

**DIALOGUE 162**

# Science Writing & Communication: Potential Tools to Improve Replication

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*University of Miami*

12:00 p.m., Friday, October 30, 2015  
Mailman Center for Child Development, Room 3023  
*A light lunch will be provided; space is limited*

Biomedical science is experiencing one of the greatest challenges ever to the integrity of the research enterprise. The too-frequent failure of efforts to replicate or reproduce others' results has engendered a crisis and, to some, undermined the credibility of at least some studies. The causes of this failure are thought to include over-stated results, pressure to publish, careless work, and even the addition of "secret sauce." Although these factors may have a role, we should consider another: vague, sloppy, and even poor writing. Improvement of scientists' communication skills – valuable in its own right – might also be a mechanism for addressing the problem of scientific replication and advancing translational science.

Dr. Johnson directs the University of Miami English Composition Program where she supervises 40 full- and part-time faculty and 30 graduate students in some 120 class sections for more than 2,000 students. The Composition Program is also responsible for the Writing Center on both the Coral Gables and Medical campuses. Her research and teaching interests include writing across the curriculum, Anglo-Caribbean writing, digital writing, technical writing, and scientific communication.

*Dialogues in Research Ethics is a series of monthly conferences. For more information, phone UM Ethics Programs at 305-243-5723 or E-mail [ethics@miami.edu](mailto:ethics@miami.edu).*

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