



THE CENTER FOR SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST'S

**FOURTH NATIONAL  
Integrity in Science Conference**

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RONALD REAGAN INTERNATIONAL CENTER  
1300 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW  
WASHINGTON DC, USA

[www.publicationethics.org](http://www.publicationethics.org)

**Jeremy Theobald**

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

EMERGING HEALTH THREATS FORUM

[www.eht-forum.org](http://www.eht-forum.org)

TREASURER

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION ETHICS**

## WHAT IS COPE?

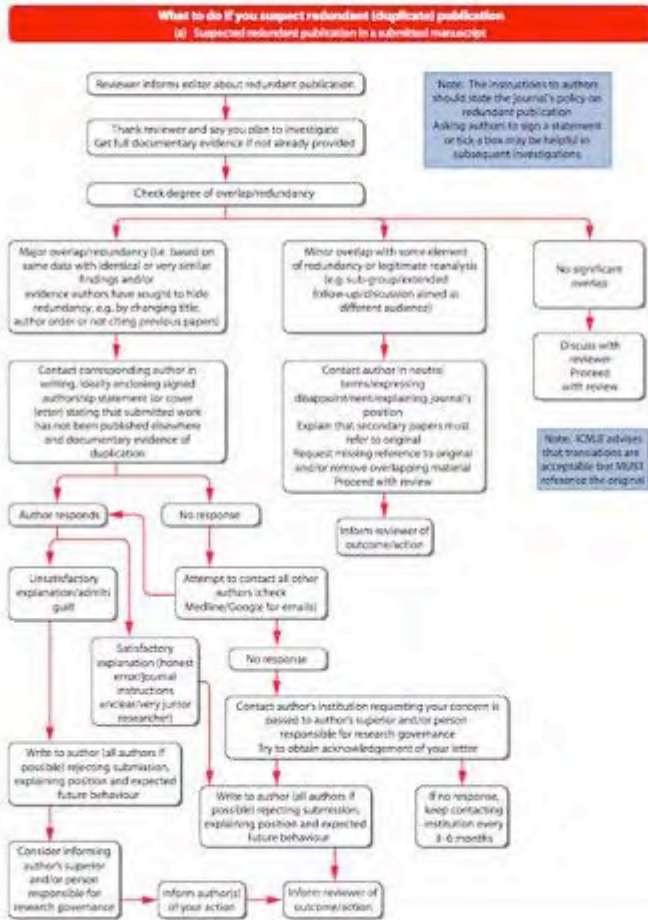
- **Founded April 1997 by medical journal editors Mike Farthing (*Gut*), Richard Horton (*The Lancet*), and Richard Smith (*BMJ*)**
- **To provide a forum for editors on how best to deal with possible breaches in publication ethics**
- **1999: Published the first guidelines on Good Publication Practice**
- **2000: COPE matured to elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Council, and write a constitution**

## WHAT IS COPE?

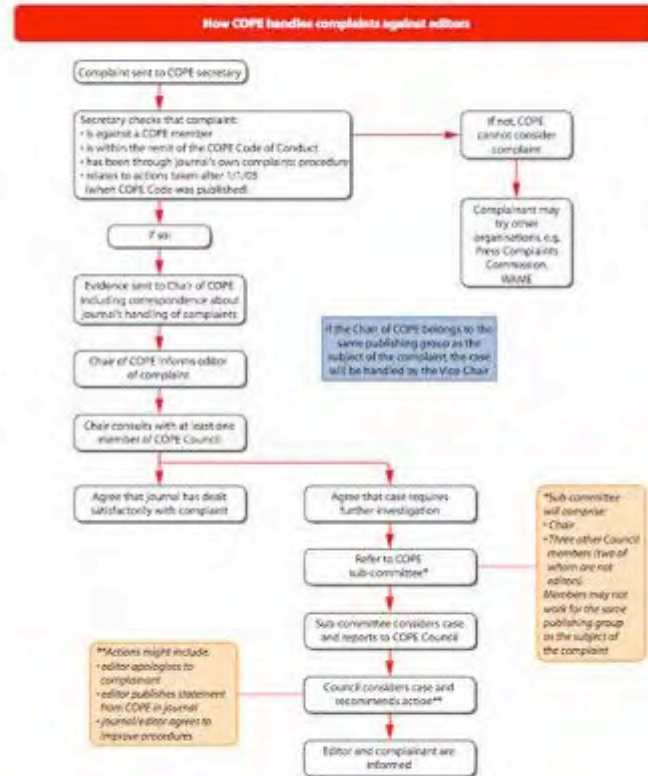
- **2004: Website launched**
- **2005: Published Code of Conduct for Editors**
- **2007: Published 14 flowcharts on how to deal with misconduct: plagiarism, fabricated data, redundant publication, changes in authorship, lack of ethics, reviewer misconduct, ghost, guest, or gift authorship, and conflicts of interest**



