

## INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

GASTROENTEROLOGY publishes clinical and basic studies of all aspects of the digestive system, including the liver and pancreas, as well as nutrition. The types of articles GASTROENTEROLOGY publishes include original papers, review articles, and special category manuscripts. Manuscripts must be prepared in accordance with the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals" developed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (<http://www.icmje.org>). GASTROENTEROLOGY is a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) (<http://www.publicationethics.org.uk>).

GASTROENTEROLOGY has a total circulation of approximately 17,000—about 12,000 in the United States and 5,000 in other countries. Eighty percent of subscribers are AGA members. In the United States, about 75% of subscribers are physicians, and about 25% of subscriptions go to residents, medical schools, and libraries. About 68% of the papers published originate overseas.

GASTROENTEROLOGY is abstracted and indexed in *Biological Abstracts*, *CABS*, *Chemical Abstracts*, *Current Contents*, *Excerpta Medica*, *Index Medicus*, *Nutrition Abstracts*, and *Science Citation Index*.

### Ethical Standards

GASTROENTEROLOGY strongly discourages the submission of more than one article dealing with related aspects of the same study. In almost all cases, a single study is best reported in a single paper.

The Journal editors consider research/publication misconduct to be a serious breach of ethics and will take action as necessary to address such misconduct, which includes submission or publication of information that:

- (1) Is intentionally erroneous,
- (2) Has been published elsewhere by a different author without acknowledgment (plagiarism),
- (3) Has been published elsewhere by the same author without acknowledgment (duplicate publication), or
- (4) Is subsequently published elsewhere by the same author without acknowledgment, attribution, or permission from the AGA Institute, as holder of the copyright, to reprint or adapt the material.

Each author who submits a manuscript must complete GASTROENTEROLOGY's *Copyright Assignment*, *Authorship Responsibility*, *NIH Funding*, *Financial Disclosure*, *Institutional Review Board/Animal Care Committee Approval and Sponsorship* form thereby affirming that:

- (1) None of the material in the manuscript is included in another manuscript, has been published previously, or is currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. This includes symposia proceedings, transactions, books, articles published by invitation, and preliminary publications of any kind except an abstract or poster. If there is any potential overlap with a manuscript previously published by the authors, the related manuscripts must be included for editorial evaluation.
- (2) Only people who contributed to the intellectual content, the analysis of data, and the writing of the manuscript are listed as authors and that all authors

take public responsibility for the research results being reported.

- (3) Ethical guidelines were followed by the investigator in studies on humans or animals and described in the paper. The approval of the institutional review board of animal care committee must be cited in the Methods section of the text.
- (4) All authors had full access to all of the data in the study and take responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis.

Breaches in these standards may result in proscribed submission for all authors of the concerned manuscript and, when appropriate, notification of the authors' institutions. All authors are fully responsible for the content of the manuscript.

The publication of abstracts or posters is not considered duplicate publication but should be disclosed in the cover letter accompanying the manuscript submission.

### Authorship

Each author must have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for the content of the paper and must approve of the final version of the manuscript. Authorship should be based on substantive contributions to each of the following:

- (1) conception and design of the study;
- (2) generation, collection, assembly, analysis and/or interpretation of data;
- (3) drafting or revision of the manuscript;
- (4) approval of the final version of the manuscript.

### Conflict of Interest Policy

#### A. Potential Conflicts of Interest

The following are examples of COI that may occur with editors, authors (including invited authors), and reviewers. Interactions considered pertinent are from the start of the research activity in a specific program until such time that a submission is anticipated to be published or one year from submission date, whichever is longer.

a. *Editors*: Editors who make final decisions about manuscripts must have no personal, professional, or financial involvement in any of the issues they might judge. Examples of personal involvement with an author include former student, fellow, mentor, or relative. Examples of professional involvement include academic rivalry, being from the same institution or research group as the author, evaluating a manuscript submitted by a member of the board of editors, or collaborating (e.g., co-authoring research article or grant) with an author. Examples of financial involvement include employment, consultancies, honoraria, stock ownership or options, expert testimony, grants/patents received, and royalties with an entity (or competing entity) discussed in the manuscript.

