

Summary of LOWI opinion 2015-01

The Petitioner to the LOWI is correct in asserting that researchers may be engaged in scientific practice when they are asked by the courts to serve as independent experts owing to their specific knowledge of the field in which they work. In such cases, the principles of research integrity apply. See LOWI opinion 2012-02.

The LOWI rejects the Petitioner's implication that researchers, by definition, violate the principles of research integrity by accepting a court's invitation to serve as an expert in legal proceedings. This interpretation is incorrect and furthermore undesirable because the courts would then never be able to call on the expertise of scientists.

To successfully invoke a violation of the principles of research integrity, the Petitioner must submit evidence beyond the mere observation that the researcher in question is a member of the editorial board of the same journal as one of the authorised representatives in the proceedings.

The LOWI upholds the Board's preliminary decision.

On 18 February 2015, the Board issued its final decision in line with the LOWI's opinion.