



Leids Universitair
Medisch Centrum

Symposium Misdirected allegations of breaches of research integrity

6th World Congress on Research Integrity

Hong Kong, 2-5 June 2019

F.R.Rosendaal
Leiden Committee on Scientific Integrity



LEIDEN UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER



Symposium programme

- An overview of procedures of investigations

Prof. dr F.R. Rosendaal

Leiden University Medical Center

- Procedures on research integrity: a bird's eye view

Dr M.Y.H.G. Erkens

Faculty of Law, Leiden University

- A journalist's view: What makes a story a story?

Dr I. Oransky

Retraction Watch, New York

- Panel discussion

Conflicts of interests

none

Credentials

- professor of Clinical Epidemiology in Leiden
 - research into cardiovascular disease
- chair of Committee on Scientific Integrity at Leiden University Medical Center and Leiden University
- member of Council of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)
- member of the Thematic Working Group on Research Integrity of the League of European Research Universities (LERU)
- for many years Editor of a scientific journal (J Thromb Haemost)

Scientific Integrity Investigation

- must be based on a code
 - a list of norms
 - people can only be held accountable for what they could have known to be wrong
 - can be by institute, national, or international
- must have procedural rules
 - a list of procedures
 - people should know how to complain, and what to expect as complainant or accused
 - committee should know what to do (and what not)
 - is usually institutional

But...

- a code does not cover everything
 - must sometimes be interpreted
 - can sometimes be stretched
- procedural rules
 - do not always fit reality
 - can vary between cases
- some uniformity seems desirable, and just

Never complain and never explain
Benjamin Disraeli

But some do complain... and complain...

De Dordtse wobber blijft toeslaan

3,9 miljoen wil hij er indienen: informatieverzoeken aan de gemeente Dordrecht. Uit wraak. De gemeente moet elke keer antwoorden. En de rechter kan hem niet stoppen.

Ingmar Vriesema 8 januari 2016



Dordrecht was gewaarschuwd. Hij, Mustafa Karasahin, zou blijven strijden en nooit door de knieën gaan. Als de gemeente zijn huurpanden afpakt op grond van belachelijk strenge huurregels,



- ‘WOB’: Dutch Freedom of Information Act
- ‘Wobber’: neologism, someone who abuses it
- sent thousands
- city of Dordrecht spent several million euros in answering
- per 2016: restraining order with quatum of 2 per month

Procedures must be balanced and clear

- to give access for complainant
- to be fair to accused

But the balance can be disturbed by misuse

Survey on procedures

- workload
- composition of committee
- set of rules and procedures
- maximum time period for admissibility
- origin of complaints and anonymous complaints
- investigative freedom committee
- transparency of reporting by committee

- sent to LERU universities (n=23) and Dutch universities (n=14)
- response from 18

- Cambridge
- Oxford
- Lund
- Freiburg
- Geneva
- Leuven
- Leiden
- Utrecht
- Amsterdam (UoA)

- Amsterdam (Free University)
- Maastricht
- Rotterdam (Erasmus University)
- Nijmegen (Radboud University)
- Tilburg
- Twente
- Delft
- Eindhoven
- Wageningen



