KING KHALID UNIVERSITY

Academic Integrity and Copyright

Medical Ethics · MED 431 · Lecture 3

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Three things that have already happened this term

- Several answers to the first assignment, in one section, shared a sentence that no two people write independently.
- A lecture slide was photographed and posted to a class group before the lecture ended.
- A paragraph from a website went into a report with a few words changed and no source.

Integrity is what you do when no one is looking.

What the words mean

- Academy — from Akademos, the grove outside Athens where Plato taught; now any place, institution or person whose work is teaching, learning, research and community service
- Integrity — honesty, and consistently adhering to the principles of professionalism even when it is not easy to do so
- Academic integrity — the moral code of scholarship: every piece of academic work represents your own honest effort, properly attributed
- **The International Center for Academic Integrity defines it as a commitment to six fundamental values**

Why it matters more in medicine

- “The medical student who copies in an exam is practising a version of the doctor who falsifies a patient's records”
- Professional identity is not granted at graduation. It is built, or neglected, through thousands of small choices
- 1998: a paper on twelve children linked a vaccine to autism. Parents stopped vaccinating; preventable disease returned
  - The data had been manipulated, the payments undisclosed; the journal retracted it in 2010 and the author was struck off
- **Publication ethics is not an abstract academic concern. It is a patient safety issue**

1 · Six values

Honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, courage

Honesty and trust

- Honesty — representing work truthfully: data as collected, sources cited, contributions acknowledged
  - Demonstrated by: being truthful, giving credit to the owner of the work, keeping promises, providing factual evidence
  - In the clinic: a falsified drug chart, a concealed near-miss, a misreported physical finding — each can harm a patient directly
- Trust — the assured reliance on the truth of someone or something; the foundation on which academic and clinical communities function
  - Faculty trust students to do their own work; patients trust physicians to act in their interest; colleagues trust one another's information
- **Trust accrues over time, with experience, and is built on actions more than words**

Fairness and respect

- Fairness — every student evaluated by the same standard; no one gains an unfair advantage
  - Sharing examination questions, asking for preferential grading, using a relationship with faculty to get a better placement
  - In the clinic: fair allocation of resources and unbiased assessment of patients regardless of background
- Respect — for persons, for the process, and for the intellectual work of others through proper attribution
  - Demonstrated by: active listening, receiving feedback willingly, accepting that others' ideas have validity, recognising the consequences of your words
- **Fair and consistent responses to dishonesty are themselves part of fairness — which is why the Code publishes its penalties**

Responsibility and courage

- Responsibility — ownership of your actions and their consequences; stress, time pressure and the availability of someone's work are not the cause of copying it
  - Demonstrated by: holding yourself accountable, knowing and following the institution's rules, following through on tasks, modelling good behaviour
  - In the clinic: following up results you ordered, completing a handover properly, reporting errors when it is uncomfortable
- Courage — doing the right thing when it is difficult, unpopular or personally costly: reporting misconduct, speaking up on an error, challenging a senior for a patient's safety, refusing to join dishonesty under peer pressure
- **The Center added courage in 2014, because the other five are useless without the capacity to act on them**

The values, applied to a single choice

- A friend sends you their finished assignment the night before the deadline
  - Honesty — is what you submit your own effort?
  - Trust — what does your teacher assume about the work in front of them?
  - Fairness — what advantage do you now have over the student who did not receive it?
  - Respect — whose intellectual work is it, and will your submission say so?
  - Responsibility — whose choice is this, and whose consequences?
  - Courage — what does it cost to say no to a friend?
- **Six questions, one choice. The values are not a list to memorise; they are a method**

Courage is what transforms ethical knowledge into ethical behaviour.

READ Applied Medical Ethics §2.3 — Academic Integrity (six fundamental values) husainalkhaldy.site/books/applied-medical-ethics#h21

2 · The violations

By name, and with the price the Code fixes for each

Plagiarism: the forms it takes

- Plagiarism — presenting someone else's words, ideas, data or images as your own without attribution
  - Direct — copying text verbatim without quotation marks or citation
  - Paraphrasing — rewording another's ideas without credit
  - Mosaic — stitching phrases from several sources together without attribution
  - Self-plagiarism — resubmitting your own earlier work as new
  - AI-generated — submitting text produced by an AI tool as your own original work
- Chapter 14 adds three from research: idea plagiarism, data plagiarism, and image plagiarism — a figure or table used without attribution and permission
- **Changing a few words does not change whose work it is**

