R&D PROJECTS CONSULTANCY AT TAYLOR'S UNIVERSITY

Taylor's has progressively made its mark in fostering the highest quality of research and in playing an impactful role in creating higher efficiency and productivity, ensuring economic growth standards. In the long run, R&D will not only support but also drive the nation's transformation vision of achieving a 'developed nation' status by 2020.

For many years, Taylor's has invested in state-of-the-art research facilities, encouraged research specialists, and most importantly, instilled a strong culture of creativity and scholarly activities. 

Consultancy services carried out at Taylor's University in collaboration with public and private organizations.

...And Culinary Arts
- South East Asia
- Southeast Asia
- Environmental Science
- Medical and Chemical Engineering
- Creative Art and Multimedia
- Information Technology

For more details, please contact Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair
Innovation@taylors.edu.my or log on to www.taylors.edu.my/research

TEACHING AWARDS

These awards, which will grant recipients the edge in academic and research training experience in Science or Hospitality & Tourism, while receiving financial assistance. With Taylor's assistance, you'll gain more than just a PhD.

SCHEME 2

Full tuition fee waiver
- 3-year contract (subject to annual review)
- Undertake up to 5 hours of duties per week in the form of teaching, tutoring and class demonstrations.
- PhD in Science KTP/PSICA01005/15
- PhD in Hospitality & Tourism KTP/PSICA01005/14

Food for thought

Academic authorship: KPI vs KIP

'Publish or perish' or in a positive tone, 'publish and flourish' refers to the pressure to publish work constantly to gain peer recognition or sustain a career in academia. A published work is the culmination of a finished research project or other scholarly activities in recorded form.

In most universities around the world, there is increasing pressure on scholars to publish new work frequently as high impact publications. It is in fact, the single most important key to advancing individual research career.

Hence, it is also one of the primary sources of academic authorship conflict and fraud. This age-old issue of 'academic authorship' has been debated in many forums yet the prevalence of very dubious claims to authorship continues.

Very often universities and research institutions neither possess the resources nor the time to investigate — which is a lengthy process when complaints by aggrieved parties emerge and are brought to their attention.

What constitutes an author? This seemingly simple question is fraught with conflicting answers in its application particularly in a university setting where authors can emerge from several different situations coming into play. Authorship is the most visible form of academic recognition and credit.

However, because credit for publication is also important in disputes and allegations of research misconduct, it is worth considering why authorship credit is more than a matter of personal gratification.

How do we decide then, who can be rightfully termed as an author? Particularly when promotions are based on the quantity of high impact publications emanating from an individual academic?

Admittedly, it is quite difficult to gauge the quality of books but scientific articles published in international journals.

Author status has been awarded to many who are not able to defend the contents of a manuscript.

The most extreme practice is 'honorary authorship' or 'gift authorship' where, for example, a head of a department is automatically granted authorship on all papers that emanate from that department. In some cases, the research supervisor is made the first author in all students' publications.

In terms of academic integrity, research studies that have some support from the supervisors or heads of departments must be captured in the acknowledgment section of the publication and need not be accorded co-authorship.

There are already some journals that have resorted to resolving issues of authorship ambiguity by adopting a mandatory convention wherein each author's actual contribution is succinctly and explicitly stated in the publication, perhaps in the acknowledgments section. This may be the way forward.

Let us not give a dubious definition to academic authorship. Authorship is a serious issue that comes with responsibilities. The overriding aim of authors should be to contribute to the corpus of knowledge rather than chalking up numbers.

This unethical practice in the academia needs to be checked before it becomes an acceptable culture. Researchers who are unable to defend a particular publication, not wholly but at least partly, cannot be regarded as a co-author. The concept of transnational research must be emphasised more than doing research for the sake of promotion.

Hence, the target set by the Ministry of Higher Education in the Malaysian Research Assessment Instrument (MyRA) which is very much Key Performance Index (KPI) driven whereby the quantity of high impact indexed articles are valued more than the Key Intangible Performance (KIP).

Food for thought

Academic authorship: KPI vs KIP

'Publish or perish' or in a positive tone, 'publish and flourish' refers to the pressure to publish work constantly to gain peer recognition or sustain a career in academia. A published work is the culmination of a finished research project or other scholarly activities in recorded form.

