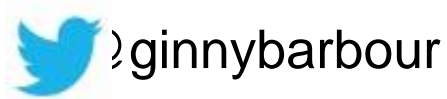




New guidelines from COPE: ethical guidelines for peer reviewers, whistleblowers & more

Virginia Barbour, COPE Chair

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Publication Ethics - ensuring the integrity of the scientific literature

- Part of research ethics more widely
- Few “pure” publication ethics issues and even these are changing
 - Reviewer misconduct
 - Plagiarism
 - Authorship issues
 - Duplicate submissions
- Often where research misconduct/errors first come to light
- Need education of all in the publishing process, from the very beginning

Where COPE comes in

- Education of editors
- Advice to member editors
- Facilitate and lead debate on publishing ethics

Everyone has an opinion on hot topics

- Authorship
- Peer review
- Scrutiny of the literature
- Data handling
- Commercial/institutional influences

Taking an evidenced-based approach to new guidelines

Sources of ideas

- Cases
- Forum discussions
- Cries from the heart...!

Submit a Case

Home /  **Cases**

All the cases COPE has discussed since its inception in 1997 have been entered into a searchable database. This database now contains over 400 cases together with the advice given by COPE. For more recent cases, the database also includes follow-up information about outcome. We hope this

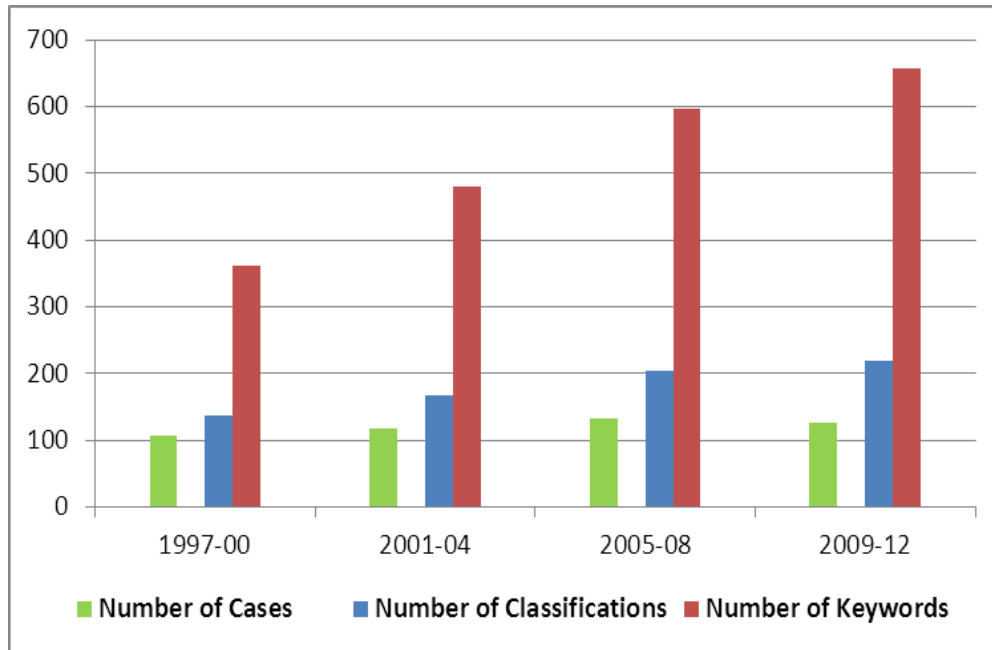
RECENT CASES
Authorship dispute

- Cases database
- Updated classification scheme needed
- New scheme - 18 main Classifications, up to 2 per case
 - 99 Keywords, up to 10 per case
 - descriptive, not judgemental
- The coding exercise

