



## **Research results misappropriation**

### **Case study 2**

**Source:** Committee on Publication Ethics, [Case 99/2](#)

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#### **The manipulated contributor list**

A paper was published for which the authors' contributions were as follows:

- A and B had the original idea and planned the study.
- A was also responsible for collecting the samples and patient data.
- C established the database and participated in planning the clinical trial.
- D developed the essay and analysed all the samples.
- E and F were responsible for the statistical analyses of the data.
- The paper had been written jointly by B, G, D, H and A.
- A and B were guarantors of the study.

D complained to the country's formal relevant national committee on science and ethics, arguing that the contributor list had been altered from what had been agreed by the authors. The Committee upheld this complaint and the journal agreed to publish a correction to the contributor list, as follows:

- A and D took the initiative for the investigation.
- A collected the clinical material.
- F updated and validated the clinical data, which was initially registered and arranged by C.
- F and D analysed in cooperation the samples for PAI-1.
- F and E conducted in cooperation the statistical analysis.
- F, B, D and A interpreted the statistical results.
- A and B wrote the first draft of the paper and were in charge of the final manuscript.
- All authors actively participated in discussions regarding the conduct of the work and in preparation of the final manuscript.

#### ***Outcome***

The findings of the Committee have subsequently been disputed. As a result of the dispute nothing was published. Case closed.