

The Association of Science Editors and Publishers (ASEP)
Declaration on Ethical Principles for Scientific Publications

**Adopted at the General Meeting of the ASEP within the 5th International
Scientific and Practical Conference “World-Class Scientific Publication - 2016:
Publishing Ethics, Peer Review, and Manuscript Preparation”**

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1. This Declaration was developed by the Association of Science Editors and Publishers (ASEP) as a code of ethical principles governing the conduct of editorial boards, editors, reviewers, publishers, and authors in scientific publications. The Declaration shall be used as a complete document, and each statement of the Declaration shall be applied jointly with other relevant statements.
2. Parties involved in the science and publication process strive to follow the Declaration's principles and the recommendations of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and other international associations of editors and publishers.
3. The ASEP seeks to form a clear concept of publication ethics in the scientific community, open and unequivocal condemnation of unethical behavior, and complete rejection of any cooperation producing “garbage” publications that hinder the development of science in general.

Main principles:

4. **The ethical standards of editorial boards.** Editorial boards of scientific journals (hereinafter referred to as journals) adhere to the principles of scientific character, objectivity, professionalism, and impartiality.
5. **The responsibility for adhering to ethical standards.** Researchers, authors, editors, reviewers, and publishers have an ethical responsibility for publishing and distributing research results.
6. **Standards of communication with authors.** Interaction with authors is based on the principles of justice, courtesy, objectivity, integrity, and transparency.
7. **Peer review.** All journal contents except promotional and editorial materials, clearly identified as such, are subject to mandatory peer review by independent experts (open, blind, or double-blind). Double-blind peer review is preferable.
8. **Access to publications.** Journals guarantee access to their publications via leading national libraries and repositories of scientific information.
9. **Transparent information.** The journal's website clearly specifies the publication ethics and peer-review procedure, policy, manuscript submission rules, instructions for authors, and the availability of materials (open access or paid subscription). Journal's ISSN and the publisher's address shall be indicated.
10. **Information about paid services.** All information about paid services, if any in one form or another, is approved by the editor-in-chief and is clearly specified on the

journal's website. If no paid services are provided, this fact is also indicated on the journal's website.

11. **Adherence to ethical criteria of authorship.** 1. An author is a person significantly involved in writing and conceptualizing the manuscript, scientific design, and material collection, analysis, and interpretation. 2. The consent of all authors for publishing the manuscript is mandatory. All co-authors shall meet these criteria.
12. **Final manuscript approval by the author.** Publishing the manuscript under the author's name implies the emergence of copyright. Publishing a draft manuscript without the author's final approval and indicating other persons as co-authors violates the copyright.
13. **Decision period for editorial boards.** Editorial decision-making has a limited time frame, formulated clearly and constructively on the journal's website in the instructions for authors.
14. **Interaction with scientific and professional associations.** Editorial boards strive to interact with professional, scientific associations and industry communities to ensure the high quality of scientific work.
15. **Prevention and correction of ethical violations.** Science editors shall: (a) prevent situations in which authors, reviewers, or other parties involved in producing scientific texts conduct unethically and (b) withdraw unconscientious publications from the scientific space, cooperating with the Ethics Council and scientific associations.
16. **Conflict of interest.** Editors appeal to authors for disclosing relationships with industry and financial organizations that can lead to a conflict of interest. Authors shall specify all sources of funding in the manuscript body.

The ASEP treats the following types of conduct as unethical in scientific publishing:

17. **Demanding independent review of manuscripts by their authors and performing contractual review or pseudo-review.** Such practices imply no peer review in the journal.
18. **Offering agency services.** Publication on a "turnkey basis," correspondence with the editorial board on behalf of the author, agent's revision of manuscripts according to the reviewer's recommendations, preparation of paid reviews, and other similar agency services are unethical.
19. **Sold or granted co-authorship, changed authorship.** Indicating persons without intellectual contribution to the research among the authors violates copyright and ethical standards: it misleads readers and is considered fraud.
20. **Publication of the proceedings of extramural (correspondence) pseudoscientific conferences.** The practice of such conferences directly relates to fraud and shenanigans in science. Publishing the proceedings of such conferences is considered unethical and contributes to the distribution of pseudoscientific texts.
21. **Transfer of manuscripts to other journals without the author's consent.** Publishing the manuscript in a journal not agreed upon with the author violates the author's interests.
22. **Transfer of manuscripts to third parties.** Transferring the manuscript received by the journal's editorial board to third parties (except the journal's reviewers and editorial staff) violates copyright and confidentiality of editorial processes.
23. **Citation manipulations.** An artificial increase of scientometric indexes, excessive self-citation, friendly citation, and irrelevant references mislead the readers and are

interpreted as fraud.

24. **Plagiarism, falsification, and fake data.** Editorial boards dutifully work with manuscripts, preventing unconscientious publications containing plagiarism, falsification, and fake data.

Ethics Council

The Ethics Council of the Association of Science Editors and Publishers shall be recognized as the coordinating and advisory body for this Declaration.

The Declaration was elaborated by the ASEP Ethics Council:

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