Outline

- Definition
- Consciously or through Carelessness
- Protection of Ideas
- Preventing Research Misconduct
- Addressing Research Misconduct
- Example and discussion-- What to do
Definition of Misconduct

Research misconduct entails actions or omissions in research, which - consciously or through carelessness - lead to falsified or manipulated results or give misleading information about someone’s contribution to the research.

By the Swedish Research Council
In a narrow sense (obvious violations)

- The theft of other people’s ideas and data
- Manipulation and/or falsification of data
- Plagiarism of other people’s texts

In a wider sense (other forms of reprehensible behaviour)

- Dishonesty towards funding bodies
- Exaggeration of one’s qualifications in applications
- Publication of the same study in multiple contexts (self-plagiarism)
- Sexual harassment
- Defamation of colleagues and/or sabotage of colleagues’ work
- etc...
Consciously or through Carelessness

How do we determine if it’s a conscious choice or an honest mistake?

From “Responsibility-as-Blameworthiness”

1. Capacity
2. Causality
3. Knowledge
4. Freedom
5. Wrong-doing
Protection of Ideas

- Which one is more important: ideas or results?
- One can claim that it is more important to create ideas BUT on the other hand it's also critical to apply the ideas and create experimental results
- Who should get the credits?
  - Owner of the ideas
  - The one who gets results
- To solve this dilemma at least the one with ideas should be cited or acknowledged at the papers
Preventing Research Misconduct

Part 1 of 2

- A good research environment should be created which develops a culture that doesn't tolerate research misconduct.
- A good environment is open and encourage the discussion of cases of misconduct.
- Research misconduct can be discouraged when colleagues stand against it.
- When the research work is open there are less opportunities for misconduct.
Preventing Research Misconduct

Part 2 of 2

- At universities, vice-chancellor must ensure that ethical awareness among researchers is kept at high level.
- Vice-chancellor is responsible for all activities and should investigate suspicious misconduct.
- Supervisors are also in charge for ensuring that the young researcher is familiar with correct practice.
- Classes in research ethics can be helpful.
Addressing Research Misconduct

Common practice:
- **Report** suspicions of research misconduct to the organization where the suspected researcher works.
- **Investigate** and **evaluate** the misconduct.
  - Internally: The learning institution itself.
  - Externally: Independent institution---office of Research Integrity.

In other cases:
- For established misconduct, like articles, the journal’s editor should give attention.
- For international collaboration projects, formal document regarding preventing misconduct should be made before the research begins.

In reality...
What would you do?

You discover that one of your older colleagues has falsified a series of measurements in a minor publication. When you raise the matter with him, he breaks down crying and blames the head of the department's demand for “at least one paper per year”. If he fails to meet this target, he will have to teach 400 hours a year. The man has no great talent for teaching.

(From p. 115 in “Good research practice”)

➔ What would you do?
➔ What should you do?
➔ How could this have been prevented?
More to be discussed...

➔ How can more misconduct be revealed?
➔ How can sanctions for misconduct be made properly?
➔ How should misconduct be better supervised?
➔ How can misconduct be prevented?
Thank you for your attention!