Publishing Ethics Policy

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this Publishing Ethics Policy is to ensure the integrity, transparency, and credibility of all research published in the journal. The journal is committed to upholding the highest ethical standards in scholarly publishing and expects all stakeholders including authors, editors, reviewers, and the publisher to adhere to these principles. This policy is based on international best practices in academic publishing and aims to prevent unethical practices such as plagiarism, data fabrication, falsification, and improper authorship. It also promotes fairness, honesty, and respect throughout the publication process.

2. Editorial Responsibilities

Editors play a central role in maintaining the quality and reputation of the journal. To ensure ethical and fair editorial practices, editors are expected to:

- **Decision-Making:** Make publication decisions based on the academic merit, originality, and relevance of the manuscript, without discrimination based on gender, nationality, religion, or institutional affiliation.
- **Peer Review Management:** Ensure that each manuscript undergoes a rigorous and impartial peer-review process by qualified reviewers.
- **Confidentiality:** Keep all information about submitted manuscripts strictly confidential and not disclose any details to anyone other than the authors, reviewers, and editorial board members involved in the process.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Avoid handling manuscripts where there may be a conflict of interest, such as personal relationships or financial connections with the authors.
- **Ethical Oversight:** Investigate and address any reports or suspicions of research or publication misconduct promptly and fairly, including plagiarism, data falsification, or unethical research practices.
- **Transparency:** Ensure transparency in the publication process, including clear communication with authors about editorial decisions and reasons for acceptance, revision, or rejection.

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3. Author Responsibilities

Authors carry the primary responsibility for the integrity and accuracy of their research work. To maintain ethical standards, authors are required to:

- **Originality:** Submit only original work that has not been published previously or submitted simultaneously to another journal.
- **Accurate Reporting:** Present their findings truthfully, without fabrication, falsification, or manipulation of data or images.
- **Acknowledgment of Sources:** Properly cite all sources, references, and contributions from other researchers using the correct referencing style (Vancouver Style).
- **Authorship Criteria:** List as authors only those individuals who have made substantial contributions to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the study. All co-authors must approve the final version before submission.
- **Conflicts of Interest:** Clearly disclose any potential conflicts of interest financial, personal, or institutional that may affect the interpretation of the results.
- **Ethical Approval:** Ensure that all studies involving human or animal subjects have been approved by the appropriate ethical review board and comply with relevant laws and institutional guidelines.
- **Correction of Errors:** Inform the editor immediately if they discover a significant error or inaccuracy in their published work, and cooperate to correct or retract the paper if necessary.
- **Avoiding Plagiarism:** Refrain from all forms of plagiarism, including self-plagiarism, paraphrasing without citation, or submitting others' work as their own.

4. Reviewer Responsibilities

Peer reviewers play an essential role in maintaining the quality and credibility of published research. Reviewers are expected to follow ethical guidelines to ensure fairness and integrity:

- **Confidentiality:** Treat all manuscripts received for review as confidential documents and not share them with anyone without the editor's permission.
- **Objectivity:** Provide fair, unbiased, and constructive feedback based solely on the scientific quality and relevance of the research. Personal criticism of the author is not acceptable.
- **Timeliness:** Submit review reports within the agreed time frame or inform the editor if an extension or withdrawal from the review process is necessary.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Decline to review any manuscript if there is a conflict of interest, such as a personal, professional, or financial connection with the authors or the research topic.
- **Acknowledgment of Sources:** Identify relevant published work that has not been cited by the authors and alert the editor to any suspected plagiarism, duplicate publication, or unethical practices.
- **Professional Conduct:** Maintain professionalism and respect in communication with editors and authors throughout the review process.

5. Publisher Responsibilities

The publisher has a crucial role in supporting the editorial board and ensuring that the publication process adheres to international ethical standards. Responsibilities include:

- **Integrity of Publication:** Uphold the academic integrity of the journal by ensuring that only original, high-quality research is published.
- **Support for Ethical Practices:** Provide resources, training, and guidance to editors and reviewers to ensure adherence to ethical guidelines.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Maintain transparent procedures for handling manuscripts, peer review, and post-publication concerns.
- **Correction of Errors:** Ensure that necessary corrections, clarifications, retractions, or apologies are published promptly when errors or misconduct are identified.
- **Confidentiality and Data Protection:** Protect the personal data and confidential information of authors, reviewers, and editors.
- **Sustainability:** Work to maintain the long-term accessibility and preservation of all published content through digital archiving and indexing.

6. Handling of Misconduct

The journal takes all allegations of unethical behavior seriously and follows a clear and fair process for handling misconduct:

- **Reporting:** Suspected cases of plagiarism, data falsification, duplicate publication, or authorship disputes may be reported by reviewers, editors, or readers.
- **Investigation:** The editorial team will conduct an unbiased investigation, consulting with relevant parties while maintaining confidentiality.
- **Action:** If misconduct is confirmed, appropriate measures will be taken, such as rejecting the manuscript, retracting a published article, notifying the author's institution, or banning future submissions.
- **Correction or Retraction:** A correction notice or retraction statement will be issued publicly, explaining the reason for the action while preserving the integrity of the academic record.
- **Right to Respond:** Authors accused of misconduct will be given an opportunity to respond before any final decision is made.

7. Transparency and Accountability

The journal is committed to maintaining openness and accountability in all its activities. This includes:

- **Clear Policies:** Making all editorial and ethical policies publicly available on the journal's website.
- **Disclosure:** Ensuring full disclosure of funding sources, conflicts of interest, and author contributions in all published papers.

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- **Corrections and Updates:** Publishing corrections, errata, or retractions transparently when necessary.
- **Open Communication:** Maintaining open and respectful communication between authors, reviewers, editors, and readers.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Regularly reviewing and updating ethical guidelines in line with international best practices Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).