Committee on Publication Ethics Flowchart  
www.publicationethics.org.uk



Committee on Publication Ethics Flowchart  
www.publicationethics.org.uk

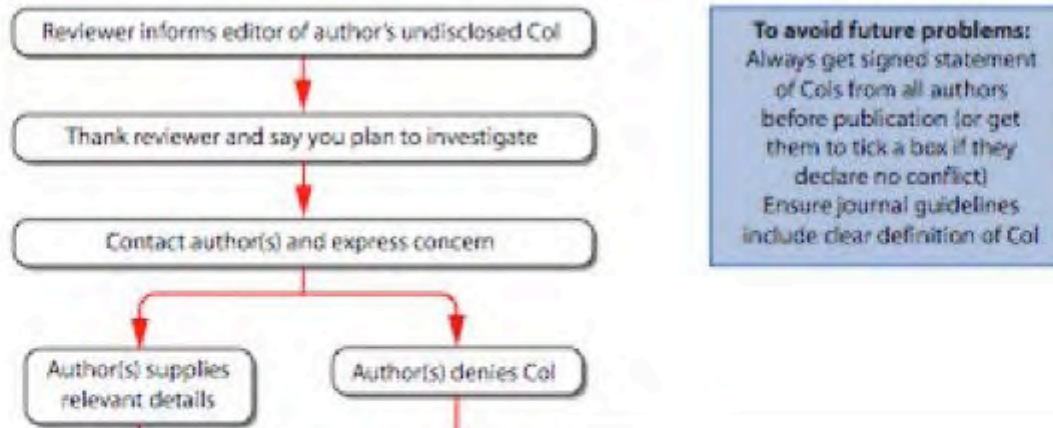




## Committee on Publication Ethics Flowchart [www.publicationethics.org.uk](http://www.publicationethics.org.uk)



