

Publication Ethics

**Mesopotamian
Journal of
Computer Science**

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General Principles

The journal strictly follows the principles established by the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#). By submitting a manuscript, authors confirm that they have thoroughly reviewed and agreed to its content and that the submission complies with the journal's policies.

Affiliations

All authors are required to provide a full list of affiliations to properly acknowledge the institutions or organizations involved in approving, funding, or conducting the research or academic work.

- For non-research articles, authors should include their current institutional affiliation.
- If an author has changed institutions prior to the article's publication, they should list the affiliation associated with the research and indicate their current affiliation.
- Authors without a current institutional affiliation must clearly state their independent status.

Appeals and Complaints

The journal adheres to the guidelines of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) regarding appeals against editorial decisions and complaints about the editorial management of the peer review process. Genuine appeals to editorial decisions are welcomed, but authors must present compelling evidence or provide new data/information addressing the feedback from the editor and reviewers.

For appeals, please email us at appeals@mesopotamian.press.

Acknowledgments

Acknowledgment should be given to individuals who contributed to the creation of a manuscript but do not meet the criteria for authorship. It is imperative to recognize the contributions of organizations that have offered financial assistance and/or other valuable resources.

Authorship

General Guidelines

The inclusion of authors in an article serves as a vital acknowledgment of individuals who have significantly contributed to the research while ensuring accountability and transparency for maintaining the content's integrity.

To qualify for authorship, individuals must meet all the following criteria:

- Made a substantial contribution to the research, including aspects such as conceptualization, study design, execution, data collection, analysis, and interpretation.
- Actively participated in drafting, writing, revising, or critically reviewing the manuscript.
- Participated in finalizing the selection of the journal for submission.
- Reviewed and approved all versions of the article during the submission and revision process, including the final accepted version and any necessary changes during proofreading.
- Agreed to take responsibility for the article's content, ensuring accuracy and integrity, and are prepared to address any questions regarding the published work.

Changes to Authorship

Modifications to the authorship list, either before or after publication, require unanimous agreement from all authors, including those being added or removed. The corresponding author is responsible for obtaining consent from all co-authors and providing a detailed explanation for the changes. Authors must also complete the [Change of Authorship Form](#) and submit it along with their request.

For changes made after publication, corrections will be issued via post-publication notifications. All requests for authorship modifications must comply with the journal's authorship guidelines. Significant alterations to authorship after acceptance may be denied unless supported by strong justifications and evidence of the contributions made by the authors involved.

Authorship Criteria

Authorship credit must be based solely on substantial contributions to the following three core components:

- **Study Design and Data Analysis:** Contributions to the conceptualization, study design, data collection, and data analysis.
- **Manuscript Preparation:** Involvement in drafting the manuscript or critically revising it to include significant intellectual input.
- **Final Approval:** Approval of the final version of the manuscript for publication.

Authorship cannot be justified by participation in funding acquisition or data collection alone. Similarly, providing general supervision to a research group does not meet the authorship criteria. All listed authors must have made meaningful contributions that warrant public accountability for their respective portions of the work.

The sequence of authorship should reflect the relative contributions of each individual to the research and manuscript preparation. Once submitted, the authorship order cannot be changed without explicit consent from all authors. The journal may impose limits on the number of authors, considering factors like manuscript type, scope, and institutional affiliations. If the author count exceeds these limits, a justification must be provided.

Contribution Details

Each individual involved in the project must provide a detailed account of their specific contributions, categorized under areas such as concept, study design, intellectual content definition, literature review, clinical or experimental studies, data collection, data and statistical analysis, manuscript writing, editing, and review.

Citations

To support claims made in both research and non-research articles, it is essential to include appropriate citations to relevant, current, and reliable sources, with a preference for peer-reviewed literature.

Authors must avoid excessive or improper self-citation and refrain from prearranged agreements among groups of authors to cite each other's work inappropriately. Such practices constitute citation manipulation, a form of ethical misconduct. For detailed guidance, refer to the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#) guidelines on citation manipulation.

