A pair of computer scientists from University of Kansas plagiarized several works, taking for their own statements up to and including an entire opening statement. Visvanathan and Lushington were discovered to have plagiarized statements and research in three of their papers. Sadly, their plagiarism was not detected by automated detection software at time of submission to the international journals, but much later by the scientists whom they had plagiarized.

While Visvanathan was technically the first author and the submitter of the plagiarized pieces, Lushington - Visvanathan's supervisor - was held similarly responsible. This is because a student had brought the plagiarism to his attention before it was officially reported, and Lushington chose not to report the misconduct.

While it is unclear why either committed the misconduct, Visvanathan claimed to be taking the fall for an unnamed international student. Lushington chose not to comment on the misconduct, but it is likely he did not report it due to his standing of being a listed author on each of the three papers.

In the instance of the third paper, Visvanathan and Lushington were on their way to a conference in Sweden when their misconduct was discovered. The poster they were about to present on said paper was copied word-for-word from someone else's paper.

In this case, the research which was plagiarized was already published in research journals. These researchers who had their work plagiarized lost citations. IEEE formally retracted the papers from Visvanathan and Lushington, and researchers who referred to the pieces written by Visvanathan and Lushington in their published or unpublished papers had to remove references to the retracted papers.

Visvanathan entered a voluntary settlement which involved him not accepting any advisory roles. Additionally, all his research had to be supervised by an approved supervisor. While Lushington was held responsible, at least by his university, his consequences do not appear to have been made public. Not long after the incident, a petition appeared on change.org requesting for University of Kansas to fire the two.

Due to this, their department at University of Kansas came under scrutiny. If Lushington had reported the incident when discovered, he could have prevented the fraud which caused both him and a fellow scientist to be kept from a scheduled presentation abroad. The quality of the research in the department would not have to be questioned, and perhaps Visvanathan or Lushington could have still presented at their conference in Sweden – only this time, with their own findings.

References:

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