It is a COI for editors of the AGA Institute journals to hold a position of editorial responsibility for a competing publication. The Ethics Committee reviews disclosure statements submitted by editors and notifies either/both

the Secretary/Treasurer and editor of any potential conflicts. The procedures contained in Section C of the “AGA/AGA Institute Policy on Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest” apply if a conflict is found to exist.

- b. *Authors*: COI for an author may arise if there exists a financial arrangement (e.g., employment, consultancies, honoraria, stock ownership or options, expert testimony, grants/patents received, and royalties) with a company whose product figures prominently in the submitted manuscript or with a company that makes a competing product.
- c. *Reviewers*: COI for reviewers exist when they have had an ongoing collaboration, original publications, or grants with the authors within the previous two years, except when part of a multicenter group from a different site; are from the same institution as the authors; or have any financial arrangements (e.g., employment, consultancies, honoraria, stock ownership or options, expert testimony, grants/patents received, and royalties) with a company whose product figures prominently in the submitted manuscript or with a company that makes a competing product.

### B. Process

Potential COI are to be disclosed at the beginning of the peer-review process.

- a. *Editors*: An associate editor having COI with a submitted manuscript must recuse himself from handling the manuscript and request that the manuscript be reassigned. The editor-in-chief having COI with a submitted manuscript must assign review to one of an associate or guest editor for handling. A manuscript submitted by one of the members of the board of editors must be assigned to a guest editor.
- b. *Authors*: The senior or corresponding author assumes full responsibility for supplying the following information on the title page at manuscript submission:
  - i. For each author, disclosure of any financial arrangement with any company whose product figures prominently in the submitted manuscript or that makes a competing product; or a statement for each author that there is no conflict to disclose.
  - ii. A disclosure of all funding sources supporting the work and all institutional or corporate affiliations.
  - iii. A list of individuals who provided writing assistance for the manuscript and the source of funds that supported this assistance.

In addition, at manuscript submission, each author must complete and submit to the editorial office a standardized form that transfers copyright to the AGA Institute, verifies authorship responsibility, states NIH funding (if any), discloses all relevant conflicts of interest, and attests that the research protocol was approved by the author's institution and all experimentation was conducted in conformity with ethical and humane principles of research.

Based on the information provided, the editors will determine whether COI exists and decide to either a)

reject the manuscript or b) publish the manuscript with the COI disclosed.

- c. *Reviewers*: When invited, reviewers must decline to review a manuscript if a potential COI exists. After review, all reviewers must agree to and initial one of the following statements, which appear in the journals' manuscript tracking system:

- i. I, the undersigned Reviewer, certify that I have not had an ongoing collaboration, original publication, or grant with the authors within the previous two years, except in the case of being a part of a multicenter group from a different site, nor am I from the same institution as the authors. I also certify that I do not have any financial arrangements (e.g., employment, consultancies, honoraria, stock ownership or options, expert testimony, grants/patents received, and royalties) with a company whose product figures prominently in the submitted manuscript or with a company that makes a competing product.
- ii. I have listed any potential conflicts on interest in the Comments to Editors field.

If the reviewer discloses a potential COI after the review, the handling associate editor decides if the review should still be used to judge the manuscript.

### C. Sanctions

Should an editor, author, or reviewer fail to disclose a potential COI and this is discovered after publication, the following sanctions may be applied according to the severity of the infraction.

- a. *Editors*:
  - i. A letter of reprimand and warning as to future conduct from the editor, in the case of an associate editor, or from the Chair of the Publications Committee, in the case of the editor.
  - ii. Dismissal from the position.
- b. *Authors*:
  - i. A letter from the editor of explanation and education where there appears to be a genuine misunderstanding of principles.
  - ii. A letter from the editor of reprimand and warning as to future conduct.
  - iii. A letter from the editor to the author's institution or funding body.
  - iv. Publication of a notice detailing the author's failure to disclose the COI.
  - v. Publication of an editorial detailing the full details of the misconduct.
  - vi. Refusal to accept future submissions from the author on a sliding scale of one-to-five years.
  - vii. Formal retraction or withdrawal of the paper from the scientific literature.
  - viii. Reporting the case to the Office of Research Integrity (ORI).
- c. *Reviewers*:
  - i. A letter from the editor of explanation and education where there appears to be a genuine misunderstanding of principles.

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