

What ethical issues do journal editors bring to COPE?

Sabine Kleinert, *COPE Vice-
Chair*

Liz Wager, *COPE Chair*

What is COPE?

- The Committee On Publication Ethics
- Founded 1997
- Forum for editors to discuss cases
- Provides guidance for editors and publishers on all aspects of publication ethics

What are COPE cases?

- Members bring anonymised cases to quarterly Forum meetings
- All cases are entered into a database
- Cases are available at:
www.publicationethics.org
- Cases are searchable by keyword
- Keywords were rationalized in 2008

What can the database tell us?

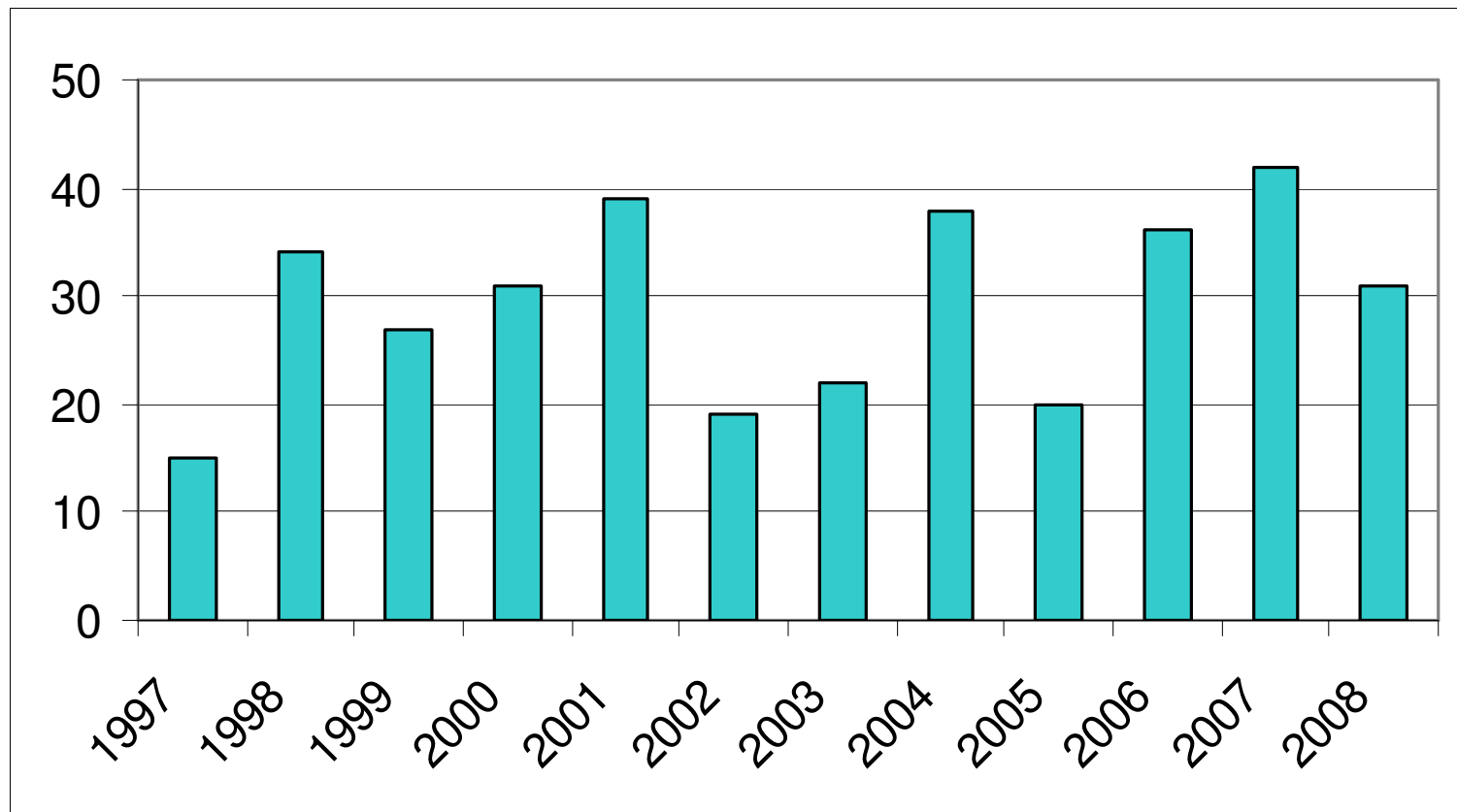
- The number of cases brought to COPE
- Whether the publication of flowcharts in 2006 reduced the number of 'straightforward' cases
- The types of cases brought to COPE

author mistakes **authorship** changes in authorship consent for pu
data fabrication data manipulation / falsification data ownership **dis**
authorship editorial **decisions** editorial misconduct gift authorship jo
lack of ethical review/approval **multiple** **submiss**
overlapping publications participant confidentiality **participa**
plagiarism protection of subjects (human) quality
research **redundant** **publication** reviewer misconduct
sponsor sanctions for misconduct selective reporting undeclared CoI (au
undeclared CoI (reviewers) **unethical** **research** unethical treatments **whistleblow**

What does it show?

