Insight into Plagiarism:

Pseudo Research or Art of Stealing?

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Publications in reputed indexed journals have always been a matter for pride and the main aim of scientific research. Planning and conducting with one's concepts and ideas and reporting to the scientific community worldwide are essential for the advance of biomedical science (Gasparyan, *et al.*, 2017). This event not only helps the researcher to be recognized in the scientific community but also helps in the advancement of his/her carrier. The developments in digitalization and accessibility of any content through the Internet give opportunities to plagiarist to copy-paste any material and to any extent (Logue, 2004).

Plagiarism is considered as an act of copy and pasting or altering someone else's writing or words without ac-knowledging them. This act of selfishness makes the genuine researcher devoid of the credit he deserves. The word plagiarism derives from the Latin word *Plagium* which means *kidnapping* (Shin, 2019). In today's world plagiarists can be seen involved in the copy-pasting of titles, concepts, ideas, theories and even in extreme cases copy-pasting of data, tabulation charts, graphs, diagrams, and images from others work or Internet without properly attributing them. Such plagiarists have a hidden agenda: Who cares? Who is watching? (Khadilkar, 2018).

On the basis of intention to plagiarize, there are to ways to classify plagiarism: as intentional or unintentional (Das, 2018). The basis of the extent of it allows for another categorization: direct or mosaic. Those categories show that plagiarists go to any extent to make doing

the job easy (Kumar, Priya, Musalaiah & Nagasree, 2014). The most common types of plagiarism seen in biomedical publications are inaccurate citation plagiarism, self-plagiarism, *verbatim* plagiarism, cyber or image plagiarism, and paraphrasing and replication (Dhammi & Haq, 2016).

Although most reputed journals strictly adhere to zero tolerance politics against plagiarism, plagiarists invent newer techniques each day to plagiarize. Now a genuine question arises: Can plagiarism be avoided? The answer is Yes. Some authors believe that educating and training the individuals involved in research activities and medical writing can help create awareness on maintaining research integrity and consequences when being caught in the act. Software like Plagiarism checker X, iThenticate, Turnitin, Plagium, eTBlast, and Citeplag can not only be used by the journals' editors for earlier detection of plagiarism of manuscripts but also by authors and young researchers for self-evaluation of the texts before submission to any reputed journal, which will create awareness and a sense of ethics and morality in the upcoming researchers. Last but not the least, strict laws against plagiarism should be enforced to impose penalties, punishment, temporary debarment, and even retraction of the published article. The author of this text hopes that everyone will work to curb the practice of plagiarism and that genuine and high-quality researches take biomedical science to new heights.

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