

# Plagiarism and Self-plagiarism in the sciences: Definitions and cases

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\*Portions of this presentation have been shown elsewhere.

# Plagiarism

- Refers to the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, images, design elements, data, text, or other product of their creativity without giving appropriate credit.
- The most common form is thought to be plagiarism of text. It is also the easiest form to detect.

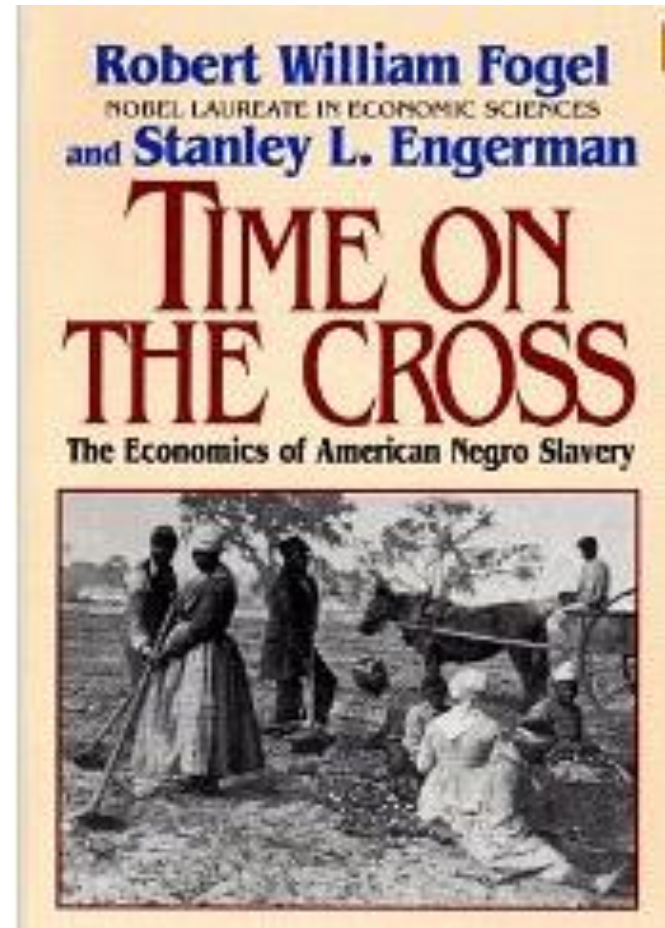
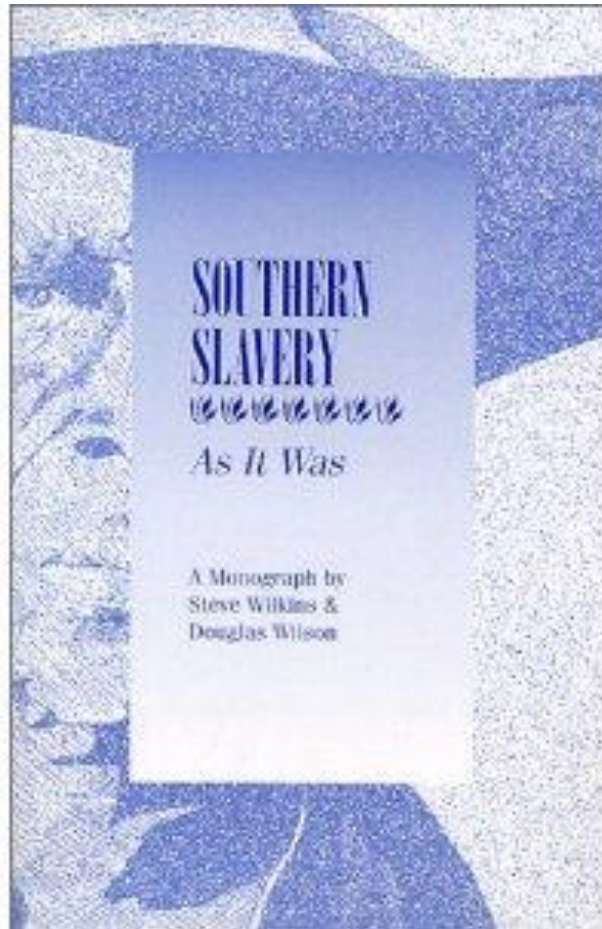
# **Student Plagiarism: It's a Pandemic**

# Plagiarism as academic dishonesty

- 40% to 60% of students admit to plagiarizing.
- These estimates do not include those who plagiarize inadvertently. I estimate the latter to range between 15% to 20% of students.
- Much of the plagiarism is thought to be derived from on-line sources.
- It happens in virtually
  - all disciplines.
  - all educational levels (e.g., high school, college), including graduate and professional schools.
  - all types of professionals (e.g., researchers, journalists, college presidents).
  - Across the globe.

**Scholars and Scientists  
also plagiarize**

# Example of Plagiarism of Scholarly Work





ping was as mildly applied as the corporal punishment normally practiced within families today.<sup>21</sup> **Although some masters were brutal, even sadistic, most were not.** *The Slave Narratives* are overwhelmingly favorable in the judgment of masters as "good men." In fact in the *Narratives*, out of 331 references to masters, 86% refer to their masters as "good" or "kind." Quite a few would not allow whipping at all, and many only allowed it in their presence.

But it was far more in the master's interest to motivate his slaves by positive means. Far more important than whipping in managing the slaves was figuring out how to motivate. No plantation owner wanted slaves who were sullen, discontented, and hostile, who did just enough to get by. They wanted devoted, hard-working, responsible men who identified their fortunes with the fortunes of their masters. Such attitudes cannot be beaten into slaves. They had to be elicited.<sup>22</sup>

To achieve the desired response the planters developed a wide-ranging system of rewards. Some rewards were directed toward improving short-run performance (prizes for the individual or the gang with the best picking record on a given day or week). The prizes were such items as clothing, tobacco, whiskey, and very often cash. When slaves worked during times normally set aside for rest, they received extra pay—usually in cash.<sup>23</sup> Occasionally planters even devised elaborate schemes for profit sharing with their slaves.

All this evidence points to the fact that slaves lived at various levels of income. The average pecuniary income received by a prime field hand was roughly fifteen percent greater than the income he would have received for his labor as a free agricultural worker. Some slaves saved their money and were quite wealthy after the war. Simon Phillips, a slave from Alabama says, "People has the wrong idea of

nineteenth century. It must be remembered that, through the centuries whipping was considered a fully acceptable form of punishment, not merely for criminals but also for honest men or women who in some way shirked their duties. Whipping of wives, for example, was even sanctified in some versions of the Scripture. The Matthew's Bible, which preceded the King James version, told the husband, in a note at 1 Pet. 3, that if his wife was "not obedient and healpfull vnto hym endeuoureth to beate the feare of God into her heade, and that therby she maye be compelled to learne her duitie and do it." During the seventeenth and most of the eighteenth centuries whipping was commonly employed as a punishment in the North as well as in the South. Not until the end of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth century did whipping rapidly fall from favor in the free states.

To attribute the continuation of whipping in the South to the maliciousness of masters is naïve. **Although some masters were brutal, even sadistic, most were not.** The overwhelming majority of the ex-slaves in the W.P.A. narratives who expressed themselves on the issue reported that their masters were good men. Such men worried about the proper role of whipping in a system of punishment and rewards. Some excluded it altogether. Most accepted it, but recognized that to be effective whipping had to be used with restraint and in a coolly calculated manner. Weston, for example, admonished his overseer not to impose punishment of any sort until twenty-four hours after the offense had been discovered. William J. Minor, a sugar planter, instructed his managers "not [to] cut the skin when punishing, nor punish in a passion." Many planters forbade the whipping of slaves except by them or in their presence. Others limited the number of lashes that could be administered without their permission.

