Misconduct by editor of the journal: a hidden problem?

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Dear Editor, misconduct is a common problem in academic publication. The role and action of the journal against the problem is an interesting issue. As noted in the previous publication in the journal by Kotchoubey et al. [1], both reviewer and editor are the important parts of the process to counteract with problem and the ethical responsibility of both reviewer and editor is the important issue. Referring to a recent publication [2], it is clearly demonstrated that there is still existing problem in developing country. Here, we would like to add more interesting findings from additional study on the problem. Referring to the collected the data on problematic publications in Déjà vu database on international PubMed indexed Thai biomedical journals mentioned in the previous publication [2], the author hereby extracted for the name of all authors of the problematic publications and constructed a list of names. The list was further compared with the name existed in the editorial board of the journals. Of interest, there is an interesting publication (“[J Med Assoc Thai.](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12929981) 2003 Jun;86 Suppl 2:S140-4” which has partial verbatim duplicated text to “Maturitas. 1996 Mar;23(2):181-92.”) that an author is still a member of the present editorial board of the journal (in the board of ethical section). Indeed, the improper retraction of the problematic publication is the big problem seen around the world. Not only the previous report from Thailand but also the recent publication from France [3] also showed the existence of the problem. Nevertheless, the authors hereby find another interesting problem the “plagiarism by editor of the journal”. In fact, editor of the journal is expected to have ethics and good role model. In case that there is a problem, the resigning should be considered. Indeed, the problem of medical editor’s misconduct in publication is little mentioned. The good scenarios are the “case of falsification work published in the journal, Neurology” [4] and “case of editorial reported by the Lancet” [5]. The responsibility of the medical editor is very important and if there is no ethical responsibility of the editor, the journal seems not reliable. The journal board has to take strict control and management of the problem generated by reviewer or editor.

Conflict of interest

None

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