- No clear trend in case numbers over time (eg fewer cases in 2008 than 2007) despite increase in COPE members from c300 in 2006 to >4000 today
- Possible increase in plagiarism and unethical editorial decisions (but numbers are small)

Number of cases by year



so far, 19 in 2009

COPE case topics over time

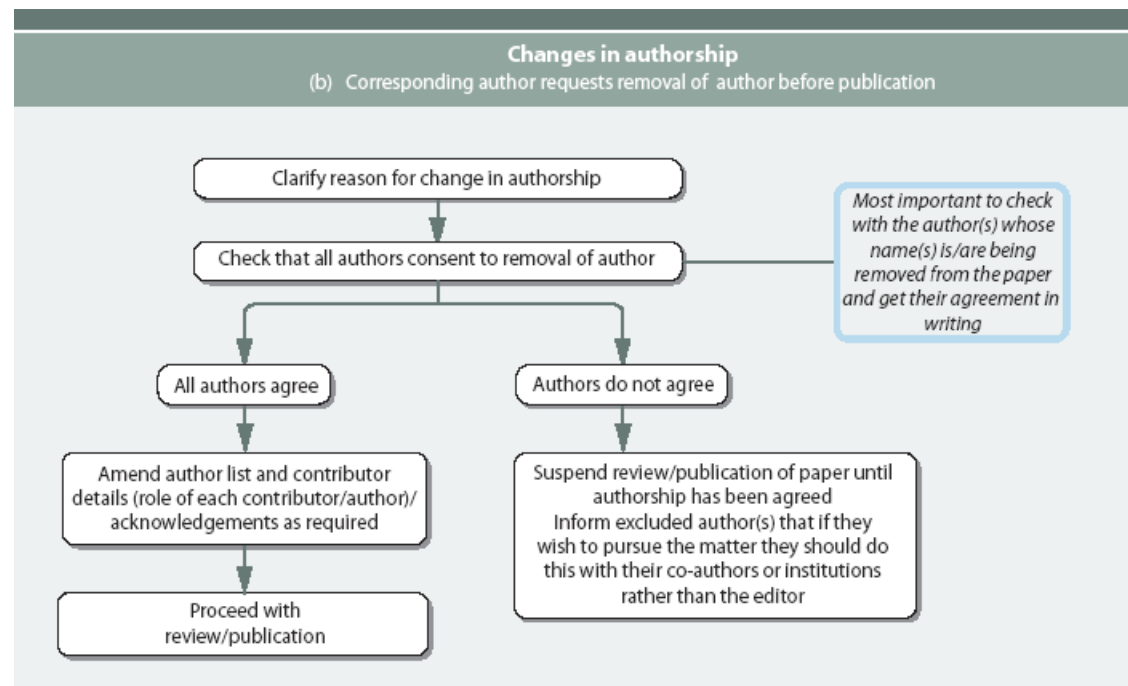
	97-99	00-02	03-05	06-08
Total	76	80	80	109
Unethical editorial decisions	3	3	10	11
Plagiarism	4	6	11	13
Authorship	17	23	9	18
Fabrication / falsification	9	4	3	7
Unethical research	32	40	41	38

Possible reasons for trends in types of cases

- COPE Code of Conduct may have led to editors questioning their practices more
- Anti-plagiarism software may have increased the number of cases detected
- New technology brings new types of misconduct such as image manipulation
- ?actual increase in patterns of