### What to do if a reviewer suspects undisclosed conflict of interest (Col) in a submitted manuscript

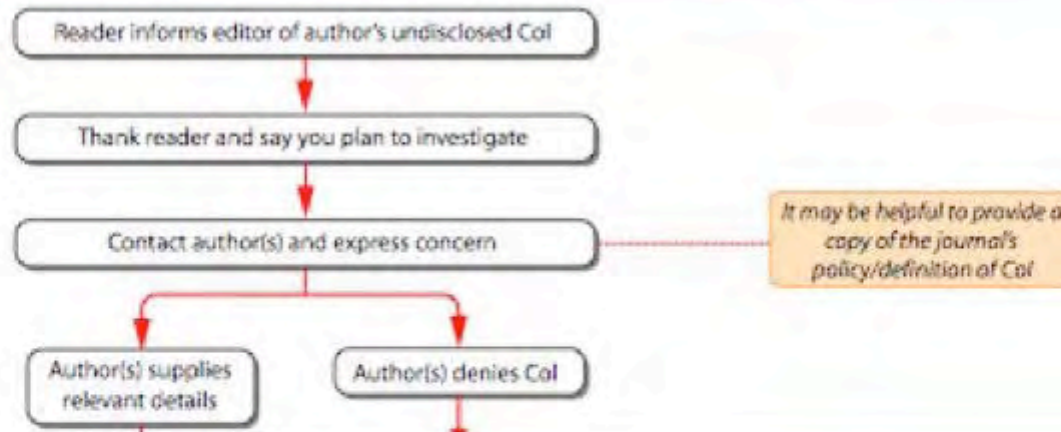




## Committee on Publication Ethics Flowchart [www.publicationethics.org.uk](http://www.publicationethics.org.uk)



### What to do