The decline of whipping as an instrument of labor discipline outside of the South appears to have been heavily



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influenced by economic considerations. With the rise of capitalism, impersonal and indirect sanctions were increasingly substituted for direct, personal ones. The hiring of free workers in the marketplace provided managers of labor with a powerful new disciplinary weapon. Workers who were lazy, indifferent, or who otherwise shirked their duties could be fired—left to starve beyond the eyesight or expense of the employer. Interestingly enough, denial of food was rarely used to enforce discipline on slaves. For the illness and lethargy caused by malnutrition reduced the capacity of the slave to labor in the fields. Planters preferred whipping to incarceration because the lash did not generally lead to an extended loss of the slave's labor time. In other words, whipping persisted in the South because the cost of substituting hunger and incarceration for the lash was greater for the slaveowner than for the northern employer of free labor. When the laborer owns his own human capital, forms of punishment which impair or diminish the value of that capital are borne exclusively by him. Under slavery, the master desired forms of punishment which, while they imposed costs on the slave, did so with minimum impairment to the human capital which the master owned. Whipping generally fulfilled these conditions.

While whipping was an integral part of the system of punishment and rewards, it was not the totality of the system. What planters wanted was not sullen and discontented slaves who did just enough to keep from getting whipped. They wanted devoted, hard-working, responsible slaves who identified their fortunes with the fortunes of their masters. Planters sought to imbue slaves with a "Protestant" work ethic and to transform that ethic from a state of mind into a high level of production. "My negroes have their name up in the neighbourhood," wrote Bennet Barrow, "for making more than any one else & they think Whatever they do is better than any body Else." Such an attitude could not be beaten into slaves. It had to be elicited.



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Much of the managerial attention of planters was focused on the problem of motivating their hands. To achieve the desired response they developed a wide-ranging system of rewards. Some rewards were directed toward improving short-run performance. Included in this category were prizes for the individual or the gang with the best picking record on a given day or during a given week. The prizes were such items as clothing, tobacco, and whiskey; sometimes the prize was cash. Good immediate performance was also rewarded with unscheduled holidays or with trips to town on weekends. When slaves worked at times normally set aside for rest, they received extra pay—usually in cash and at the rate prevailing in the region for hired labor. Slaves who were performing well were permitted to work on their own account after normal hours at such tasks as making shingles or weaving baskets, articles which they could sell either to their masters or to farmers in the neighborhood.

Some rewards were directed at influencing behavior over periods of intermediate duration. The rewards in this category were usually paid at the end of the year. Year-end bonuses, given either in goods or cash, were frequently quite substantial. Bennet Barrow, for example, distributed gifts averaging between \$15 and \$20 per slave family in both 1839 and 1840. The amounts received by particular slaves were proportional to their performance. It should be noted that \$20 was about a fifth of national per capita income in 1840. A bonus of the same relative magnitude today would be in the neighborhood of \$1,000.

Masters also rewarded slaves who performed well with patches of land ranging up to a few acres for each family. Slaves grew marketable crops on these lands, the proceeds of which accrued to them. On the Texas plantation of Julian S. Devereux, slaves operating such land produced as much as two bales of cotton per patch. Devereux marketed their crop along with his own. In a good year some of the slaves earned in excess of \$100 per annum for their



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families. Devereux set up accounts to which he credited the proceeds of the sales. Slaves drew on these accounts when they wanted cash or when they wanted Devereux to purchase clothing, pots, pans, tobacco, or similar goods for them.

Occasionally planters even devised elaborate schemes for profit sharing with their slaves. William Jemison, an Alabama planter, entered into the following agreement with his bondsmen.

[Y]ou shall have two thirds of the corn and cotton made on the plantation and as much of the wheat as will reward you for the sowing it. I also furnish you with provisions for this year. When your crop is gathered, one third is to be set aside for me. You are then to pay your overseer his part and pay me what I furnish, clothe yourselves, pay your own taxes and doctor's fee with all expenses of the farm. You are to be no expense to me, but render to me one third of the produce and what I have loaned you. You have the use of the stock and plantation tools. You are to return them as good as they are and the plantation to be kept in good repair, and what clear money you make shall be divided equally amongst you in a fair proportion agreeable to the services rendered by each hand. There will be an account of all lost time kept, and those that earn most shall have most.

There was a third category of rewards. These were of a long-term nature, often requiring the lapse of a decade or more before they paid off. Thus, slaves had the opportunity to rise within the social and economic hierarchy that existed under bondage. Field hands could become artisans or drivers. Artisans could be allowed to move from the plantation to town where they would hire themselves out. Drivers could move up to the position of head driver or overseer. Climbing the economic ladder brought not only social status, and sometimes more freedom; it also had significant payoffs in better housing, better clothing, and cash bonuses.

Little attention has hitherto been paid to the manner in which planters selected the slaves who were to become the



did occur, some of the families of slaves were broken up. The question is how widespread was this?

Data contained in the sales records in New Orleans, by far the largest market in the interregional trade, sharply contradict the popular view that the destruction of slave marriages was at least a frequent, if not a universal, consequence of the slave trade.

These records, which cover thousands of transactions during the years from 1804 to 1862, indicate that about 2% of the marriages of slaves involved in the westward trek were destroyed in the process of migration. Nor is it by any means clear that the destabilizing effects of the westward migration on marriages was significantly greater among blacks than it was among whites.<sup>28</sup>

There is no reason to believe that the age and sex structure of interstate sales at New Orleans were markedly different from those of other south-central cities. Moreover, New Orleans, more than any other city, dominated the interregional slave trade, receiving annually about one third of the slaves sold between states.<sup>29</sup>

## The Myth of Slave Breeding

The thesis that systematic breeding of slaves for sale in the market accounted for a major share of the net income or profit of slave holders, is often espoused. This thesis involves two interrelated concepts. First, it is assumed that the slave owners interfered in the normal sexual habits of slaves to maximize female fertility through such devices as mating women with especially potent men. Second, it is assumed that this raising of slaves occurred with sale as the main motive.

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Of course, the traditional interpretation of the interregional slave traffic is not confined to economic issues. To many, the most critical aspect of the slave trade was its corrosive effect on the integrity of the slave family. Since most issues regarding the impact of slavery on the black family are considered in a later chapter, the discussion here is confined to an examination of the contention that the interregional slave migration resulted in the widespread division of marriages, with husbands wrung from wives and children from both.

That the interregional slave trade resulted in the destruction of *some* slave marriages is beyond dispute. What is at issue is the extent of the phenomenon. Data contained in sales records in New Orleans, by far the largest market in the interregional trade, sharply contradict the popular view that the destruction of slave marriages was at least a frequent, if not a universal, consequence of the slave trade. These records, which cover thousands of transactions during the years from 1804 to 1862, indicate that more than 84 percent of all sales over the age of fourteen involved unmarried individuals. Of those who were or had been married, 6 percent were sold with their mates; and probably at least one quarter of the remainder were widowed or voluntarily separated. Hence it is likely that 13 percent, or less, of interregional sales resulted in the destruction of marriages. And since sales were only 16 percent of the total interregional movement, it is probable that about 2 percent of the marriages of slaves involved in the westward trek were destroyed by the process of migration. Nor is it by any means clear that the destabilizing effects of the westward migration on marriages was significantly greater among blacks than it was among whites.

The New Orleans records also throw into doubt the claims that sales of single children under thirteen were very frequent and that such children "were hardly less than a staple in the trade." For only 9.3 percent of the New Orleans sales



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productivity to reinforce each other than to conflict with each other. Both cruelty and affection had their place on southern plantations.

