



To: KAUST Faculty
From: Pierre Magistretti and Larry Carin
Date: April 11, 2023

SUBJECT: USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS IN RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS AND AUTHORSHIP

We are writing to you today as the Vice President for Research and the Provost to provide guidance on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in research publications, particularly with regard to authorship.

The use of AI tools such as ChatGPT or Large Language Models in research publications is expanding rapidly. While these tools can be incredibly useful in aiding the writing of manuscripts, producing images or graphical elements of a paper, or in the collection and analysis of data, they cannot be listed as authors of a paper.

The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) has joined other organizations such as the WAME and the JAMA Network in stating that AI tools cannot meet the requirements for authorship. As non-legal entities, they cannot take responsibility for the submitted work, assert the presence or absence of conflicts of interest, or manage copyright and license agreements.

Authors who use AI tools in their research must be transparent in disclosing how the AI tool was used and which tool was used. This information should be included in the Materials and Methods (or a similar section) of the paper. It is important to note that authors are fully responsible for the content of their manuscript, even those parts produced by an AI tool, and are thus liable for any breach of publication ethics.

In conclusion, it is imperative that the KAUST research community adheres to COPE's position statement on authorship and AI tools. Authors must be transparent about their use of AI tools and take full responsibility for the content of their manuscripts. Please contact the Research Compliance Office (research.compliance@kaust.edu.sa) if you have any questions or concerns about the use of AI tools in your research.

Sincerely,
Pierre Magistretti and Larry Carin