if a reader suspects undisclosed conflict of interest (CoI) in a published article



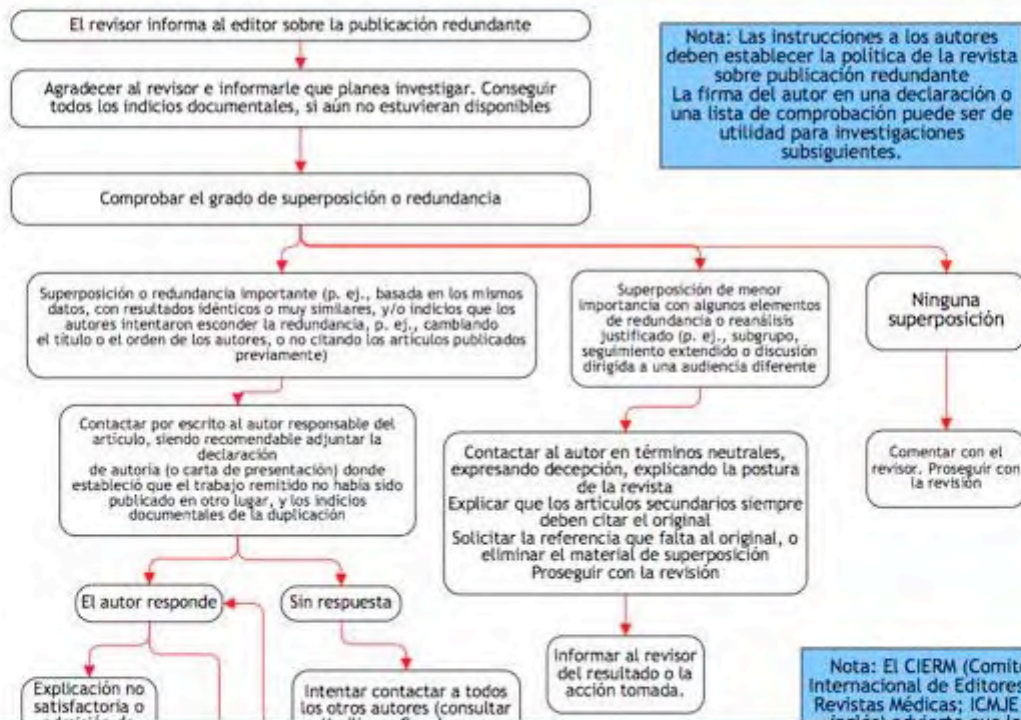


## Flujograma para el Comité de Ética en Publicaciones

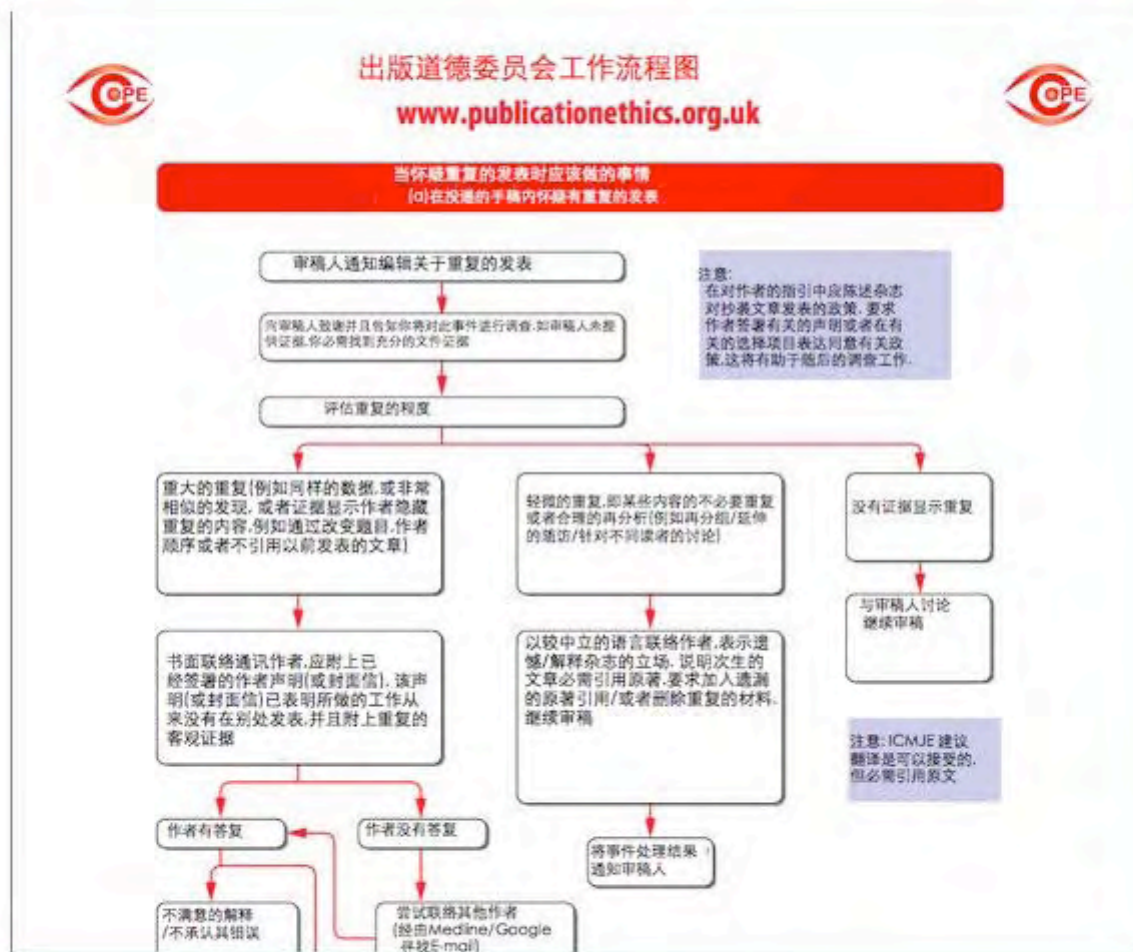
[www.publicationethics.org.uk](http://www.publicationethics.org.uk)