## The Myth of Slave-Breeding

The thesis that *systematic* breeding of slaves for sale in the *market* accounted for a major share of the net income or profit of slaveholders, especially in the Old South, is espoused in one degree or another by most members of the anti-Phillips school. This proposition was given a considerable fillip by the work of Conrad and Meyer, who found substantially higher returns on women than men in the Old South. "Slavery was profitable to the whole South," they concluded, because "the continuing demand for labor in the Cotton Belt" insured high "returns to the breeding operation on the less productive land in the seaboard and border states."

The words "systematic" and "market" were underlined in the previous paragraph to emphasize that what is implied by the breeding thesis is more than the existence of general incentives for the encouragement of large slave families. *Systematic breeding for the market involves two interrelated concepts: 1, interference in the normal sexual habits of slaves to maximize female fertility through such devices as mating women with especially potent men, in much the same way as exists in breeding of livestock; 2, the raising of slaves with sale as the main objective,* in much the same way as cattle or horses are raised.

The evidence put forward to support the contention of breeding for the market is meager indeed. Aside from the differential in profit rates produced by Conrad and Meyer, the evidence consists largely of unverified charges made by abolitionists, and of certain demographic data. However,



age immorality. Marriage was encouraged. Adultery was punished and divorce was discouraged by the whip.<sup>33</sup>

Furthermore, slave families were not matriarchal as is commonly assumed. "For better or worse, the dominant role in slave society was played by men, not women. It was men who occupied virtually all of the managerial slots available to slaves. . . . Men occupied nearly all the artisan crafts. . . ." <sup>34</sup> "It was the male who initiated the period of courtship. And it was the man who secured the permission of the planter to marry."<sup>35</sup>

The husband was the head of the house and there was a strong familial bond between family members. This kind of bond is not the product of widespread promiscuity. One could argue that the black family has never been stronger than it was under slavery. It was certainly stronger under the southern slave system than it is today under our modern destructive welfare state.

## Living Conditions

The belief that the typical slave was poorly fed is without foundation in fact. There was no deficiency in the amount of meat allotted to slaves. **On average, they consumed six ounces of meat per day, just an ounce less than the average quantity of meat consumed by the free population. The high consumption of meat, sweet potatoes, and peas made the slave diet not only adequate, but it actually exceeded modern recommended daily levels of the chief nutrients.**<sup>36</sup>

The clothing of slaves, though not lavish, was fairly standard for what the average free white man would have had. Many slaves had far better clothes than poor whites.

On the question of shelter, the most systematic housing information comes from the census of 1860, which in-

beef, pork, mutton, milk, butter, sweet potatoes, white potatoes, peas, corn, wheat, and minor grains. While this list is short, it probably accounts for 80 percent of the caloric intake of slaves. Fish, fowl, game, sugar, as well as the various omitted vegetables and fruits, were choice items; but they did not constitute a large part of the diet for either whites or blacks during the middle of the nineteenth century.

Figure 33 shows that the average daily diet of slaves was quite substantial. The energy value of their diet exceeded that of free men in 1879 by more than 10 percent. There was no deficiency in the amount of meat allotted to slaves. **On average, they consumed six ounces of meat per day, just an ounce lower than the average quantity of meat consumed by the free population.** While pork was more important in the slave than in the free diet, the difference was not as large as is usually presumed. Slaves averaged 70 percent of the free population's consumption of beef. The milk consumption was low by free standards, but still amounted to about one glass per day for each slave.

By weight, grains and potatoes dominated the diet of both the free and slave population. Much has been made of the fact that corn was the principal grain consumed by slaves, while wheat was the principal grain in the free diet. Yet from a nutritional standpoint, both are excellent foods, high in energy value and with substantial protein content. Wheat is richer in calcium and iron, but corn has more vitamin A. What has completely escaped attention is the fact that while both slaves and free men ate large quantities of potatoes, slaves consumed virtually nothing but sweet potatoes, although most of the potatoes consumed by free men were white. The significance of this dichotomy is that sweet potatoes are a much better food than white potatoes. Sweet potatoes are especially rich in vitamins A and C and are also fairly high in calcium.

**The high slave consumption of meat, sweet potatoes, and peas goes a long way toward explaining the astounding**

# **Requirements of Professional scholarship**

# Requirements of Professional Scholarship

- Verbatim (word-for-word) text (e.g., a phrase, a sentence) taken from another source must be enclosed in quotation marks and its source/author must be clearly identified.
- Placing text in quotation marks and adding a citation is a fairly common practice in the humanities, but it is not typically done in the sciences. Authors are expected to summarize and/or paraphrase others' work.
- A common (mal)practice is to copy word-for-word text from another source, place in your manuscript, and add a citation.  
Why is this wrong?

# Requirements of Professional Scholarship

- When paraphrasing others' text, such text must be substantially modified, including the structure of the paragraph. In addition, its source must be clearly indicated.
  - A common (mal)practice is to paraphrase by merely changing a few words, changing the tense or some other superficial modification and identifying the source of the material.



# The ways of the Text offender\*

\* Expression coined by Loren W. Greene, Dept. of Medicine, New York University

# The many forms plagiarism can take

List prepared by Patrick A. Cabe, University of North Carolina at Pembroke

- Direct plagiarism--Material of substantive length is copied verbatim from the source without attribution or the use of quotation marks.
- Truncation--Material is copied verbatim from the source with the original shortened by the deletion of beginning or ending words or phrase
- Excision--Material is copied verbatim from the source with one or more words deleted from the middle of sentences.

# The many forms plagiarism can take

List prepared by Patrick A. Cabe, University of North Carolina at Pembroke

- Insertions--Material is copied verbatim from the source with additional words or phrases (often qualifiers such as "very") inserted into the material from the original source
- Reordering--Material is copied verbatim from the source with (a) sentences in a different order, or (b) words or (c) clauses in a given sentence in a different order
- Substitution--Material is copied verbatim from the source with a synonym or phrase substituted for words or phrases of the original source

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List prepared by Patrick A. Cabe, University of North Carolina at Pembroke

- Change of tense or person or number--Material is copied verbatim from the source except that verb tenses have been changed (e.g., from present to past), or the person of pronouns has been changed e.g., from first to third person), or the sense of the sentence has been changed from singular to plural.
- Change of voice--Material is copied (essentially) verbatim from the source, with sentences in the active voice changed to passive, or vice versa.



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List prepared by Patrick A. Cabe, University of North Carolina at Pembroke

- Grafting--(a) Material is copied verbatim from the source with two or more simple sentences conjoined into a compound or complex sentence. (b) Material is copied verbatim from the source with part of two or more sentences from different sections of the original source joined to form a new sentence. (c) Words or phrases putatively original with the author are used to precede or follow material copied verbatim from the source.
- Patchwriting – Same as above, but from two or more different sources.

# **Plagiarism as research misconduct**

# Research Misconduct

US Office of Science and Technology Policy:

## § 93.103 Research misconduct –

means *fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism* in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results.

42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 93  
effective on June 16, 2005

# US Office of Research Integrity (ORI)

<http://ori.dhhs.gov/policies/plagiarism.shtml>

- “As a general working definition, ORI considers plagiarism to include both the theft or misappropriation of intellectual property and the *substantial* unattributed textual copying of another's work. It does not include authorship or credit disputes.”

“The theft or misappropriation of intellectual property includes the *unauthorized* use of ideas or unique methods obtained by a privileged communication, such as a grant or manuscript review.”



**What is the incidence  
of plagiarism?**

# Plagiarism as research misconduct

A study by Martinson, et al., (2005) indicates that of 3,247 US scientists:

- 1.4% use another's ideas without obtaining permission or giving due credit.
- 4.7 publish the same data or results in two or more publications.
- 33% admit to some other form of ethically questionable misbehavior.

Martinson, B. C., Anderson, M. S., & de Vries, R. (2005). Scientists behaving badly. *Nature*, 435, 737-738.