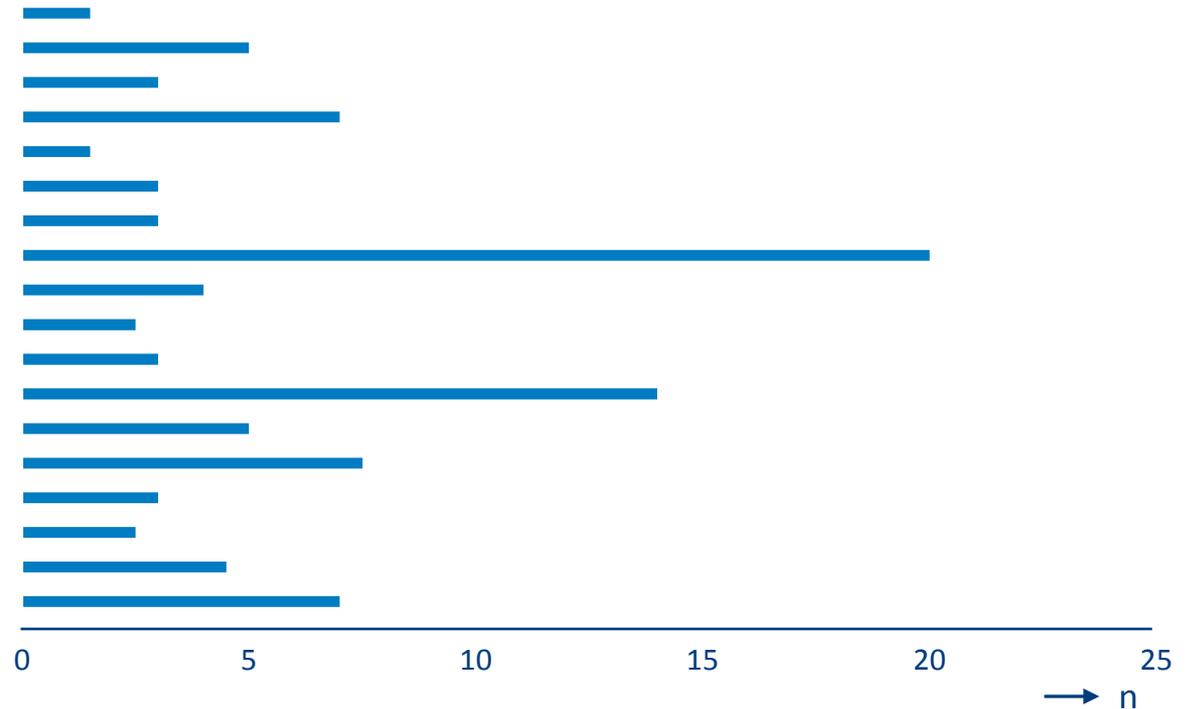
n=18
NL: 12

Workload per committee

- number of cases of breaches of scientific integrity
 - on average per year
 - admissible or not
 - founded or not

Workload per committee

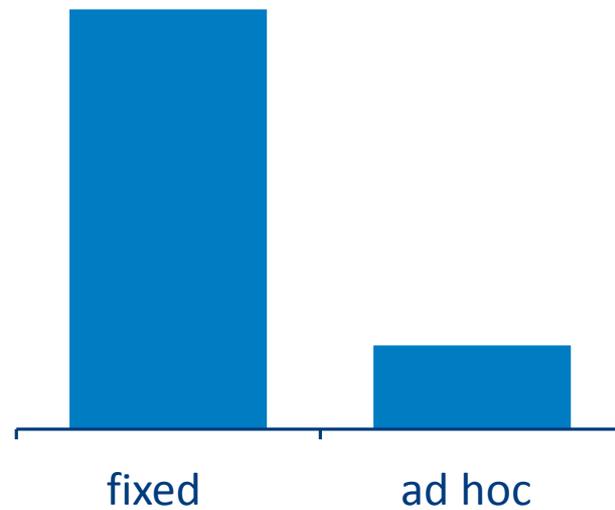
- median number of cases 3 per year
- range 1 -20



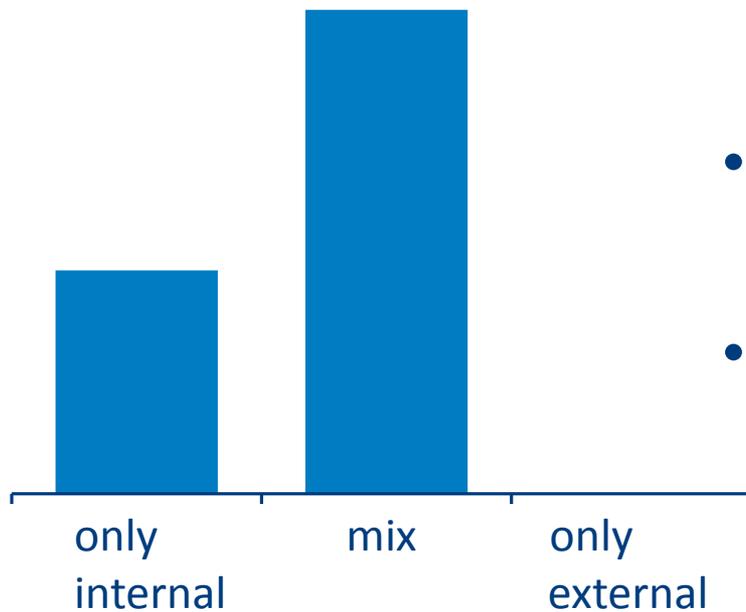
Composition of committee

- fixed standing committee or ad hoc committee
- committee members
 - internal (employees of university)
 - external