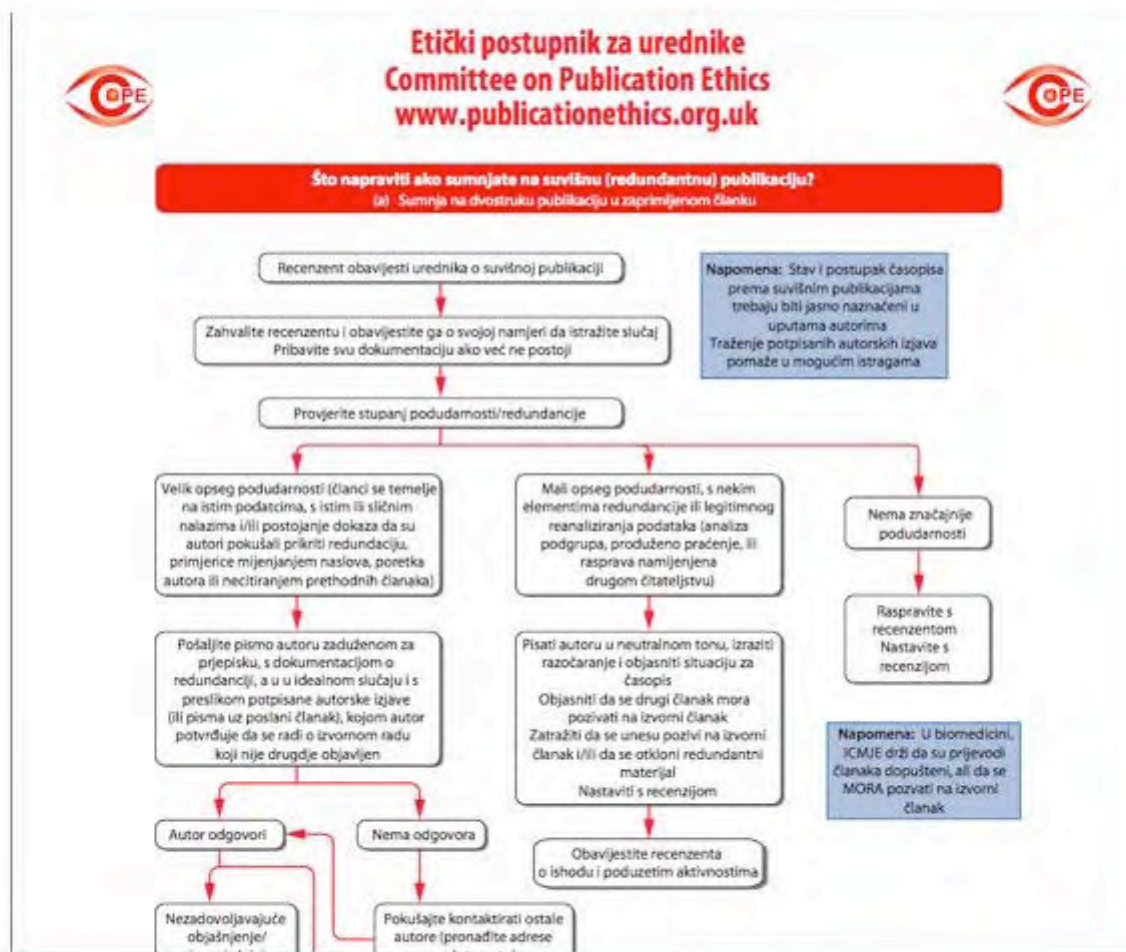


### 1. Qué hacer si sospecha que una publicación es redundante o duplicada (a) Sospecha de publicación redundante en un manuscrito recibido









## WHAT IS COPE?

- **2004: Website launched**
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- **2008: COPE incorporates as a company with limited liability for legal protection and is registered as a charity**

## WHAT IS COPE?

- **Four meetings a year of discussion of about 40 anonymised cases of suspected misconduct**
- **Advice to editors on how to proceed**
- **Database of research misconduct cases and outcomes, all of which are published on the website**
- **Annual conferences and reports**
- **Funds a research grant of £10,000 p.a.**

## **COPE MEMBERS**

- **As of this year, COPE has some 3500 scientific, technical, and medical journal members, including**
- **All of Elsevier (Lancet, Cell Press)**
- **All of Wiley–Blackwell**
- **BMJ, PNAS, PLoS, Bulletin of the WHO, among many others.**
- **A growing number of individual Associate members and our first corporate Associate member in CrossRef**

## COPE FUTURE

- **Completely redesigned and rebuilt website with Members' area: blog, sample letters, reference database, presentations, and searchable database of cases & advice**
- **Collaboration with CrossCheck, anti-plagiarism screening programme**
- **Quarterly newsletter**
- **Online distance-learning course on publication misconduct**
- **Audit and COPE Marque of Good Publication Practice**

# CODES OF CONDUCT, GUIDELINES, AND CONTEXT

- **Instructions for Authors**
- **1979: Vancouver Group (later ICMJE) publish Uniform Requirements**
- **1999: COPE's Guidelines on Good Publication Practice**
- **2005: COPE's Code of Conduct**
- **2006: CSE White Paper**
- **2006: Blackwell Best Practice Guidelines on Publication Ethics**
- **2007: Elsevier and Informa followed suit**

