

Translated for Retraction Watch by One Hour Translation

Notice on “The Five Don’ts of Academic Publishing” of the China Association for Science and Technology, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science and Technology, Health and Family Planning Commission, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Academy of Engineering, and the Natural Science Foundation

December 2, 2015

Sci-Tech Association (2015) No. 98

To the provincial associations of science and technology (including those of the autonomous regions and municipalities), commissions and bureaus of the Department of Education, as well as those of the Department of Science and Technology, Health and Family Planning Commission, Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps Association, Ministry of Education, institutions of higher education, offices of the Department of Sanitation, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and its sub-units, and all national associations of science and research:

In the past, few years science and technology in China has been developing rapidly, as is the rate at which Chinese scholars write and publish research papers. While many great things were accomplished, this rapid growth has also revealed a few problems that require our attention. This year there have been a large number of Chinese academic papers retracted from international academic journals, and this has a bad influence on the reputation of China’s academics. To promote the scientific spirit, strengthen scientific ethics, resist academic misconduct, maintain the correct methods of study and research, and to maintain a good academic environment, the Chinese Association for Science and Technology, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science and Technology, Health and Family Planning Commission, along with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Engineering, and the Natural Science Foundation are jointly publicizing “The Five Don’ts of Academic Publishing” to clarify moral norms for the community of scholars and scientists.

All relevant bodies should organize the study and implementation of these “Five Don’ts,” as well as create processes for investigating academic misconduct, evaluating the various scientific systems, and undertake reform to assure an improved policy and an improved environment within the community of researchers. Any retracted or problematic papers should be investigated into, and effective measures should be taken to deal with violators of these “Five Don’ts.” Any violations should be reported to and recorded by higher authorities. Researchers should practice self-discipline, and especially resist “third-party” academic

misconduct, actively calling for the retraction of their own papers if they believe that they have infringed upon one of these “Five Don’ts.” It is up to each national association and institution to defend the academic dignity of the country.

The Chinese Association for Science and Technology, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science and Technology, Health and Family Planning Commission, along with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Engineering, and the Natural Science Foundation will communicate and coordinate to bring about the joint implementation of these “Five Don’ts” and urge the relevant bodies to establish habits of academic behavior, including a network of record systems and information-sharing mechanisms to blacklist dishonorable and illegal conduct and safeguard the rights and the interests of all researchers within the Chinese academic community.

Regards,

The Chinese Association for Science and Technology, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science and Technology, Health and Family Planning Commission, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Academy of Engineering, and the Natural Science Foundation

November 23, 2015

The “Five Don’ts” of Academic Publishing

1. Don’t let a third party write your paper. All researchers should write their own academic papers and resist having third parties write papers on their behalf for publication.
2. Don’t let a third party submit your paper. All researchers should submit their own papers for publication. This means that researchers must understand the submission and review process, submit their completed papers in person, communicate personally with the editors of the journals, and resist the services of third parties submitting papers for them.
3. Don’t let a third party edit the contents of your paper. Any third party commissioned by the author to polish the linguistic aspect of a paper should only improve the language expression of such paper based on the original text written by the author, with no content added or revised by unrepresented people.
4. Don’t provide false peer review information. For the purposes of a proper peer review process, the true names and contact information of the reviewers of the paper should be provided. All researchers must provide reliable information and resist deceitful behavior during the peer review process.
5. Don’t violate the regulations in academic paper submissions. Any paper submitted should first be reviewed and signed by all authors to signify agreement to publish the paper. If an author disagrees with the paper’s content, it should not be submitted, otherwise all authors shall be responsible for its content. Each author must have a substantial contribution to the paper. If a person did not contribute a substantial amount, they should not sign as an author.

A “third party” refers to any person who is not the author of a paper or the staff members of a journal. “Paper writing on behalf of an author” refers to the act of an author signing a paper even though someone else wrote it on his behalf. “Submitting a paper on behalf of an author” refers to the act of an author signing a paper even though someone else submitted the paper to a journal and completed all the steps of the process, including responding to comments, on behalf of the former.