

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI/VA MEDICAL CENTER

**DIALOGUES IN RESEARCH ETHICS**

## Dialogue 6

# Hype, Hedges and Spin: Deception in Scientific Writing

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Noon, Friday, April 29, 1994      Medical Campus, RMSB 3109

—→Lunch will be provided←—

There is little of ethical interest in frank plagiarism or fabrication—they are just wrong. Grants and articles may, however, founder on less dramatic, but potent, kinds of deception, often unnoticed by the writer. Examples include over- and understatement, emphatic but unsubstantiated claims, downplaying of uncertainty, emphasis of findings over shortcomings, etc. Scientists who assume that such devices go unnoticed by others do so at the risk of their applications, their credibility and scientific inquiry.

Dr. Julienne Prineas is Director of the University of Miami Grant Writing Resources Program and a consultant on the preparation of grant proposals and research publications.

*Dialogues in Research Ethics is a series of monthly conferences. For more information about the series, phone 547-5723, write to medical campus box M-825 or send e-mail to [kgoodman@newssun.med.miami.edu](mailto:kgoodman@newssun.med.miami.edu). Sponsors:*

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