

The American Journal of Pathology

Scientific Integrity Policy

Available online at <http://ajp.amjpathol.org/content/integrity>

The American Journal of Pathology has developed a formal Scientific Integrity Policy in an effort to define more clearly issues of scientific misconduct in journal publishing. This document defines common issues relating to appropriate scientific conduct as well as the procedures that will be followed should misconduct issues arise. In addition the Instructions to Authors (<http://ajp.amjpathol.org/authorinfo>) and Instructions to Reviewers (<http://ajp.amjpathol.org/content/reviewers>) reflect these policies.

The policy is based on recommendations from the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals (<http://www.icmje.org>), the CSE White Paper on Promoting Integrity in Scientific Journal Publications (http://www.councilscienceeditors.org/editorial_policies/white_paper.cfm), and the US Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Research Integrity (<http://ori.dhhs.gov>). It should be noted that willful misconduct does not include incidents of honest misjudgment or inadvertent error. Any questions regarding the official policy of the Journal should be directed to the Editorial Office at 301-634-7959 or ajp@asip.org.

Author Conduct

General Authorship Guidelines. Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals (<http://www.icmje.org>) defines authorship as "1) substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) final approval of the version to be published. Authors should meet conditions 1, 2, and 3." When work has been performed by a large, multi-center group, the group should designate individuals who accept direct responsibility for the manuscript on behalf of the group. These individuals should fully meet the criteria above and should disclose conflicts of interest (see below) on behalf of the group. All members of the group who meet authorship criteria should be listed in the Acknowledgments.

When submitting a manuscript to the Journal, the corresponding author takes responsibility on behalf of all authors for the authorship, authenticity and integrity of the research being reported. The email contact information of ALL authors is required so the Journal may formally contact the authors regarding any aspect of manuscript submission. If an author is removed during the course of revision of the manuscript, written explanation and consent by the removed author (signed letter or personal email) should be provided. Any change made to the list of authors (addition, removal, change in order) after manuscript acceptance requires consent of all authors and editorial approval. Authorship disputes are to be resolved by the authors and/or their institutions, not by the Journal.

Because inclusion in the Acknowledgments may give the appearance of endorsement of the manuscript and its findings, authors should obtain permission from all individuals named in the Acknowledgments who contributed substantially to the work reported (eg, data collection, analysis, or writing/editing assistance) but did not fulfill the authorship criteria. Likewise, authors should receive permission from all individuals named as sources for personal communication or unpublished data. Such permissions should be affirmed by the corresponding author in the cover letter.

Ghostwriting. As stated above, all persons contributing to the paper but not meeting authorship criteria should be listed in the Acknowledgments section. Further, any funding for writing support should be fully disclosed. If an outside source funded the assistance, the authors of the paper should also affirm that they are solely, and independently, responsible for the interpretation of the data and that they had full and open access to all of the data. It is considered unethical for any entity (eg, governmental, private, commercial) with direct financial or personal interests to restrict the use of data or their interpretation for the sole purpose of presenting data in a manner that

is favorable to its own interests or those of its affiliates. It is also unethical for any entity to be responsible for data gathering, interpretation, and/or presentation and then to solicit outside "authors" for the paper, as a means of hiding its relationship with the data.

Peer Review Process. The Journal takes great care to secure the confidentiality and integrity of the peer-review process. It is the practice of the Journal to conduct a blinded peer-review process. Thus, it is considered a violation of this process for authors to identify or attempt to communicate directly with peer reviewers or Associate Editors regarding their manuscript. All editorial communications should be directed through the Editorial Office at ajp@asip.org. The Editors will consider any deliberate ethical violation in either the reported research or the manuscript preparation and review to be actionable misconduct, the potential results of which may be manuscript rejection or public article retraction, reporting of conduct to the authors' governing institutions, and/or the denial to consider any future submissions to the Journal.

Authors may request that specific reviewers not be used due to prior collaborations, known conflicts of interest, or direct competition. The Editors will make every effort to respect requests that are well-founded; however, the Editors do have the authority to utilize such a reviewer if it is necessary for expert peer review.

To aid the review process, authors should be ready to comply with Editors' requests for copies of any similar works in preparation, copies of cited manuscripts that are submitted or in press, and/or supporting manuscript data (eg, data not shown but summarized in the manuscript). Failure to do so may result in rejection of the manuscript without further review.