Composition of committee



Composition of committee



- external sometimes mandatory, often optional
- external: emeriti, scientists from other institutions, others

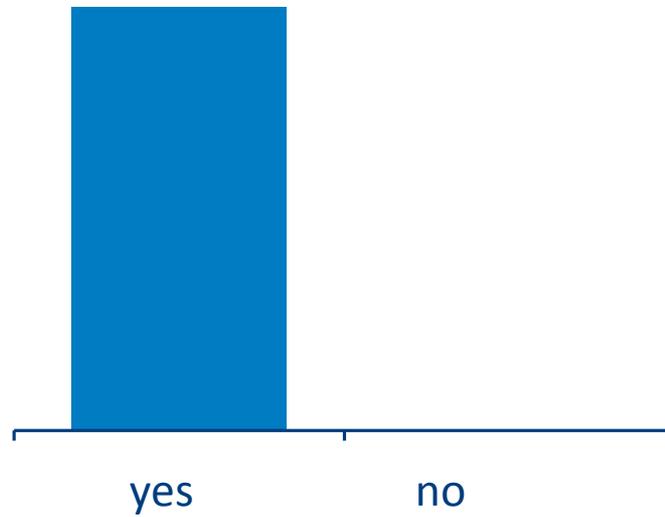
Procedures

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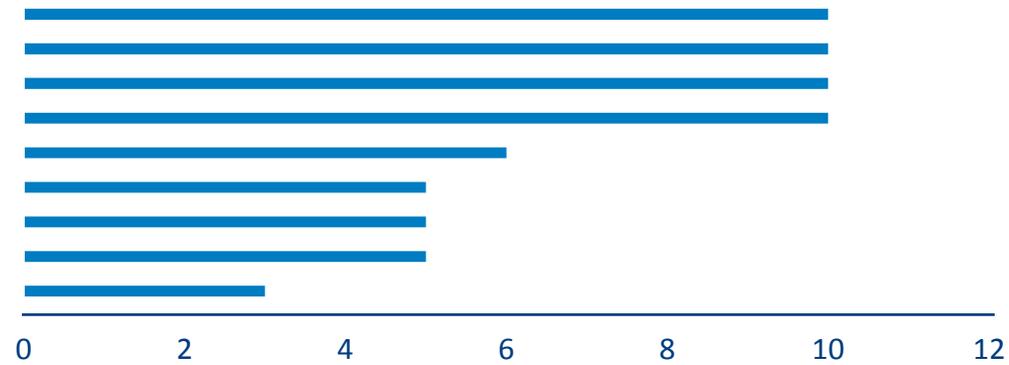
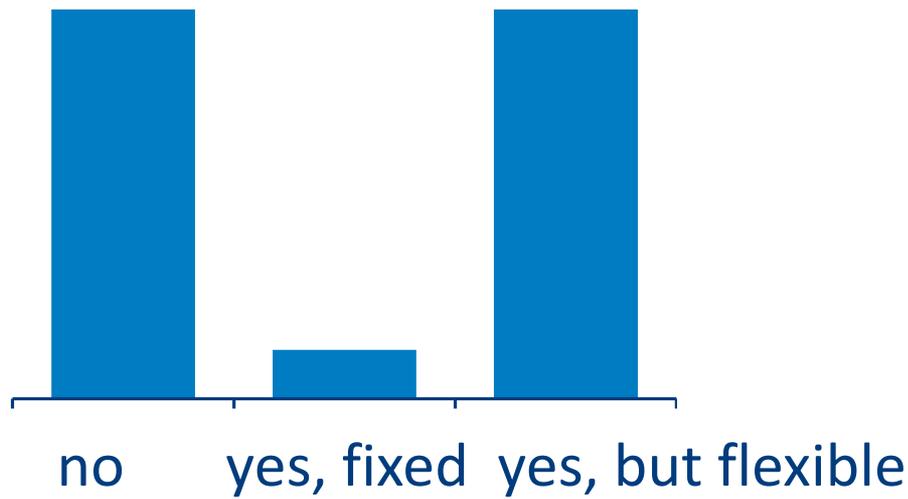
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www.organisatiegids.universiteitleid.nl/binaries/content/assets/ul2staff/organisatiegids/klachtregeling-wetenschappelijke-integriteit-2018-eng.pdf

Is there a published set of procedures?



