

Publications Ethics and Publication Malpractice Statement

This statement is mainly based on the [Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors](#) (Committee on Publication Ethics, 2011).

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Publication decisions

The Editor is responsible for deciding which of the papers submitted to the journal will be published. Manuscripts will be evaluated exclusively on the basis of their academic merit (importance, originality, study's validity, clarity) and its relevance to the journal's scope and without regard to the author's race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, religious belief, political philosophy or institutional affiliation. The Editor-in-Chief has full authority over the entire editorial content of the journal and the timing of the publication of that content.

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The editors ensure that all submitted manuscripts being considered for publication undergo blind peer review by at least two reviewers who are expert in the field. The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for deciding which of the manuscripts submitted to the journal will be published, based on the validation of the work in question, its importance to researchers and readers, the reviewers' comments, and such legal requirements as are currently in force regarding libel,

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Ethics

Editors shall take reasonable steps to identify and prevent the publication of papers where research misconduct has occurred. The journal or the editors will never encourage such misconduct or knowingly allow such misconduct to take place. If the journal or editors are made aware of any allegation of research misconduct the articles shall be removed from the journal while the allegations are investigated. The Editor will always be willing to publish corrections, clarifications, retractions and apologies when needed.

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Any selected referee who feels unqualified to review the research reported in a manuscript or knows that its prompt review will be impossible should notify the editor and withdraw from the review process.

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Authors could be asked to provide the raw data of their study together with the paper for editorial review and should be prepared to make the data publicly available if practicable. In any event, authors should ensure accessibility of such data to other competent professionals for at least ten years after publication (preferably via an institutional or subject based repository or other data centre) provided the confidentiality of the participants can be protected and legal rights concerning proprietary data do not preclude their release.

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Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study. All those who have made significant contributions should be listed as co-authors. The corresponding author ensures that all contributing authors and no uninvolved persons are included in the author list. The corresponding author will also verify that all co-authors have approved the final version of the paper and have agreed to its submission for publication.

Peer Review

Authors are obliged to participate in the peer review process and cooperate fully by responding promptly to editors' requests. In the case of a first decision of "revisions necessary" authors should respond to the reviewers' comments systematically, point by point, and in a timely manner, revising and re-submitting their manuscript to the journal by the deadline given.

Disclosure and conflict of interest

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