Non-Research Articles

For non-research articles, such as Reviews or Opinion pieces, references should be relevant and provide a balanced, comprehensive overview of the existing scholarly work on the topic. It is important to ensure that references are fair, avoiding undue bias toward any specific research group, organization, or journal.

Uncertain Sources

If there is any uncertainty regarding whether a source should be cited, authors are encouraged to consult the journal's editorial office for clarification.

Conflicts of Interest

Authors are required to fully disclose any conflicts of interest related to the publication of their manuscript. This includes any affiliations with institutions or products mentioned in the manuscript that could have a significant impact on the study's findings. Additionally, authors must declare any conflicts of interest involving products that compete with those referenced in their work. Authors and reviewers are required to complete the [Conflict of Interest Form](#).

Corrections, Expressions of Concern, and Retractions

Corrections

A Correction Notice is issued when errors or omissions that could affect the article's interpretation are identified but do not compromise its scholarly integrity. Examples of such errors include incorrect graphical representations, missing information about funding, or undeclared conflicts of interest.

The journal uses two types of correction notices:

- **Corrigendum:** Issued to correct errors made by the authors.
- **Erratum:** Issued to correct errors introduced by the publisher.

Retractions

A Retraction Notice is published when significant errors, such as flaws in methods or analysis, render an article's conclusions invalid. Retractions also address instances of research or publication misconduct, including but not limited to:

- Research conducted without proper ethical approvals.
- Data fabrication or manipulation.
- Plagiarism.

- Duplicate publication.

Retraction decisions are made in line with [COPE guidelines](#), and authors or institutions can also request retractions if justified. All retractions adhere to these standards:

- The retraction is linked to the original article, and vice versa.
- The original article is clearly marked as "Retracted" in both HTML and PDF versions.
- The reasons for retraction are clearly explained.
- The individuals or entities requesting the retraction (e.g., authors, Editor) are identified.

Retractions aim to correct the scholarly record and maintain its integrity, not to penalize authors. Authorship disputes, for example, are typically resolved with a corrigendum rather than a retraction. For assistance with authorship disputes, please contact us at dispute@mesopotamian.press.

Expressions of Concern

An Expression of Concern is issued when significant issues, such as suspected misconduct, are identified but the investigation is inconclusive or expected to take substantial time due to complexities. Once the investigation concludes, the Expression of Concern may be followed by a Retraction or Correction Notice, with both remaining part of the permanent record. For any inquiries or concerns regarding such cases, please contact us at dispute@mesopotamian.press.

Removals

In exceptional cases, a Removal Notice may be issued when a Retraction or Correction cannot resolve the issue. This occurs when the content is defamatory, infringes on legal rights, or is subject to a court order. If an article is removed, a notification of removal will be published in its place.

Consent for Publication

When including specific information or images related to an individual in a manuscript, obtaining written informed consent from the individual is mandatory. For minors under the age of 18, consent must be provided by a parent or legal guardian. Authorization is required to publish such details under the [Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0](#), ensuring the

information will be openly accessible online. In cases where the individual is deceased, consent must be obtained from their closest living relative before publication. The manuscript must include a statement confirming that written informed consent for publication has been obtained.

Authors may use a consent form to secure permission for publication or utilize a form provided by their institution or local jurisdiction if appropriate. The consent form must clearly state that the provided information and images will be freely available on the internet without restrictions and accessible to the general public. Authors should be prepared to submit the consent form to the Editor upon request, where it will be handled with confidentiality.

Consent Responsibility

It is the authors' responsibility, not that of the journal or publisher, to secure and properly archive patient consent forms before publication. These forms must not be submitted with the manuscript or sent via email to the editorial or publisher offices.

This policy ensures adherence to ethical publication standards while respecting patient privacy.

Confidentiality

Submitted manuscripts are treated as confidential documents. Academic journals implement strict confidentiality protocols to protect the privacy of submitted papers, ensuring access is limited to those directly involved in the manuscript's review and publication process. This includes the editorial team, corresponding authors, potential reviewers, assigned reviewers, and editors.

In cases where misconduct is suspected, the manuscript may be shared with ethical committees of the journal or relevant institutions and organizations to facilitate investigations. Such actions must align with the guidelines outlined in the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#) flowcharts, as applicable.