In most universities around the world, there is increasing pressure on scholars to publish new work frequently as high impact publications. It is in fact, the single most important key to advancing individual research career.

Hence, it is also one of the primary sources of academic authorship conflict and fraud. This age-old issue of 'academic authorship' has been debated in many forums yet the prevalence of very dubious claims to authorship continues.

Very often universities and research institutions neither possess the resources nor the time to investigate — which is a lengthy process when complaints by aggrieved parties emerge and are brought to their attention.

What constitutes an author? This seemingly simple question is fraught with conflicting answers in its application particularly in a university setting where authors can emerge from several different situations coming into play. Authorship is the most visible form of academic recognition and credit.

However, because credit for publication is also important in disputes and allegations of research misconduct, it is worth considering why authorship credit is more than a matter of personal gratification.

How do we decide then, who can be rightfully termed as an author? Particularly when promotions are based on the quantity of high impact publications emanating from an individual academic?

Admittedly, it is quite difficult to gauge the quality of books but scientific articles published in international journals.

Author status has been awarded to many who are not able to defend the contents of a manuscript.

The most extreme practice is 'honorary authorship' or 'gift authorship' where, for example, a head of a department is automatically granted authorship on all papers that emanate from that department. In some cases, the research supervisor is made the first author in all students' publications.

In terms of academic integrity, research studies that have some support from the supervisors or heads of departments must be captured in the acknowledgment section of the publication and need not be accorded co-authorship.

There are already some journals that have resorted to resolving issues of authorship ambiguity by adopting a mandatory convention wherein each author's actual contribution is succinctly and explicitly stated in the publication, perhaps in the acknowledgments section. This may be the way forward.

Let us not give a dubious definition to academic authorship. Authorship is a serious issue that comes with responsibilities. The overriding aim of authors should be to contribute to the corpus of knowledge rather than chalking up numbers.

This unethical practice in the academia needs to be checked before it becomes an acceptable culture. Researchers who are unable to defend a particular publication, not wholly but at least partly, cannot be regarded as a co-author. The concept of transnational research must be emphasised more than doing research for the sake of promotion.

Hence, the target set by the Ministry of Higher Education in the Malaysian Research Assessment Instrument (MyRA) which is very much Key Performance Index (KPI) driven whereby the quantity of high impact indexed articles are valued more than the Key Intangible Performance (KIP).
In its application particularly in a research setting when authors can emerge from several different situations, several authors can emerge from several different situations coming into play. Authorship is the most visible form of academic recognition and credit. However, because credit for publication is also important in disputes and allegations of research misconduct, it is worth considering why authorship credit is more than a matter of personal gratification.

How do we decide then, who can be rightfully termed as an author particularly when promotions are based on the quantity of high impact publications emanating from an individual academic? Admittedly, it is quite difficult to gauge the quality of books but scientific articles published in high-impact journals are assumed to be of a certain desired quality because articles published in most journals go through a stringent process of reviewing and editing.

Many have come to understand the concept of authorship differently, very often leading to disputes, misunderstandings, and lingering feelings of unfairness concerning which contributions do and do not merit authorship. The publication number game in the academia has resulted in 'tag-teams' of authorship for publications. As a result there are many 'ghost' authors who are riding on the lead researcher's knowledge rather than earning authorship.

This unethical practice in the academia needs to be checked before it becomes an acceptable culture. Researchers who are unable to defend a particular publication, not wholly but at least partly, cannot be regarded as a co-author. The concept of translational research must be emphasised more than doing research for the sake of promotion.

Hence the target set by the Ministry of Higher Education in the Malaysian Research Assessment Instrument (MyRA) which is very much Key Performance Index (KPI) driven whereby the quantity of high impact indexed articles are valued more than the Key Intangible Performance (KIP), has to be relooked if we want to discourage these unethical ways of achieving the KPI.

Let us hope that a greater focus on KIP and translational research that has true benefit to the society and industry gains momentum in all the public and private universities in Malaysia. Only then can we be proud of our research output in contributing towards the knowledge economy and our move up the value chain.

Associate Professor Dr Vikneswaran Nair is the Director of Research and Development at Taylor's University.