

# CYBERINFRASTRUCTURE FORUM

Sharing is Caring: Challenges and  
Opportunities in Producing Open Data

**Research Integrity Issues**

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## Research Integrity Officer

The Research Integrity Officer (RIO) receives and manages Allegations of Misconduct in Research within the MSU community. Research Misconduct includes Plagiarism, Fabrication, Falsification, and other research activities that seriously deviate from accepted practices in the research community.

The Michigan State University policy can be found in the [Procedures Concerning Allegations of Misconduct in Research and Creative Activities](#).

The RIO also manages authorship and data disputes according to MSU's Authorship and Research Data: Management, Control, and Access guidelines. In this role, the RIO provides advice to administrators, faculty and students in best authorship and data management practices.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions/concerns about any research integrity matter. Our discussions can remain confidential.



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### Announcements

#### [MSU bloggers post on 'Spartan Ideas'](#)

Spartan Ideas is an MSU website maintained by MSU Libraries and the Office of the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. It is designed to showcase a continuously growing selection of MSU's faculty, student, and staff blogs. A team of MSU librarians "curates" this collection, choosing...[more](#)

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# Research & Scholarly Integrity

- RESEARCH, as used here, refers to research and scholarship across **all disciplinary fields from the Arts and Humanities to the Sciences.**
- RESEARCH broadly includes the exploration, discovery, interpretation, revision, and sharing of knowledge of our world, including the creation of works for the enlightenment and intellectual stimulation of humans.

# Research & Scholarly Integrity

- A RESEARCHER broadly includes all who contribute to the process of research according to the standards in their field.
- RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH PRACTICES broadly refers to the **thoughtful and honest adherence** to relevant ethical, disciplinary, and financial standards in the promotion, design, conduct, evaluation, and reporting of research in their field (adapted from definitions in the 2009 Survey on Responsible Research Practices).



Character is doing the right thing when nobody's looking. There are too many people who think that the only thing that's right is to get by, and the only thing that's wrong is to get caught.

(J. C. Watts)

# What the RIO does

- The RIO is responsible for seeing to it that the MSU Procedures Concerning Allegations of Misconduct in Research and Creative Activities are carried out in an unbiased, confidential, and professional manner.
- Required for any institution seeking and accepting federal funding (42 CFR 93)



PROCEDURES CONCERNING  
ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT IN  
RESEARCH AND CREATIVE  
ACTIVITIES

19 June 2009

# The role of the RIO

- The RIO shall coordinate implementation of these Procedures and shall be responsible for their fair and impartial administration. **The RIO shall not be an advocate for the Complainant or the Respondent.**



It doesn't  
matter what I  
think, the  
evidence says  
everything

Mac Taylor, CSI New York



# What exactly is “Research Misconduct”?



# Research Misconduct

**Fabrication, Falsification, Plagiarism**, or any other practice, that **Seriously Deviates** from practices commonly accepted in the discipline or in the academic and research communities generally in proposing, performing, reviewing, or reporting Research and Creative Activities. ***Misconduct does not include appropriative practices in the Creative Arts insofar as they accord with accepted standards in the relevant discipline.*** Misconduct does not include honest error or honest differences in the interpretation or judgment of Research data.

# Question

- What percentage of potential allegations coming to our office is associated with some sort of previous conflict between/among the parties involved?
- ~ 90%!!

# Is Research Misconduct an Issue at MSU?

# Is Research Misconduct an Issue at MSU?

I have direct knowledge of situations at MSU that I believe would constitute Research Misconduct based on tonight's explanations? **Please Return the Response Cards**

