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June 21, 2017

Prof. Ruth Malone
Editor-in-Chief
Tobacco Control
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Dear Dr. Malone:

This correspondence is regarding a June 3, 2017, submission to the Tobacco Control Journal by Dr. Eunice Neeley seeking publication of the Total Exposure Study ("TES") manuscript (which Dr. Neeley titled, "Philip Morris' Data Shows that Mandating Lower Combustible Cigarette Nicotine Delivery Would Protect Public Health"; tobaccocontrol-2017-053878).

The Tobacco Control Journal notified Dr. Stanton Glantz that Dr. Neeley submitted the TES manuscript to the journal listing herself as corresponding author, omitting one of the authors (Dr. Anne Berit Petersen), failing to obtain authorization by Dr. Glantz to submit the manuscript or input on authors, and failing to obtain permission by Dr. Glantz or Dr. Dorie Apollonio to be listed as authors.

On June 3, 2015, Dr. Glantz requested that the journal take no further steps to process the manuscript and informed the journal that Dr. Neeley did not have authorization to make the submission. On June 12, 2017, the journal advised Dr. Glantz that the paper was withdrawn.

The University recognizes Stanton Glantz, PhD, as the principal investigator (PI) for the NIH grant under which the TES manuscript was researched and written. As the PI, Dr. Glantz has authority and responsibility for leading and directing the NIH project, intellectually and logistically, and is responsible and accountable to NIH for the proper conduct of the project or program, including the submission of all required reports. This extends to his role as corresponding author on manuscripts produced and supported under the grant.

Per the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), the corresponding author is the one individual who takes primary responsibility for communication with the journal during the manuscript submission, peer review, and publication process, and typically ensures the completion of all the journal's administrative requirements, such as providing details of authorship, ethics committee approval, clinical trial registration documentation, and gathering conflict of interest forms and statements. The corresponding author makes the final decision as to who is designated as author, obtains final approval from authors of the version to be published, and is accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.



Ruth Malone
June 21, 2017
Page 2 of 2

Where Dr. Neeley is neither the PI nor the CA, the University does not recognize that she has authority to submit the TES manuscript for publication, nor does she have the authority to designate who is and is not an author of the manuscript. The University recognizes that these responsibilities rest with Dr. Glantz.

On June 14, 2017, the University noticed Dr. Neeley that she is to cease submitting this manuscript to any journal or any other venue for publication.

We support the journal's determination that the paper is withdrawn at this time. We sincerely hope that this episode will not influence the scientific review of any future submission of any other work to the Tobacco Control Journal.

Sincerely,



Theresa O'Lonegan, PhD, MA, Assoc. Vice Chancellor,
Research Integrity Officer

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