

THE COMPASS

A BULLETIN BY THE RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND ETHICS OFFICE

MAY
ISSUE 2019/05



Plagiarism at conference on research integrity

Approximately **30 of the 430 abstracts** submitted to the upcoming [6th World Conference on Research Integrity \(WCRI\)](#) were suspected of **plagiarism** following the use of the text-matching software, Turnitin. Out of these, 18 were suspected cases of self-plagiarism and were excluded from oral presentations. The remaining 12 were suspected cases of plagiarism, and ironically 2 of these abstracts had plagiarism as its topic. [\[+Read more\]](#).



In [Nature commentary](#) by Debora Weber-Wulff, the author flags concerns regarding the over-reliance on metrics generated by **plagiarism checkers**, citing problems of false positive reports in cases where properly cited references are included. She stresses that reading of submitted abstracts/theses would be the best measure of evaluating originality of work presented. [NTU's guidelines on plagiarism checks](#) can be found on our [website](#).

OMICS International fined

Predatory publishers and conference organisers have become a major problem, as well as a major source of spam e-mails. In general, little can be done to stop their activities. OMICS International has been alleged to be one of the largest **predatory publishing organisations** by advertising deceptively that it provided authors with rigorous peer review overseen by editorial boards. Instead, its journals approved many articles for publication in a matter of days with no substantive feedback to authors. In March, a judge in the U.S.A. has ordered OMICS to pay **US\$50.1 million** in damages. Based on allegations by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, she said "Defendants did not participate in an isolated, discrete incident of deceptive publishing, but rather sustained and continuous conduct over the course of years". Whether any money will ever be collected and whether we will receive less predatory spam remains to be seen. [\[+Read more\]](#).



Upcoming NTU-IRB Workshop

RIEO will be organising a NTU-IRB workshop titled "**Applying under the new Exempt Review Category**" on **22 May 2019 at LT 26**. This workshop aims to update researchers on the newly implemented [Exempt Review Category](#) and to guide users on the application guidelines under this criteria.

The objective of this review category is to facilitate swift processing of study applications classified to be of the lowest risk, such as those involving the use of anonymous surveys and secondary research on public datasets. During the workshop, NTU-IRB will also be covering the application procedure under this is new Exempt review category.

Registration is now open so [click here](#) to sign up for the talk. For queries regarding the workshop, please write to irb@ntu.edu.sg.

NTU-IRB WORKSHOP:
Applying under the new Exempt Review Category



Deadlines:

NTU-IACUC: Next due date for new AUP submissions is **3 Jun 2019**. [\[+Read more\]](#).
NTU-IRB: New submissions are due on Mondays of every week. [\[+Read more\]](#).

Email Us:

[NTU-IRB](#) [NTU-IACUC](#) [RIEO](#) [NTU Research Integrity Officer](#)

Web Links:

[NTU-IRB](#) [NTU-IACUC](#) [Research Integrity](#) [ARFMS](#)