This confidentiality policy is integral to maintaining the trust and integrity of the publishing process while respecting copyright and ethical standards.

Copyright Policy

Eligibility for Submission

Authors are eligible to submit original manuscripts to the journal if they hold the copyright to the work or have obtained explicit authorization from the copyright owner(s).

User Rights

As an open-access journal, the journal allows users to freely access, read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of articles under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0](#).

This license enables users to:

- Copy, distribute, and transmit the work.
- Adapt, transform, or build upon the work.
- Use the work for commercial purposes, provided proper attribution is given to the original author(s) and source.

The copyright statement will be clearly stated and embedded in each published article.

Open Access Policy

The journal operates under an open-access model, granting users the rights outlined above through the [Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0](#). This ensures unrestricted access to articles while upholding proper credit to authors and their contributions.

Author Rights

Authors retain the copyright to their works, along with the right to use their articles for scholarly purposes. The Publisher is granted non-exclusive rights to publish and distribute the articles.

Data Falsification/Fabrication

Data falsification or fabrication involves the intentional manipulation or creation of data to mislead others. Such actions are considered serious academic misconduct, as they aim to

deceive and compromise the integrity of the academic record, with far-reaching and lasting consequences.

Authors must ensure the accuracy and reliability of all data presented in their manuscripts prior to submission, guaranteeing that the data accurately reflects the research conducted. Authors are also required to retain all original data included in their papers to support the journal's evaluation process.

Failure to provide original data upon request may result in the rejection of the manuscript or the retraction of a published article. The journal maintains a zero-tolerance policy toward data falsification or fabrication to uphold academic integrity.

Desk Rejection Policy

A manuscript may be desk-rejected without undergoing peer review for any of the following reasons:

- The topic or scope of the study is not aligned with the journal's focus or field of interest.
- The manuscript contains ethical issues, fails to adhere to international standard guidelines, or exhibits plagiarism exceeding a similarity index of 20%.
- The study lacks sufficient impact or fails to contribute new or meaningful knowledge to the field.
- The study design is fundamentally flawed.
- The objectives of the study are not clearly articulated.
- The manuscript is poorly organized or lacks critical components.
- The writing quality is inadequate, with significant issues in grammar, style, or clarity.
- The manuscript does not comply with the journal's submission guidelines.

This policy ensures that only manuscripts meeting the journal's quality and relevance standards proceed to the peer review process. For more information, please refer to the [Author Guidelines](#).

Duplicate Submission/Publication

Authors must confirm during the submission process that their article is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. Failure to disclose this information constitutes a

serious ethical violation, as duplicate submission or publication is generally considered intentional. This includes articles previously published in another language.

In accordance with the guidelines of the [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors \(ICMJE\)](#), authors seeking secondary submission or publication (e.g., translation of an article into English) must:

- Obtain permission from the publisher and copyright holder of the original article.
- Notify the Editor of the receiving journal about the origin of the original article.

The translated article must clearly indicate to readers that it is a translated version and include an appropriate citation to the original source. This ensures transparency and proper attribution in scholarly publishing.

Funding

Authors are required to disclose all sources of funding, including any financial support received for their work. A detailed account must be provided regarding the involvement of any sponsor(s), if applicable, at various stages of the research process, from study design to manuscript submission. Authors must complete the [Financial Disclosure Form](#) and submit it with their manuscript.

If the sponsor(s) had no role in specific aspects of the research or manuscript preparation, a clear statement indicating this must be included. All funding disclosures must be accurate and comply with the guidelines of the respective funding organization. This ensures transparency and upholds the integrity of the publication process.

Images and Figures

When including photographs, videos, or audio recordings that could reveal the identity of patients or research participants, it is essential to obtain Consent to Publish from the individuals themselves. In cases involving deceased participants, consent must be obtained from their next of kin, or from parents or guardians if the participants are minors or considered vulnerable.

Authors must be mindful of cultural sensitivities regarding the use of images in their manuscripts. In some cultures, displaying human remains or deceased individuals may be restricted. Ethical protocols should be observed by respecting the perspectives and approval processes of the relevant communities or groups.