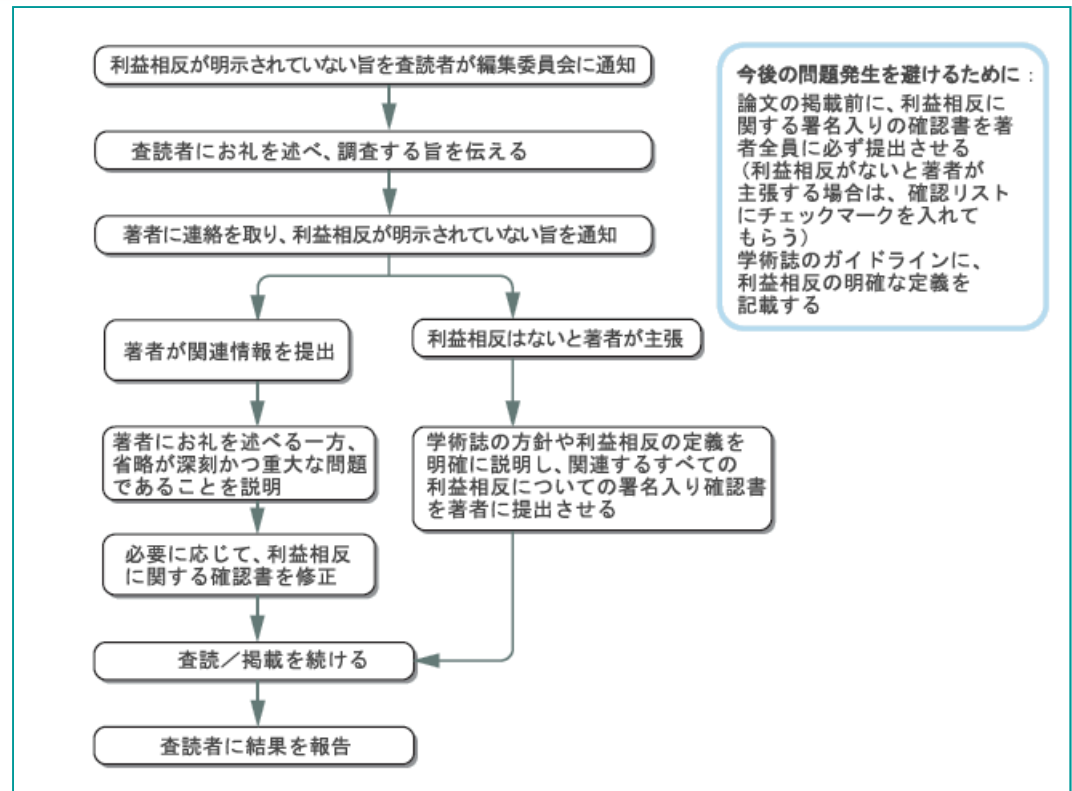
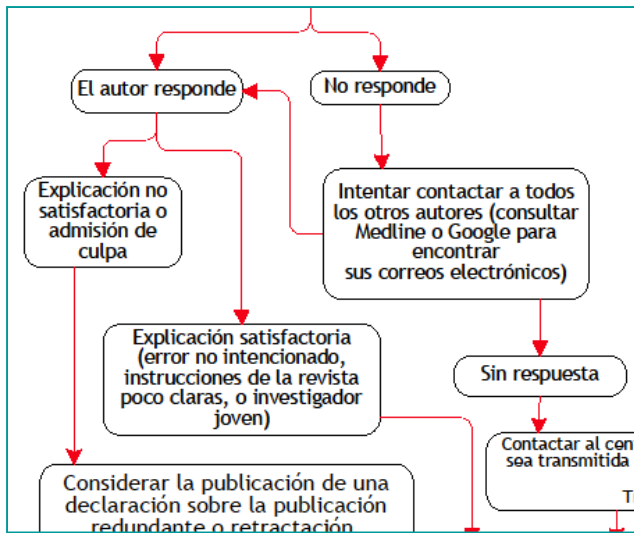
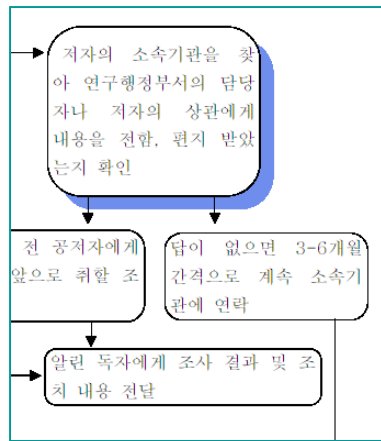
but numbers
are small!

No evidence that the flowcharts have reduced the number of 'straightforward' cases*



*as judged by SK & EW

but they have been well received and translated into several languages



今後の問題発生を避けるために：
論文の掲載前に、利益相反に関する署名入りの確認書を著者全員に必ず提出させる（利益相反がないと著者が主張する場合は、確認リストにチェックマークを入れてもらう）
学術誌のガイドラインに、利益相反の明確な定義を記載する

For more information about COPE

- <http://publicationethics.org>