Ethics, Transparency, Research Integrity, Misconduct

Where Do Marie Curie Alumni Stand?

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MSCA at ESOF 2016, Manchester, 28/07/2016

Marie Curie Alumni Association

- More than **70 000 researchers** have benefitted from MSCA

- Over 7 000 have joined Marie Curie Alumni Association since November 2013

Join MCAA at
www.mariecuriealumni.eu

Marie Skłodowska-Curie (1867-1934)

Research Integrity Scandal during my PhD

- I was PhD Student at the Nanotechnology Group of ETH Zurich between 2000 and 2004

- The Jan Hendrik Schön scandal broke in 2002

- Jan Hendrik Schön was a postdoc at Bell Labs in the field of nanotechnology who published almost a paper per week for a whole year in 2000/2001 – many in Science and Nature

- A large part of his data was manipulated

- His original supervisor at Bell Labs, Prof. Dr. Bertram Batlogg, had been appointed professor at ETH Zürich in 2000 and was eventually cleared of any wrongdoing

Media Response

Bell Labs launches inquiry into allegations of data duplication

Misconduct finding at Bell Labs shakes physics community

Bell Labs inquiry spreads to superconductors

news

commentary

Is a bell tolling for Bell Labs?

It would be wise of Bell Labs to help others reproduce their scientists' results.

Image from http://archiv.ethlife.ethz.ch/e/articles/campuslife/faelschungendiek.html

Responsibility

Such scandals indicate failure on many levels

- Individual Researcher
- Co-authors / Supervisors
- Employer / Institution
- Funding Agencies
- Journals / Peer Review Process
- Education System / Training

ETH Response

- ETH set up a working group in 2003, including Nobel laureate Richard Ernst, to formulate guidelines for research and regulations on procedures in cases of scientific misconduct.

- ETH introduced "Rules of Procedure Governing Allegations of Scientific Misconduct at ETH Zurich" in 2004.

- All researchers received copies of the paper "The Research Culture at ETH Zurich" and the brochure "On being a scientist".

- ETH launched a series of events under the title of "Debating Science Culture" to encourage critical self-assessment.
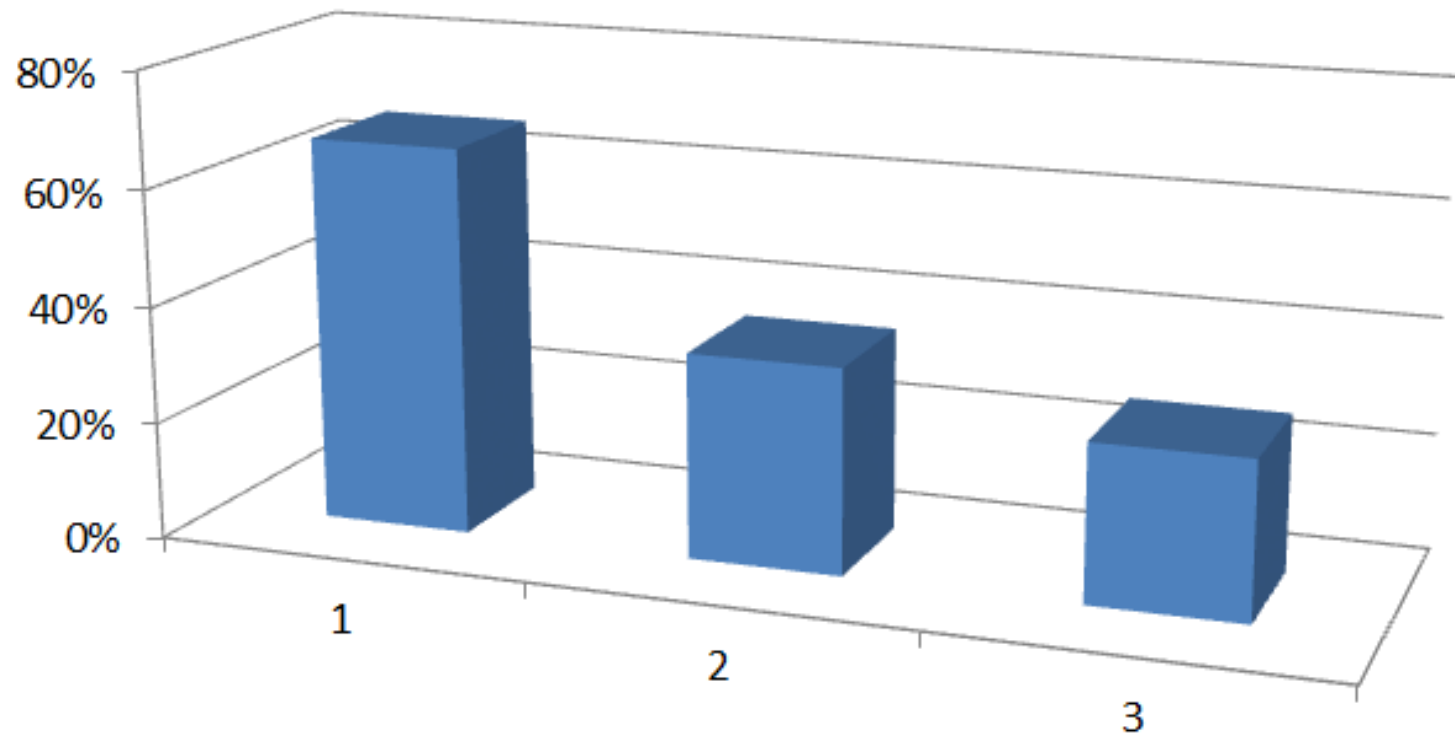
Details from http://archiv.ethlife.ethz.ch/e/articles/campuslife/faelschungendiek.html

Responsible Research in MSCA

- "Principles of research integrity – as set out, for instance, in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity – will apply throughout all Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions".

- Emphasis on Responsible Research and Innovation in H2020

- MCAA recommends providing compulsory training in research integrity to all who benefit from MSC grants:

  - fellows,

  - principal investigators and

  - coordinators.

MCAA Survey

1 - I am aware of the issues related to Research Integrity
2 - In my career I have met situations that could have lead to Research Misconduct
3 - In my career I have witnessed Research Misconduct

Conclusions

- Excellence in science is directly related to excellent research conduct.

- Not providing appropriate training will eventually result in high costs to Europe

- MCAA offer to provide access to the online research integrity courses of Epigeum received a strong response from our members

- We propose that the Commission should devote an annual budget of circa 200k€ to provide training to all new beneficiaries.