

Publication ethics and malpractice statement

(composed using the available online Publishing ethics resources kit and in compliance with Elsevier recommendations)

The publication of an article in this journal should be in agreement with the ethical and scientific standards, this accomplishment being the result of concerted efforts of authors, editors and reviewers.

Publishing authors:

- The originality and the scientific quality of the presented results lies in the responsibility of the authors that should take the responsibility and ensure that: i) they have written entirely original works, ii) that the paper contains sufficient detail and references to permit others to replicate the work, iii) they are ready to provide the raw data in connection with a paper for editorial review, iv) if the authors have used the work and/or words of others, that this has been appropriately cited or quoted and v) multiple, redundant or concurrent publication is avoided
- When applicable, it is required a statement of the author concerning the existence of an informed consent in all researches conducted with human subjects/ samples and approval of Ethics Commission concerning animal/human studies
- The authors should clearly state that the presented results have not been published before or submitted for publication to another journal
- All cited authors have actively contributed to the to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the research
- All authors have read and approved the submitted version
- The authors should disclose any financial or other conflicts of interest that might influence the results or their interpretation in the submitted manuscript.

Reviewers:

- each paper will be sent for evaluation by at least two reviewers
- Treat any received documents as confidential ones
- Should have the required experience
- Should have no conflict of interest with respect to the research, the authors and/or the research funders
- Conduct the review objectively
- Respect the deadline established by the editor for the review process or notify the editor about any delay
- Should not use unpublished materials disclosed in a submitted manuscript for the reviewer's own research
- Should point out relevant published work which is not yet cited

Editors:

- will check independently for the originality of work and the risk of plagiarism

- ensure respecting the rights of human subjects in research
- in the editorial board decisions, and other editorial decisions, the persons found in a conflict of interest shall not be entitled to vote
- will evaluate manuscripts for their intellectual content without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, ethnic origin, citizenship, or political philosophy of the authors.
- will treat any submitted document as confidential and will not disclose any information about a submitted manuscript to anyone other than the corresponding author, reviewers, potential reviewers, other editorial advisers, and the publisher, as appropriate.
- should not use unpublished materials disclosed in a submitted manuscript for the reviewer's own research
- preserve anonymity of reviewers
- preclude business needs from compromising intellectual and ethical standards
- reserve the right to withdraw a published manuscript at the request of the Members of the Editorial Committee or of the authors or of a third part, for the following reasons:
 - i) plagiarism and copyright infringement; ii) break of confidentiality in published research; c) exposure of persons or institutions to libelous and defamatory statements; d) when an author/editor/third part discovers a significant error or inaccuracy in the published work.