

April 17, 2015

From: Morteza Shirkhanzadeh [mailto:shirkhan@queensu.ca]
Sent: April 17, 2015 10:51 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Further breaches of agency policies by Queen's University

Dear [REDACTED]:

Re: Further breaches of agency policies by Queen's University

Please consider the allegations of Institutional non-compliance against Queen's University outlined below:

Background: On November 09, 2014, I sent the attached allegation of redundant publication to Queen's University. An exact copy of the allegation was also sent to SRCR.

The publication in question is entitled: [REDACTED]

Nowhere in the [REDACTED] paper have the authors acknowledged the source of the recycled materials. Quite the opposite: the authors give the impression that the materials presented are all original and have not been published previously. For example, the authors have copied the entire conclusion section from the old paper without disclosing the source and they refer to it as a new conclusion.

University's failure to carry out the inquiry in accordance with the Federal Framework

The federal framework for the responsible conduct of research lists redundant publications as a breach of the rules governing federally funded research. The framework defines redundant publication as:

"re-publication of one's own previously published work or part thereof, or data, in the same or another language, without adequate acknowledgment of the source, or justification."

According to the Panel on Responsible Conduct of Research (PRCR), it is the institution's responsibility to review the allegations during the inquiry phase to determine whether the allegations are responsible.

The University dismissed the allegation at the inquiry phase by refusing to accept the Framework definition of redundant publication and by ignoring the RCR Framework Interpretation and Publication Guidelines (<http://www.rcr.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/interpretations/publication/>). This is in non-compliance with the agency policy.

According to the RCR Framework Interpretation;

"It is a breach of the Framework if researchers re-publish their own previously published work or part thereof without adequate acknowledgment of the source (Article 3.1.1.e). This includes the reuse of older introductory materials, or methodology descriptions for use in a new but related study."

Contrary to the University's assertion, the allegation of redundant publication was responsible and it was novel since the allegations of research misconduct against the authors and the materials submitted were not the subject of any prior investigation. The University's assertion is false.

Moreover, the University addressed the complaint in a manner that gives rise to a reasonable apprehension of bias. Further details regarding the institutional non-compliance are given in the e-mail communication below which was sent to Queen's University.

I request that the SRCR require the University to conduct an inquiry into specific allegations of redundant publications in a manner consistent with the Framework.

Sincerely,