Experimental Photographs

Photographic images, particularly those obtained via microscopy, should accurately represent the original content. If images are altered or enhanced, a detailed explanation must be included in the manuscript and figure legend to avoid misleading readers.

Authors must also be prepared to provide the journal's editorial office with the original, unaltered, unannotated, and unprocessed images if requested.

Any alterations should:

- Be minimal and consistently applied across the entire image.
- Be documented in detail, including the methods used, software utilized (with version number), and the nature of the modifications.
- Not alter the scientific interpretation of the image, as this is strictly prohibited.

Reuse of Published Images

The use of images or figures from previously published materials requires prior authorization from the copyright owner. Authors must include a statement in the figure legend confirming that permission has been obtained and must provide proper citation for the original source.

Even for images reused under licenses that allow unrestricted use, proper attribution to the original source is mandatory.

Misconduct

The journal is committed to upholding the integrity of the scholarly record and takes all forms of misconduct seriously. Any necessary actions will be taken in line with the guidelines of the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#). For concerns or reports of misconduct, please contact us at dispute@mesopotamian.press.

Examples of misconduct include, but are not limited to:

- Misrepresentation of affiliations.
- Breaches of copyright or use of third-party material without proper permissions.
- Citation manipulation.
- Duplicate submission or publication.
- "Ethics dumping" (exploitation of ethical gaps between regions or institutions).
- Image or data manipulation/fabrication.

- Peer review manipulation.
- Plagiarism or text-recycling/self-plagiarism.
- Failure to disclose competing interests.
- Unethical research practices.

Specific Types of Misconduct

- **Duplicate Submission:** Manuscripts previously published or under review elsewhere are subject to penalties for duplicate submission/publication. If authors use their previously published or under-review work, they must:
 - Properly acknowledge and cite the original work.
 - Clearly identify the unique contributions of the submitted manuscript compared to the earlier work.
- **Citation Manipulation:** Manuscripts containing citations intended solely to artificially inflate the citation count of a specific author or journal will face penalties for citation manipulation.
- **Data Fabrication and Falsification:** Manuscripts with fabricated or falsified experimental results, such as manipulated photographs or data, will be penalized for data fabrication and falsification.
- **Improper Author Contribution or Attribution:** All listed authors must have made significant scientific contributions to the research and approved the manuscript's claims. To ensure fair recognition, all contributors, including students and laboratory staff, must be acknowledged appropriately.
- **Redundant Publications:** Redundant publications involve dividing study outcomes inappropriately across multiple articles, which is not permissible.
- **Image Manipulation:** Images must represent the original data faithfully, without alterations that mislead the interpretation of results. Any detected image manipulation that violates ethical guidelines will be subject to investigation and penalties.

Definition and Consequences

Misconduct encompasses any actions that violate the journal's policies, publishing ethics, or relevant guidelines established by [COPE](#), [WAME](#), [ICMJE](#), or [STM](#). Activities that threaten the integrity of the research or publication process will be thoroughly investigated according to COPE protocols. Appropriate sanctions will be applied as necessary to uphold ethical standards.

Publication Ethics

The journal and its editorial board are fully committed to upholding the policies and principles outlined by the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#).

Duties of Editors

- **Publication Decisions:** The editorial board is responsible for deciding which manuscripts will be published. This decision-making process is based on reviewer recommendations and adherence to legal and ethical considerations, including issues related to libel, copyright infringement, and plagiarism.
 - **Confidentiality, Disclosure, and Conflicts of Interest:** Editors must maintain strict confidentiality during the review process, sharing manuscript details only with the corresponding author, reviewers, potential reviewers, and editorial advisers. Additionally, editors are required to complete the [Conflict of Interest Form for Editorial Board Members](#) to ensure transparency and adherence to ethical publishing standards.^[1]
Unpublished materials disclosed in submitted manuscripts must not be used in the research of editors, reviewers, or readers without explicit written consent from the author.
 - Comprehensive information about funding sources and their involvement in the study process or publication must be transparently disclosed to readers.
- **Author Relations:** Editors should foster fair and respectful communication with authors, providing clear and constructive feedback to guide revisions and ensure the quality and integrity of published work.

