

RCR Topic: Authorship and Publication

Title: Professor Smith

Case: Professor Smith performed a study testing the effects of “glucoload” on exercise performance in youth. He looked at a number of variables, including VO2max, HR and RPE at a submaximal level, etc. He had enough study participants to split the groups into boys and girls, so he presented the data by gender, and analyzed it that way. In fact, he did find a gender effect. The study was subsequently published. A year later, a student of Professor Smith (Ms. Jones), wanted to compare the boys’ results with those of adult men. So for her thesis, she tested a group of men, using the same protocol, and analyzed their results in comparison to Professor Smith’s boys. She found some differences, and submitted the results for publication.

Did using the dataset from the boys' results (previously published) give Ms. Jones an unfair advantage over others (not affiliated with Professor Smith) who might have wanted to use those previous data? Also, since the data on the boys had been published previously, was Ms. Jones thesis actually a “redundant” publication, since she presented the boys data exactly as they were published previously?

