

Comment

Supplementary information to:

How to improve assessments of publication integrity

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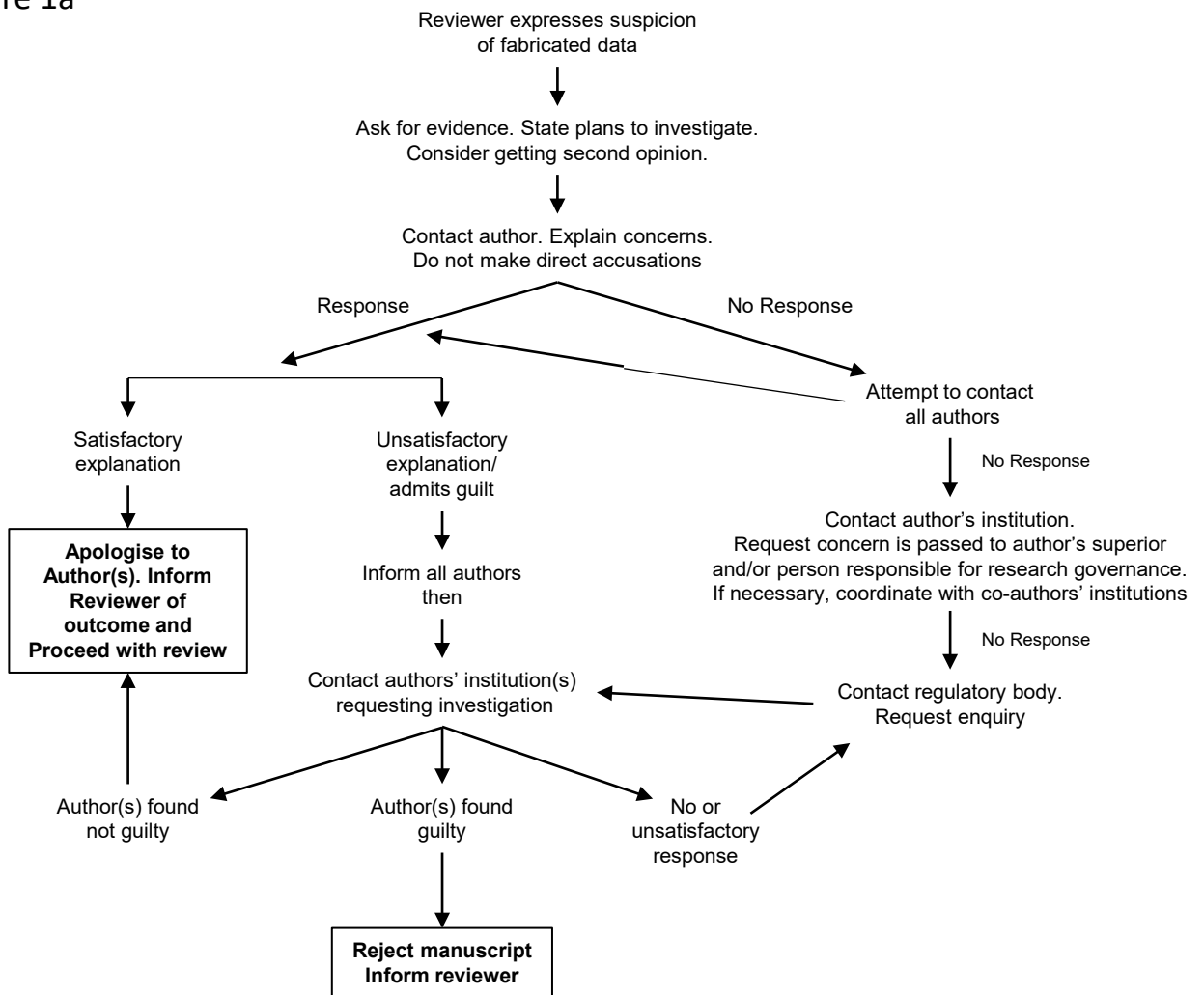
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This Supplementary information comprises:

