

# Research Misconduct: Plagia

RCR Summer Seminar Series

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# RCR Summer Seminar Series

- Mentor/Mentee Relationships – Finding the Right Balance
- Collaborative Research
- Research Conflicts of Interest
- Research Misconduct Overview
- **Research Misconduct: Plagiarism**
- Research Misconduct: ORI: The Lab
- Ethics of Authorship
- Rigors of Peer Review
- Data Ethics for Trustworthy AI
- Reproducibility & Replicability
- IRB & Informed Consent
- Export Control Overview
- Putting it All Together



# Please Note:

- You must log in with UFL email in order to receive certificates
- Please take the survey after the class—we value your feedback
- In order to allow for free flow of ideas and questions, we will not record the session
- Slides and other materials will be sent to attendees



# Agenda

- Welcome!
- Research Misconduct: FFP
- Plagiarism
  - Definitions
  - Examples
  - Case Study
- Reminders & Resources



# Research Misconduct: FFP

## Fabrication of data:

Making up data or results and recording or reporting

## Falsification of data:

Manipulating research materials, equipment, or procedures, or changing or omitting data or results such that they do not accurately represent the research record

## Plagiarism:

The appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, or works without giving appropriate credit



Source: 42 CFR § 93.103



# Who defines it?

- Rules of federal government agencies are codified in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).
- PHS definition of research misconduct, including plagiarism, is found in 42 CFR § 93.103

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)



U.S. Public Health Service (PHS)

Comprised of 11 health agencies including National Institutes of Health (NIH)



# Plagiarism: a holistic approach



# Poll

Why do you think scientists  
researchers would comm  
research misconduct?





# Poll: Why do you think scientists or researchers would commit research misconduct?

- Career pressure: more positive results of the hypothesis; productivity and more papers; perception that it's more likely to win grants (self-imposed; hyper-competitive environment)
- “Knows the answer”: shortcuts; has some anecdotal merit but substantive evidence is not available
- Not precisely reproducible: lab hierarchy; unclear reporting structures; supervisor expectations (pressure)



# Let's play the match game...

- Stealing
- Patchwriting
- Misquoting
- Self plagiarism
- Insufficient paraphrasing

- a) Using words a variety of sources creating new sentences
- b) When the words you are using are those of the original source
- c) Taking the exact words from the original source
- d) Passing off another person's work as your own
- e) Reusing your own work without acknowledgment



# Plagiarism: Honor Code definition

E. PLAGIARISM. A Student must not represent as the Student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
2. Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student's own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student's own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
3. Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
4. Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author.



# Question

Why do you think students would plagiarize?

- Not interested in the assignment
- Lack of time to complete an assignment
- Not comfortable/knowledgeable with the topic
- Do not know the rules for citing properly



# Examples





# Even potential participants of research integrity conference commit plagiarism, organizers learn

*One would hope that researchers submitting abstracts for a meeting on research integrity would be less likely to commit research misconduct. But if the experience of the 6th World Conference on Research Integrity is any indication, that may not be the case.*



<https://retractionwatch.com/2019/01/10/even-potential-participants-of-a-research-integrity-conference-commit-plagiarism-organizers-learn/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-47156917>

**High-profile health policy researcher Gilbert Welch out at Dartmouth after plagiarism charge**

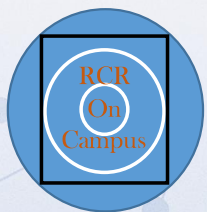
**University retracts retraction of two papers for plagiarism**

**Jill Abramson: Ex-New York Times editor accused of plagiarism**

**Why he did it: Jayson Baker's confession about his plagiarism at the New York Times**

**Senior NHS heart doctor who blamed his computer's spellcheck when he was accused of copying 90 per cent of his essay is suspended for nine months**

Retractionwatch.com; reports



This the president of Jacksonville State University William Meehan's dissertation. Portions highlighted in yellow are copied verbatim from Carl Boening's dissertation.



JSU and UA say that this is not plagiarism.

If this isn't plagiarism...

**What does plagiarism look like?**

What does plagiarism look like?

William Meehan's dissertation. High portions copied verbatim from Carl Boening's dissertation.

[On Vizworld, accessed 1/11/11, see <http://www.vizworld.com/2011/01/11/what-does-plagiarism-look-like/>]





# Is this plagiarism?

- Rivenburg wrote:

"Indeed, with the exception of furniture and major appliances, outfit **an entire** home in Christian products - bird feeders to books to lamps."

- Twitchell in *Shopping for God* wrote:

"Indeed, with the exception of furniture and major appliances, outfit **your entire self and** home in Christian products - bird feeders to luggage to lamps."

## UF professor who plagiarized retires

By **Cindy Swirko**  
Staff writer

*Published: Friday, January 16, 2009 at 6:01 a.m.*

*Last Modified: Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 10:34 p.m.*

A University of Florida professor who was suspended Dec. 31 for not acknowledging last year that he plagiarized the work of others has retired after a 35-year career at UF.



# Is this plagiarism?

- Speaker A in 2006:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal'-just words. Just words. 'We have nothing to fear but fear itself'-just words. 'Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country'-just words. 'I have a dream'-just words."

- Speaker B in 2006:

"Don't tell me what you hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.' Just words. 'We have nothing to fear but fear itself'-just words, just speech."





# Is this plagiarism?

NY Times, April 26, 1987: [New Zealanders thrive on U.S. sheep shearing](#)

With a **heave**, **John Burt** pulled the sheep on its back and pinned it between his legs. Then, reaching for his clippers, he went to work.

Gazette (Colorado Springs), July 6, 2009: [It's time to stop Colorado's sheep shearing](#)

With a **little peep**, **Schroth** pulled the sheep on its back and pinned it between his legs. Then, reaching for his clippers, he went to work.



From Editor's note: a breach of trust, by Jeff Thomas, Gazette, July 7, 2009. Online at <http://www.gazette.com/articles/gazette-58112-stories-four.html>

# Case Study: Is this plagiarism?

Professor Lee is writing a proposal for a research grant. The proposal deadline is two days from now. To complete a section of the proposal, Lee copies a few isolated sentences from a journal paper written by another author. The copied sentences are factual, one-sentence summaries of earlier articles close to the proposal, descriptions of basic concepts from textbooks, and definitions of standard mathematical notations. None of the copied sentences are due to the other author. Lee adds a one-sentence summary of the journal paper and cites it.



Institute of Medicine 2009. On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research: Third Edition. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/12192>

# Breakout Room: Plagiarism

- Does copying a few isolated sentences in this case constitute plagiarism?
- By citing the author's journal paper in the background, Lee given proper credit to the other author?
- How would you give credit to the other author?
- How might this action affect the proposal?



# Reminders & Resources

- Acts of research misconduct can destroy reputations, confidence in science, and the scientific record
- Use your own words
- Ask your librarian!
- Consult the UF Writing Studio <https://writing.ufl.edu>
- UF Research Integrity, Security & Compliance website <https://research.ufl.edu/compliance.html>



# If You Suspect Research Misconduct

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

**Questionable Research Practices** are **careless, irregular, or contentious research practices** which may not meet the standard for research misconduct but may be a research integrity violation.

Make a **confidential** report to the  
UF Research Integrity Office

**Cassandra**  
(352) 273-3052 | [cassandra@ufl.edu](#)

You may also report to the  
UF Compliance Office  
877-500-0000





# Thank you!

Please take the survey at:

[https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1WVLQUcrykr7](https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1WVLQUcrykr7)