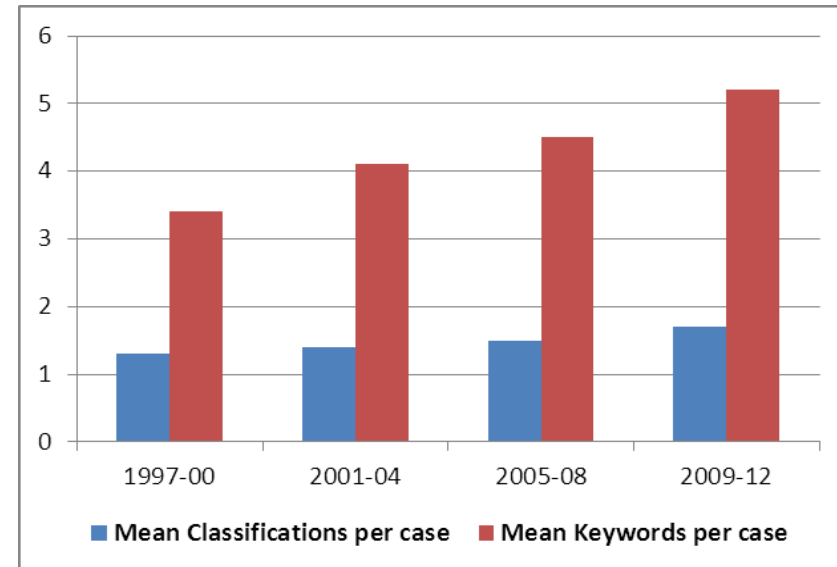
Classifications and Keywords indicate the topics discussed, not that a particular form of misconduct had occurred