1. Figure S1a. Existing COPE guidance
2. Figure S1b. Suggested guidance

Figure 1a

Existing COPE guidance

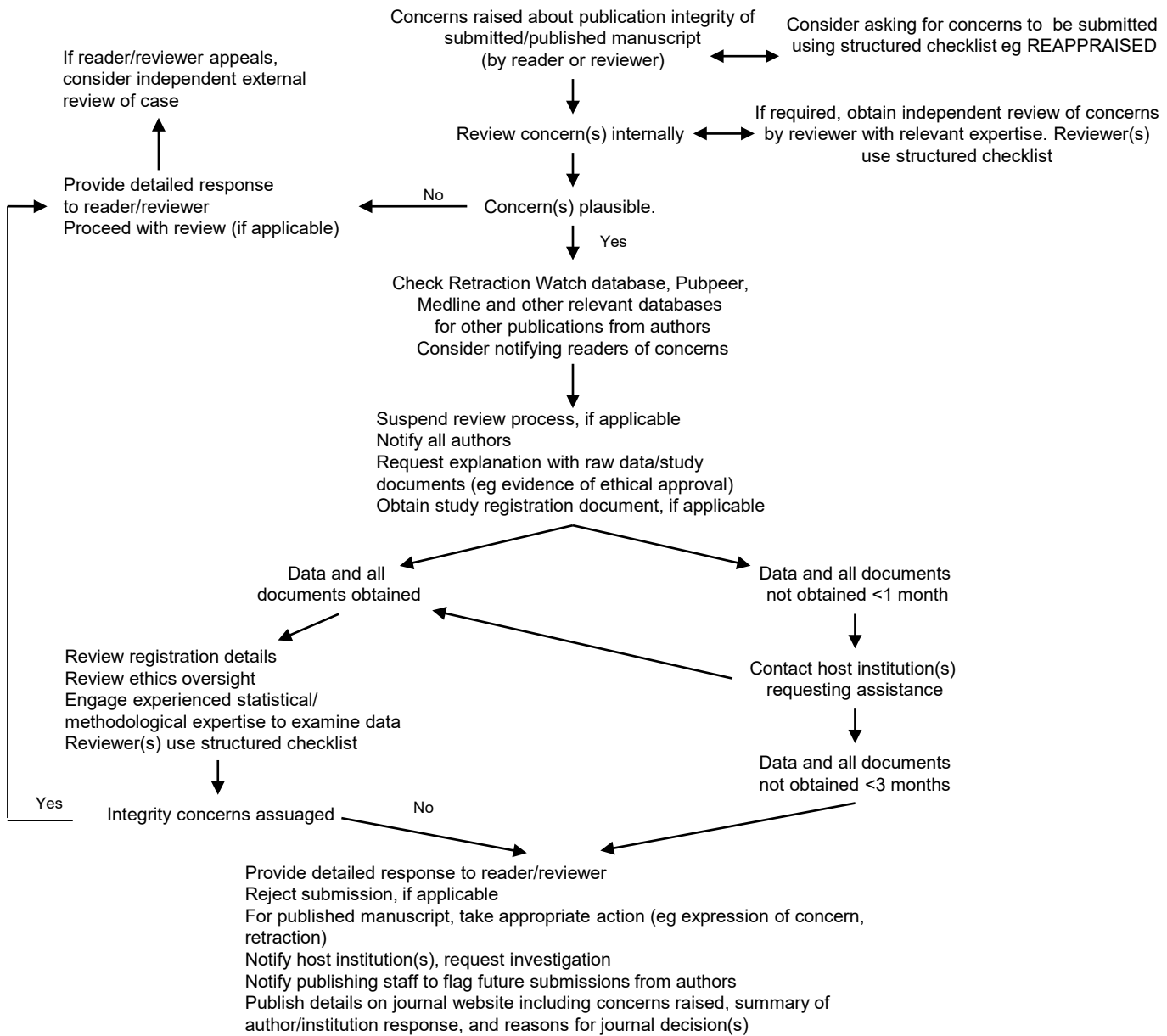


Problems

1. Persistent focus on misconduct rather than publication integrity
2. Inflammatory language (guilty/not guilty)
3. No time frames
4. Undue reliance on institutional assessment
5. Several potential roadblocks/delays – failure to respond by a notified party derails progress. Linear pathway means nothing happens quickly
6. At least one endless loop - no response from any party goes to regulatory body. No action if they don't respond. If they act, it is just to ask the authors' institution to investigate. If unsatisfactory response, an endless loop is established
7. No indication of how to assess concerns.
8. No recommendation to identify and assess other publications by the same researchers

Figure 1b

Suggested guidance



Improvements over existing COPE guidance

1. Broader focus - reviewer or reader, submitted or published manuscript
2. Focus on publication integrity: no mention of misconduct or use of inflammatory language
3. Retains responsibility with the party ultimately responsible for publication integrity
4. Uses peer review methodology embedded in existing publication review processes
5. Includes clear time frames
6. Offers actions if roadblocks occur. No endless loops or unnecessary delays
7. Suggests strategies to enable assessment of concerns
8. Encourages evaluation of other publications by the same researchers
9. Transparently informs journal readers