Financial Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest. All authors must disclose any current or former relationships held by the author or an immediate family member (eg, employment, consultancies, board membership, stock ownership, funding, honoraria, expert testimony, patents or royalties, travel reimbursements, industry-supplied free reagents, etc.) with any organization or entity having a direct financial or personal interest in the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript. Authors should err on the side of full disclosure and should contact the Editorial Office if they have questions or concerns. This information should be provided at the time of submission (for new and revised manuscripts). All authors will be required to complete an online disclosure form following acceptance; details are provided in the acceptance letter. Failure to disclose conflicts of interest may result in manuscript rejection or editorial retraction of the article.

Reproducibility. The Journal is a signatory of the NIH Principles and Guidelines for Reporting Preclinical Research (see <http://www.nih.gov/about/reporting-preclinical-research.htm>).

Therefore, authors should describe experimental and statistical methods in enough detail that other researchers can replicate results and evaluate claims. The sequences of oligonucleotides, if not previously published, should be provided. Novel DNA or protein sequences should be deposited to an appropriate database (eg, Genbank, EMBL, SWISS-PROT), with the accession numbers included in the manuscript. When providing supplier information for materials sources, company name and location (city and state, or city and country) should be provided. When describing reagents such as antibodies, cell lines, animal strains, bacteria, and viruses, authors should include the source, characteristics, dilutions, strain, species, sex, authentication, etc. as necessary for repetition of the experiments. All novel materials and the procedures to prepare them should be described in sufficient detail to allow their reproduction (eg, DNA constructs, analytical software). Materials that are approved for investigational-use only should be clearly indicated.

Methods should state whether sample size was determined statistically prior to experimentation, whether samples were randomized (and how), whether data acquisition was blinded (particularly for subjective scoring methodologies), and what criteria were used to include/exclude data points or subjects. Experimental procedures should include the number of replicates performed and the number of samples in each experimental condition. Special care should be taken to assure that statistical methods are appropriate, with clearly defined statements of the statistical test(s) used, sample size, and measures reported (eg, mean, median, SD, SEM, confidence intervals). The Editors will seek the assistance of statistical experts as necessary to fully evaluate the validity of statistical methods reported.

Publication in the Journal implies that the authors agree, upon reasonable request, to share any materials or data that are integral to the results presented in the article, including whatever would be necessary for a skilled investigator to verify or replicate the claims. This may include original software code used in the data analysis. Agreement to share reagents or software code does not preclude the authors from implementing a Data Use Agreement. Authors must disclose upon submission any restrictions on the availability of materials or information, such as for patented or dual-purpose materials.

Ethical Treatment of Research Subjects. Reporting guidelines for specific study designs (eg, randomized controlled trials) can be found online via the Enhancing the QUALity and Transparency Of health Research (EQUATOR) network (see <http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines>). If human subjects or samples were used, authors must affirm that the research protocol was approved by the appropriate institutional review boards or ethics committees for human (including use of human cells or tissues) experiments and that all human subjects provided appropriate informed consent. To protect patient privacy, identifying information such as names, initials, or hospital numbers should not be published unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the patient (or parent/guardian) gives written informed consent for publication. If race/ethnicity is reported, authors should state who determined race/ethnicity, how the options were defined, and why race/ethnicity was important in the study. Authors should be prepared to provide study protocol number(s) if requested.

Ethical Treatment of Animals. If animal experiments were performed, authors must affirm that the research protocol was approved by the appropriate institutional review boards or ethics committees for animal experiments and that regulations concerning the use of animals in research were adhered to. Authors should be prepared to provide study protocol number(s) if requested.

Copyright. Copyright of published manuscripts is held by the American Society for Investigative Pathology, which must receive the assignment of copyright from the authors of accepted manuscripts. For US government employees, the above assignment applies only to the extent allowable by law. Details regarding copyright transfer and author rights will be presented by Elsevier, Inc., at the time of article production. Requests to republish copyrighted materials, including the planned use, should be directed to Elsevier, Inc., at healthpermissions@elsevier.com.