Cheating, fabrication, falsification, ghostwriting

- Cheating — unauthorised material, communicating with other students, obtaining questions in advance: a fraud against the institution and against every student who prepared honestly
- Fabrication — inventing data, results or sources
- Falsification — manipulating research materials, processes or data so that the findings no longer represent what was observed: removing outliers, altering a graph's scale, reporting only the time points that fit
- Ghostwriting — submitting work written entirely by someone else, whether a paid service, a fellow student, or an AI, as your own
- **Each is a failure of character that, if uncorrected, will manifest in professional life**

The ones students do not count

- Unauthorised collaboration — working together on graded work without the instructor's permission, or beyond the limits set
- Misuse of course materials — posting, sharing or copying an instructor's materials without written permission; using another student's work
- Lying or fraud — a false excuse to move a deadline or an examination; a forged signature; a false statement about attendance
- Intimidation or disruption — pressuring a teacher to regrade, change a grade, or grant an exception
- Having another person sit an examination for you, or sitting one for them
- **None of these needs a copied sentence. All of them are academic misconduct**

Generative AI: where the line is

- Prohibited
  - Submitting AI-generated text as your own original work without disclosure
  - Using AI to answer examination questions
  - Using AI to fabricate clinical cases or patient interactions in an assignment
  - Letting AI do the substantive intellectual work the assignment was designed to develop
- Permitted, with obligations
  - Follow the institution's policy · disclose the use wherever it is relevant · appraise the output critically before using it
- تثبّت — **“if a wicked person brings you news, verify it” (al-Hujurat 49:6). AI text is verified before it is trusted**

Learning, versus appearing to learn

- The most serious concern about AI in medical education is not dishonesty. It is bypassed learning
- The physician who used AI to pass medical school without developing clinical reasoning will meet a patient whose presentation matches no template — and will be dangerous
- “Medical education is not credential accumulation; it is the development of clinical competence”
- The note left on the machine-written scripts this term said the same thing: the assignment was meant to help you learn, and the loss falls on your learning, not your marking
- **AI that bypasses the learning process bypasses the competence, while producing the credential**

The Conduct Code, Rule 36

- Cheating, or attempting to cheat, in any examination, research course or graduation project
  - First time — a fail in that course · second — that course and the next in the examination timetable · third — that course and the two that follow
- Intellectual-property violations carry the same penalties: photographing what you have no right to photograph, undocumented quotation, submitting research you did not prepare
- Recording or photographing a lecture without the lecturer's written permission: the material is destroyed; the student is counselled, reprimanded or admonished in turn
- Among the duties of every KKU student: scientific honesty, and the intellectual property rights of others
- **The Code fixes the price in advance. It does not ask whether you knew it**

Beyond the university

- A recorded reprimand goes in the academic file; the Commission may weigh documented academic misconduct when it assesses fitness to practise
- Attendance fraud as a student and continuing-education fraud as a practitioner are the same offence: the CPD Code of Ethics forbids credit for activities not attended and falsified attendance
- In research: retraction, and the journal's referral to the institution; COPE guidelines govern how journals respond to misconduct
- The 1998 vaccine paper: retracted, and the author struck off the medical register
- **The file opened in year four is the one read in year seven**

3 · Publication

Whose work is it, when it is published

Self-plagiarism, in print

- Duplicate publication — the same, or nearly the same, work submitted to two journals without disclosure
- Text recycling — substantial parts of the methods, results or discussion of an earlier paper reused without acknowledgment
- Salami publication — one study cut into several small papers, each reporting a slice, to raise the publication count
  - Each paper implies a complete study; together they misrepresent the scope and significance of the research
- **The work is yours. The misrepresentation is still a misrepresentation**

Authorship: whose name goes on the paper

- The ICMJE criteria — all four must be met
  - Substantial contribution to conception or design, or to acquiring, analysing or interpreting the data
  - Drafting the work, or revising it critically for important intellectual content
  - Final approval of the version to be published
  - Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work
- Ghost authorship — a real contributor left off, typically a company's medical writer · Guest — a name added for seniority · Gift — a name added as a favour
- **Someone who meets all four is an author, whatever their rank. Someone who does not is not, whatever their rank**

