

Dear Tala,

You effectively highlighted Abi's ethical obligations and the FDA's requirement for truthful and evidence-based health claims (FDA, 2024). I agree with your point that selective reporting would violate both legal standards and ethical codes like those outlined by the ACM (ACM, 2018) and BCS (BCS, 2022).

Your emphasis on the proactive responsibility to mitigate harm aligns with principle 1.2 of the ACM Code of Ethics (ACM, 2018). Transparency in presenting both positive and negative findings is crucial for upholding public trust and ensuring integrity in the research process. Furthermore, your suggestion of whistleblowing demonstrates a good understanding of Abi's duty to protect public health and prioritize societal interests, as outlined in the BCS Code of Conduct (BCS, 2022).

I would suggest that Abi considers pre-emptively publishing their findings in a peer-reviewed journal as this would ensure transparency making it more difficult for the manufacturer to misrepresent the results. Additionally, Abi could include clear disclaimers and contextual explanations in their report to minimize the risk of misuse.

It would strengthen your post to discuss the potential legal consequences for Abi if they knowingly allow the manufacturer to misrepresent findings, even if they present them transparently. Additionally, you could have discussed how societal trust in scientific research might be affected by this case to add another layer to your analysis.

Overall, your response addressed the legal, ethical, and professional dimensions of the case study by providing a clear roadmap for Abi to navigate this ethical dilemma while upholding their responsibilities as a statistical programmer.

Best Regards,

Sam

References

ACM (2018). ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. Available at: <https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics> [Accessed 10 January 2025].

BCS (2022). BCS Code of Conduct. Available at: <https://www.bcs.org/membership/become-a-member/professional-standards/code-of-conduct/> [Accessed 10 January 2025].

FDA (2024). Nutrition, Food Labeling, and Critical Foods. Available at: <https://www.fda.gov/food/nutrition-food-labeling-and-critical-foods> [Accessed 10 January 2025].