# CODES OF CONDUCT, GUIDELINES, AND CONTEXT

ICMJE

## Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication

Updated October 2004

International Committee of Medical Journal Editors

- I. Statement of Purpose
  - A. About the Uniform Requirements
  - B. Potential Users of the Uniform Requirements
  - C. How to Use the Uniform Requirements
- II. Ethical Considerations in the Conduct and Reporting of Research
  - A. Authorship and Contributorship
    - 1. Byline Authors
    - 2. Contributors Listed in Acknowledgements
  - B. Editorship
- IV. Manuscript Preparation and Submission
  - A. Preparing a Manuscript for Submission to Biomedical Journals
    - 1. General Principles and Reporting Guidelines
      - a. General Principles
      - b. Reporting Guidelines for Specific Study Designs
    - 2. Title page
    - 3. Conflict of Interest Notification Page
    - 4. Abstract and Key Words



# CODES OF CONDUCT, GUIDELINES, AND CONTEXT

## Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) GUIDELINES ON GOOD PUBLICATION PRACTICE

### Why the guidelines were developed

COPE was founded in 1997 to address breaches of research and publication ethics. A voluntary body providing a discussion forum and advice for scientific editors, it aims to find practical ways of dealing with the issues, and to develop good practice.

We thought it essential to attempt to define best practice in the ethics of scientific publishing. These guidelines should be useful for authors, editors, editorial board members, readers, owners of journals, and publishers.

Intellectual honesty should be actively encouraged in all medical and scientific courses of study, and used to inform publication ethics and prevent misconduct. It is with that in mind that these guidelines have been produced.

- (3) Protocols must be carefully agreed by all contributors and collaborators, including, if appropriate, the participants.
- (4) The final protocol should form part of the research record.
- (5) Early agreement on the precise roles of the contributors and collaborators, and on matters of authorship and publication, is advised.
- (6) Statistical issues should be considered early in study design, including power calculations, to ensure there are neither too few nor too many participants.
- (7) Formal and documented ethical approval from an appropriately constituted research ethics committee is required for all studies involving people, medical records, and anonymised human tissues.
- (8) Use of human tissues in research should conform

# CODES OF CONDUCT, GUIDELINES, AND CONTEXT

The screenshot shows the COPE website interface. At the top left is the COPE logo and the text 'Committee on Publication Ethics'. To the right are links for 'site map', 'accessibility', and 'contact'. Below this is a search bar with a 'search' button and a link to '[advanced search]'. A horizontal navigation menu contains links for 'home', 'about', 'guidelines', 'cases', 'submit', and 'reports'. Below the menu is a breadcrumb trail: 'you are here: home → guidelines and code of conduct → code of conduct'. On the left side, there is a vertical sidebar menu with icons and text for 'Home', 'About COPE', 'Contact', 'Guidelines and code of conduct', 'Code of Conduct' (highlighted in red), 'Cases', 'Submit a case', 'Join COPE', 'Old News', 'Reports', 'Links', 'Events', and 'Flow charts'. The main content area features the title 'A code of conduct for editors of biomedical journals' with a sub-header 'A suggested code of conduct for editors to guide them towards being fair to authors, researchers, and readers'. The text is organized into sections: 'Preamble', 'Quality and correcting the record', and a final paragraph about retraction. The 'Preamble' section states that editors should be responsible for everything published, strive to meet the needs of readers and authors, and always be willing to publish corrections, clarifications, retractions, and apologies. The 'Quality and correcting the record' section emphasizes ensuring the quality of published material and having a mechanism for authors to appeal against editorial decisions. The final paragraph states that if articles are found to be fraudulent or contain major errors, they should be retracted, and the word 'retraction' should be used in the title.

Committee on Publication Ethics

site map accessibility contact

search [advanced search]

home about guidelines cases submit reports

you are here: home → guidelines and code of conduct → code of conduct

Home  
About COPE  
Contact  
Guidelines and code of conduct  
**Code of Conduct**  
Cases  
Submit a case  
Join COPE  
Old News  
Reports  
Links  
Events  
Flow charts

## A code of conduct for editors of biomedical journals

A suggested code of conduct for editors to guide them towards being fair to authors, researchers, and readers

### Preamble

Editors of biomedical journals should be responsible for everything published in their journals. They should strive to meet the needs of readers and authors; constantly improve the journal; ensure the quality of the material they publish; champion freedom of expression in science and health care; maintain the integrity of the scientific record; preclude business needs from compromising intellectual standards; and always be willing to publish corrections, clarifications, retractions, and apologies when needed.

