

Physics 596 – Fall 2020

Scientific Ethics Case Study #8*

“My former collaborators recently included me as coauthor on a paper that I never laid eyes on prior to its publication. I wholeheartedly respect the authors and have absolute faith in their work. I am also grateful that they feel my earlier contributions warranted coauthorship. However, is it ethical for them to add my name to a paper if I didn't have a chance to review it? What should I do to correct the record now?”

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.

Discuss this case study with your team and prepare to relate your discussions to the rest of the class. Among the topics you might consider: Were the collaborators’ actions unethical or just rude? What should/can this person do?