4 · Copyright

Whose work is it, in law — Royal Decree M/41

The Copyright Law: what it protects

- Copyright Law — Royal Decree M/41, 2 Rajab 1424H (2003), amended by Council of Ministers Decision 536 of 1439H (2018); administered by the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property
- Article 2: works in literature, arts and sciences, “irrespective of their type, means of expression, importance, or purpose” — books; lectures; audio-visual works; photographs; illustrations, maps, designs and scientific drawings; computer programs; a creatively unique title
- Article 3: derived works too — translations, abridgements, adaptations, and creative anthologies or encyclopedias
- **A lecture is a protected work. So is the figure in a paper, the slide it is on, and the recording of the person explaining it**

Two kinds of rights

- Article 8 — moral rights: to be named as the author, or to publish under a pseudonym or anonymously; to object to any deletion, change, distortion or tampering; to amend or withdraw the work
  - Permanent, and “not subject to waiver or lapse by prescription” — they survive every licence and every sale
- Article 9 — financial rights: to print, publish and record the work; to translate, quote or alter it; to communicate it to the public by any means, including data transmission networks; and all material exploitation, including rental
  - Transferable, in whole or in part, in writing, limited in time and place (Article 11)
- **Attribution is a legal right of the author, not a courtesy from the reader**

How long it lasts

- Article 19: the author's lifetime and fifty years after death
  - Joint works — fifty years from the death of the last surviving author
  - Works of a corporate author, or an unknown author — fifty years from first publication
  - Audio and audio-visual works, films, collective works and computer programs — fifty years from first showing or publication
  - Applied art and photographs — twenty-five years from publication
- **A textbook by an author who died in 1980 is still protected in the Kingdom. Ibn Sina is not**

Article 15: what you may do without asking

- Copy a work for personal use — but not software, and not audio or audio-visual works
- Quote passages in your own work, within established conventions and the limits the purpose justifies, naming the source and the author where the quotation appears
- Use a work “by way of clarification for educational purposes”, within the limits the purpose justifies — not commercially, restricted to the activity, and without impairing the material benefit of the work
- Copy short quotations, drawings, pictures, designs or maps into school books prepared for educational curricula, with the source
- Perform or show a work at a school theatre or public body, with no direct or indirect financial gain
- **Every exception carries the same two conditions: the purpose justifies the extent, and the author is named**

What Article 15 does not cover

- Posting a lecturer's full slide set, or a recording of the lecture, to a public channel — Article 21(1): publishing a work you do not own
- A video of a surgical technique built on a publisher's figures and uploaded online — communication to the public is the author's right under Article 9
- Music in a podcast without a licence — audio works are excluded even from the personal-use exception
- Sharing a licensed e-book or journal PDF in the class group — the university's licence covers your copy, not your redistribution
- Removing a watermark or a protective code — Article 21(4) and (5)
- **The internet is a means of communication to the public. That is exactly what Article 9 reserves to the author**

Article 22: penalties

- One or more of: a warning · a fine of up to 250,000 riyals · closure of the establishment for up to two months · confiscation of the copies and the means · imprisonment of up to six months
- On repetition, the maximum fine and closure may be doubled
- Where imprisonment or a fine above 100,000 riyals is warranted, the case goes through the Authority's Board to the Board of Grievances
- The Committee may award compensation to the author, in proportion to the infringement and the damage
- **And may order the decision published, at the infringer's expense**

Reading the label

© · All rights reserved

- The default. Protection is automatic on creation; the symbol is not required, and registration with the Authority is optional
- Everything Article 15 does not list needs the owner's written permission
- Includes most textbooks, journal articles, figures, and lecture slides

CC · Creative Commons

- The author has licensed some uses in advance; read which
- BY — attribute · NC — not commercially · SA — share adaptations under the same licence · ND — no derivatives, so no translation
- The ICAI values document is CC BY-NC-SA: you may copy and adapt it, with credit, non-commercially, under the same terms

Open access · Public domain

- Open access means free to read; the licence still says what else you may do, and attribution is always required
- Public domain: copyright has expired under Article 19 — the classical texts, not the modern ones
- Neither removes the duty of attribution. Plagiarism is a separate wrong

