Cooper
October 16, 2015

Physics 596 – Fall 2015

Scientific Ethics Case Study #2*

You are a member of a group of students working on a large project, but you've been pretty much on your own this summer. You were given the task of making electrical conductivity measurements of samples of graphene. You thought up a better way to make the measurements, built the apparatus and wrote the data acquisition program. You have been asked to write a report documenting your apparatus and methods.

One of the graduate students in the group has asked you if you would make him a co-author on the report. He has run into trouble on his own project and has had a variety of personal problems, and he is afraid your professor will think he has not been doing sufficient work this summer to stay in the group. He is an international student, and if he loses his research assistantship, he may not be able to stay in the U.S. and complete his degree. He did no work on your project, but he did show you how to make the graphene samples.

What should you tell him? Can he be a co-author of your report?

Your final report is not going to be "published" anywhere. Does that make a difference?

***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. Consider the questions raised by the grad student as discussion topics.