Any deviation from this code of conduct could be misconduct and should be pursued in the first instance through the journal's complaints procedure. If the matter is unresolved, a complaint may be referred to COPE. (The process for dealing with complaints against editors referred to COPE is described below.)

### Quality and correcting the record

Editors should take all reasonable steps to ensure the quality of the material they publish, recognising that journals and sections within journals will have different aims and standards.

Descriptions of peer review processes should be published, and editors should be ready to justify any important deviation from the described processes. Journals should have a declared mechanism for authors to appeal against editorial decisions.

Whenever it is recognised that a significant inaccuracy, misleading statement or distorted report has been published, it must be corrected promptly and with due prominence. An apology must be published whenever appropriate.

If after an appropriate investigation articles prove to be fraudulent or contain major errors that are not apparent from the text, the articles should be retracted. The word retraction should be used in the title of the retraction to ensure that it is picked up by indexing systems.

# **CODES OF CONDUCT, GUIDELINES, AND CONTEXT**



# CODES OF CONDUCT, GUIDELINES, AND CONTEXT

The screenshot shows the Blackwell Publishing website interface. At the top right, there is a 'Search Catalog' section with a search input field and a search button. Below this is a navigation menu with links for 'Books | Journals | Subjects | Wiley InterScience | About | Resources | Home'. The main content area is titled 'Publication Ethics' and features a sidebar with a list of links: 'A-Z Listing', 'New Journals', 'Customer Services', 'Rights / Permissions', 'Book Review Editors', 'Author Information', and 'Publication Ethics'. The main text area is titled 'Best Practice Guidelines on Publication Ethics: A Publisher's Perspective' and contains a paragraph of introductory text, three quotes from editors, and a reference to the 'International Journal of Clinical Practice'.

Search Catalog  Search [Advanced search](#)

**Blackwell Publishing**

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## Publication Ethics

- [A-Z Listing](#)
- [New Journals](#)
- [Customer Services](#)
- [Rights / Permissions](#)
- [Book Review Editors](#)
- [Author Information](#)
- [Publication Ethics](#)

### Best Practice Guidelines on Publication Ethics: A Publisher's Perspective

These Best Practice Guidelines on Publication Ethics describe Blackwell Publishing's position on the major ethical principles of academic publishing and consider factors that may foster ethical behavior or create problems. The aims are to encourage discussion, to initiate changes where they are needed, and to provide practical guidance, in the form of Best Practice Statements, to inform these changes.

"This is an excellent document. It addresses both **broad ethical issues and practical points** that we have all come against throughout editorial work"  
Panos Vostanis, Editor, *Child & Adolescent Mental Health*

"It is impressive. I particularly like the **'Best Practice' sections**. I think it will be a valuable resource"  
Bruce Baum, Senior Editor, *Oral Diseases*

"Covers most of the issues that we normally address and has **raised some ideas for improving some of our codes of practice**".  
Carol Huxley, Managing Editor, *The Journal of Physiology*

Best Practice Guidelines on Publication Ethics: A Publisher's Perspective is reproduced with permission from *International Journal of Clinical Practice*  
Graf C, Wager E, Bowman A et al. *Int J Clin Pract* 2007; **61** (s152):126.

You can read the abstract and download the PDF from Blackwell Synergy by [clicking here](#).

# CODES OF CONDUCT, GUIDELINES, AND CONTEXT

**ELSEVIER**

*Building Insights. Breaking Boundaries.*

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**PUBLISHING ETHICS**

The publication of an article in a peer-reviewed journal is an essential building block in the development of a coherent and respected network of knowledge. It is a direct reflection of the quality of the work of the authors and the institutions that support them. Peer-reviewed articles support and embody the scientific method. It is therefore important to agree upon standards of expected ethical behavior for all parties involved in the act of publishing: the author, the journal editor, the peer reviewer, the publisher and the society of society-owned or sponsored journals. More about [Publishing Ethics](#) can be found in the **Publishing Ethics Resource Kit (PERK)**.