# Plagiarism as research misconduct

- A total of 600 grant proposals submitted to NSF were analyzed using Bloomfield's software. Approximately 2.5% of the sample was found to contain unattributed copying from other sources.
- No differences between disciplines (e.g., physics, chemistry) were detected.
- Proposals from certain areas (NSF career enhancement) yielded significantly higher rates (15%) than other areas.

# Plagiarism as research misconduct

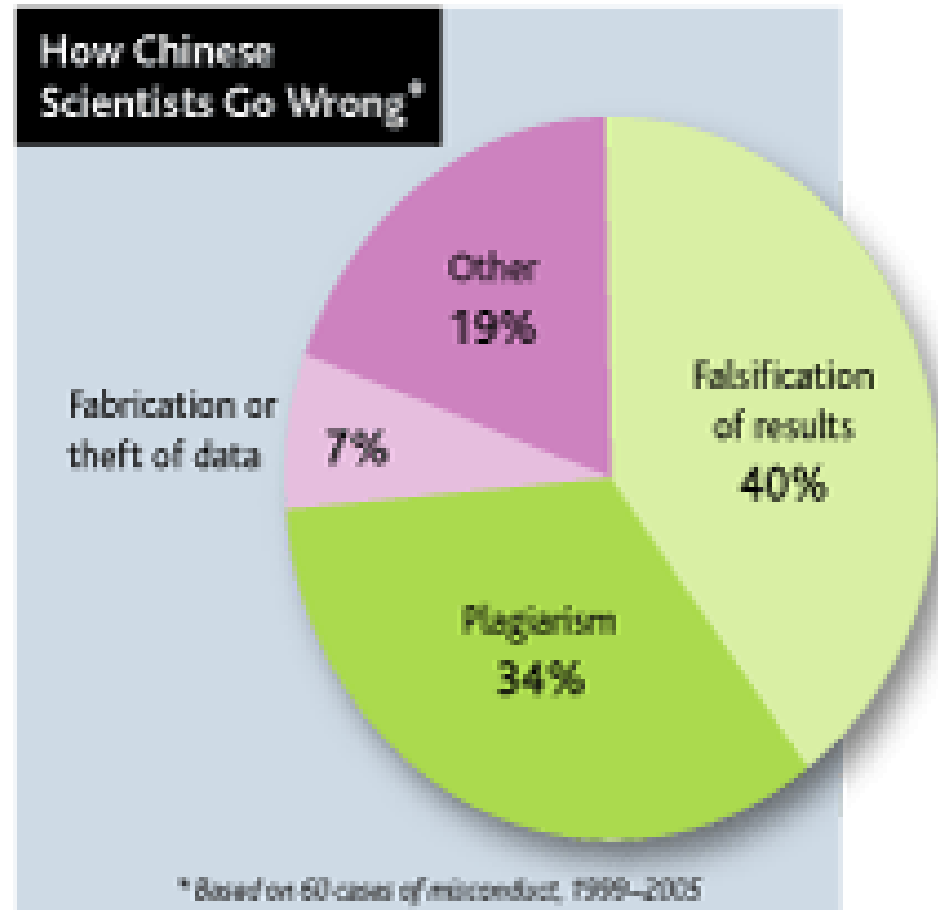
- Titus, et al (2008), surveyed 2,212 biomedical researchers.
  - 8.7% observed or had direct evidence of misconduct over previous 3 years.
    - 60% fabrication or falsification.
    - 36% plagiarism.
    - 37% of incidents were not reported.

Titus SL, Wells JA, and Rhoades LJ. (2008). Repairing research integrity. *Nature*, 453, 80-82.

# Plagiarism as research misconduct

- From 1999 to 2005, there were 542 cases investigated by the NSF of China. There were 60 cases found to be misconduct.
- 34% of cases involved plagiarism.

Yidong, G. (2005). China Science Foundation Takes Action Against 60 Grantees. *Science*, 309, 1798-1799.





# Plagiarism as research misconduct

- According to Zhang (2010), the *Journal of Zhejiang University–Science*, one of the ‘key academic journals’ identified by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, reported that 31% of papers submitted to the journal (692 of 2,233 submissions) contained plagiarized material.

Zhang Y. (2010). Chinese journal finds 31% of submissions plagiarized. *Nature*, 467, 153.

# Plagiarism as research misconduct

- The editor of one leading US medical specialty journal reports that, since using plagiarism-checking software, 1 in 10 submissions received contains “unacceptable amounts of verbatim text from other sources”.
- Marcus, A. (2010). Anesthesiology News, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010, [http://www.anesthesiologynews.com/index.asp?section\\_id=175&show=dept&article\\_id=16256](http://www.anesthesiologynews.com/index.asp?section_id=175&show=dept&article_id=16256)

# **Some recent cases of plagiarism in the sciences**



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

## Biotechnology Advances

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/biotechadv](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/biotechadv)



### Retraction notice

## Retraction notice to "Microbial production of dihydroxyacetone" [Biotech Adv. 26 (2008) 293–303]

Ruchi Mishra, Seema Rani Jain, Ashok Kumar \*

*Department of Biological Sciences and Bioengineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, 208016-Kanpur, India*

**Reason:** This article has been retracted at the request of the editor as the authors have plagiarised part of several papers that had already appeared in several journals. One of the conditions of submission of a paper for publication is that authors declare explicitly that their work is original and has not appeared in a publication elsewhere. Re-use of any data should be appropriately cited. As such this article represents a severe abuse of the scientific publishing system. The scientific community takes a very strong view on this matter and we apologise to the readers of the journal that this was not detected during the submission process.

From a limited, non-exhaustive check of the text, several elements of the text had been plagiarised from the following list of sources:

Dihydroxyacetone – Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

StateMaster – Encyclopedia: Dihydroxyacetone

Can Fam Physician

Vol. 56, No. 5, May 2010, p.413

Copyright © 2010 by The College of Family Physicians of Canada

**No Statute  
of  
limitations!**

**It does not  
matter how  
long ago the  
plagiarism  
took place.**

## Letters

### **Notice of retraction: plagiarism in "Common colds. Causes, potential cures, and treatment" (*Can Fam Physician* 1993;39:2215–20)**

**Nicholas Pimlott, MD CCFP, Scientific Editor**  
Canadian Family Physician

**Roger Ladouceur, MD MSc CCMF FCMF, Associate Scientific  
Editor**  
Canadian Family Physician

The editors of *Canadian Family Physician* want to notify readers of a retraction of the article "Common colds. Causes, potential cures, and treatment," by Dr Saroea, published in 1993.<sup>1</sup> It has come to the attention of the editors that this article is substantially similar to the article "Managing viral upper respiratory tract infections" by Dr Del Mar, published in *Australian Family Physician* in 1991.<sup>2</sup> An internal investigation has raised sufficient concerns about plagiarism; as such, we retract this article from the literature in accordance with guidelines and best editorial practices from the Committee on Publication Ethics.<sup>3</sup>

## References

# Retraction based on two plagiarized paragraphs

- Bahnagar, et al., (2008) misappropriates about 2 paragraphs from Munir, et al., (2004).
- The paper is retracted.



# Case of two paragraphs where the total plagiarism was between 16-18% similarity

Munir *et al.*: GANGLION IMPAR BLOCK

local anesthetics after considering the duration of pain relief from the diagnostic block or a neurolytic approach may be adopted.