Your presentation, your poster, your podcast

- A figure from a paper in your case presentation — educational use within Article 15(3), with the source and authors on the slide
- The same figure on a poster at a conference, or in a video online — communication to the public: permission, or a CC licence that allows it
- Music under your podcast — a licence, or music released for the purpose
- A lecturer's slides — the lecturer's work; ask, and never post them
- Your own work — protected from the moment you make it, with no registration needed; a journal may ask you to assign the financial rights, never the moral ones
- **When in doubt: name the source, limit the extent to the purpose, and keep it inside the classroom**

5 · Writing to your teachers

“Write to me by email, and write it properly”

The email

- From your university address, with a subject line that names the course and the purpose: “MED 431 — request to reschedule assignment 2”
- A salutation: “Dear Dr. …” or “Dear Professor …”
- Who you are, in the first line: name, year, section, student number
- One purpose, stated directly, in short paragraphs; standard spelling, punctuation and capitalisation; no slang, no emoticons; not a joke
- A closing sentence, and a sign-off with your full name
- Reply within a reasonable time; trim the quoted thread; leave the greeting out of the third message in the same conversation, not the first
- **Nine things. Most student emails manage four**

What one medical school found

- Seoul National University College of Medicine scored 210 real emails from students to four faculty members against a ten-item rubric
- Mean score: 62 out of 100. Global impression of politeness: 2.6 out of 4
- Readability and honorifics were fine. Subject lines, salutations, self-identification, closings and sign-offs were not
- The three items most strongly tied to being read as polite: the salutation, the closing remark, and the sign-off
- **“The majority of medical students did not write emails professionally.” Nothing suggests Abha is different**

WhatsApp, and the class group

- A private channel is a privilege granted, not a right assumed: ask before you message a teacher there, and respect the hours they keep
- Identify yourself, greet, and put the whole purpose in one message — not a “hello” that waits for a reply
- Professional tone throughout; no voice notes unless invited; emojis, if at all, that could not be misread
- Never patient information. A shared room in a hospital is more private than a WhatsApp group
- Do not spam, do not broadcast, do not add people to groups without asking; reply promptly to what is urgent
- **Your section representative is the first point of contact for anything that concerns the whole class**

Open social media

- The difference from a corridor remark is permanence and reach: screenshotted, shared, reported, recovered years later in a licensing investigation
- The violations: identifying a patient without a name — diagnosis, age, hospital and date are enough; derogatory language about patients or colleagues; images in clinical settings; blurring the personal and the professional; misrepresenting your qualifications
- The guidelines: separate accounts where you can; pause before posting; never patient information, even anonymised, without ethical approval; disclose that you are a student when you discuss clinical topics; audit what is publicly visible
- **Case 2.2 — the Instagram photograph with a whiteboard behind it — is on the reading list for a reason**

Assume that anything you post could be read by your patient, your dean, a journalist, or a licensing board. Post accordingly.

Now work one

Two cases from Chapter 2

Case 1 — the group assignment

- Five students are set a 2,000-word essay on informed consent
- Three write their sections. Two contribute nothing, submit under their names, and receive the same grade
- The two argue that no plagiarism occurred: nothing was copied from anyone
- Are they right? Which values are at stake? Which named violation is it?
- **What should the three do — and what does that cost them?**

Case 2 — the examination whisper

- During a multiple-choice examination, the student beside you whispers an answer. You did not ask; you knew it anyway; you do not respond
- Later you learn that the student reported you, claiming you whispered to them
- What are the ethical dimensions? What did you owe at the moment of the whisper?
- Which rule now applies to each of you, and what does the Code fix as its price?
- **How would you respond — and to whom?**

Work it in this order

- Whose work is it? Say so before anything else
- Which of the six values is at stake — usually several
- Which named violation is it: plagiarism and which form, cheating, fabrication, falsification, ghostwriting, collusion, misuse, fraud?
- What does the Conduct Code fix as the price, and does the Copyright Law reach it as well?
- **What should each person do now — and what does courage require of the one who saw it?**

Before next time

- Week 9 · the Arabic midterm — 18 October
- Week 10 · Public health, and organ donation — Chapters 16 and 11
- Work the four cases at the end of Chapter 2; the ward photograph and the observed procedure are the two not covered today
- Read The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity, third edition — twelve pages, free, and the source of Part 1
- The Copyright Law, in the Authority's English text, is on Blackboard under Lectures — read Articles 2, 8, 9, 15 and 22
- **Every email to this course from today is expected to pass slide 33**

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