Cooper
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Physics 596 – Fall 2015

Scientific Ethics Case Study #1*

"At my previous postdoc position I worked on a research project inspired by a discussion with a senior collaborator, and then was carried out exclusively by myself. I presented the work at a conference, with myself, the senior collaborator, and another collaborator as authors. After the conference I wrote a proceeding paper, which my collaborators reviewed. Months later, while by browsing the internet, I discovered that my senior collaborator had submitted an abstract that was nearly identical to the one published earlier, only five sentences were different out of seven pages. I contacted my collaborator and asked him to either withdraw the paper or remove my name. The paper has not been withdrawn. I am not sure if my name has been removed."

***Before discussing the case:** Identify people in the group for the following presentation duties: (i) A person to present the 'case' in their own words to the rest of the class; (ii) a person to present one point of view in this study; (iii) a person to present the opposing point of view; and (iv) a person to lead a class discussion of the case. Feel free to take notes as necessary to present your discussions to the class.

Take 15-20 minutes to discuss this case study and prepare to relate your discussions to the rest of the class. Among the topics you might consider: Should the publication of the manuscript be stopped completely? After all it is a copy of a different paper. If this paper is inappropriate, how should this person respond?