Duties of Reviewers

- **Contribution to Editorial Decisions:** Reviewers play a vital role in assisting the editorial board with decisions on manuscript acceptance. Reviews must adhere to principles of objectivity, with feedback presented clearly and supported by logical arguments.
- **Qualification of Reviewers:** Reviewers should only accept assignments for which they are adequately qualified. If a reviewer feels unable to assess a manuscript's content or anticipates delays in completing the review, they must promptly notify the editor and withdraw.

- **Confidentiality:** Manuscripts submitted for review must be treated as confidential. Privileged information or ideas obtained through the peer review process must not be used for personal advantage or shared with unauthorized individuals.
- **Acknowledgment of Sources:** Reviewers are responsible for identifying relevant scholarly works that the authors may have overlooked and suggesting appropriate citations for unreferenced concepts or ideas.
- **Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest:** Reviewers must disclose any potential conflicts of interest by completing the [Conflict of Interest Form for Reviewers](#) to ensure transparency and maintain ethical standards.

Duties of Authors

- **Reporting Standards:** Authors are responsible for providing an accurate account of the research conducted, along with an objective discussion of its significance.
- **Originality, Plagiarism, and Concurrent Publication:** Authors must ensure their work is entirely original and properly cite any ideas or words borrowed from others.
- **Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest:** Authors must disclose any financial or substantive conflicts of interest that could influence the results or interpretation of their work. To ensure transparency, authors are required to complete the [Conflict of Interest Form](#) and submit it along with their manuscript.
- **Authorship of the Paper:** The corresponding author is responsible for ensuring the manuscript includes all appropriate co-authors and excludes any inappropriate individuals.
- **Fundamental Errors in Published Works:** If an author identifies a significant error or inaccuracy in their published work, they must promptly notify the journal editor and collaborate to correct or retract the publication.

Peer Review Process

All submitted manuscripts undergo an initial editorial review to evaluate their compatibility with the journal's focus and scope and to identify any significant methodological weaknesses.

Manuscripts that pass this stage are subjected to a **Single Blind Review** process, where at least two anonymous reviewers evaluate the manuscript. The reviewers' comments and

recommendations are then shared with the corresponding author, who is expected to address the feedback and provide a detailed response.

The revised manuscript, along with the reviewers' recommendations, is reviewed during an editorial board meeting. Following this evaluation, the editor communicates the final decision to the corresponding author. This process ensures a thorough, fair, and objective evaluation of all submissions.

Plagiarism Policy

The journal has a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism, which includes the unauthorized use of another's ideas, language, or work without proper citation. Submissions containing any form of plagiarism—whether full, partial, duplicate publication, repetitive publication, or self-plagiarism in any language—will be rejected.

Manuscripts submitted to the journal are screened using professional plagiarism-checking software. If a manuscript exhibits an unacceptable similarity index due to plagiarism, it will be promptly declined.

The preprint archive is not considered a form of redundant publication. The primary author assumes full responsibility for the manuscript throughout the evaluation and publication process and is authorized to act on behalf of all co-authors.

Preprint Policy

The journal allows authors to share preprints of their manuscripts on platforms such as arXiv or RePEc at any time. Upon acceptance for publication, authors are encouraged to link their preprint to the formal publication using its Digital Object Identifier (DOI). Updated preprints may include the accepted version of the manuscript.

Authors may also update preprints on repositories with the final accepted version of the manuscript. Sharing preprints enables the dissemination of research findings while preserving the integrity of the formal publication process.

Patient Identifying Information

The publication of identifying information, including textual descriptions, images, sonograms, CT scans, or pedigrees, should be avoided unless it is essential for scientific purposes. In such cases, authors must obtain informed consent for publication from the

patient, or from their parent or guardian if applicable. The journal strictly follows the guidelines of the International Committee of [Medical Journal Editors \(ICMJE\)](#).

Authors should ensure that patients' names are excluded from figures unless explicit informed consent has been obtained. If a manuscript contains patient photos or descriptions that compromise anonymity, a statement must be included in the paper confirming that informed consent was obtained.

