
on Scientific Integrity**

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**Academy of Sciences of the CR  
established**

**2002**

**Committee for Scientific Integrity**

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**The Committee for Scientific Integrity**

**Inspired by**

**> The European Charter for  
Researchers, 2005/251/ES**

**> ALLEA Memorandum on Scientific  
Integrity**

**> Rules of Good Scientific Practice,  
Max Planck Society, 2000**

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**Issued in 2006**

**Code of Ethics for Researchers  
of the Academy of Sciences  
of the Czech Republic**

**[http://www.cas.cz/en/code\\_of\\_ethics.php](http://www.cas.cz/en/code_of_ethics.php)**

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Most **transgressions** against the Code  
treated and **solved within the Institutes**

**Unresolved cases** submitted to the  
**Committee for Scientific Integrity**

Most frequent cases of dispute –  
**authorship problems**

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**Example 1: Significant contribution**

> **Presenting** oneself  
as an author or co-author  
**without having contributed**  
to any **significant extent**

> **Omitting** names of co-authors  
who have made  
a **significant contribution**

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**Chemistry:**

**Multistep synthesis**  
of a new substance  
takes **many months**,  
even more than 1 year

**Structure** must be **confirmed**,  
expensive equipment  
needed

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**Equipment cost millions USD >  
available just  
in a few laboratories**

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**Operation of equipment  
and interpretation of results  
requires:**

- > relevant experimental skills**
- > strong theoretical background**
- > highly qualified specialist**

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**Completion of the task takes**  
**- months of the chemist's time**  
**- just weeks, days or hours**  
**of the operator's time**

**Question:**

**When does the operator's  
contribution become significant?**

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**The chemist gladly offers  
co-authorship because:**

**Without** the operator's  
contribution the results are  
**hardly publishable.**

**Not offering** the co-authorship  
would apparently **decrease**  
the operator's **readiness**  
for future collaboration.

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**Evaluation of scientists:**

Important **criterion** is  
**number of papers**  
in impacted journals  
and **number of citations.**

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**Operators show high numbers  
of papers and citations**

**Are they really better  
scientists than chemists?**

**Discussion desirable**

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**Example 2: Busy (flying) professors**

**Busy professors do not read carefully enough manuscripts by their students.**

**Sloppy texts must be revised by reviewers and editors.**

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**Clear misconduct**

**Who should initiate improvement and how?**

**Discussion desirable**

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**Example 3: Unaware (honorary) authors**

**Giving the name of a person as co-author without requesting his/her consent**

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The **unaware author**  
may not feel happy  
seeing his/her name **associated**  
with a **mediocre paper**

Relatively **harmless insult**

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**Recent serious case of misconduct**

*Nature, 21 August 2008, 922*

- > **Clinical trial without approval from authorities**
- > **Patients not informed**
- > **Poor study design**
- > **Forged results**
- > **Co-authorship without consent**

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Free reviews

**Responsible reviewer:**

**one review = one-day work**

**Most reviewers' feeling –  
service to research community**

**Fair with non-profit publishers**

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**Most publishers –  
for-profit organisations**



**Making profit from unpaid reviewers**

**Is it fair?**

**The question invites discussion**

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**Conclusions**

- > **Misconduct in research  
is a matter of concern**
- > **Misconduct occurs  
(much) more frequently  
in politics, media, business, sports, etc.**

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**Thank you  
for you kind attention**

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