It’s a Slippery Slope to Research Misconduct

Small lapses in judgment could lead to a slippery slope ending in research misconduct.

Be vigilant against these common lapses:

1. **Taking Shortcuts**
Lack of care in experimentation that might impact reproducibility.

2. **Cheating**
Such as puffery, which is inflating your resume, can establish dangerous behavior patterns.

3. “**Beautification**” of Images
Removing an unwanted feature, even if unrelated to the result, could be scientifically significant.

4. **Lack of Appropriate Controls**
Failure to perform a control with the experimental sample could affect result interpretation.

5. **Composite Images**
Assemblies of images that are not clearly labeled, such as a montage of cell images from the same experiment but not labeled as such.

6. **Outliers**
Omitting outlier data without appropriate pre-experiment justification which alters the overall conclusion of the analysis.

7. **Image Manipulation**
Splicing, cutting, or cropping images; without properly documenting changes, that alters the results or falsely claims a result which was not obtained.

Questionable or Detrimental Research Practices may be considered research misconduct in some cases, but the facts of each case differ and must be individually evaluated.