Publications Ethics and Publication Malpractice Statement

This statement is mainly based on the <u>Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for</u> <u>Journal Editors</u> (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 Editor and any editorial staff must not disclose any information about a submitted manuscript to anyone other than the corresponding author, reviewers, or potential reviewers.

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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, copyright infringement and plagiarism. The Editor-in-Chief may confer with other editors or reviewers in making this decision.

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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