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Unique Research Integrity Challenges in the AI Era

When AI Meets RI: Legal and Compliance Considerations Emerging from the Use of AI Tools to Identify Research Integrity Concerns

This is the second in a series of posts addressing the use of AI-based screening tools to detect research integrity issues, including pros and cons, unique challenges, downstream implications, potential pitfalls, and risk mitigation practices.

The advent of AI-based screening tools to detect research integrity concerns has added unique challenges to assessing and addressing research misconduct claims, including:

- **Volume.** The ease of access to and use of AI-based screening tools can lead to a high volume of claims, sometimes in public forums.
- **Perspective.** Claimants may lack connection to the lab, institution authors, or subject matter.
- **Discernment.** Claims can fail to account for human judgment, poor image quality, or historical practices.
- **False Positives.** AI-based screening tools can produce false positive results, which can be distracting and consume institutional resources.
- **False Negatives.** AI-based screening can also miss potential research integrity issues, which may lead to authors' misplaced confidence in work or overreliance on the tools.
- **Whistleblowers.** Monetary incentives can lead to suits under the False Claims Act, which may move faster than internal research integrity reviews.



VOLUME

Easy access can lead to a flood of claims, including public allegations



PERSPECTIVE

Claimants may lack connection to the lab/institution, authors, or subject matter



DISCERNMENT

Claims can overlook judgment, poor image quality, and historical practice



FALSE +

Can be distracting and consume resources



FALSE -

Can lead to authors' misplaced confidence in work or overreliance on the tools



WHISTLEBLOWERS

\$ incentives to file lawsuits (e.g. under the FCA) that may move faster than RI process

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