Publishing in *The American Journal of Pathology* automatically places authors in compliance with NIH Public Access Policy (see http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit_process.htm, Submission Method A). Any article noted as being funded by NIH, Wellcome Trust, MRC, or other groups for which Elsevier, Inc., has a transfer agreement (<http://www.elsevier.com/about/open-science/open-access/agreements>; such list is subject to change) will be deposited in PubMed Central (PMC), to be made available to the public twelve or six months after final print publication (as stipulated by the funding agency). Authors therefore should NOT complete a separate deposit of their material but will be contacted by PubMed Central for grant verification once the article has been received by the PMC article system. For information on how to cite articles in NIH grant applications, please visit <http://www.asip.org/pubs/AuthorNotice.cfm>.

Contact healthpermissions@elsevier.com regarding permission to deposit manuscripts in other government-sponsored repositories in cases where *The American Journal of Pathology* does not have a system in place to automatically deposit materials on behalf of their authors. Deposit of accepted or published manuscripts in any non-

AJP repository without prior permission by the Journal is a violation of copyright.

Embargo Policy. All information regarding the content of submitted or accepted manuscripts is strictly confidential. Information contained in or about accepted articles cannot appear in print, audio, video, or digital form or be released by the news media until the Journal embargo date has passed, not to exceed the publication date of the article. For detailed information on embargo release dates or for news media requests for preprint copies of specific articles, contact asipproduction@elsevier.com.

Scientific Misconduct. According to the US Office of Research Integrity (<http://ori.dhhs.gov>), “*fabrication* is making up data or results and recording or reporting them; *falsification* is manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record; *plagiarism* is the appropriation of another person’s ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.” The Journal has a zero tolerance policy for such matters. For details regarding how the Journal handles such matters, see the later section on Allegations of Misconduct.

Fabrication of Data. Any evidence of fraudulent methods, data, or data analysis may prompt the Editors to request an explanation and access to original data, which the authors must supply.

Falsification of Data. The results presented in the manuscript must accurately represent the data obtained in the course of authors’ studies; omission of contradictory or negative data in an effort to support the main hypothesis is unacceptable. Taking photographs of the same source under varied fields of view, light intensity, magnifications, or contrast conditions without disclosing that the data are not unique to the present study constitutes suspect scientific conduct. Further, unless serial sections are used, the publication of identical-appearing images labeled with different staining techniques in different papers raises legitimate questions. No specific feature within an image may be enhanced, obscured, moved, removed, or introduced. The grouping of images from different parts of the same gel or blot, or from different gels or blots, fields, or exposures must be made explicit by the arrangement of the figure (eg, using dividing lines) and in the figure legend. Adjustments of brightness, contrast, or color balance are acceptable only if they are applied to the whole image, whether experimental or control image, and as long as they do not obscure or eliminate any information present in the original (Portions adapted with permission from the *JCB*). Any evidence of inappropriate manipulation may prompt the Editors to request an explanation and access to original data, which the authors must make available.

Plagiarism. Authors should carefully note that the use of another person’s data or ideas without permission constitutes plagiarism. Authors may not republish copyrighted Journal material in whole or in part without the express permission of the copyright holder, the American Society for Investigative Pathology. Likewise, copyrighted material previously published in another form may not be published in the Journal without express permission from the original copyright holder. These rules cover work previously written by the authors. The Editorial Office screens content for high similarities between accepted manuscript text and previously published content (PubMed-indexed and online-only material) by using the online plagiarism detection tool iThenticate (<http://www.ithenticate.com/about>). Authors wishing to republish images, tables, or text previously published elsewhere should provide proof of permission with their submission and should include the appropriate attribution in the figure or table legend or in the text. It is the responsibility of the authors, not the Journal, to obtain such permission from the copyright holder.

Redundant Publication. “Redundant (or duplicate) publication is publication of a paper that overlaps substantially with one already published in print or electronic media,” as defined by the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals (<http://www.icmje.org>). Authors must certify upon submission that the manuscript has not been accepted or published elsewhere and that it is not currently under review at another journal. Likewise, manuscripts under consideration by the Journal should not be submitted or published elsewhere. Publication of short abstracts in meeting proceedings does not violate this standard. Submissions will be ineligible for review if previously published in any form (print or

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/5932297>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/5932297>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)