Cases, Classifications & Keywords, 1997-2012

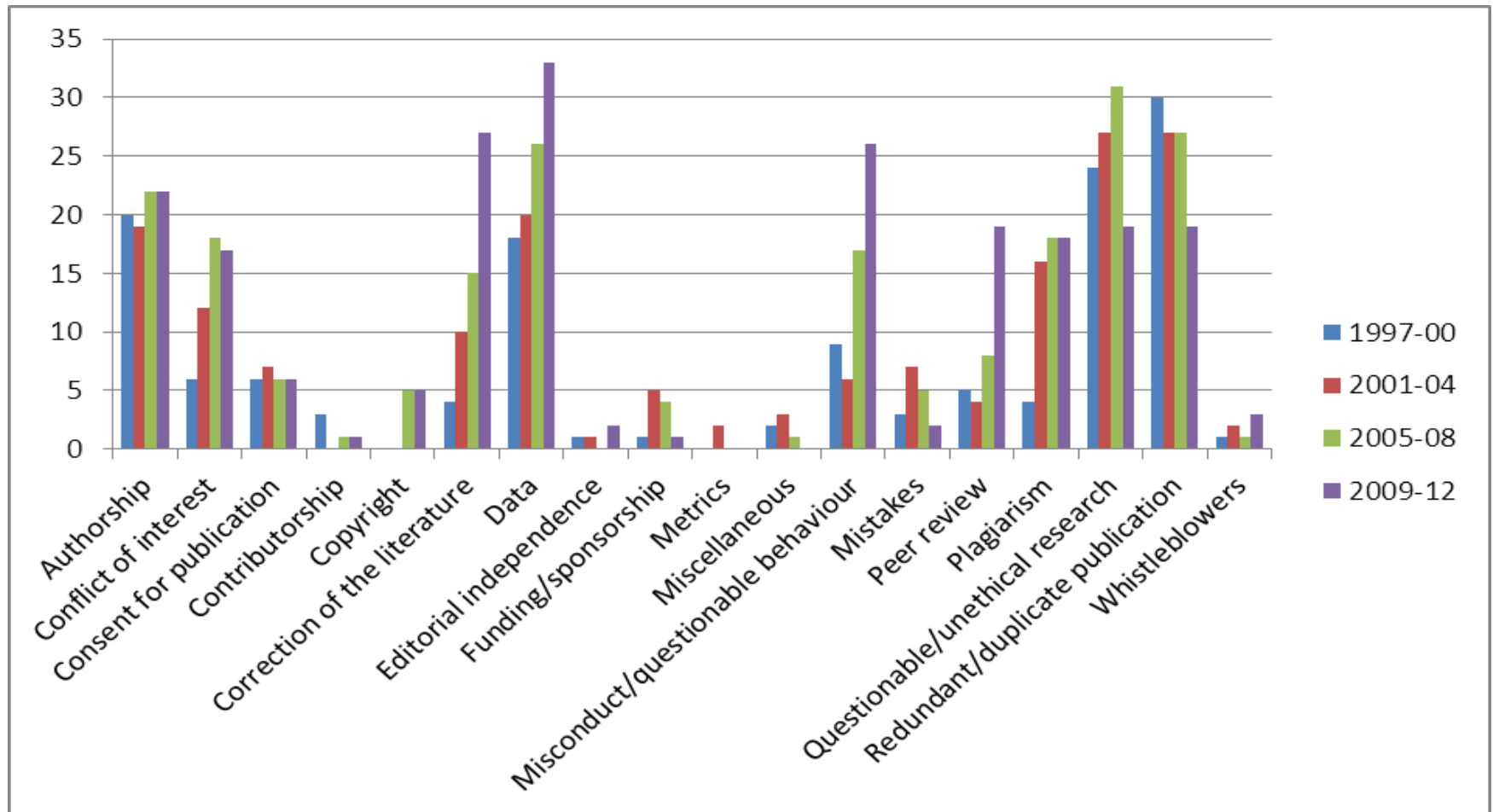
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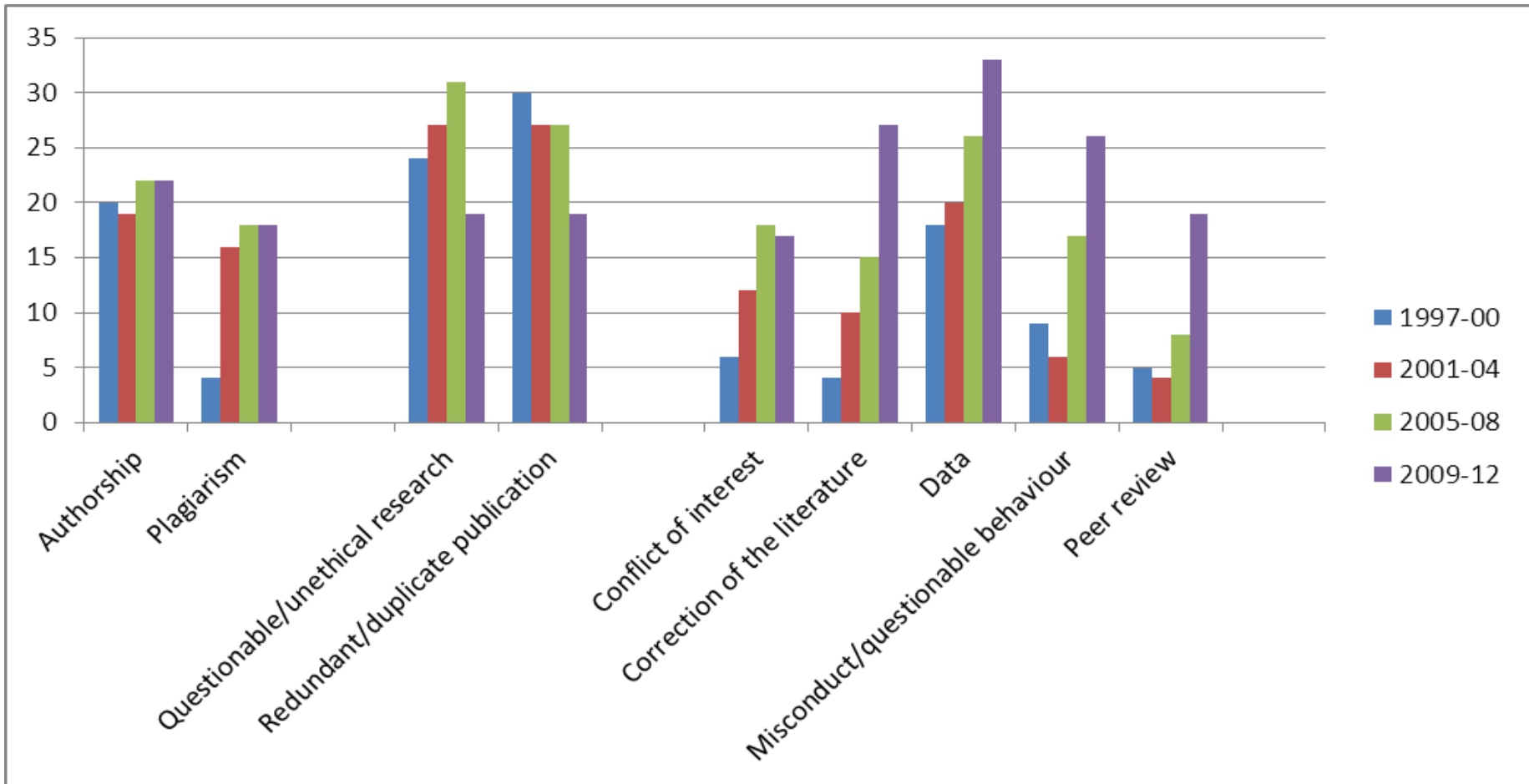
Mean



Classification of COPE cases, 1997-2012



Classification of COPE cases, 1997-2012, categories with >7 instances in a 4-year period



Issues that have been & remain major topics

Authorship

- disputed 45%
- changes 34%
- gift 10%
- ghost 9%

Plagiarism (~70% occurred 2005-12)

