Plagiarism and Appropriate Use of Figures and Graphs

PSW Emerging Writers Lunch and Learn Series

Jory Fleischauer, Pharm.D.
Medical Writer - Banner Medical LLC
Medical Writing for Banner Medical LLC

- Development of needs assessment documents for clinical education of professionals
  - Global conferences
  - Grants
  - Publications

- Research to fit the scope of the therapeutic area

- Identifying education gaps and shaping information to complete those gaps
Objectives

• Describe the importance of why plagiarism should be monitored while writing

• Explain the different types of plagiarism

• Discuss techniques on how to remove the risk of plagiarism from your writing
Effects of Plagiarism

• It does not matter if plagiarism is intentional or unintentional, the consequences remain the same
  • Article Retraction
  • Publication Ban
  • Loss of Research Funding
  • Loss of Employment

• Plagiarism has a legal component as well
  • Copyright law
Types of Plagiarism

• Plagiarism of Text

• Plagiarism of Ideas

• Mosaic Plagiarism

• Self-Plagiarism
Plagiarism of Text

• Known as “word-for-word” plagiarism

• Can be a little, can be a lot
  • Any amount of text copied is considered plagiarism

• Easily detectable via software programs
  • A simple Google search of phrasing can suffice

• Use information from a reference article to form thoughts in your own words
Plagiarism of Text Example

• Morse et al, 2021
  • The epidemiology of CRSwNP has an estimated prevalence of 2-4% based on geographic region surveyed

• Hopkins et al, 2019
  • The prevalence, on the basis of endoscopic examination in a Swedish population, is estimated at 2.7% of adults and is twice as high among men as among women.

  “Globally, a prevalence of 2-4% has been noted with variations dependent on geographic region, with the prevalence in men shown to be twice as frequent when compared to women. [Morse 2021] [Hopkins 2019]”
Plagiarism of Text Example - Figures

Figure 1: Change in Viral Load of Bamlanivimab-Etesevimab versus Placebo [Dougan 2021]

Figure 2: Cryo-EM structure of the SARS-CoV-2 Spike Protein [Wang 2020]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OPERA I</th>
<th>OPERA II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ocrelizumab (n=410)</td>
<td>Interferon Beta 1a (n=411)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annualized relapse rate at 96 weeks (95% CI)</td>
<td>0.16 (0.12 to 0.20)</td>
<td>0.29 (0.24 to 0.36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate Ratio (95% CI)</td>
<td>0.54 (0.40 to 0.72)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 1: Primary End Point Results of OPERA I and OPERA II trials [Hauser 2017]*
Plagiarism of Ideas

• Presenting the ideas of others as your own
  • Range from a thesis to ideas shared in a conference meeting

• Important to cite any information used from an outside source

• Caution when asked to complete work originally started by someone else
  • Ensure that the authorship of each component is clearly cited
Mosaic Plagiarism

• Definition from the American Medical Association Manual of Style
  • “... borrowing the ideas and opinions from an original source and a few verbatim words or phrases without crediting the original author. In this case, the plagiarist intertwines his or her own ideas and opinions with those of the original author, creating a confused, plagiarized mass.”

• If combining ideas or information from multiple articles, always be sure to cite appropriately to maintain clarity
Self-Plagiarism

• Care must be taken to reference your own previous work that has been published

• Follow standard citation rules
  • If copyrighted, seek permission from copyright holder for reprinting

• Remember that readers expect scientific or medical writing to be unique in origin
Q&A
Presentation Feedback

https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6W2okEbFBfHZ41w