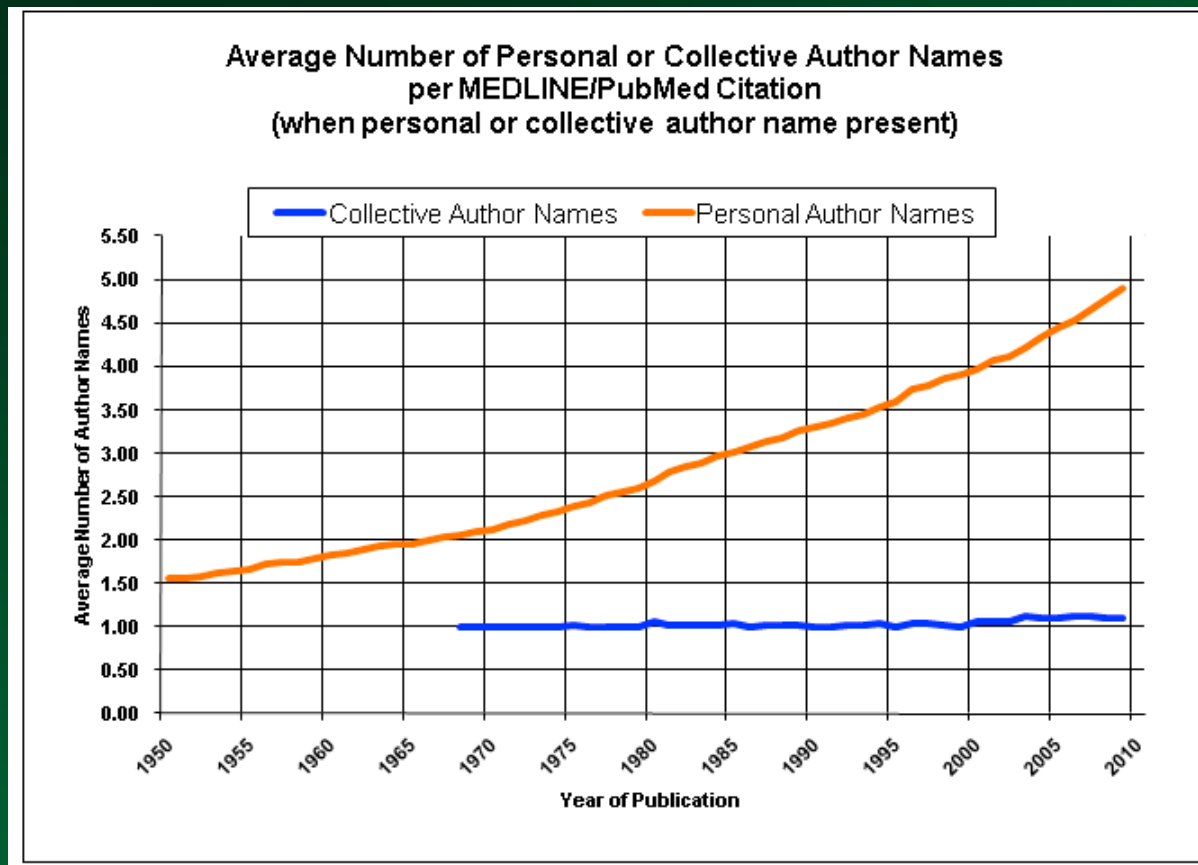
91

1. True

99

2. False

# Authorship Trends (NLM, 2010)





# Question

- Who “owns” the data collected by a student for his/her dissertation?
- Who “owns” the data collected by a faculty investigator for his/her federal research grant?



# Research Data: Management, Control, and Access

- Both the University and the PI have responsibilities and rights concerning access to, use of, and maintenance of original research data. Except where precluded by the specific terms of sponsorship or other agreements, tangible research property, including scientific data and other records of research conducted under the auspices of Michigan State University, belongs to Michigan State University. **The PI should be responsible for maintenance and retention of research data.**

# Research Data: Management, Control, and Access

- The **PI** is the signatory person who has **scholarly responsibility** for the conduct of the proposed research.
- When individuals involved in research projects at Michigan State University leave the University, they may take copies of research data for projects on which they have worked. **The PI must, however, retain original data at Michigan State University.**

# Recent Cases

- Hypothetical, of course

# Recent Cases

- Falsification/fabrication of data by a student
  - Complainant was faculty, and students
- Lab supervision could have been better

# Recent Cases

- Plagiarism in a dissertation by a student
  - Complainant was external to MSU
- Dissertation committee may not have provided proper oversight



# Recent Cases

- Serious Deviation and Plagiarism by a student
  - Complainants were faculty members
- Possible prior acts by Respondent drove the Allegation

# Recent Cases

- Plagiarism by a faculty member
  - Complainant was a student
- Case complicated by “agreements” made among administrators, faculty member, and student, that are not clearly understood by all parties

# Other Issues

- Advisor did not keep a copy of the original dissertation data
- Data included on a dissertation was re-analyzed by a third party
- Who decides which journals are predatory?
- When does sharing data with another give them the right to publish it?



# Communication

Talk and listen

Honesty

Recognition

Confidentiality

Disclosure

Compliance

Protection

Collegiality

Communication

What about prevention?

# What about prevention?

- Advice
- We encourage students, faculty and administrators to ask us about any research issues



# What about prevention?

- Dispute Resolution
- We encourage students and faculty to seek our help with settling disputes





# Suggestion...

- “Prenuptial” agreements, in writing

# www.rio.msu.edu

**Authorship Agreement****Date:**

Authorship on a scientific publication and/or creative activity is both a reward and a responsibility. To avoid conflicts on who will be included as an author on such works within a given scholarly lab or group, the following written agreement should govern. For specific rules and recommendations regarding what is required (in general) to qualify for authorship, please refer to the publication outlet itself, or the MSU Authorship Guidelines.

**Overall Project Name**

Fill in Project Name

**Type of project (e.g., grant application, dissertation, thesis, ongoing study, etc.)**

Fill in Appropriate Term

**Principal Investigator**

Name and signature (At MSU, this has to be a faculty member)

**Lead Author**

Name and signature (PI decides, or PI charges the group to decide)

**Co-Authors and Roles**

Names and signatures (roles should be briefly described)

**Specific Title of Manuscript or Scholarly Work**

Fill in Name

**Publication Outlet(s)**

Fill in name of journal or meeting, or whatever

**Notes:**

Notes specific to this project

**Please note:** The Principal Investigator has the right to review and possibly change the writing responsibilities, and authorship order, should the lead author not submit the manuscript within XX months of when this agreement is dated. This includes student projects, theses and dissertations.

# Thank You!!