- in published article 52%
- in submitted article 38%
- text recycling 10% (most 2009-12)

Increasing cases

Conflict of interest

- author 46%, reviewer 32%, editor 22%

Correction of the literature

- retractions 47%, corrections 27%, expressions of concern 11%, disputes 9%, corrigenda & errata 6%

Data

- top: over 16yr - fabrication 17%, selective/misleading report/interp 13%; 2009-12 – unauthorized use & image manipulation

Misconduct/questionable behaviour

- author 60%, reviewer 27%, editor 11%, instit 1%, soc/jrnl owner 1%

Peer review

- editorial decisions 50%, process 50%

How cases drive guidelines and other resource development

- *eLearning modules re-launched 2013/4*: Introduction to publication ethics, Plagiarism, Data falsification, Data fabrication, Conflict of interest, Authorship, Redundant publication
- *eLearning modules in development*: Editor misconduct, Reviewer misconduct,, Selective reporting, Unethical research
- *Discussion documents in preparation*: Corrections (expanding on Retraction Guidelines), Authorship, and Text recycling
- New and enhanced *Flowcharts* planned
- New *Guidelines* ... on peer review ...

Old & new reviewer problems

- Conflicts of interest
- Delayed reviews
- Reviewing your own or a friend's paper
- Falsifying email addresses and identities

'Fake reviewer' cases

Retraction Watch

Tracking retraction process

Retraction count grows to 35 for scientist who faked emails to do his own peer review

with 9 comments

[Hyung-In Moon](#), the South Korean plant compound researcher who [made up email addresses so he could do his own peer review](#), is now up to 35 retractions.

The four new retractions are of the papers in the *Journal of Enzyme Inhibition and Medicinal Chemistry* that initially led to suspicions when all the reviews came back within 24 hours. Here's the [notice](#), which includes the same language as Moon's 24 other retractions of studies published in Informa Healthcare journals:



Hyung-In Moon

“ The corresponding author and publisher hereby retract the following articles from publication in *Journal of Enzyme Inhibition and Medicinal Chemistry*.

Effect of betaine on the hepatic damage from orotic acid-induced fatty liver development in rats

Jae-Young Cha, Hyeong-Soo Kim, Hyung-In Moon, and Young-Su Cho

Journal of Enzyme Inhibition and Medicinal Chemistry [epub ahead of print], 2012, doi: 10.3109/14756366.2011.641014

'For his part, Moon acknowledged suggesting his friends and colleagues as reviewers, telling Retraction Watch that the results "can be mistaken for fake reviews." But he said it wasn't only his mistake: The editors, Moon said, invited those reviews without confirming the identity of the reviewers.'

COPE Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers

*Irene Hames on behalf of COPE Council
March 2013, v.1*

Peer review in all its forms plays an important role in ensuring the integrity of the scholarly record. The process depends to a large extent on trust, and requires that everyone involved behaves responsibly and ethically. Peer reviewers play a central and critical part in the peer-review process, but too often come to the role without any guidance and may be unaware of their ethical obligations. The COPE Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers set out the basic principles and standards to which all peer reviewers should adhere during the peer-review process. It is hoped they will provide helpful guidance to researchers, be a reference for journals and editors in guiding their reviewers, and act as an educational resource for institutions in training their students and researchers.

Basic principles to which peer reviewers should adhere

Peer reviewers should:

- only agree to review manuscripts for which they have the subject expertise required to carry out a proper assessment and which they can assess in a timely manner
- respect the confidentiality of peer review and not reveal any details of a manuscript or its review, during or after the peer-review process, beyond those that are released by the journal

‘COPE’s new Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers: background, issues, and evolution’,
ISMTE, *EON* May 2013, Vol6, issue4, http://www.ismte.org/Shared_Articles-COPEs_new_Ethical_Guidelines_for_Peer_Reviewers_background_issues_and_evolution/

Promoting integrity in research publication

COPE is a forum for editors and publishers of peer reviewed journals to discuss all aspects of publication ethics. It also advises editors on how to handle cases of research and publication misconduct. [Read more about COPE...](#)

Join here

What are the benefits of COPE membership?

FEATURED

FORUM DISCUSSION TOPIC: Sharing of information among editors-in-chief regarding possible misconduct

The Forum discussion topic on Wednesday 4 September is "Sharing of information among editors-in-chief regarding possible misconduct". Click below to learn more and leave your comments.

