Whistleblower-Police in Research

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Introduction
Since, time immemorial there is people who stand for justice and support ethics in every act including research. Illegal and unethical activities can be curbed in research by a method called as “Whistleblowing.” A person who reports scientific misconduct is called as ‘Whistle Blower’.

Definition
A whistleblower (also written as whistle-blower or whistle blower) is a person who exposes any kind of information or activity that is deemed illegal, unethical in research within an organization that is either private or public.

According to the 2010 definition from the US Office of Special Counsel, a Whistleblower discloses information he or she reasonably believes evidences:
- a violation of a law, rule, or regulation
- gross mismanagement, gross waste of funds, or abuse of authority
- a substantial and specific danger to public health or public safety

There are two types of Whistleblowers:
1. Internal
   Internal whistleblower can bring his/her accusations to the attention of other people within the accused organization/Institution.
2. External
   Externally, a whistleblower can bring allegations to light outside of an accused organization such as the media, government or law enforcement.

Need for whistleblowers
1. Protection of credit or intellectual property rights
2. Stop misuse of primary data

Conclusion
It is unfortunate that marketing pressure frequently prevails over scientific evidence or professional standards. As Academic research is vulnerable to accountability, Whistleblowers can expose the truth to make a difference and survive by learning and effectively using the tactics that turn information into power.