Consent Responsibility

It is the authors' responsibility, not that of the journal or publisher, to secure and properly archive patient consent forms before publication. These forms must not be submitted with the manuscript or sent via email to the editorial or publisher offices.

This policy ensures adherence to ethical publication standards while respecting patient privacy.

Research Ethics and Consent

Studies involving humans, animals, and plants must comply with ethical standards and obtain the necessary ethical approvals. The following subsections outline specific requirements based on the type of research conducted.

Research Involving Humans

For research involving human participants, authors must ensure that the study complies with the ethical guidelines outlined in The Code of Ethics of the [World Medical Association \(Declaration of Helsinki\)](#). Ethical approval must be obtained from an institutional review board (IRB) or equivalent ethics committee before commencing the research.

The article must include details of the approval process, such as the institution's name, the ethics board's designation, and the associated approval number(s). Retrospective approval is generally not permissible and may prevent the publication of findings.

Authors must also include a declaration confirming that informed consent was obtained from participants prior to conducting experiments, and that their privacy rights have been consistently respected.

Research Involving Animals

Studies involving animals must adhere to international, national, and institutional guidelines for ethical treatment and welfare. Ethical approval must be obtained from an appropriate

committee, such as the Animal Ethics Committee or Institutional [Animal Care and Use Committee \(IACUC\)](#), before beginning the study.

Authors must include a detailed ethics statement specifying the institution and the committee responsible for the approval, the approval number, and justification for the use of animals. Information on housing, care, and measures to minimize suffering must also be provided.

Research Involving Plants

Research involving plants must follow institutional, national, and international guidelines. Authors must include a declaration of permissions or licenses obtained for the research. Compliance with principles outlined in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on the Trade in Endangered Species of [Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#) is mandatory.

Special Issues

Special issues in the journal are curated by the editorial team to address specific themes or emerging topics in the field. Submissions to special issues must adhere to the same process and author guidelines as regular issue submissions.

Appointment of Guest Editors

Guest Editors for special issues are chosen based on their expertise, academic reputation, and prior editorial experience. Nominations can be made by the journal's editorial board, current editors, or through self-nomination. All nominations are reviewed by the editorial board and require approval from the Editor-in-Chief.

Guest Editors' responsibilities include:

- Defining the scope of the special issue.
- Drafting the call for papers.
- Managing manuscript submissions.
- Overseeing the peer review process to ensure quality and originality.
- Making final decisions on manuscript acceptance in collaboration with the Editor-in-Chief.

Setup of Special Issues

To initiate a special issue, a detailed proposal must be submitted, including:

- The theme and objectives of the special issue.
- The target audience.
- Proposed Guest Editors.
- A timeline for the process.

The proposal is reviewed and approved by the journal's editorial board and the Editor-in-Chief. Once approved, a call for papers is announced and promoted through various channels. A detailed timeline is established to guide manuscript submission, peer review, and publication, ensuring the special issue aligns with the journal's regular publication schedule.

Standards of Reporting

Research must be presented in a manner that facilitates verification and reproducibility. Authors are encouraged to provide detailed and transparent descriptions of their research, including:

- **The rationale:** A clear explanation of the purpose and significance of the study.
- **The research protocol:** A thorough description of the experimental or observational procedures used.
- **The methodology:** A detailed account of the tools, techniques, and analysis methods employed.
- **The analysis conducted:** Comprehensive information on how data was processed and interpreted.

Comprehensive reporting ensures that other researchers can replicate and build upon the work, contributing to the advancement of knowledge and scientific integrity.

Use of Third-Party Material

When incorporating third-party content into a scholarly manuscript, authors must obtain the necessary permissions. Such content may include text, illustrations, photographs, tables, data, audio recordings, video footage, film stills, screenshots, or musical notation.

The use of brief excerpts for purposes such as critique or evaluation is generally permissible under fair use or similar provisions, but only within specific limits. For any material that does

not fall under these provisions and is not owned by the author, written consent from the copyright holder must be obtained prior to submission.

Adherence to these guidelines ensures compliance with copyright laws and ethical publishing practices.