[Learn more](#)

NEWS & OPINION [view all](#) ▶

News / COPE's eLearning course relaunched

27/8/2013 7.50am

COPE is delighted to announce the relaunch of the eLearning programme on the COPE website. COPE members can now access the programme directly on the COPE website <http://publicationethics.org/resources/elearning> once they have logged in.

News / Clarification of COPE advice to editors on Geopolitical intrusions on editorial decisions

1/8/2013 6.11am

There has been much discussion recently on government, specifically US government, sanctions against Iran, the potential effect on Iranian researchers and some publishers have cautioned editors and reviewers about handling cases from Iran.

Code of Conduct

Flowcharts

Guidelines

International standards for editors and authors

eLearning

Discussion Documents

COPE Digest

Seminars

COPE Research Grant

Resources and Further Reading

Home / Resources /

Discussion Documents

Forum discussion documents

In a new undertaking for the COPE Forum, a specific topic will be discussed at the start of each quarterly COPE Forum meeting. As well as those at the virtual meetings, people unable to take part in the meetings can comment via the COPE website in advance.

COPE Forum 4 March 2014:

Topic: Issues related to papers submitted to “discussion” journals

Authors in any subject area have always had a number of potential publications to choose



Discussion document: Sharing of information among editors-in-chief regarding possible misconduct (February 2014, PDF 1.4MB)
Download 143.98 KB

(Anonymous) whistleblowers

- Passions run high and correspondence rapidly degenerates
- Students are uniquely placed/vulnerable

Whistleblowers



Responding to anonymous whistle blowers: COPE Discussion Document

*Virginia Barbour on behalf of COPE Council
January 2013*

This paper aims to stimulate discussion about how editors should respond to emails from whistle blowers. We encourage journal editors and publishers to comment (whether or not they are COPE members), and also welcome comments from researchers/authors and academic institutions. Please email all comments to Natalie Ridgeway, the Operations Manager at <http://publicationethics.org/contact-us>

Background

Anonymous whistle blowing is not a new phenomenon. There are many legitimate reasons for individuals to wish to remain anonymous including fear of a loss of position (especially for more junior participants in a research or clinical project) should their name come to light. More recently, however, a new phenomenon has arisen – that of individuals using the anonymity provided by the web to provide tip offs on a range of issues relating to publication ethics. This document suggests how editors should

Sharing of info

As cases get more complex – so,
necessarily, does the response

Yoshitaka Fujii

- Anaesthetist
- Ethical approval of studies questioned
- More than 20 studies now retracted (for lack of IRB approval); and another 20 or so where the data are questionable
- There may be 200 or so papers that end up being retracted
- Required complex, multi journal cooperation and response

Sharing of info

C O P E COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION ETHICS

Sharing of information among editors-in-chief regarding possible misconduct: COPE Discussion Document

*Steve Yentis on behalf of COPE Council
February 2014*

This paper aims to stimulate discussion about the sharing of information among editors-in-chief regarding possible misconduct in their journals. We encourage journal editors and publishers to comment (whether or not they are COPE members), and also welcome comments from researchers/authors and academic institutions. Please email all comments to Natalie Ridgeway, COPE Operations Manager at <http://publicationethics.org/contact-us>

Introduction

This document has been drafted following a COPE Discussion Forum, in the wake of a number of high-profile cases of research misconduct in which the sharing of information between the relevant editors-in-chief (EiCs) was crucial to the final settlement of the cases¹.

Background

A response to a new problem

International Journal and Research Academy

Invitation for Paper Submission

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We strive to promote E-Publishing by publishing our journals in Electronic form. IJARA invites scholars, researchers, professionals and academics to submit research papers in our journals. IJARA is keen to publish papers from all over the world.

Paper Submission Deadline: May 2013

Review Results (Acceptance/Rejection) Notification: Within 10 working days of paper submission.

Publication Date: June 01, 2013

Send manuscripts to the assigned email address

Submit articles for 2nd Issue, Volume 01 of forthcoming

The author(s) can submit their manuscripts for the following journals:

- [International Journal of Business & Management Research \(ISSN 2278-5911\)](#)
- [Research Journal of Finance and Accounting \(ISSN 1888-7373\)](#)
- [International Journal for Research and Development in Engineering \(ISSN 2278-5911\)](#)
- [Research Journal on Distance Learning \(ISSN 2113-7968\)](#)

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"Advances in Clinical Trials"

Dear Dr. Editors,

Please pay attention to our upcoming Special Issue on "Advances in Clinical Trials" (www.scirp.org/journal/ijcm), which will be published in the "International Journal of Clinical Medicine" (IJCM, ISSN: 2158-2882), a peer-reviewed open access journal. We cordially invite you to submit your manuscript to this special issue through our [Online Submission System](#).


