



HOKKAIDO  
UNIVERSITY

# For Students

Prevention of Misconduct during Research Activities for the  
Upright Development of Science

April 2015

# Introduction

## Code of conduct for scientists at Hokkaido University

Science and scientific research are intended to be applied for the sake of peace, security and the fair and rich future of human society, and research activities based on the development of science and technology and the independent judgment of scientists may only achieve social recognition on the premise of trust and a mandate from society. Therefore, scientists must always ensure transparency of their research activities and accountability to society and be aware of the strict and high ethical principles expected of them.

\* Students must pay full attention to the content of this document before conducting experiments and research.



## Research Misconduct

Misconduct is nothing less than behavior against the ethical values of researchers. It distorts the quality and purpose of such ethical principles and upsets normal scientific communication within the scientific community.

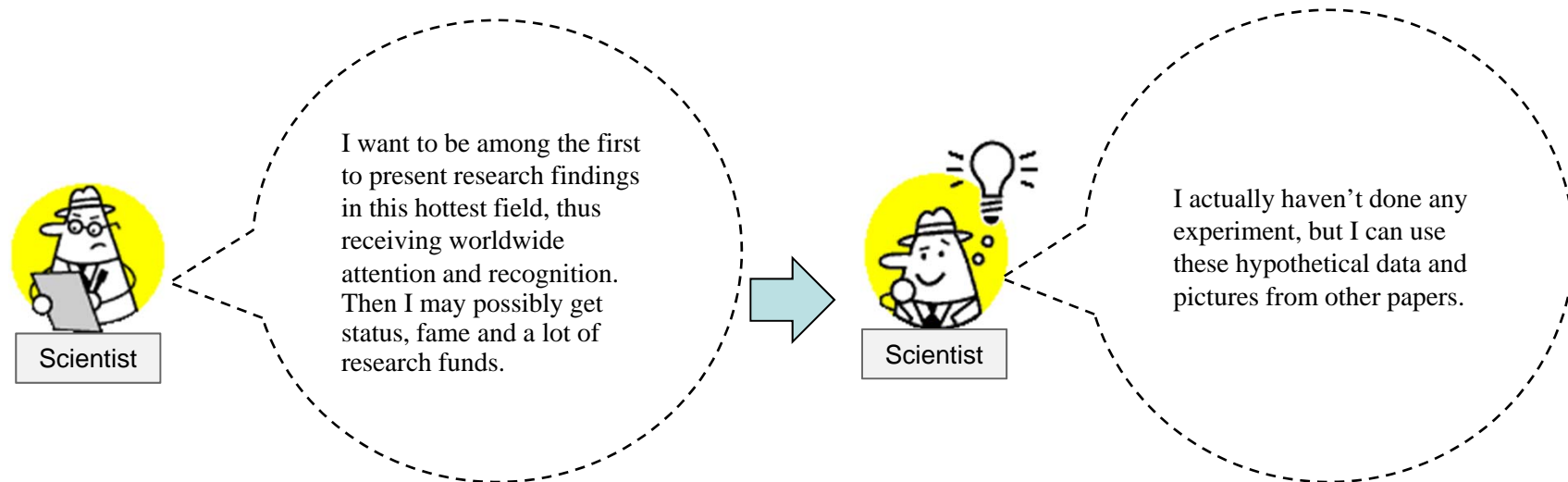
Specifically, typical examples of research misconduct **include fabrication** and **falsification** of obtained data or results, **plagiarism** of other person's research findings or other information, **duplicate publication** of the same research findings, and **inappropriate authorship** by not appropriately indicating the authors of referenced research papers.

If research findings that have been honestly obtained by truly appropriate scientific methods turn out to have been mistaken, it is not considered misconduct.



