

Ethical Guidelines for Authors

Originality and plagiarism

- The authors must ensure that they have written entirely original studies, and if the authors have used the studies and/or words of others, then this has to be appropriately cited or quoted.
- Plagiarism takes many forms, from 'passing off' another's article as the author's own article to copying or paraphrasing substantial parts of another's article (without attribution) to claiming results from a research conducted by others. Plagiarism in all its forms constitutes unethical publishing behaviour and is unacceptable.

Acknowledgment of sources

- Proper acknowledgment of others studies must always be given. Authors should cite publications that have been influential in determining the nature of the reported study.
- Information obtained privately, as in conversation, correspondence or discussion with third parties, must not be used or reported without explicit, written permission from the source.
- Information obtained in the course of confidential services, such as, refereeing manuscripts or grant applications, must not be used without the explicit written permission of the author of the study involved in those services.
- Any material received without such evidence will be assumed to originate from the authors.

Accuracy

- Authors of reports of original researches should present an accurate account of the studies performed, as well as an objective discussion of their significance.
- Fraudulent or knowingly inaccurate statements constituted unethical behaviour and are unacceptable.

No Prior Publication or Duplicate Submissions

- Articles are considered for publication only if they are not under consideration by other journals and have not been published previously in the same or substantially similar form.
- If a prior or duplicate publication is discovered, the editor will address the matter with the affected author/s and the other journal's editor.

Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication

- An author should not publish articles describing essentially the same research in more than one journal or primary publication. Submitting the same article to more than one journal concurrently constitutes unethical publishing behaviour and is unacceptable.
- An author should not submit, for consideration in another journal, a previously published article.

Ethical Guidelines for Authors

- Publication of some types of articles in more than one journal is sometimes justifiable, provided certain conditions are met. The authors and editors of the journals concerned must agree to the secondary publication, which must reflect the same data and interpretation of the primary document. The primary reference must be cited in the secondary publication.

Data access and retention

- Authors may be asked to provide the raw data in connection with an article, for an editorial review. They must be prepared to provide public access to such data and in any event, must be prepared to retain such data for a reasonable amount of time after publication.

Disclosure and conflicts of interest

- A conflict of interest may exist when an author or the author has a financial, personal or other relationship with other people or organisations that may inappropriately influence the author's article. The conflict can be actual or potential, and full disclosure to the journal is the safest course.
- All submissions must include disclosure of all relationships that could be viewed as presenting a potential conflict of interest. The journal may use such information as a basis for editorial decisions and may publish such disclosures if they are believed to be important to readers in judging the article. A decision may be made by the journal not to publish on the basis of the declared conflict.

Fundamental errors in the published article

- When an author discovers a significant error or inaccuracy in his/her own published article, it is the author's responsibility to promptly notify the journal editor and cooperate with the editor to retract or correct the article.
- If the editor learns from a third party that a published article contains a significant error, it is the responsibility of the author to promptly retract or correct the article or provide evidence to the editor of the correctness of the original article.