



You are a beginning graduate student, having started in the program six months ago. Your advisor hands you a manuscript by one of the postdocs in your group and asks you to check the correspondence between numbers in a data sheet and the paper and to proofread it carefully. All of the work described in the paper was completed before you arrived on campus. You do as you are asked, verifying that all the numbers were transferred correctly to the paper from the data sheet and suggesting some minor editorial changes. Your advisor then sends you and the postdoc the following note:

*Your name: You need to send me an email stating that you have examined the data with Dr. PostDoc and find the presentation of data in the manuscript to be accurate (as best you can tell.)*

*Postdoc's name: upon discussion with [your name], after you are done modifying the manuscript with figures, etc., send me a separate email note stating that you feel the manuscript is ready for journal submission to enable me to confirm that with the editor-in-chief.*

A week or so later, you learn that the paper was submitted for publication the day after your proofreading was complete and accepted for publication not long thereafter. The authors on the paper are the postdoc and you. What are the issues in this situation and what, if anything, should you do?

*By C.K. Gunsalus, Based on the investigation report dated 4/18/08 and available at <http://news.unc.purdue.edu/x/2008b/080718PurdueReport.pdf>.*

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I had just become a post doc for a PI who gave me data on 50 subjects to work with. However, the research coordinator, who was resigning, told me that fMRI scans had only been done on 6 of the 50 subjects and that the results did not support the PI's hypotheses. I felt like I had just been handed a smoking gun, and wanted out immediately. What do you do?

*By C.K. Gunsalus, based on interview conducted by Joan Sieber.*

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I am very excited about my research – after years of irrelevant undergrad classes I finally get to work with an expert in my field doing what I want. The only catch is that before I do my research, I have to do a favor for my advisor (an advisor's friend actually). She says it's for "experience." I call it interviewing dozens of people Saturday morning for research I don't care about. Technically I need IRB approval before I start interviewing people, but it's taking such a long time I've already started interviewing. My advisor's friend has gotten IRB approval for this kind of thing before very easily, so it's clear that what I'm doing is perfectly ethical. I obviously can't tell my advisor about all of this, so what I'm going to do is ask my advisor to conduct some "pilot" interviews before I get my IRB approval. This will speed up the interviewing process, won't get me in trouble for bypassing the IRB because I will get the go-ahead from my advisor, and will let me get to my research faster.

