

Publication Ethics and Publication Malpractice Statement

Authors, editors-in-chief and editors, peer reviewers and publisher have to agree to standards of expected ethical behavior. These are as follows, based on COPE:

Authors

Authors reporting results of original research should present an accurate account of the work performed as well as an objective discussion of its significance. Underlying data should be represented accurately in the manuscript. A paper has to contain sufficient detail and references to permit others to replicate the work. Material or procedures with unusual hazards inherent in their use must be clearly identified in the manuscript.

Authors should ensure that they have written entirely original works. If authors have used the work of others or use their descriptions, they have to cite or quote this appropriately. Authors should cite publications that have influenced the reported work.

Manuscripts describing essentially the same research should not be published in more than one journal or primary publication.

Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study. Others who have participated in certain aspects in the project, should be named in an acknowledgement. The corresponding author should ensure that all co-authors have seen and approved the final version of the paper and have agreed to its submission for publication.

All authors should disclose in their manuscript any financial or other conflict of interest that might influence the results or the interpretation in the manuscript. All sources of financial support for the project should be disclosed.

When an author discovers a significant error or inaccuracy in his/her own published work, he/she must promptly notify the journal's editor-in-chief or



Publication Ethics and Publication Malpractice Statement

publisher and cooperate with them to retract the paper or to publish an erratum.

Editors-in-chief

Submitted manuscripts are evaluated for their content without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, ethnic origin, citizenship, or political philosophy of the authors.

Editors-in-chief and editorial staff must not disclose any information about a submitted manuscript to anyone other than the corresponding author, (potential) reviewers, other editorial advisers, and the publisher. Unpublished materials named in a submitted manuscript must not be used in an editor's own research without the written consent of the authors.

The editors-in-chief decide which of the submitted articles should be published. The editors-in-chief should be guided by the policies of the journal's editorial board and constrained by legal requirements.

Peer reviewers

Peer reviews shall help to make editorial decisions and assist the author in improving the manuscript. Manuscripts received for review must be treated confidential.

Invited reviewers who feel unqualified to review the research reported in a manuscript, feel having a conflict of interest regarding the manuscript, or know that its timely review will be impossible should immediately inform the editor or one of the editors-in-chief that they reject the invitation.

Reviews should be conducted objectively without personal criticism of the author. Appropriate arguments shall justify the decision. Relevant published articles that have not been cited by the authors should be named. Statements that an observation or argument had been previously reported should be accompanied by the appropriate citation. If the reviewer discovers a similarity between the reviewed manuscript and any other published data, he shall disclose this.

<u>Publisher</u>

The publisher and the journal do not discriminate anyone because of regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, ethnic origin, citizenship, or political philosophy.



Publication Ethics and Publication Malpractice Statement

The publisher must in cases of alleged or proven scientific misconduct, fraudulent publication or plagiarism in collaboration with the editors-in-chief take all appropriate measures to clarify the situation and to amend the article, followed by the publication of an erratum or the retraction of the affected work.