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Research ethics and regulatory reforms

Neeraj Bedi

Jazan University, Saudi Arabia

The medical research misconduct has become a big global problem. Research misconduct is being defined as the “Behavior by a researcher, intentional or unintentional that do not meet or fulfill the scientific and ethical standards”. The accurate data about research misconduct are not available except from countries like the USA, China, and Germany. The research misconduct include fabricating the data, falsifying the data and plagiarism. The various irresponsible research practices are publishing research data more than once, non-disclosure of conflict of interest, selective reporting of data and inappropriate authorship. The most scrutinized literature for medical research misconduct was collected from different electronic sources including PubMed. About 19 references were found. 2% of scientists have been found to admit fabricating the data and 33% researchers were involved in different types of irresponsible research practices. There is no formal regulatory programs available to monitor the research projects in different countries. Few developed countries like the USA, Germany and China tried to develop programs which can monitor the medical research misconduct. There is a need to develop a regulatory system at national and institutional level to regulate the research activity to ensure that good ethical and scientific standards are practiced by medical researchers. All academic institutions must have teaching and training sessions for ethical issues to update the students and staff at regular periodical intervals. Similarly, the medical education curriculum for medical students must have the chapters on research ethics and good research practices to deal effectively with the research misconduct problem.

Biography

Neeraj Bedi is a highly experienced medical professional having 26 years of teaching, training, research and administrative experience in the field of Public Health/Community Medicine. He obtained his MD in 1986, MPH and MBA administrative qualifications. He is involved in Quality Assurance and Risk Management Activities related to the Hospital Management. He has been awarded WHO fellowships in “Hospital Administration” and “Management of Malaria Field Operations”. He has published 50 research publications and is a reviewer of many journals. Currently, he is working as full time Professor in Faculty of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Jazan University, Saudi Arabia.

nbedi1202@gmail.com

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