

Ethics in Meat Science Research

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Definition of Ethics

- **‘Classical definition of Ethics:**
- Branch of philosophy that investigates and creates theories about the nature of right and wrong, duty, obligation, freedom, virtue, and other issues where sentient beings can be harmed or helped.

Ethics in Meat Science Research

- **Ethics can be defined as:**
- “rules of conduct” or “action guides” recognized in respect to:
 - 1) complete integrity in planning and conducting research and in analyzing data
 - 2) proper use of financial resources allocated for the research
 - 3) objective and accurate interpretation of data
 - 4) publishing results in an ‘objective’ manner.

Definition of Ethics

- Ethics also includes complete avoidance of **‘Plagiarism’**, which is the ‘theft’ of another researcher’s ideas, information, or specific phrases or terms from their writing.

Definition of Plagiarism

- Charlotte Bronson defines plagiarism as "the false assumption of authorship,..... taking the product of another person's mind and presenting it as one's own."
 - Bioethics Institute at Iowa State University, June, 2001.

Ethical Background and Training

- Most scientists 'assume' their students and technicians have high ethical standards; however, ethics in research must be 'taught' and 'emphasized' by scientists.
 - ✓ Assumptions generally are made that plagiarism does not occur and(or) everyone has adequate training in ethical behavior from parents, family, teachers, church, etc.
 - ✓ That assumption might not be a good one!
- ✓ What has AMSA done to emphasize ethics?
 - ✓ _____

Ethical Issues of Company/Corporation Funded Research

- It is generally perceived to be unethical to receive company/corporation financial support for research and simultaneously consult for the same company or corporation.
- It seems unethical for a company or organization to prevent or delay publication of research results because of a company name change, or dissatisfaction in the results, or promotional release of 'favorable' results before scientific publication.

Meat Science Research Ethics

- Meat Science Researchers should have the very highest level of integrity!!!

Optional slides below

Consider this Statement from Boyle et al.
(2002) (Simulated)

- A dramatic influx of CA^{++} into pre-rigor longissimus muscle results in extensive contraction. When muscle goes into rigor in a contracted state, significant toughening results.
- Is this plagiarism? Why or why not?

Consider this Statement from Boyle et al. (2002) (Simulated)

- A dramatic influx of Ca^{++} into pre-rigor longissimus muscle results in extensive contraction. When muscle goes into rigor in a contracted state, significant toughening results.
- Is this plagiarism?
- No. This information is already common knowledge among meat scientists (especially those who have taken ASI 930 at K-State)