Use of Generative AI and AI-Assisted Technologies in Writing

This policy pertains solely to the writing process and does not cover the use of AI tools for analyzing or deriving insights from data during the research process.

Authors who utilize AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process should aim to enhance readability and language quality without replacing essential authoring tasks such as generating scientific or educational insights, drawing conclusions, or making clinical recommendations. The use of such technologies must always remain under human supervision and control, with all content subjected to thorough review and editing. AI-generated content may appear authoritative but can be inaccurate, incomplete, or biased. Authors retain ultimate responsibility and accountability for the content they produce.

Disclosure and Transparency

Authors must disclose their use of AI and AI-assisted technologies in their manuscripts. A statement to this effect will be included in the published work to maintain transparency and foster trust among authors, readers, reviewers, editors, and contributors. This also ensures compliance with the terms of use for the tools or technologies employed.

Authorship Responsibilities

AI should not be attributed as an author or listed as a co-author. Authorship involves responsibilities that can only be carried out by humans. Authors are accountable for:

- Addressing questions about the accuracy or integrity of the work.
- Approving the final version of the work and consenting to its submission.
- Ensuring the originality of the work and that it meets authorship criteria.
- Verifying that the work does not infringe upon third-party rights.

This approach upholds the integrity and accountability of scholarly work while ensuring the ethical use of AI technologies.

Use of AI in Peer Review

Our journal acknowledges the growing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in scholarly publishing but emphasizes that the peer-review process requires human judgment, critical thinking, and evaluation. As such, the use of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in peer review is governed by the following principles:

Human Responsibility

The responsibilities of peer review demand a level of critical analysis and nuanced assessment that generative AI cannot provide. Reviewing scientific manuscripts remains exclusively the duty of human reviewers and editors.

Confidentiality

Reviewers and editors must not upload manuscripts or any portion of them into generative AI tools. These tools cannot guarantee confidentiality, security, or privacy, potentially exposing manuscripts to unauthorized access or misuse. Such actions could breach authors' confidentiality, proprietary rights, data privacy, and the terms of use of the AI tool.

Peer Review Reports

The confidentiality of the peer review process also extends to peer review reports and related communications, including decision letters. These documents often contain sensitive information and must not be uploaded to generative AI tools for purposes such as language improvement or readability enhancement.

AI in Decision-Making

Generative AI must not be employed to assist in the review, evaluation, or decision-making process of manuscripts. The final evaluation of a manuscript's quality, validity, and impact must be conducted by qualified human reviewers and editors.

Ethical Use of AI

While generative AI is not permitted in the peer-review process, the journal supports the ethical use of AI technologies for initial editorial processes. Acceptable uses include plagiarism detection, completeness checks, and identifying potential reviewers. These AI tools must adhere to ethical standards, maintain confidentiality, and protect the identity and privacy of all parties involved.

Acknowledgment of Ethical Standards

The journal and its contributors are committed to upholding the highest ethical standards in scholarly publishing. Authors, reviewers, and editors are expected to act in accordance with the principles established by recognized organizations such as the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#), the [World Association of Medical Editors \(WAME\)](#), and the [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors \(ICMJE\)](#).

By submitting a manuscript, authors confirm their adherence to these ethical guidelines and accept full responsibility for the accuracy, integrity, and originality of their work. Reviewers and editors, in turn, are obligated to maintain objectivity, confidentiality, and respect throughout the evaluation process, ensuring fairness and transparency in all editorial decisions.

The journal remains vigilant in addressing any allegations of ethical misconduct, employing rigorous protocols to investigate and resolve disputes. This collective commitment to ethical standards fosters trust, accountability, and excellence in academic publishing.

Closing Statements

The journal is dedicated to maintaining the integrity and transparency of the publishing process. By adhering to internationally recognized ethical guidelines, we aim to support a culture of trust and accountability in academic research. We encourage all contributors to actively engage in these efforts by upholding the principles of fairness, honesty, and rigor throughout the research and publication journey.

These ethics policies serve as a foundation for our shared commitment to advancing knowledge while respecting the rights and responsibilities of all participants in the scholarly community.