Is there a time limit ('statute of limitations')

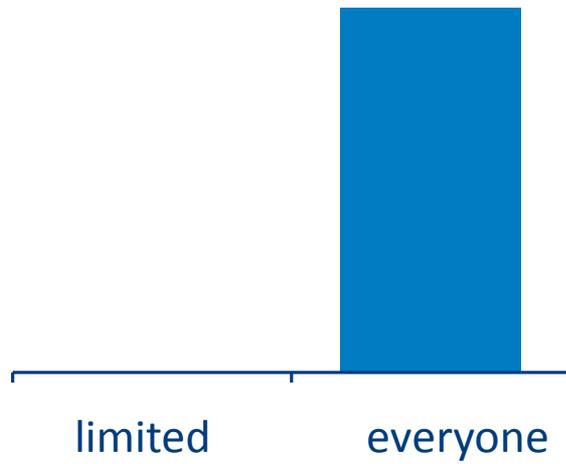


The complaint

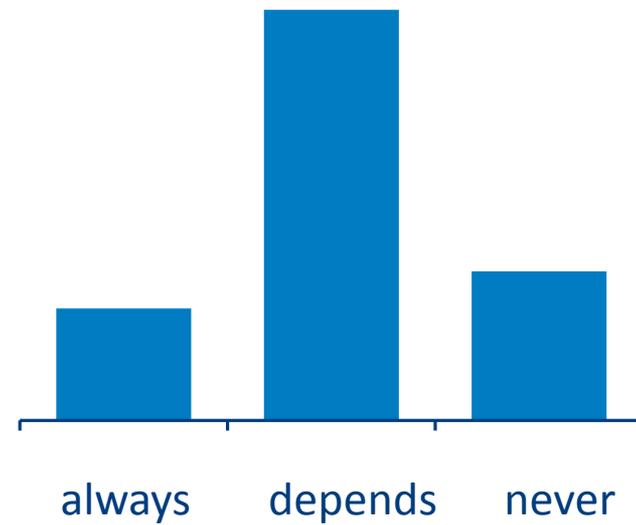
- who can complain?
 - everyone?
 - only interested parties?
 - only employees?
- are anonymous complaints considered?
- can committee investigate without complaint?
- can committee collect information beyond that provided in complaint?

The complainant

complainant

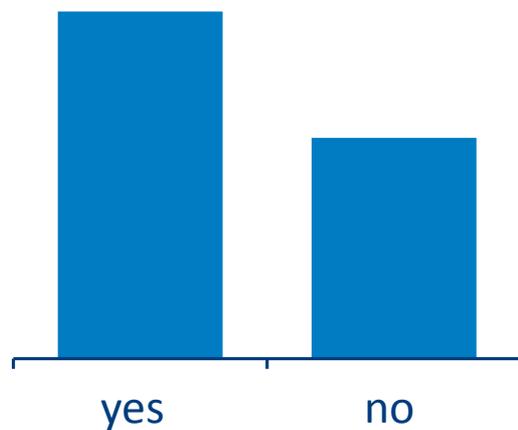


anonymous complaints



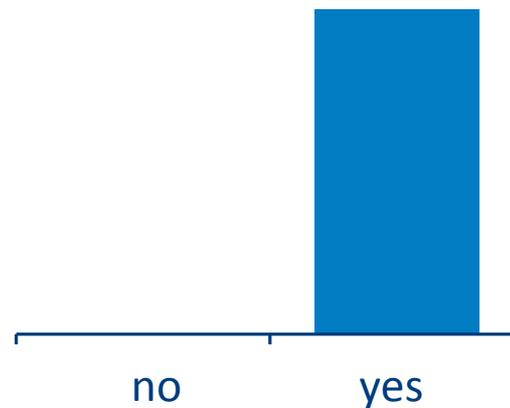
The investigation vis a vis the complaint

complaintless investigation



- usually only by request of the board

inquisitory committee



Publication of report

- publication of the report
 - shows transparency about academic wrongdoing
 - may be educational
 - to scientists
 - to other committees
 - will evoke media-attention
- if non-anonymised
 - will warn future employers
 - will harm career(s)

Publication of report