Duties of Editors	Duties of Reviewers	Duties of Authors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publication decision</li> <li>• Fair play</li> <li>• Confidentiality</li> <li>• Disclosure and Conflicts of interest</li> <li>• Vigilance over published record</li> <li>• Involvement and cooperation in investigations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution to Editorial Decision</li> <li>• Promptness</li> <li>• Confidentiality</li> <li>• Standards of Objectivity</li> <li>• Acknowledgement of Source</li> <li>• Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting standards</li> <li>• Data Access and Retention</li> <li>• Originality and Plagiarism</li> <li>• Multiple, Redundant or Concurrent Publication</li> <li>• Acknowledgement of Sources</li> <li>• Authorship of the Paper</li> <li>• Hazards and Human or Animal Subjects</li> <li>• Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest</li> <li>• Fundamental errors in published works</li> </ul>

**Duties of the Publisher**

We are committed to ensuring that advertising, reprint or other commercial revenue has no impact or influence on editorial decisions. In addition, Elsevier will assist in communications with other journals and/or publishers where this is useful to editors. Finally, we are working closely with other publishers and industry associations to set standards for best practices on ethical matters, errors and retractions--and are prepared to provide specialized legal review and counsel if

**Industry Organisations**

- ▶ **CONSORT** - Standards for randomized trials
- ▶ **COPE** - Committee on Publication Ethics
- ▶ **ICMJE** - Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals
- ▶ **WAME** - World Association of Medical Editors

**I don't know what to believe...**  
Find out how scientific research is checked and published

## DO GUIDELINES WORK?

Yes

## DO GUIDELINES WORK?

No

## **WILL THIS GUIDELINE WORK?**

- **Not discussed at COPE Council**
- **Neither the view of my employer nor of COPE**
- **Personal opinion**



## WILL THIS GUIDELINE WORK?

- Editors have to be free of conflicts of interest

**‘Journals should require that all senior editorial personnel (editors in chief, managing editors, full-time assistant editors) avoid all financial relationships that might constitute a conflict of interest. Editorial managers should also avoid personal, political, or intellectual entanglements, organizational or otherwise, that could be construed as establishing a particular bias that might influence one’s judgments.’**

## WILL THIS GUIDELINE WORK?

- Ban authors

**‘In those rare cases where editors uncover a willful desire to hide financial conflicts of interest, the editors will consider appropriate penalties, such as refusing to allow that author to publish in the journal for a specified period of time.’**

## WILL THIS GUIDELINE WORK?

- Conflicts of Interest of reviewers

**‘Whatever the journal’s policy, peer reviewers... should follow the same rules as authors for disclosing conflicts of interest.’**

## WHAT NEXT?

- **Research**
- **Publish**
- **Educate**
- **Collaborate**

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## Top News Stories



### Borders and shortages hinder pandemic plans

Preparedness policy must become more street-wise to cope with a flu pandemic, US analysis suggests

### Chemical cues for mosquito control

Specific chemicals attract *Aedes Aegypti* to breeding sites and could be used to prevent vector-borne disease

## Breaking News

ECDC publishes chikungunya communications toolkit **ECDC**

Coxsackie virus suspected in Spain's nail-shedding epidemic **ProMED**

Update: Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever death toll rises in Turkey **ProMED**

Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever: second case suspected in Greece **ProMED**

A dollar more for climate change adaptation, a

## Emerging Health Threats Journal

### Syphilis in China: the great comeback

Hesketh *et al.* review the history of the syphilis epidemic in China, its elimination in the 1960s, and its resurgence in the past two decades

### Development of a national burn network: the AUSBURNPLAN

Wood *et al.* review the process and development of the Australian National Burn network designed to manage a mass burn casualty disaster

### Knowledge base black holes: the next (small) big thing?

Ken Dunn comments on the utility of making policy reviews part of the permanent

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