

EDITORIAL

## Ethics of Research Publication

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Recently, the ethics of research publication has been a central issue in many countries because of the fraudulent claims and because of the abuse of research in animals and humans. In most of the European and American countries the ethics of research is the responsibility of the institution where the research is conducted and usually it is overlooked by an ethical committee in that institution. This committee is guided by a general policy laid by a national ethical committee, the latter is established by the state representing all those concerned with research<sup>1,2,3</sup>.

The ethical aspect of research publication has been highlighted, especially, in the New England Journal of Medicine and in the British Medical Journal, because of several fraudulent papers and fake statistics. Therefore, the ethical aspect of research publication has been discussed extensively in the European Association of Science Editors, Council of Biology in USA and IFSEA (International Federation of Scientific Editors' Associations), and it was agreed that the ethical aspect is the responsibility of the journals.

The editors should make sure that a research to be published complies with acceptable ethical standard in its methods, collection and analysis of data.

Recently, the Bahrain Medical Bulletin has noticed a number of fraudulent claims and abuse of research procedures, therefore, the Board decided to initiate the formation of regulations for the ethical aspect of research publication by cooperating with the Ministry of Health, Bahrain University, Gulf University, BDF Hospital, Amiri Academy and Bahrain Medical Society. The intention was to

regulate research and help researchers. The Ethical Committee for Research Publication proposed by the Bahrain Medical Bulletin is not responsible for the ethical conduct of the profession which is the responsibility of the professional bodies.

We must emphasize that the responsibility of ethics in research lies with the Ministry of Health and the institution conducting research.

All those involved in research to some degree should be involved in regulating it. As far as the professional bodies are concerned, the responsibility is collective.

**It should be stressed that before we decide to give grants or prizes for research we should formulate the rules that govern this important and sensitive aspect of our profession, delaying such initiative is not in the best interest of this profession.**

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