AUTHORSHIP FOR SALE: A THREAT TO THE INTEGRITY
OF THE PUBLISHING ENTERPRISE

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Authorship has significant intellectual, scientific, and social consequences. Responsibility and accountability for published items are also implied by authorship. The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) recommends using four criteria to determine authorship. Significant contributions to the idea or design of the work, or to the collection, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work is required. In addition, an author should either write the work or critically review it. Each author should read and give final approval to the latest version of the work. As a last criterion, agreeing to be accountable for all aspects of the item; any queries with regard to its accuracy or integrity should be resolved. Those who do not meet all four requirements should not be designated as authors, they should just be acknowledged [1].

Recently, a trend of “authorship selling” has appeared in the publishing arena. Such an approach poses a huge threat to scholarly publishing. Many web advertisements offer to purchase authorship on research articles. The advertisements are mainly posted on social media sites. They list the title, the journal in which the article is planned to be published, and even the date of publication. Authorship is sold for hundreds-thousands United States dollars, depending mostly on the position of the authorship [2]. The exchange of money for unfair authorship, that is to say, authorship commerce, is a serious misconduct [3]. Authorship misuse and associated issues appear to be more frequent in low- and middle-income countries [4]. This unethical approach is expected to increase in the coming years [2]. Certain measures should be adapted to combat this threat. ICMJE recommends editors create and follow a contributorship policy. These regulations are suggested to clear up many of the uncertainty around contributions [1]. Several societies’ updated editorial policies have offered a platform for raising the standard of scientific publishing and research [5]. In addition, potential authors should be educated in terms of ethical publishing. Overall, authorship should only be given to academics who make significant contributions to the research and writing, who edit, and approve the final versions for submission to the intended journals, and who accept ownership of every aspect of the work [6].

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
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References

1. Recommendations for the conduct, reporting, editing, and publication of scholarly work in medical journals updated december 2019. [Updated 2019]. [Accessed June 1, 2022].
АВТОРСТВО НА ПРОДАЖУ: УГРОЗА ЧЕСТНОСТИ ИЗДАТЕЛЬСКОГО ПРОИЗВОДСТВА

Ключевые слова: этика, журнальная статья, публикация, научная публикация.