

Ethics and Malpractice Statement

The following statements are guided by COPE Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors, COPE Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers, and its standards outlined in:

Wager E. & Kleinert S. (2011) Responsible research publication: international standards for authors. A position statement developed at the 2nd World Conference on Research Integrity, Singapore, July 22-24, 2010. Chapter 50 in: Mayer T. & Steneck N. (eds.) *Promoting Research Integrity in a Global Environment*. Imperial College Press / World Scientific Publishing, Singapore (pp 309-16). (ISBN 978-981-4340-97-7)

Kleinert S. & Wager E. (2011) Responsible research publication: international standards for editors. A position statement developed at the 2nd World Conference on Research Integrity, Singapore, July 22-24, 2010. Chapter 51 in: Mayer T. & Steneck N. (eds.) *Promoting Research Integrity in a Global Environment*. Imperial College Press / World Scientific Publishing, Singapore (pp 317-28). (ISBN 978-981-4340-97-7)

For detailed information you can visit following websites:

<http://publicationethics.org/international-standards-editors-and-authors>

<http://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines>

Authors and Reviewers must adhere also to the journal Editorial policies and guidelines.

For authors:

- The research being reported should have been conducted in an ethical and responsible manner and should comply with all relevant legislation.
- Researchers should present their results clearly, honestly, and without fabrication, falsification or inappropriate data manipulation.
- Researchers should strive describe their methods clearly and unambiguously so that their findings can be confirmed by others.
- Researchers should adhere to publication requirements that submitted work is original, is not plagiarized, and has not been submitted or published elsewhere.
- Authors should take collective responsibility for submitted and published work.
- The authorship of research publications should accurately reflect individuals' contribution to the work and its reporting.
- Funding sources and relevant conflicts of interest should be disclosed.

For editors:

- Editors are accountable and should take responsibility for everything they published.
- Editors should make fair and unbiased decisions independent from commercial consideration and ensure a fair and appropriate peer-review process.
- Editors should adopt editorial policies that encourage maximum transparency and complete, honest reporting.
- Editors should guard the integrity of the published record by issuing corrections and retractions when needed and pursuing suspected or alleged research and publication misconduct.
- Editors should pursue reviewer and editorial misconduct.
- Peer reviewers and authors should be told what is expected of them.
- Editors should have appropriate policies in place for handling editorial conflict of interest.

For reviewers:

- Reviewers should only agree to review manuscripts for which they have the subject expertise required to carry out a proper assessment and which they can assess in timely manner.
- Reviewers should respect the confidentiality of peer review and not reveal any details of manuscript or its review, during or after the peer-review process, beyond those are released by the journal.
- Not use information obtained during the peer-review process for their own or any other person's or organization's advantage or to disadvantage or discredit others.
- Reviewers should declare all potential conflicting interests, seeking advice from the journal if they are unsure whether something constitutes a relevant interest.
- Reviewers should not allow their reviews to be influenced by the potential origins of manuscript, by the nationality, religious or political beliefs, gender or other characteristics of the authors, or by commercial considerations.
- Reviewers should be objective and constructive in their reviews, refraining from being hostile or inflammatory and from making libelous or derogatory personal comments.
- Reviewers should acknowledge that peer review is largely a reciprocal endeavor and undertake to carry out their fair share of reviewing and in a timely manner.
- Reviewers should provide journals with personal and professional information that is accurate and a true representation of their expertise.
- Reviewers should recognize that impersonation of another individual during the review process is considered serious misconduct.