

Web Mail Printable Message

From: "Dulcan, Mina" <MDulcan@childrensmemorial.org>
To: Leemon McHenry
Subject: swilloughby <swilloughby@jaacap.org>
Date: RE: RE: Study 329
Nov 10, 2005 11:38 AM

Dear Leemon - we do not have raw nerves on this topic, and we are acutely aware of the issues as raised by JAMA and NEJM, as well as the recent International Congress on Peer Review. We do not have the time to respond in detail to queries from persons not related to the Journal.

The term "divided publication" as used by JAACAP, has nothing to do with the source of funding of the research. It refers to multiple papers from the same data set, whatever the source of funding.

In our author statement, signed by each author, responsibility is taken for the manuscript. Unless there is a specific accusation of research fraud, it is not the role of scientific journals to police authorship.

Mina Dulcan
Editor, JAACAP

m-dulcan@northwestern.edu
Mina K. Dulcan, MD
Head, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
Northwestern University
Feinberg School of Medicine
Children's Memorial Hospital
Chicago, IL

-----Original Message-----

From: Leemon McHenry [mailto:lmchenry@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2005 10:22 PM
To: Dulcan, Mina
Subject: RE: RE: Study 329

Dr. Dulcan,

I am sure you are very busy, but in the time that you replied my email you could have answered my questions. If you read below carefully, you will see that I was not seeking to be taught about clinical research practices. Rather, I have pressing questions about violations to your own journal policy. But I see I touched a raw nerve. If you are interested to know the extent of ghostwriting for your journal, I should be happy to discuss this with you.

With regret,

Leemon McHenry

-----Original Message-----

From: "Dulcan, Mina" <MDulcan@childrensmemorial.org>
Sent: Nov 9, 2005 11:42 AM
To: Leemon McHenry <lmchenry@earthlink.net>
Cc: swilloughby <swilloughby@jaacap.org>
Subject: RE: RE: Study 329

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Dear Leemon - all of us at JAACAP are far too busy to spend time teaching you about clinical research practices in child psychiatry or to assist in your personal research.

Mina Dulcan, MD

m-dulcan@northwestern.edu

Mina K. Dulcan, MD
Editor, JAACAP

Head, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

Northwestern University

Feinberg School of Medicine

Children's Memorial Hospital

Chicago, IL

-----Original Message-----

From: Leemon McHenry [mailto:lmchenry@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2005 12:59 PM
To: m-dulcan@northwestern.edu
Subject: Fw: RE: Study 329

Dear Dr. Dulcan,

In the interest of strengthening confidence in medical research, I wonder if you could find the time to answer the questions below. Ms. Willoughby kindly responded to my first inquiry, but declined to devote any further attention to my research.

Yours sincerely,

Leemon McHenry, PhD
Department of Philosophy
California State University

-----Forwarded Message-----

From: Sherri Willoughby <swilloughby@jaacap.org>
Sent: Nov 9, 2005 10:05 AM
To: 'Leemon McHenry' <lmchenry@earthlink.net>
Subject: RE: Study 329

Mr. McHenry,

I am sorry by I cannot devote any further time to assisting you with your work.

Regards,

Sherri Willoughby

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Managing Editor
Journal of the American Academy
of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

-----Original Message-----

From: Leemon McHenry [mailto:lmchenry@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2005 11:50 AM
To: Sherri Willoughby
Subject: RE: Study 329

Dear Ms Willoughby,

Thank you for this response. Since I have investigated a number of articles in different medical and scientific journals for ethical problems, wish to get clear about how JAACAP's policies work.

Apparently, I have misunderstood what is meant by divided publication. If an author published bits of data in different articles, but has access to the full data, this is divided publication, correct? But if a pharmaceutical company "owns" the data, conducts the study, and only allows the authors access to part of the data (mainly the parts that are favorable to the study drug), this is not divided publication?

Let us suppose the following (which is fairly common these days): A pharmaceutical company conducts a study of drug X, then hires a PR firm (Ruder Finn, Scientific Therapeutics, etc) to write up the journal article.

The article is then submitted to the pharmaceutical company (one of its agents is an investigator in the clinical trial and is identified as a co-author of the paper) and to the principal investigator who is the lead author of the article. The lead author makes some changes to the draft and sends it to the journal in question. In the acknowledgements in the published paper it says (in fine print at the bottom of the page) that pharmaceutical company Y supported the study and that editorial assistance was provided by John Smith.

The reader has no idea that this article was written by a PR firm that was hired by the pharmaceutical company nor that John Smith works for this PR firm, unless of course the reader knows that this is so common that all or most papers of this sort are produced in this manner.

Would this be acceptable practice for JAACAP? You say that the types of papers that you publish are never written by PR firms, but this does seem to be a very common practice especially with big clinical trials that are funded by a pharmaceutical company.

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Sincerely,

Leemon McHenry

-----Original Message-----

From: Sherri Willoughby <swilloughby@jaacap.org>
Sent: Nov 7, 2005 1:22 PM
To: 'Leemon McHenry' <lmchenry@earthlink.net>
Subject: RE: Study 329

Dear Mr. McHenry,

Your best source for answers to your questions is our Instructions for Authors; they appear online and in each print issue of the Journal. Generally we update them once per year, in our January issue. Perhaps you would want to compare those from January 2001 with those from January 2005.

Answers to your specific questions appear below.

Sherri Willoughby
Managing Editor
Journal of the American Academy
of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

-----Original Message-----

From: Leemon McHenry [mailto:lmchenry@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, November 07, 2005 12:31 PM
To: swilloughby@jaacap.org
Subject: Study 329

Dear Ms. Willoughby,

I am writing to you as the managing editor of the JAACAP.

I am doing research on a GSK Study 329 that was published in JAACAP in 2001, Keller et al., "Efficacy of Paroxetine in the Treatment of Adolescent Major Depression: A Randomized, Controlled Trial." My work focuses on medical ethics.

May I ask some questions about journal policy?

1) Who was editor in 2001?
Mina K. Dulcan, MD

2) Did the journal have the policies in place in 2001 for Conflict of Interest and Divided Publication?
Yes

3) Does this policy prohibit ghostwriting by PR firms or medical communication agencies? No, but we have clear guidelines for authorship that appear in our Instructions for Authors. The types of papers that we publish are never written by PR firms, and since our Instructions for

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Authors cover the issue of authorship criteria anyway, there is no need for a specific prohibition.

Does authorship disclosure require the identity of a PR firm that prepared the manuscript for publication? No. Please see answer to #3.

5) If the authors of the article did not have have access to the full data, would this be a violation of the Divided Publication policy? The divided publication policy does not relate in any way to the question of full access to data.

Thanks in advance,

Leemon McHenry
Department of Philosophy
California State University

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