

Case Study Two – Mary Lamb

Yolanda, a graduate student in Dr. Zhu's lab, is talking with Mary Lamb, Dr. Zhu's assistant. She notices the title page of a manuscript on top of a pile of papers on Mary's desk. When she looks at it more closely, Yolanda is surprised to see that there are only four co-authors listed: her, Valerie (also in Dr. Zhu's lab), Dr. Albert, and Dr. Zhu.

Four months ago, Yolanda spent several weeks in Dr. Albert's lab at the University of Washington learning an experimental technique that she needed for her research that no one in Dr. Zhu's lab knew. For most of her visit, she worked side-by-side with Ben Brown, a post-doctoral fellow. Ben not only taught her the technique she needed to master, but he also gave her good advice on her experimental design, and during the last week of her visit, helped Yolanda complete a series of experiments. Those experiments became an important part of the experimental section of the manuscript.

"Mary, I think there's an error here," Yolanda begins. "Ben Brown's still missing from the co-authors, and I know I put a note on the last draft about this. He was on the first few drafts, but somehow he got dropped."

"Oh, now that you mention it, I do recall seeing his name before," replies Wanda. "Well, what I got from Dr. Zhu before he left on his trip was what he told me was the final version. I'm supposed to finish up the manuscript, and get it sent out to the journal today."

"But you can't do that," exclaims Yolanda. "It wouldn't be fair. You've got to put Ben's name back on the paper before you send it."

What should Mary do?