

Review of: "Honorary Authorship in Biomedical Journals: The Endless Story"

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The article does not only address the issue of honorary authorship rising within the clinical and medical research fields, but also alert us of how this phenomenon talks more about the unrealistic pressures for publications across all disciplines and the research world. These pressures cause authors and researchers to seek quick fixes or even short cuts like honorary authorship to be promoted and rated.

Through the definition and description of honorary authorship as well as the universal criteria for authorship in the article, one starts to understand this trend which may have ethical and integrity implications. Although the intension might be good and honorary, it may affect the integrity of all authors and the research if not well addressed from the beginning of publication.

This may also talk to the ethics of research supervisors of postgraduate students putting pressure on them to co-author publications from their studies. Some universities are using this to increase publications and rating as well as providing a third-stream income as often publications could be also subsidized. The criteria of authorship within this article should again be used to protect the ethics and integrity of the researcher, research and research institutions.

At the end, the article leaves us again to critically engage about the obsession of accredited publications as the only way to facilitate knowledge creation and sharing. Maybe we should go back to the purpose of education as a social justice space to see knowledge is fluid and should be accessible to all, even acknowledge communities and lived experiences as living cosmoses of continuous creation and sharing of understandings. Therefore, authorship is just bringing in the ethics and integrity of social accountability of research to communities, the research community and society at large.

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