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To: [medicine_editors](#)
Cc:
Subject: Invitation to submit to International Journal for Equity in Health

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INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR EQUITY IN HEALTH

IMPACT FACTOR 1.71

Dear Dr Barbour,

We are pleased to invite you to [submit](#) a manuscript to "Economic crisis in Europe and Equity in Health", a new thematic series from the [International Journal for Equity in Health](#).

An unprecedented economic crisis is affecting Europe, focusing mainly on the southern countries. Improving health and reducing health inequalities in this macro-economic environment is going to be a great challenge. Rising unemployment, poorer working conditions, depressed incomes and cuts in social services will all increase negative mental and physical health outcomes across the social gradient.

The series welcomes research from different disciplines and methodologies on a wide range of topics relating to the economic crisis in Europe and health inequalities including:

- Welfare state, crisis and equity in health
- Crisis and impact on health outcomes and health inequalities
- Crisis and impact on health systems and inequalities in access

The initial deadline for submissions to the series is September 30th 2013. However as the series is on-going we will continue to accept manuscripts until 2018. Please submit your manuscript via our [online submission system](#) stating in your covering letter that your submission is intended for the "Economic crisis in Europe and Equity in Health" thematic series.

A special **10% discount** off the Article Processing Charge (APC) will be granted to all accepted manuscripts that have undergone peer review according to the journal's [policy](#).

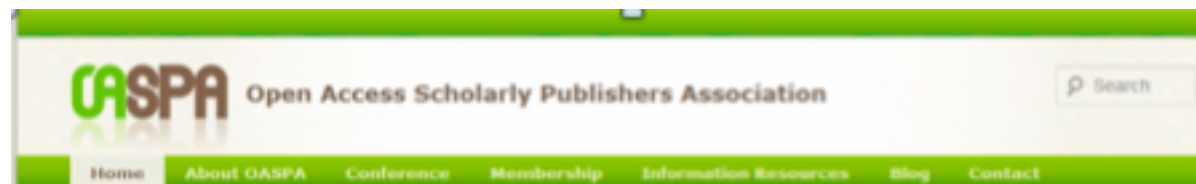
For further information, please visit the [International Journal for Equity in Health website](#) or contact the [Editorial Office](#).

Yours sincerely,

Miguel San Sebastián, Antonio Escolar Pujolar and Amaia Bacigalupe

Items: 242

How can I judge trustworthiness?



Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing

Principles of Transparency

- 1. Peer review process:** All of a journal's content, apart from any editorial material that is clearly marked as such, shall be subjected to peer review. Peer review is defined as obtaining advice on individual manuscripts from reviewers expert in the field who are not part of the journal's editorial staff. This process, as well as any policies related to the journal's peer review procedures, shall be clearly described on the journal's Web site.
- 2. Governing Body:** Journals shall have editorial boards or other governing bodies whose members are recognized experts in the subject areas included within the journal's scope. The full names and affiliations of the journal's editors shall be provided on the journal's Web site.
- 3. Editorial team/contact information:** Journals shall provide the full names and affiliations of the journal's editors on the journal's Web site as well as contact information for the editorial office.
- 4. Author fees:** Any fees or charges that are required for manuscript processing and/or publishing materials in the journal shall be clearly stated in a place that is easy for potential authors to find prior to submitting their manuscripts for review or explained to authors before they begin preparing their manuscript for submission.
- 5. Copyright:** Copyright and licensing information shall be clearly described on the journal's Web site, and licensing terms shall be indicated on all published articles, both HTML and PDFs.
- 6. Identification of and dealing with allegations of research misconduct:** Publishers and editors shall take reasonable steps to identify and prevent the publication of papers where research misconduct has occurred, including plagiarism, citation manipulation, and data falsification/fabrication, among others. In no case shall a journal or its editors encourage such misconduct, or knowingly allow such misconduct to take place. In the event that a journal's publisher or editors are made aware of any allegation of research misconduct relating to a published article in their journal - the publisher or editor shall follow COPE's guidelines (or equivalent) in dealing with allegations.

Reference
Written by COPE/DOAJ/
OASPA/WAME

Approved by COPE Council
December 2013

Version 1
First published online,
10 January 2014

Others coming soon...

- Text recycling
- Correction of the literature

What guidelines do you want to see?

???