

## Letter to the Editor

**Research culture reduces scientific misconduct****La cultura de investigación reduce la mala conducta científica**

To the Editor:

Scientific misconduct is one of the effects of rising growth of articles. Iran has the highest ranking in scientific misconduct<sup>1</sup> and while Iranian scientists admit some of the research problems, having said that, they defend the general principle of their research<sup>2</sup>. In the former paper have mentioned the serious actions of the Iranian authorities about this problem, which included the support of Iranian researchers<sup>3</sup>. After reading the letter to the editor<sup>3</sup>, the writer was eager to attach some vague and untold issues to present letter in order to help to clarify the matter, as well so, the author expressed his opinions.

Recently, one of the Persian journals in the field of computer science (miscellaneous)\* has released own new statement: all researchers must send the certificate of plagiarism (via Hamanand joo<sup>†</sup>) for us. Since plagiarism is the first type of Iranian scientific misconduct<sup>4</sup>, therefore, it is anticipated that, if this requirement was as instruction in all journals, notably medical journals, will help to reduce scientific misconduct and improve research culture. On the one hand, the author as a former expert of a Persian journal, doesn't see any Persian retracted articles in Iranian journals or Iranian databases. It is likely that there will be found retractable articles in Persian articles and if this issue were true, might the rate of Iran could change in the world<sup>1</sup>. Of course, a brief search on Scopus database showed<sup>‡</sup> that most of retracted articles written in English, therefore, this matter maybe is everywhere. Nonetheless, Iran compared to many of countries is significantly suffering from defects of research culture<sup>1,4,5</sup>. On the other hand, If the culture institutionalized at national level, improving the situation internationally is not unexpected. One of the reasons for lack of retracted articles in Iran is fear of results, lack of necessary infrastructures or Iranian culture. All things considered, in addition to the rules and current actions, it seems

a native database for monitoring, following and reporting about retracted documents is useful for non-native English countries.

Now that the certificate of plagiarism in Persian articles has begun, maybe saying idea “Certificate of reference access” is scary but not strange. The results showed that Iranian scientists have the most use of Sci-Hub website<sup>5</sup>. Therefore, the certificate represents the author's legitimate access to the resources used in their articles. Although above idea comes with challenges and slows down scientific production at first, nevertheless this international idea, firstly, it leads to more research ethics. Secondly, prevention of financial damage to journals<sup>5</sup>. And thirdly, shows value of database providers.

All things considered, the need for research culture is a global issue and scientific misconduct is not limited to Iran<sup>2</sup>, what is clear, the research culture tree should now be planted, if the tools and methods of growth are not suitable, its results will cause disease of all sciences and spread everywhere.

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\* IRANDOC. <https://jipm.irandoc.ac.ir/>

† <https://tik.irandoc.ac.ir/>

‡ Searched in 18 October 2019.

**Institutionalization of health impact assessment: a matter of equity in public health****Institucionalización de la evaluación del impacto en salud: una cuestión de equidad en salud pública**

To the Editor:

Health impact assessment (HIA) is promoted by the World Health Organization in order to identify and address health co-benefits and risks, as well as measures to improve health and reduce health inequities. At a European level, health issues have been featured in European treaties since the formation of the European Union and governments are expected to promote health equity. Essential values underlying HIA (e.g. equity, democracy, trans-

parency) which are required to be believed in their relevance by practitioners and decision makers must be taken into account.<sup>1</sup> Currently, HIA is not a legal requirement in the European Union and implementation and institutionalization are incomplete in all concerned countries.<sup>2</sup> Despite the growing policy concerning and activity aimed at institutionalizing HIA, the majority of HIAs are done voluntarily, outside legislative or regulatory requirements.<sup>3</sup> In Spain, the National Public Health Act 2011 incorporated HIA to the Spanish legal system 8 years ago.

The incorporation of HIA to the Spanish legal system was deemed positive in technical and scientific environments. However, Spain is a decentralized state and most policies (e.g. health governance) are based in the gradual development of federal arrangements through its regional governments, also known as Autonomous Communities.<sup>4</sup> Despite multijurisdictional countries