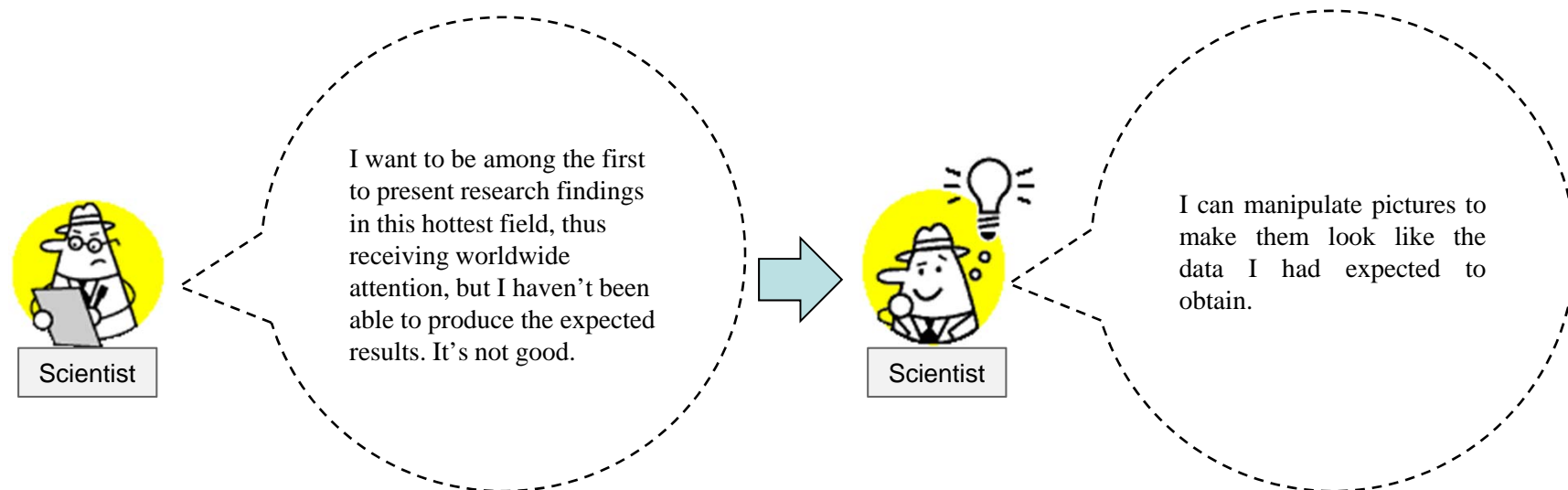
## Case 1: Fabrication

Fabrication is making up of data, research findings or other information that do not exist.



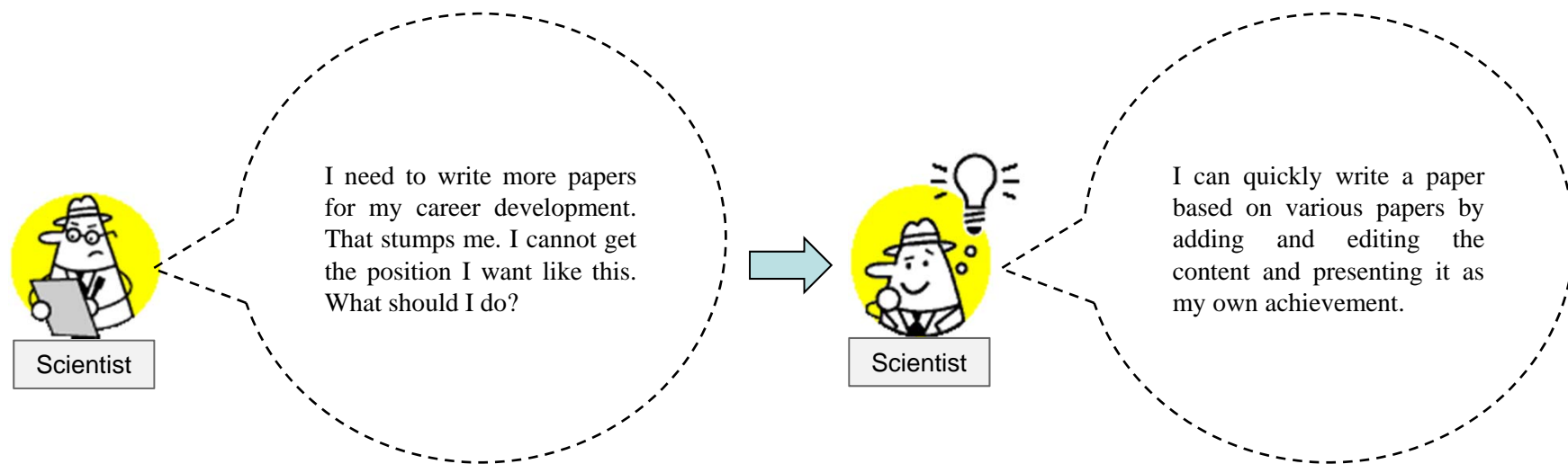
## Case 2: Falsification

Falsification is manipulation of research materials, equipment or processes, such as using data and research findings in a way that is not a true and correct representation of the actual results of the study.



## Case 3: Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the misappropriation of other researchers' ideas, analysis methods, data, research findings, papers or words without the explicit permission of the relevant researcher or an appropriate indication of where the material comes from. (An act of so-called copy and paste falls into this type of misconduct. Regarding duplicate publication, if appropriate references are not provided, it is considered self-plagiarism.)



## Current Measures Against Misconduct

Article 15 of the Hokkaido University Regulations on Academic Degrees stipulate that doctoral dissertations must be published on the Internet.

Once your dissertation has been published, other people may evaluate it in various ways using computers or other tools.

This must be kept in mind, because Internet plagiarism of students who have to write papers has become a social problem in recent years.

Supervisors may check papers using software that can detect misconduct to prevent such behavior.

◆ Case example:

It was suspected that a paper presented by a medical school student at a university was a fabrication including falsification of the data. As a result of an investigation by the university, fabrication and falsification were actually determined and disciplinary action was taken against the student and supervisors.



## Penalties Against Misconduct

Students engaged in misconduct may be suspended or expelled. In such a case, not only is graduation postponed, but tuition payments also increase during the extra time and scholarships may be suspended or cancelled.

Their supervisors are also questioned about their supervisory responsibilities and may be penalized for their share in not preventing the misconduct.

\* Quotations without providing appropriate references and copy & paste from the Internet, books and papers comprise apparent violations of copyright and are subject to criminal charges.

