

Editorial



This issue of CHIMIA is devoted to *Scientific Integrity*, with a particular emphasis on chemistry. Research integrity is a highly topical subject that impacts the public perception and acceptance of science. Instances of research misconduct strengthen public rejection of scientific findings as ‘fake news’ in areas as diverse as human health, worldwide pandemics, climate change and the impact of artificial intelligence on society. For much of the last century and the first decade of this, most researchers considered that research integrity was only an issue for medical scientists and did not concern them.

Classical views of research integrity concentrate upon FFP – *falsification, fabrication and plagiarism*. These are the manifestations of research misconduct, but research integrity is more about promoting best practices in the discipline. In this sense, scientists should embrace it as a ‘badge’ of their personal suitability to practice rather than a set of rules to restrict academic freedom.

The first article discusses why this has become such a hot topic in the past 20 years and the challenges facing us as we move forward. Inevitably, research integrity becomes enmeshed with the legal and regulatory frameworks in which scientists operate, and the article by **Weber-Mandrin et al.** addresses the realities of operating in complex legal and institutional frameworks. The next article, by **Togni**, illustrates how chemists, even with the best of intentions, can stray towards areas of misconduct. The theme of operating in the complex Swiss institutional system is returned to by **Bumann** and **Mamula Steiner**, whilst **Mehlich** addresses the issues of chemical scientists operating responsibly within the societal environment of the European Green Deal. The final article by **Leumann** illustrates how the various players operate within the Swiss national system to ensure fairness and transparency without impacting the independence of the academic institutions.

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The artwork for the cover was prepared using creative generative AI with the programme Adobe Firefly.

The CHIMIA Editorial is very grateful to Prof. E. C. Constable for his great efforts in organizing this issue on *Scientific Integrity: Added Constraint, or Best Practice?* emphasising the importance of this area to the scientific community and the public as a whole.