

Research Methods and Professional Practice

June 2022

[Home](#) / / [My courses/](#) / [RMPP_PCOM7E June 2022](#) / / [Unit 7](#) / / [Collaborative Learning Discussion 2](#) /
/ [Summary post](#) /

« Collaborative Learning Discussion 2



Doug Leece

Summary post

13 days ago

The original discussion asks of questions regarding the choices a researcher must consider when presenting their work. We are only advised the research could be presented in a manner that portrays the client's product negatively or positively. Those responding to my initial post also recognized the conflict-of-interest potential with privately funded research although reviewing (Shamoo & Resnik, 2006) restored some of my faith in the scientific community, reporting legal consequences for some members committing egregious ethical violations in medial research.

Since the discussion's ethical dilemma focuses on presentation of the data rather than alerting the data values, making the conversation about "shades of gray" rather than right or wrong, also referred to as questionable research practices (QRPs) (Artino et al., 2019). Although QRPs are frowned upon, survey based self reporting identified almost one in three scientists had engaged in some form of questionable research practice (Martinson et al., 2005). The implications of such a high percentage implying it may be easier to unknowingly cross the lines of scientific standards, I.E., they had not previously considered the behaviour unethical, than a third of all researchers have little issue with disrespecting their scientific community.

References:

Artino, A. R., Driessen, E. W. & Maggio, L. A. (2019) Ethical Shades of Gray: International Frequency of Scientific Misconduct and Questionable Research Practices in Health Professions Education. *Academic Medicine* 94(1): 76-84. Available from: https://journals.lww.com/academicmedicine/Fulltext/2019/01000/Ethical_Shades_of_Gray__International_Frequency_of.27.aspx [Accessed 11 August 2022].

Martinson, B., Anderson, M. & Vries, R. de (2005) Scientists Behaving Badly. *Nature* 435: 737-738. Available from: <https://www.nature.com/articles/435737a> [Accessed 11 August 2022].

Shamoo, A. & Resnik, D. B. (2006) Ethical Issues for Clinical Research Managers. *Drug Information Journal*, 40 (4): 371-383.

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