



Leadership Discussion Guide: Collegiate Etiquette

You are a senior researcher and a junior colleague asks you for help on a project by providing a reagent, which you are happy to do. After a while, the junior colleague publishes the paper, listing you as a second author. What do you do?

Decision Making Framework:

- 1) List the issues raised by the 2MC.
- 2) What rules or regulations apply to the situation?
- 3) What questions will help you open up the problem?
- 4) What resources could you use or consult to help you make a decision?
- 5) What are your options and how does each option affect others involved in the situation?
- 6) What would you do after considering all of these and in light of your own values?

Issues

Authorship VS Acknowledgments
Whistleblowing: should you tell?

Resources

Campus and federal regulations
Research integrity officer on campus
Mentor
Colleagues
National ethics center website

Rules and Regulations

Federal research integrity regulations
University's regulations

Options

Talk to the researcher in question
Talk to adviser or other trusted mentor



Questions

Is this a problem? On a scale of 1 to 10 where would you rank this dilemma?

Would you talk with the junior researcher?

Do you believe that this deserves authorship?

Would you do something different if the research was cutting edge VS little in importance?

How would you go about talking to the researcher?

How much time do you believe this deserves?

What is the perfect outcome of this situation?

If the researcher wanted your name on it to bring more prestige to the paper how would you feel?

If the researcher refused to take your name off of it what would you do?

What is the source of funding for this project?

Is there any possibility that you could retreat to your Ph.D. lab to regroup?

Takeaway Lessons:

1) Information Gathering

Figure out why the junior researcher believes you deserve authorship.

2) Seeking Resources

You may need advice before you take the next step. Are you on close enough terms with your Ph.D. advisor or any member of your committee to seek confidential advice from one person? Does your new campus have an ombudsperson who might be able to provide confidential advice?

3) Asking Questions

Once you have gathered the facts and have a fuller sense of the situation, you can decide whether the decision was correct.

4) Follow the Rules for Having a Dispute Professionally

Before you have your conversation with the visiting faculty member you should read and absorb the rules for having a dispute professionally.

Next Steps:

You have two main options: allow the authorship or refuse it. This could be a move of confusion where the colleague wants to give credit or this could be a move to put your name on something to empower the arguments the colleague presented. Furthermore if you did not do enough for authorship this could hurt your credibility if you do not understand what your colleague did. If you refuse authorship being gentle would be key. Allowing a footnote or an acknowledgement would be fine. Both options would be resolved by talking with the colleague and asking for your name to be taken off the paper as an author.

What Really Happened:

The PhD candidate talked with the colleague and had the PhD candidate's name taken off but offered to do research or help if the colleague had any questions in the future.