Plancarte *et al.*<sup>1</sup> first described the technique of ganglion impar block in 1990. This technique comprises placement of a manually bent 22-G, 3½-inch spinal needle directed cephalad through the anococcygeal ligament. In order to rule out accidental perforation of the rectum by the spinal needle, a continuous rectal examination is performed by the operator with the index finger of his non-dominant hand. The disadvantages of the bent needle technique include tissue trauma along its plane of angulation, possibility of needle breakage, failure of injection spread to ganglion impar because of local tumour spread, rectal perforation, and periosteal injection because of the failure to confirm postero-anterior orientation of the needle. In addition, rectal perforation will result in needle contamination and increases the risk of needle-stick injury to the operator's finger in the rectum.

Nebab *et al.*<sup>3</sup> described a modified needle geometry to address the disadvantages of the manually bent needle. Theoretically, a curved needle technique causes less tissue trauma. However, there is still a risk of needle breakage, failure of injection spread due to local tumours, and most importantly, failure to attain the midline orientation.

The trans-sacrococcygeal approach described by Wemm *et al.*<sup>2</sup> is a major advancement in the technique of ganglion impar block. The sacrococcygeal approach is extremely quick and easy to perform. However, puncture of the sacrococcygeal disc necessitates that the integrity of this structure be breached. The sacrococcygeal disc, made up mainly of glycoprotein during the early years of life, may later ossify.<sup>4</sup> Discitis and bleeding are potential complications after penetration of the disc.<sup>5</sup> We describe a *needle-inside-needle* modification of this latter approach (Figure 1). We speculate that the risk of breakage of the needle and rectal perforation is

sis, 4 mL ethanol 50% in bupivacaine 0.25% was administered. The procedure under sonographic guidance was performed in less than 5 min. The only complication encountered was pain during ethanol injection, which subsided spontaneously.

Pain relief was assessed 1-wk, 1-mo, and 2-mo after the procedure. Our patient subjectively rated his pain after treatment as totally relieved ( $\geq 80\%$  pain relief) at all the assessment time-points. He was able to sit and work, and hence returned to his sedentary job as an office clerk. His stools had become soft with painless defecation. His gait had shown improvement and his fear of eating food had subsided. He is presently on follow-up with the medical oncology and radiation oncology departments for the disease-related interventions.

## DISCUSSION

The ganglion impar is a solitary retroperitoneal structure located at the level of the sacrococcygeal junction that marks the termination of the paired paravertebral sympathetic chains. Plancarte *et al.*<sup>2</sup> first described the technique of ganglion impar block in 1990. This technique involves placement of a manually bent 22-G, 3-in. spinal needle directed cephalad through the anococcygeal ligament. In order to eliminate accidental perforation of the rectum by the spinal needle, a continuous rectal examination is performed by the operator with the index finger of his non-dominant hand. The disadvantages of the bent needle technique include tissue trauma along its plane of

angulation, possibility of needle breakage, failure of injection spread to ganglion impar because of local tumor spread, rectal perforation, and periosteal injection because of the failure to confirm postero-anterior orientation of the needle. In addition, rectal perforation will result in needle contamination and increases the risk of needle-stick injury to the operator's finger in the rectum.

Nebab and Florence<sup>3</sup> described modified needle geometry to address the disadvantages of the manually bent needle. However, there is still a risk of needle breakage, failure of injection spread due to local tumors and, most importantly, failure to attain the midline orientation.

The trans-sacrococcygeal approach described by Wemm and Saberski<sup>4</sup> has been a major advancement in the technique of ganglion impar block. The sacrococcygeal approach is extremely quick and easy to perform. However, puncture of the sacrococcygeal disk requires that the integrity of this structure be breached. The sacrococcygeal disk, made up mainly of glycoprotein during the early years of life, may later ossify. Discitis and bleeding are potential complications after penetration of the disk. To resolve these complications, Munir *et al.*<sup>5</sup> described a needle-inside-needle modification of this approach. More recently, Foye *et*

# Plagiarizing from Plagiarists

- Bahnagar, et al., (2008) misappropriates about 2 paragraphs from Munir, et al., (2004). The paper is retracted.
- In the same issue of the journal containing the retraction, there is another retraction for plagiarism in a paper by Memis, et al., 2010). These authors had plagiarized from 5 other papers.
- One of the paper that Memis et al., plagiarized from was authored by Bahnagar!

# Retraction based on one paraphrased paragraph without attribution

- A Nature Reviews Genetics paper was retracted because of a single plagiarized paragraph.
  - The paragraph had been paraphrased, but the author failed to identify the real source. Other sources were used, which had nothing to do with the content of the paragraph.
  - The article containing the plagiarized paragraph was published before the article from which the author had plagiarized. The plagiarism was spotted by the authors of the yet-to-be published article.

<http://www.the-scientist.com/blog/display/57267/#ixzz17WzxOmDU>

"... Increasing cellulose solubility can increase saccharification, therefore providing another potential route to decreasing pretreatment needs. For example, in algae, exopolysaccharides such as acetan, hyalurona, alginate, levan and chitosan are water soluble. Transgenic expression of levansucrose from the bacterium *Erwinia amylovora* (which mediates the synthesis of water-soluble fructan from sucrose) increases permeability of algal cell walls<sup>61</sup>. Furthermore, transgenic algae expressing exogenous hyaluronan and chitin synthase in the extracellular matrix have increased cellulose production<sup>62,63</sup>. These studies might become important because algae can potentially be used as a source of biofuel."

Left: From M.B. Sticklen, "Plant genetic engineering for biofuel production: towards affordable cellulosic ethanol," *Nature Reviews Genetics* 9:433-443, 2008.

Right: From an early draft of Abramson, et al. "Plant cell wall reconstruction toward improved lignocellulosic production and processability," *Plant Science*, 178:61-72, 2010.

"...The final result expected to be a plant that its cell walls are more accessible to the pretreatment enzymes. There are various sources for enzymes that can be tested for this concept: for example, the cell wall of algae and bacteria's capsular exopolysaccharides can provide us a great source of soluble polysaccharides such as: alginate, carrageenan, acetan, hyaluronan, chitosan and levan. Most of the metabolic and genetic pathways for those polysaccharides are complicated and only few have been fully discovered. In our laboratory, we have expressed levansucrase from *Erwinia amylovora* which catalyzes the synthesis of the water-soluble fructan polymer from sucrose [74] using cell wall signal peptide under elongation specific and secondary cell wall development promoters. Transgenic plants have shown significant difference in cell wall structure compare with the wild-type [75]. *Chlorella* viruses encodes multiple enzymes involve in an extracellular hyaluronan and chitin biosynthesis [76, 77]. Genes encoding hyaluronan synthase and chitin synthase (for the production of chitosan) have successfully introduced into plants extracellular matrix [78, 79]. Such transgenic plants presumably will improve fermentable sugars upon saccharification..."

## Notice of Retraction

Plagiarism was discovered in three manuscripts published in the *Journal of Agricultural Education*. Based upon a review of the materials and M. Woods's acknowledgment of essential citation errors, the Editing Managing Board of the *Journal of Agricultural Education* has decided to retract the articles. The following articles are hereby retracted:

Woods, M., & Trexler, C. J. (2001). Linking interpretive theory to practice: Examining an underused research tool in agricultural education. *Journal of Agricultural Education* 42(2), 68-78.

Woods, M. D., & Jones, B. L. (2003). Institutional engagement within a land-grant college of agriculture: Perceptions of faculty, staff and administrators. *Journal of Agricultural Education* 44(1), 70-83.

Woods, M. D., & Moore, E.A. (2003). Diversity in agricultural education: A review of research. *Journal of Agricultural Education* 44(3), 12-22.

# Repeat Offenders: The case of Azim Kurjak

Kurjak A, Beazley JM. The effect of continuous lumbar epidural analgesia on the fetus, newborn child and the acid-base status of maternal blood. *Acta Med Jugosl* 1974;28:15-26.

