Initial Post

Initial Post

by Yousif Ali Karam Yousif Almaazmi - Monday, 15 September 2025, 8:06 PM

This case of Abi provides insight into the ethical issues that arise between researchers and statistical programmers when the data to meet client expectations. The information gathered about Whizzz cereal is rather harmful than nutritious, but Abi understands t other analyses can present the product more favorably. This raises the question of whether it is acceptable to focus on positive correlations and overlook adverse outcomes.

The American Statistical Association (ASA, 2022) states that reporting integrity requires statisticians to disclose results accurately transparently. The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE, 2025) also emphasizes that both positive and nega results should be reported to minimize bias. Hence, it is the duty of Abi to provide both forms of analyses and explicitly identify pri and exploratory findings.

An ethical issue does not just entail technical correctness. The ACM Code of Ethics (2018) notes that professionals have t avoid harm and act in the interest of the people. By merely pointing out positive results, he risks abusing statistics to market to consumers. This is supported by studies on product harm crises, which indicate that selective reporting undermines trust and may intensify reputation harm (Zhang et al., 2021).

The role of Abi also involves making predictions about the use of results. Although he cannot decide what the manufacturer does, can issue caveats, make reproducible and record all analyses in writing. If the potential for dangerous results is hidden, Abi may r to raise the alarm or consult the ethical principles. Emerging technology ethical advice emphasizes that professional responsibility should prioritize transparency and accountability, particularly in matters of public health (Zhou et al., 2024; Adegbesan et al., 2024

To sum up, the most ethical course of action for Abi is to write a balanced report, which protects against selective use and uphold professional and social responsibility.

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Peer Response

by Julius Cloos - Monday, 22 September 2025, 1:14 PM

Hello Yousif,

Thank you for this very insightful post.

I agree with your analysis that pointing out only favorable traits of Whizzz would be an ethical violation. Furthermore, I agree the fact that Abi will be unable to decide what the manufacturer of Whizzz will eventually do with the results Abi provides. Als your inclusion of International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (2025) provides analysis of another code of ethics apart the code of ethics from BCS and ACM.

To expand on your point of abusing statics, I would like to add that using statistics responsibly is an ethical responsibility of a

researcher using statistics. This is due to the fact that statistics present a powerful tool to persuade the audience and come to conclusions supported by actual data, which must not be undermined. For example, OECD (2020) states that statistics provid valuable contributions to evidence-informed policy making. Trust in this method should not be unnecessarily undermined by researchers proceeding unethically.

Furthermore, Stobierski (2019) states that data-driven decision-making is beneficial in the process of decision-making, as it a decision-makers to make decisions more confidently. This is another reason why trust in this method should not be undermin

Kind regards,

Julius Cloos

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Re: Initial Post - Peer Response

by Thaimu Fullah - Monday, 22 September 2025, 5:20 PM

Your analysis provided a clear, well-referenced discussion of Abi's ethical responsibilities, effectively linking recognised professional standards to the case. The use of the ASA (2022) guidelines and ICMJE (2025) recommendations demonstrates excellent grasp of the principle of full and transparent reporting, a cornerstone of statistical ethics (Head et al., 2015). The integration of the ACM Code of Ethics (2018) appropriately highlights the duty to avoid harm and serve the public interest, wh the citation of Zhang et al. (2021) strengthens the argument that selective reporting can amplify reputational damage during product-harm crises.

To enhance the piece, two areas merit further exploration. First, while international standards are well covered, incorporating European-specific frameworks; for example, the *European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity* (ALLEA, 2023), would alig discussion more closely with EU legal and professional expectations (Resnik & Shamoo, 2017). Second, the conclusion coul expand on practical mechanisms for safeguarding transparency, such as preregistration of analysis plans and open-data practices, which are increasingly recommended to deter selective reporting (Nosek et al., 2018). Including empirical research the effectiveness of whistleblowing protections (Near & Miceli, 2016) would also ground the advice to "raise the alarm" in evidence.

Overall, this is a concise and well-supported evaluation that would benefit from deeper engagement with European research integrity standards and practical reproducibility measures.

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