Cooper
October 16, 2015

Physics 596 – Fall 2015

Scientific Ethics Case Study #11*

"When Bill Stanton completed his post-doctoral study at the University last year, he left behind in the lab raw data from a line of work he had started but never written up or published. Professor Franklin, in whose lab Stanton was working, came across the results, believed they were important, and wanted to publish them. This work was funded by a federal agency and he was feeling some pressure to produce more publications from that funding. Franklin tried unsuccessfully to contact Stanton both by letter and telephone. When Franklin heard from a colleague that Stanton might have been out of the country, Franklin analyzed and compiled the data and wrote them up in an article. Still unable to reach Stanton, Franklin submitted the article with himself as first author and Stanton as second author."

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: Did Franklin behave properly? Should he have put his name first on the paper? Who decides this?