## **PLAGIARIZES FROM**

Noble AD, Craft IL, Bootes JA, Edwards PA, Thomas DJ, Mills KL. continuous lumbar epidural analgesia using bupivacaine: a study of the fetus and newborn child. *J Obstet Gynaecol Br Commonw* 1971;78:559-63.

Ian Chalmers investigates and finds that Beazley didn't know he was an author of that paper. U of Zagreb concludes that Kurjak has learned his lesson.

Kurjak A, Kupesic S. Ultrasound of first trimester CNS development: structure and circulation. In: Levene M, Chervenak F, Whittle M, eds. *Fetaland neonatal neurology and neurosurgery*. 3rd ed. London: Harcourt,2001:39-44. [Withdrawn.]

## **PLAGIARIZES FROM**

Blaas H-GK. The embryonic examination. Ultrasound studies on the human embryo [thesis]. Trondheim: Norwegian University of Science and Technology, 1999 (Ph.D. thesis).

Ian Chalmers writes both cases in BMJ. After international pressure U. of Zagreb committee is set to pass judgement and Kurjak is allowed to retire without facing any charges. CMJ editors are forced out of U.of Zagreb. Journalist who reported on the matter is fired.



# He strikes again!

Late last month in an international forum for editors of medical journals, a member editor complains that she uncovered 69% plagiarism in a just-published article.

Can you guess who the offending author might be?

The benefits of being a powerful person ....

# Plagiarism in other contexts

# Annals of Internal Medicine

*Established in 1927 by the American College of Physicians*

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## Editorial



# Plagiarism on Personal Statements: A Disturbing Symptom of a Broader Trend

Maxine A. Papadakis, MD; and David Wofsy, MD

+ Author Affiliations

In this issue, Segal and colleagues (1) report on the frequency of **plagiarism** in the personal statements of applicants to 5 residency programs. In a carefully performed study, the authors used a Web-based tool (2) to check the content of personal statements and identified statements in which at least 10% of the material was copied. On the basis of this standard, the authors detected evidence of **plagiarism** in more than 5% of applications and concluded that “a concerted, nationwide effort to detect and deter **plagiarism** is warranted” (1).

# Self-Plagiarism

Can one steal from one  
self?

# Plagiarism vs. self-plagiarism

- **Plagiarism** refers to the misappropriation of others' ideas, words, images, design properties, data, musical notes, etc.
- **Self-plagiarism** refers to authors' re-use of their earlier work and passing it off as new or original material (covert self-plagiarism).



# Types of self-plagiarism

- **Duplicate** (triplicate, quadruplicate) publication.
- **Redundant** publication.
- **Augmented** publication.
- **Segmented/Piecemeal/Salami** publication.
  - All of these practices are acceptable AS LONG AS the reader is made aware of the origin of the earlier material.

# Types of Self-plagiarism involving data

- **Covert duplicate publication/presentation** – Submitting a paper to a journal or conference which had been previously published in a journal or conference proceedings\*
  - Some common characteristics:
    - A different title.
    - Different order of authors.
    - Text MAY differ somewhat, but the data are the same.

# Types of Self-plagiarism involving data

- **Covert Redundant publication** occurs when some portion of previously published data is used again in a new publication with no indication that the data had been published earlier.
  - Some common characteristics:
    - A different title.
    - Perhaps a different order of authors.
    - Text MAY differ somewhat
    - Portions of earlier published data perhaps with new data are presented as new.
    - Previously published data are analyzed differently with no indication as to their earlier origin.

# Types of Self-plagiarism involving data

- **Covert fragmented or piecemeal publication** – Occurs when a complex study is broken down into two or more components and each component is analyzed and published as a separate paper.
- **Covert Augmented publication** – occurs when when a simpler study is made more complex by the addition of more observations or experimental conditions.



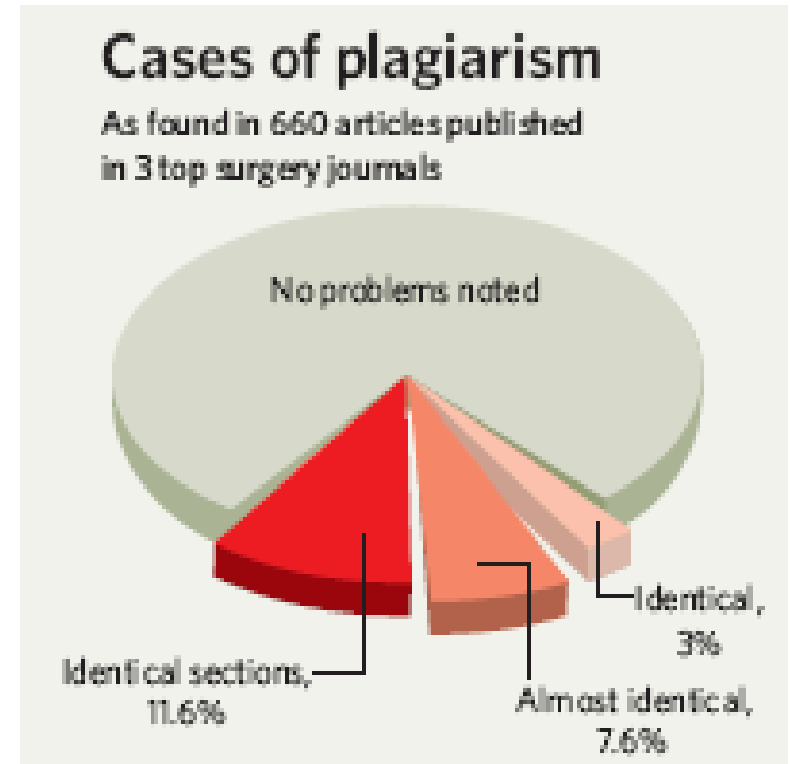
# **The evidence for self-plagiarism**



# Empirical evidence for self-plagiarism

- Schein (2001) found that 14% of 660 articles represented “a clear form of redundant publication”.

Schein, M. (2001) Redundant publications: from self-plagiarism to “Salami-Slicing”. *New Surgery*, 1, 139-140.



# Empirical evidence for self-plagiarism

- von Elm, et al. (2004), reported that of 1,234 articles reviewed in the area of anesthesia and analgesia, 5% were duplicates that gave no indication as to the original publication.

von Elm, E., Poggia, G., Walder, B. & Tramèr, M. R. (2004). Different patterns of duplicate publication. *Journal of the American Medical Association*. 291, 974–980.

# Many do not believe self-plagiarism is unethical

- In a study of health educators, Price, et al. (2001) reported that 64% of their sample stated that self-plagiarism is an acceptable behavior

Price, J. H., Dake, J. A., Islam, R. (2001). Selected ethical issues in research and publication: Perceptions of health education faculty. *Health Education and Behavior*, 28, 51-64.

# **Some cases of Self-plagiarism**



[retraction has been published: N Engl J Med 2007;356\(10\):1075.](#)

## IMAGES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

[◀ Previous](#)
**Volume 356:e2**
**January 11, 2007**
**Number 2**
[Next ▶](#)

### Complication of Central Venous Catheterization



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A 40-year-old man with Crohn's disease underwent an uncomplicated operation involving lysis of adhesions that were causing intestinal obstruction. After surgery, a cardiologist inserted a central venous catheter through the left subclavian vein. No problems with catheterization were noted. Three weeks later, after discharge, mild pain and edema developed in the patient's right lower leg. He was treated with antibiotics for 1 week, and his symptoms diminished. Six months after the operation, the patient presented with posterior cervical pain. A guide wire, presumably lost during the insertion of the central venous catheter, was protruding from the back of his neck (Panel A, arrow). A computed tomographic scan showed the fractured guide wire in the central venous system (Panel B, arrows). The wire protruding from the back of the neck was removed easily; however, it was difficult to remove the part of the wire involving the saphenous vein, and an open procedure with general anesthesia was required. The involved leg vein was thrombosed and occluded. At 1 year of follow-up, the patient was free of symptoms and signs.

