



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Journal editors and publishers offered free eLearning module on publication ethics**

The Committee on Publication Ethics is offering non-members working on scholarly journals the chance to try out its highly popular eLearning programme, with a free taster module on its website.

*An Introduction to Publication Ethics* is one of the six interactive modules offered by the charity, which provides advice and support to editors working for many of the world's major scholarly publishers.

The remaining five modules, which are available to members, cover plagiarism, falsification, fabrication, authorship and conflicts of interest. Another five modules will be introduced in due course on editor misconduct, reviewer misconduct, redundant publication, selective reporting and unethical research.

“We now have nearly 9,000 members all over the world and it is essential that we provide resources that are comprehensive and readily accessible” says COPE’s Chair Virginia Barbour.

“Our eLearning programme aims to give editors a much deeper understanding of publication ethics and provides them with practical guidance on how to detect, prevent and handle misconduct.

“The aim of the free taster module is to give potential members a feeling for the extensive benefits that the organisation can offer them.”

COPE is a UK-based charity that was set up in 1997 to help editors deal with publication misconduct. Its updated website features a new member management system that offers an exciting range of interactive and user-friendly features.

“Our new system provides a fundamental change to the way that COPE members interact with the website and further improvements are planned” adds Virginia.

The other support that COPE provides for editors and publishers includes:

- A Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors and Code of Conduct for Publishers
- Guidelines on a wide range of ethical issues, such as ethical guidelines for peer reviewers, retraction of articles, ethical editing and handling authorship disputes
- Flowcharts in various languages on how to handle problems such as fabricated data, disputed authorship and undisclosed conflicts of interest
- Discussion documents on plagiarism and responding to whistle blowers. Further documents on subjects such as authorship, text recycling, corrections and data sharing are planned
- Regular international forums and seminars, including events in the UK, USA, Australia, Brazil, Japan and India.

For more information visit the COPE website at: <http://publicationethics.org>  
To try out the free module on *An Introduction to Publication Ethics* visit <http://publicationethics.org/resources/e-learning>

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#### **Notes to Editors**

COPE, the Committee on Publication Ethics, is a registered charity that was established in 1997 by a small group of medical journal editors in the UK and now has more than 8,700 members worldwide, from all disciplines. Membership is open to editors of scholarly journals and others interested in publication ethics. Many of the world's largest international publishers have signed up their journals as COPE members.

COPE provides support and advice to editors and publishers on all aspects of publication ethics, in particular how to handle research and publication misconduct. It also provides a forum for members to discuss individual cases, funds research on publication ethics, and organises annual seminars. COPE members are expected to follow the Code of Conduct and the organisation has also developed Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors and Code of Conduct for Publishers. <http://publicationethics.org>