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Boxing People's Hospital

Boxing, Zhejiang 31200 China

mevuan@hotmail.com





Retraction of [Guo, N Engl J Med 356\(2\):2 January 11, 2007.](#)

## CORRESPONDENCE

[◀ Previous](#)

Volume 356:1075

[March 8, 2007](#)

Number 10

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# Retraction: Guo H. Complication of Central Venous Catheterization. N Engl J Med 2007;356:e2

Since this article has no abstract, we have provided an extract of the first 100% of the [full text](#) and any section headings.

*The Editor:* I retract the Image in Clinical Medicine presenting a complication of central venous catheterization that was published in the January 11, 2007, issue of the *Journal*,<sup>1</sup> because the figures, which I had previously submitted elsewhere, have already been published.<sup>2,3</sup>

Hongyan Guo, M.D.

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1. Guo H. Complication of central venous catheterization. N Engl J Med 2007;356:e2 (Web only). (Available at <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/356/2/e2>.)

2. Guo H, Peng F, Ueda T. Loss of the guide wire: a case report. Circ J 2006;70:1520-1522. [CrossRef][Web of Science] [Medline]

3. Guo H, Lee JD, Guo M. Guidewire loss: mishap or blunder? Heart 2006;92:602-602. [Free Full Text]

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### MORE INFORMATION

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# Influence of patient care provider on patient health outcomes in allergic rhinitis

Sheryl L. Szeinbach, PhD, RPh<sup>\*</sup>; P. Brock Williams, PhD<sup>†</sup>; Suzan Kucukarslan, PhD, RPh<sup>‡</sup>; and Hanaa Elhefni, MD<sup>§</sup>

---

**Background:** Diagnosing and managing the symptoms of allergic rhinitis are largely the responsibility of family physicians and allergists, but some patients choose self-management. However, few data are available to determine how the choice of care relates to measures of patient outcomes, such as the ability to perform activities, quality of life, and productivity.

**Objective:** To examine and compare patients' ability to perform activities, quality of life, productivity, and symptoms according to care provider: family physician, allergist, or self-management.

**Methods:** A questionnaire was developed and mailed to 2,063 patients enrolled in a 500,000-member managed care organization. Patients were identified by diagnostic codes for allergic rhinitis as determined from a retrospective examination of medical and prescription claims records between January 1, 2000, and December 31, 2000.

**Results:**  $\chi^2$  Tests revealed statistically significant differences for symptoms, family history, testing, immunotherapy, and test value among patient care providers. Multivariate analysis of variance revealed statistically significant differences for activities, symptoms, and quality of life among patient care providers. Findings support the use of diagnostic testing to improve patient outcomes. Symptoms were statistically significantly associated with measures of productivity.

**Conclusions:** Patient outcomes vary with respect to patient care group. It is imperative that patients suspected of having allergic rhinitis undergo appropriate evaluation and testing. Outcomes can be optimized if allergists and family physicians have access to appropriate diagnostic tools, such as skin testing and serologic tests for specific IgE antibodies.

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## Volume 16 Issue 2 April 2007

### Original Research

## The impact of allergic rhinitis on work productivity

Pages 98-105

\***Sheryl L Szeinbach<sup>a</sup>, Enrique C Seoane-Vazquez<sup>a</sup>,  
Andrew Beyer<sup>a</sup>, P Brock Williams<sup>b</sup>**

<sup>a</sup> *College of Pharmacy, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA*

<sup>b</sup> *University of Missouri Medical School, Kansas City, Missouri, USA*

Received 8 September 2006 • Accepted 20 December 2006 • Online 3 April 2007

### Abstract

**AIM:** Patients with allergic rhinitis experience a multitude of symptoms that usually compromise some aspect of lifestyle. However, few data are available that specifically address the impact of allergic rhinitis on work productivity. **METHODS:** A questionnaire was developed and mailed to 2,065 patients enrolled in a 500,000-member managed care organisation. Patients were identified by diagnostic codes for allergic rhinitis as determined by a retrospective examination of medical and prescription claims records from January 1 2000 to December 31 2000. Patients were divided into three different care groups according to whether they were managed by family physicians, by allergists, or were self-managed. **RESULTS:** Chi-square and analysis of variance tests revealed significant differences among the three care groups ( $p < 0.05$ ) for years with allergies, symptoms, family history, testing, immunotherapy, test value, and prescribed antihistamine use. Multiple linear regression analysis revealed that sleep, health, certain allergy symptoms and prescribed antihistamines were significantly related to



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## Volume 16 Issue 4 August 2007

### Correction

**CORRECTION: The impact of allergic rhinitis on work productivity [Prim Care Resp J 2007; 16(2): 98-105] Sheryl L Szeinbach, Enrique C Seoane-Vazquez, Andrew Beyer, P Brock Williams**

Page 257



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# Other considerations

- **Text recycling** – Reusing portions of previously published text in a new publication without a reference to the origin of the earlier published text.
  - The essence of all forms of self-plagiarism in all of the above instances is that the reader is not made aware of the duplication.
- **Simultaneous submission as a justification for not citing relevant work.**

## Redundancy, redux: Anesthesia journal retracts obesity paper in self-plagiarism case

with one comment

Sometimes redundancy — the topic of our [last post](#) — is a failure of editors to adequately vet a manuscript. Other times, the blame falls more squarely on the authors.

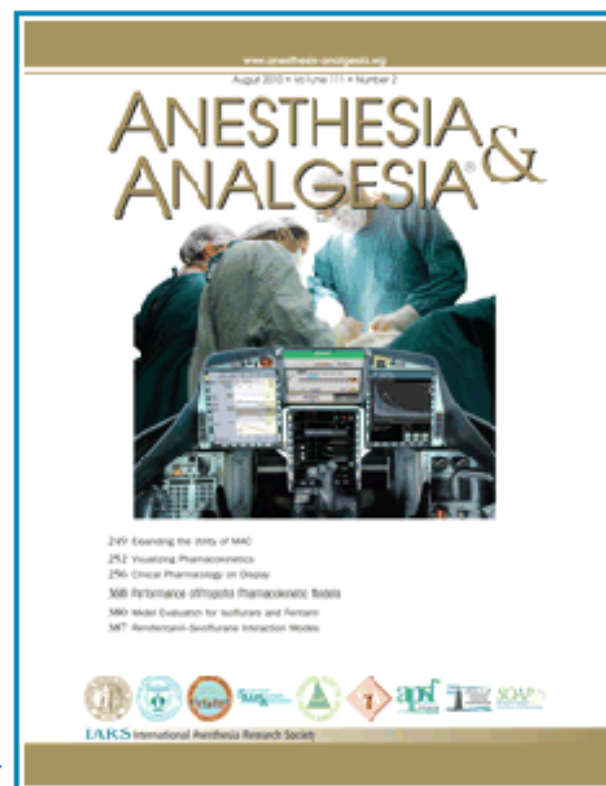
Consider: In the August 2010 issue of *Anesthesia & Analgesia*, a highly regarded specialty journal, five researchers from the University of Pennsylvania, led by [Andrew Ochroch](#), made a [remarkable confession](#).

Their [article in the May issue of A&A](#) on ventilation of patients recovering from bariatric surgery plagiarized a [2009 paper in a competing publication, \*Anesthesiology\*](#) — written by the same group:

“ We sincerely apologize for the inappropriate and unacceptable intellectual overlap and self-plagiarism of our paper ... published in *Anesthesiology*.

Sincere apologies are better, we suppose, than insincere ones. But, never mind. They go on:

“ In presenting the results of the two studies, we duplicated much of the Introduction, structure of the Methods and Results, and the Discussion sections. Despite the data being original in each paper, this is a clear violation of the policies [of both journals].





# **Why you should avoid plagiarism and self- plagiarism**

# Plagiarism (and self-plagiarism) Detection Services

- In 2007, *CrossRef* (DOI registration service and *Iparadigms* of Turnitin.com joined forces to create the *CrossCheck* plagiarism service.
  - Growing data base of major publishers, including, BMJ group, Elsevier, Springer, Taylor & Francis, and many others.



# Plagiarism (and self-plagiarism) Detection Services

- **e-TBLAST** – A tool for detecting text similarity.
- **Deja vu** - is a database of extremely similar Medline citations (over 5,000 journals). Many, but not all, of which contain instances of duplicate publication and potential plagiarism.



# Howard Gardner's Déjà Vu

- “Garner's research group used an automated software tool to check the biomedical literature for duplicated text, and identified more than 79,000 pairs of article abstracts and titles containing duplicated wording. He says work on the database of partly duplicated articles — called Déjà vu — has led to close to 100 retractions by journal editors who found the reuse improper.

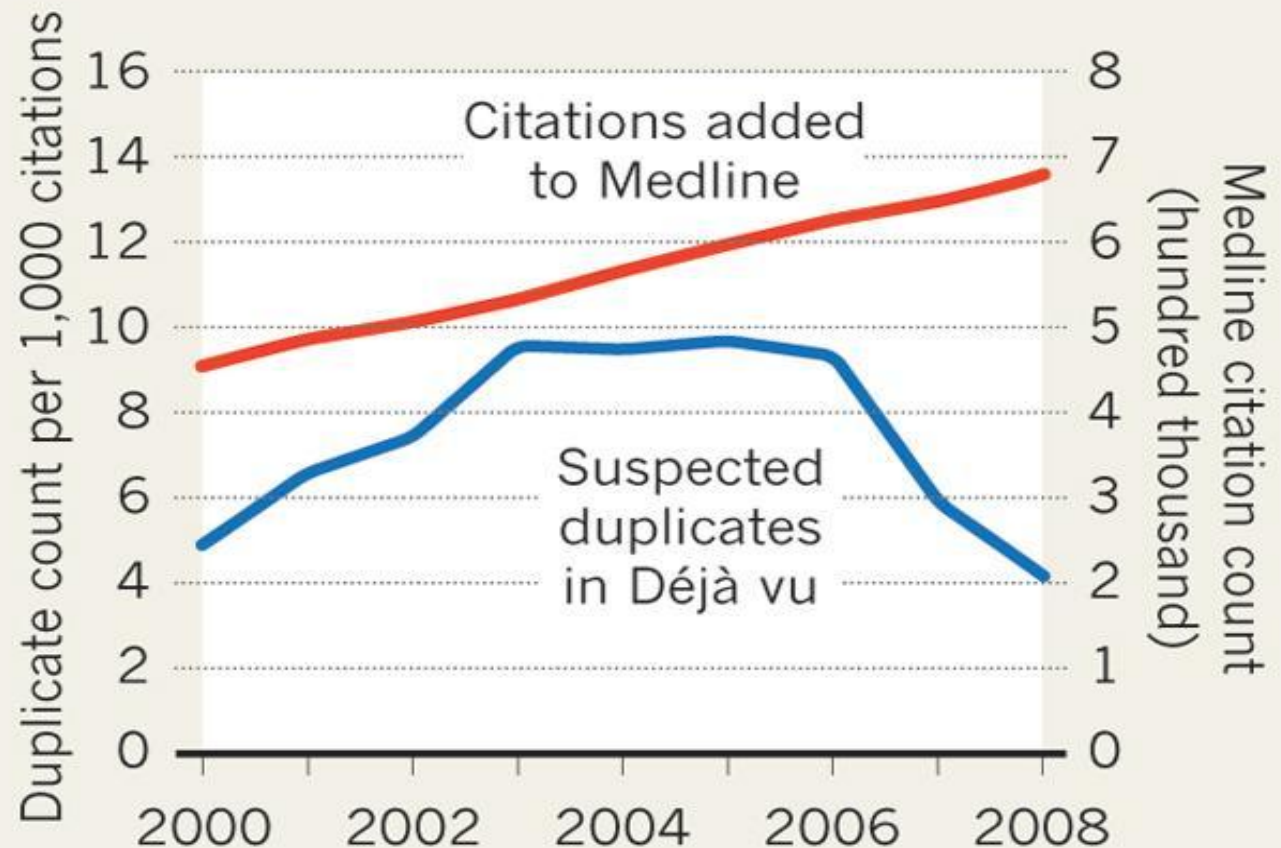
Reich, E. S. (2010). Self-plagiarism case prompts calls for agencies to tighten rules. Published online 8 December 2010, *Nature* **468**, 745 (2010).

# Self-plagiarism appears to be on the decline

Reich, E. S. (2010). Self-plagiarism case prompts calls for agencies to tighten rules. Published online 8 December 2010, *Nature* **468**, 745 (2010).

## DROP IN DUPLICITY?

There has been a decline in the number of new highly similar pairs of manuscripts.



**Why can't we reuse  
portions of previously  
published text?**

**You can! But ...**



# Reminder of Traditional scholarly conventions

- Verbatim text taken from another source must be enclosed in quotation marks and its source must be clearly identified.
- When paraphrasing others' text, such text must be substantially modified and its source must be clearly indicated.
  - Technically, the same rules apply when verbatim or paraphrased text was re-used by the same author in a new publication or conference presentation.

# Is self-plagiarism always unethical?

- Text is sometimes difficult to paraphrase, particularly from Methods' sections. For example:

Mammalian histone lysine methyltransferase, suppressor of variegation 39H1 (SUV39H1), initiates silencing with selective methylation on Lys9 of histone H3, thus creating a high-affinity binding site for HP1. When an antibody to endogenous SUV39H1 was used for immunoprecipitation, MeCP2 was effectively coimmunoprecipitated; conversely,  $\alpha$ HA antibodies to HA-tagged MeCP2 could immunoprecipitate SUV39H1 (Fig. 2G)."

# It is best to avoid re-using one's own text

- At least one journal cautions against the use of previously published methods sections as templates for writing these sections in new publications (*Academic Emergency Medicine*).
- <http://www.saem.org/inform/aempub.htm>

# Guidelines from selected journals

- “The authors must describe in a cover letter any data, illustrations, or text in the manuscript that have been used in other papers that are published, in press, submitted, or soon to be submitted elsewhere” (Evolution and Development), <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/submit.asp?ref=1520-541X>
- “At the time of submission, authors must describe in a cover letter any data, figures, or text in the manuscript that have been used in other papers” (*Conservation Biology*) <http://www.conbio.org/SCB/Publications/ConsBio/Instructions/>

# Am I Self-plagiarizing This Presentation?

- It depends on whether I led you to believe that this presentation was exclusively prepared for you. I, thus, remind you that:

\*Portions of this presentation have been shown elsewhere.

# SUMMARY

**Plagiarism and Self-  
plagiarism:  
What is the big deal?**



# Plagiarism

- Plagiarism of data is analogous to data fabrication.
- It represents a false claim of authorship.
- Undermines scientific and scholarly credibility.  
(e.g., if an author doesn't think it's wrong to plagiarize, what other inappropriate values, does he or she hold?).

# Self-plagiarism

- At best, substantial self-plagiarism of text represents poor scholarly etiquette.
- At worst, self-plagiarism of data represents an instance of data fabrication.
  - It misleads the reader into thinking that the material is new.
  - Most importantly, self-plagiarism of data misleads others about the true nature of the phenomena under study, e.g., as when the same data are counted twice or more times during meta-analytic reviews.

# THANK YOU

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